

# Portsmouth Conservatives

## PUTTING PORTSMOUTH FIRST

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**Portsmouth Conservative Group**  
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Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2AL

To the Prime Minister,  
The Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
& Deputy Prime Minister,  
The Rt Hon Dominic Raab  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

11 October 2021

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister,

I write to you on behalf of all members of the Portsmouth City Council Conservative Group regarding the AQUIND Interconnector Scheme proposal.

This week the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, The Rt Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng is about to make the decision on the scheme. Given the allegations that have come to light over recent weeks, including the Pandora Papers, how can the Secretary of State credibly take this decision? He is compromised in our group's opinion.

As you will be aware, previous ministers who have received donations from AQUIND have had to recuse themselves from decision-making roles. We feel that Mr Kwarteng is compromised, especially given his correspondence and handwritten notes dated October 2019 to AQUIND that have been uncovered.

The interconnector scheme is not wanted here in Portsmouth where, if permission is given, it will cause havoc and misery to local people. With only three roads on and off of Portsea Island, the planned route for the interconnector cable up the Eastern Road (A2030) will have a knock-on effect on congestion, air pollution and peoples day-to-day lives. That is unacceptable when over the past few years many of us and campaigners have suggested better alternative routes for the interconnector that would see it miss Portsmouth entirely and still reach its destination in Lovedean, Havant. Given your own environmental credentials and desires that many of my group share, this scheme, in our opinion is incompatible with our own green and environmental agenda.

Here in Portsmouth and neighbouring constituencies, AQUIND has successfully united all political parties against its scheme. Quite something for an urban political hot-spot like Portsmouth.

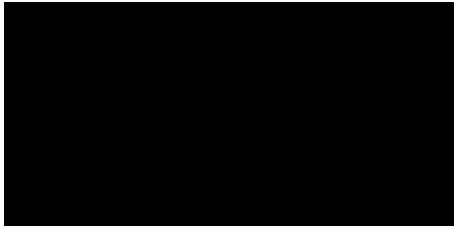
The further impacts on the city are well documented and well made by others who have written to you and other ministers, including Penny Mordaunt MP.

Additionally we would look to raise our shared concerns over National Energy Security. Only this year we've seen the French authorities threaten the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom by default over post Brexit fishing rights. It can't be right that whenever the French feel they wish to act in such a way that they could switch off energy supply or threaten us to ransom.

There is also huge opposition on the French side of the channel from local people who also do not want this scheme. This scheme is not wanted.

We ask you to intervene urgently and end this terrible scheme.

Sincerely,



**Cllr Simon Boshier**

Conservative Group Leader

Signed

Cllr Robert New  
Cllr Lewis Gosling  
Cllr Benedict Swann  
Cllr Hannah Hockaday  
Cllr Lee Mason  
Cllr Dr Matthew Atkins  
Cllr Ryan Brent  
Cllr Terry Norton  
Cllr Gemma New  
Cllr Jo Hooper  
Cllr Linda Symes  
Cllr John Smith  
Cllr Luke Stubbs  
Cllr Frank Jonas  
Cllr Daniel Wemyss  
Cllr Scott Payter-Harris