

From: [Martin Grice](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Objection to the Savanta Survey Findings on the Proposed Interconnector Project between Portsmouth and Normandy
Date: 29 July 2024 18:23:11

Dear Planning Directorate,

I am writing to formally object to the interpretation and use of the recent Savanta survey findings in support of the proposed interconnector project between Portsmouth and Normandy. The survey, which sampled only 478 residents (approximately 0.2% of Portsmouth's population), does not accurately reflect the broader sentiment of the Portsmouth community. This limited and potentially biased survey should not be used to justify a project that poses significant risks and disruptions to our city.

1. Misrepresentation of Public Opinion

The survey's sample size of 478 residents is insufficient to draw meaningful conclusions about the overall opinion of over 200,000 Portsmouth residents. Additionally, the survey employed closed questions, which can lead to biased responses and do not capture the full complexity of residents' views on the interconnector project. Notably, over 6,000 residents have already petitioned against the project, clearly indicating substantial opposition that the survey fails to acknowledge.

2. Insufficient Justification for the Project

The UK already has multiple interconnectors with other EU countries, which fulfill 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, trees, and allotments, as well as potential soil contamination. The project will also create significant traffic congestion, posing risks to public health and safety by delaying emergency services.

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

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 significant opposition to the project among

Portsmouth residents. The survey indicates that while younger respondents may show support, this support diminishes with age, with only 46% of those aged 55-64 and 52% of those 65+ supporting the interconnector. 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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Martin Grice

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Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)