



HERBERT SMITH  
FREEHILLS  
KRAMER

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HP

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London EC2A 2EG  
T +44 (0)20 [REDACTED]  
F +44 (0)20 [REDACTED]  
DX28 London Chancery Lane  
E [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref  
21992/31049436

Date  
21 July 2025

By email to [aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Secretary of State

### **Redetermination of the AQUIND Interconnector application**

We continue to act for AQUIND Limited ("**AQUIND**"), the applicant for development consent for the AQUIND Interconnector project.

On 17 July 2025, AQUIND obtained environmental authorisation from the Prefect of Seine Maritime in France (a copy of which is available [here](#)). This is the authorisation that was required to be obtained prior to the commencement of certain specified works and the exercise of certain specified powers in Article 52 of the most recent version of the Draft Development Consent Order submitted to the Secretary of State (Revision 012) (available [here](#)).

This authorisation having been granted, it is now of even greater urgency that the Secretary of State provides certainty on the steps to, and timing of, his final decision on AQUIND's application. AQUIND is currently in the process of negotiations with investors and contractors and the Secretary of State's decision on the application is naturally a key and urgent consideration.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP**

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP and its affiliated and subsidiary businesses and firms, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer (US) LLP and its affiliate, and Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, an Australian Partnership, are separate member firms of the international legal practice known as Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer.

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC310989. Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales (SRA number: 419682). A list of the members and their professional qualifications is open to inspection at the registered office, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2EG. We use the word partner of Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP to refer to a member of Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP, or an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications.