

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing once again to voice our vehement opposition to the construction of the Aquind connector here in Portsmouth and the surrounding region. We are one of thousands of households that, contrary to your recent misleading survey, find the idea of years of unwanted and needless disruption in our city intolerable. The aforementioned survey highlighted a lack of quality engagement with the public, with no reference to Aquind, nor context given. A small sampling of residents in the survey does not reflect the broader sentiment of the 6000 residents who have already petitioned against the project, clearly indicating substantial opposition. We live in the Milton area of Portsmouth, an area that will be adversely affected by the project, not only with regards to infrastructure, but also environmentally.

The first objection concerns the environment; Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK with only 3 access roads and is already the 4th congested city in the UK. Any work on one of the access roads on the eastern flank of the city would exacerbate this problem causing gridlock on the roads, a consequence of which would be the potential disruption to emergency services, seeing that Portsmouth's only A & E department is situated on the mainland. It would also cause the destruction of wildlife habitats on Milton common, with migratory birds like Brent Geese found there and also expose toxic waste on the Common. In addition, the plan would interfere with wildlife habitats in the allotments along its route, disturb marine habitats-including saltmarsh and seagrass meadow habitats-in Langstone harbour, a site of specific scientific interest.

Apart from the environmental impact, one must consider the health issues. Not only would the ensuing pollution be detrimental to people's health, but by taking away green spaces and playing fields, this would adversely affect the mental health and well-being of the people who would normally use these spaces.

Crucial questions need to be raised about the funding of the project itself and the sensitive matters of national security. The MOD has raised "significant concerns" with regards to risks to UK defence and national security risks to the UK. The protection of national defences must be prioritised and I fully support the MOD's position. Is the company viable to run such a huge project and where does the money come from? Will the fibre optic cables be used for future telecommunications? How vulnerable would undersea cables be under the current political climate? These questions and more have not been satisfactorily addressed.

Last, but not least, a mention must be made of OFGEM's refusal of Aquind's 3<sup>rd</sup> cap and floor application as the introduction of Aquind in the system would "generate constraint costs and represent a risk to the customer".

We urge the inspectorate to take these objections into account, as well as the thousands made by fellow local people and Portsmouth MPs of all political persuasions and to stop Aquind's proposals now.

Yours faithfully,

Heather & António Meachem de Brito