

From: [Amy Walshe](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: No to Aquind
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Dear Planning Directorate,

I am writing again to object to the use of the recent Savanta survey findings supporting of the Aquind interconnector project from Portsmouth.

This survey, which sampled only 478 residents a tiny fraction of Portsmouths residents, doesn't accurately reflect the broader sentiment of the local community.

This biased survey cannot not be used to support justification of a project which poses significant risks and disruptions to our city for the following reasons;

1. It does not accurately reflect Public Opinion

A sample size of only 478 residents is not a meaningful conclusions about the overall opinion of over 200,000 Portsmouth residents particularly as it utilised closed questions, which lead to biased responses and do not capture the full complexity of residents' views on the Aquind project. Well over 6,000 residents have already petitioned against the project and the survey fails to acknowledge this.

2. Insufficient Justification for the Project

The UK already has multiple interconnectors with other EU countries, which fulfil the current and projected energy demands. The National Grid's existing and planned interconnectors provide 19.5 GW, surpassing the government's target of 18 GW by 2030. Introducing another interconnector is unnecessary and redundant, particularly when the National Grid is already importing more energy than it exports due to the decommissioning of domestic power stations and insufficient investment in alternative energy sources.

3. Economic and Environmental Impact

The proposed interconnector will cause extensive disruption to Portsmouth's local environment and infrastructure. The construction of a long trench from Eastney to Horndean will result in the loss of green spaces, used as nesting sites and much recreational spaces essential in such an over crowded city, trees, and allotments, not to mention potential soil contamination. It will also create significant traffic congestion, posing risks to public health and safety by delaying emergency services, economic loss to businesses as well as generally bringing the city to intolerable gridlock as is often seen when one of the main artery roads is closed.

Furthermore, the claim that this project will reduce energy costs is unsubstantiated. The energy from the interconnector will be sold at a premium price, benefiting foreign suppliers rather than reducing costs for local consumers. This project does not align with the UK's goal of achieving energy self-sufficiency but rather increases dependence on foreign energy sources.

4. National Security Concerns

Surely this speaks for itself but the inclusion of a Russian data connection within this project raises serious national security concerns. Handing control of critical infrastructure to foreign powers could jeopardize the UK's energy security and sovereignty.

5. Lack of Local Support

Despite the survey's claims, there is considerable opposition to the project among Portsmouth residents. This disparity in support highlights a lack of consensus and further undermines the

survey's validity as a representation of public opinion.

Conclusion

The proposed interconnector project between Portsmouth and Normandy does not have adequate justification or support from the local community. The Savanta survey, with its small sample size and biased methodology, should not be used to influence the planning decision. The project poses unnecessary economic, environmental, and security risks, and fails to provide tangible benefits to Portsmouth residents.

I urge the planning directorate to consider these objections seriously and to prioritize the voices of the thousands of residents who have already expressed their opposition to this project.

Kind Regards,

Amy Walshe

View Interiors Ltd



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