



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
[REDACTED] [@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)

Mr R Lescure  
Ministre de l'Économie, des Finances et de la  
Souveraineté industrielle, énergétique et numérique  
[REDACTED] [@economie.gouv.fr](mailto:[REDACTED]@economie.gouv.fr)

**Councillor Steve Pitt**

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Ref: [REDACTED]

Date: 25 November 2025

Dear Secretary of State,  
Dear Ministre de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Souveraineté industrielle, énergétique et numérique

We, the undersigned, are writing with one collective voice to ask you as the final decision-makers, to completely and finally reject the proposed Aquind Interconnector project.

We wish to be clear that in principle we do not oppose electric interconnectors.

We feel very strongly Aquind is the wrong proposal in the wrong place.

We say no to:

**On the British side:**

- the **environmental destruction** within the areas of **Portsmouth City Council**, **Havant Borough Council** and **Winchester City Council**, as well as in the **sensitive natural sites** along the south coast of England;
- the **major traffic congestion** and **deterioration of air quality** that would result from routing the interconnector through **Portsmouth**, an island city with only three road links to the mainland;
- any **public or private compulsory purchase** in **Hampshire**;
- the **national security risk** posed by the presence of a **fibre optic cable running alongside the electrical interconnector**, passing close to **sensitive Royal Navy installations**, as highlighted by the **UK Ministry of Defence**.

**On the French side:**

- the **severe damage to rural and coastal landscapes as well as to the environment**, particularly in the commune of **Pourville-sur-Mer**, which would pay a heavy price, with its beach and surrounding areas disfigured
- the **disruption of maritime and port traffic off Dieppe**, with **direct economic consequences for fishing, freight and cross-Channel transport activities**;
- the **technical and environmental risks** linked to the **installation of the submarine cable** in an area of **strong currents and fragile biodiversity**;

- a project lacking any public interest, as acknowledged by the French Minister for Energy, with the Prefect of Seine-Maritime having refused the authorisation to use the public maritime domain;

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For both sides:

- a purely speculative project, designed to enable the resale of 17 terawatt-hours (1,700 billion kilowatts) of electricity, benefiting only a few private interests, with no advantage for citizens in either France or the United Kingdom.
- the loss of fertile agricultural land
- The two electrical conversion buildings, each measuring 75 metres long, 55 metres wide, and 23 metres high. They will be build in the middle of our country-side.


All of these concerns have been placed on official record either in the UK or France, or both. However, some considerable time has passed and, in some cases, the ultimate decision maker has changed at least once. Therefore, we feel it is of the utmost importance that you are reminded that our resolve to oppose this unwanted and unnecessary project remains undiminished. We urge you to fully review all concerns placed on record by all Interested Parties.

The people of the city of Portsmouth and those affected in the borough of Havant and the City of Winchester, warmly welcomed the recent decision in France to deny key permissions for the project. We also noted and welcomed the rejection of the Development Consent Order by the previous UK Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng. We strongly support these decisions and would not like them to be overturned.


We, the residents on both sides of the channel, Let's Stop Aquind and Non á Aquind , together with the elected officials from both France and England, herein undersigned, are united .

We urge you to stop Aquind once and for all.

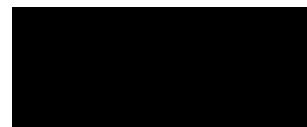
Yours sincerely



**Councillor Steve Pitt**  
Leader of Portsmouth City Council



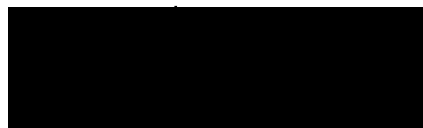
**Councillor Martin Tod**  
Leader of Winchester City Council



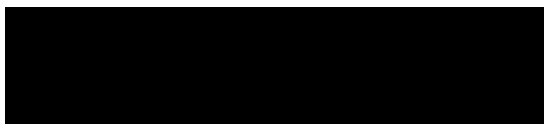
**Councillor Phil Munday**  
Leader of Havant Borough Council



**Suella Braverman MP**  
MP for Fareham and Waterlooville



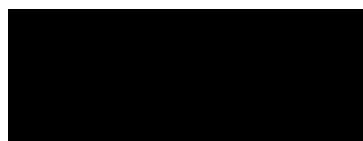
**Yöann Collin**  
Mayor of Tourville  
Président of the association of the Mayors  
against Aquind Project



**Viola Langley      Paul Ann Savage**



**Janet Sampson**



**Donald Brument**

