

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Email - Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk

22 November 2023

Dear Ms Coutinho,

RE: The Aquind Interconnector DCO re-determination

I am writing to you in connection with our application for the Aquind Interconnector Development Consent Order, which is currently being re-determined by you.

The application for the Aquind Interconnector Development Consent Order was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate four years ago - on 14 November 2019. The period that has passed since then makes this application the longest out of all applications for a Development Consent Order for any type of energy infrastructure. The application for the Aquind Interconnector DCO has been subject to detailed examination, *determination and now re-determination processes*. During this period Aquind has fully satisfied every request for information in a prompt and timely manner.

The project is now at the pivotal stage of securing £1.35bn investment for construction from UK, European and International investors. It is also negotiating with the global HVDC supply chain, to ensure construction of the project may commence as soon as possible following any decision to grant development consent. Extending the DCO re-determination any further without good cause will risk undermining the confidence of investors and suppliers, not only in the Aquind Interconnector project, but also in the Government's ability to speed up the delivery of large-scale critical infrastructure required. You will appreciate that the timely delivery of projects such as this is needed to support economic growth, improve connectivity across the country, bolster energy security for the future and deliver Net Zero.

The company and its investors and suppliers would greatly appreciate it if the decision, which we fully understand must be made on the basis of planning considerations and in accordance with planning law, could be taken as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Richard Damien Glasspool
Director