

From: [viola langley](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Aquind Interconnector
Date: 01 February 2024 17:02:28

Dear Ms Coutinho,

Reference Aquind Interconnector, we are sure that you are aware that the latest letter published on PINs website has caused a lot of interest.

Among others, the problem of National Security has become increasingly concerning. The issue of National security seems to have 2 obvious components.

Firstly, the Fibre Optic Cable. The inclusion of an unnecessarily large capacity data cable merits scrutiny.

“Data Cable

As part of the AQUIND Interconnector project, AQUIND will be deploying fibre optic infrastructure for protection and monitoring purposes. A fibre optic data transmission cable will be installed in a trench alongside and at the same time with each of the two power cable pairs both offshore and onshore. The spare data transmission capacity of such cables may be used to transfer data of third parties, providing further connectivity between France and England.”

(Aquind’s website)

Furthermore, in Aquind’s document, 14. June 2023 Response, chapter 5 it states:

“5.8 The Applicant has also made clear its position on any proposed exclusion of the ability to authorise the FOC for commercial use in the future pursuant to separate consents, at paragraphs 5.36 to 5.40 of its Response to the Second Information Request. In summary, the Applicant is not amenable to provisions being included in the DCO which prevent any future use of the fibre optic cables to be installed for commercial telecommunications where otherwise authorised for that use in the future.”

(“https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Finfrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fprojects%2FEN020022%2FEN020022-004970-Applicant%27s%2520Response%2520to%2520IP%2520responses%2520to%2520SoS%2520-%252014%2520June%25202023.pdf%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1xPQIN3ddNc-o6XQM7WvkPgaRLT_Oz6fShXDIUWX1QvwkI6FYZ9T7SeLE&h=AT0lxL0n2guz-FPp8mVOqb-V98BSPrrRRVHA0KCD7UW88Hw3MjuVyADYtEhWOeCs1n7F8W-ftTavamS2D4AL8kagU_9sb8XeqpsYnix-32jT5vbU3en_X7zhZGZPM2xJDuv8)

This could be interpreted as Aquind not being willing to abandon their ambition for the commercial side of the FOC, but install it and have it ready for future use. Surely this needs to be questioned. The public have been informed by local and national media that the FOC has been removed from the project. In the interest of transparency, the public deserves that this element of the project be clarified.

We also understand from other Interconnector projects that ORS (Optical regeneration Stations) are not necessary for an Interconnector Cable. The unnecessarily large capacity FOC might require optical regeneration in the event of commercial exploitation. This is not necessary for monitoring an HVDC cable.

Secondly, the HVDC cable. We have been shown that undersea installations are extremely vulnerable. Sabotage of undersea cables and pipelines would lead to energy disaster. Far better to support the development of homegrown and sustainable energy sources. Our partner grassroots group in Normandy, Non A Aquind, tell us that there is no likelihood of progress towards permissions being granted for construction on the French side.

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On reflection the decision taken by one of your predecessors to direct that Aquind Interconnector should be treated as a NSIP was crass mistake. To have been treated in the same way as a nuclear generating station which would add capacity to our system, is incorrect. This Interconnector is as likely to export energy as it is to import it. It does not lead to net gain for the UK.

We trust your judgment will reflect our concerns. There can be only one correct decision. Stop Aquind.

Viola Langley
Let's Stop Aquind

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