

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho  
Secretary of State for Energy Security  
and Net Zero  
By email: [REDACTED]

**Councillor Steve Pitt**

Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2AL

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Ref: SPOUT027

Date: 12 September 2023

Dear Secretary of State

**RE: Portsmouth City Council opposition to the proposed AQUIND Interconnector project**

Following the Judicial Review and High Court decision in January 2023, Portsmouth City Council was asked to provide an update on the requirement for a Works Cooperation Agreement between the council and the AQUIND Interconnector project.

As part of a response to that request, last week a Works Cooperation Agreement was put in place. This is a necessary 'without prejudice' process to ensure that the AQUIND Interconnector project could not undermine or disrupt the vital coastal defence work being undertaken in North Portsea or increase costs to the people of Portsmouth if it were to achieve a Development Consent Order.

Portsmouth City Council continues to strongly oppose the AQUIND Interconnector project and proposal to lay cables through areas in the east of the city. As a densely populated island city, the planned route is both impractical and unacceptable. It will severely impact our residents' everyday lives and wellbeing and impact our environment.

As you reconsider the matter, I hope you will continue to listen to the objections of local people and uphold the decision taken by the Secretary of State in January 2022 to refuse development consent.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Councillor Steve Pitt**  
Leader of the Council  
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure &  
Economic Development