



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

**PORTSMOUTH'S ENVIRONMENT UNDER RENEWED ATTACK AS AQUIND'S OLIGARCHS
SEEK TO REVIVE INTERCONNECTOR SCHEME BY JUDICIAL REVIEW**

Portsmouth, Hampshire
Tuesday 8 March January 2022

Despite unanimous local opposition, [Aquind Limited has revealed](#) that it has launched a legal challenge to the decision to deny it permission to land a cross channel electrical Interconnector cable and fibre optic communications network in Portsmouth.

This controversial move puts the environment of Portsmouth at risk from a 5-7 year long building project that would choke the city, and is likely to draw further attention to the Russian backgrounds of owners [Alexander Temerko](#) & [Viktor Fedotov](#) and the [extensive financial support given to the Conservative Party](#) by Aquind, it's owners and directors.

Activists from grassroots community group Let's Stop Aquind are calling on all interested parties – local MP's Stephen Morgan and Penny Mordaunt and representatives from Portsmouth and Winchester City Councils – to coordinate a response to this disappointing development.

[The decision by the Secretary of State for Business and Energy](#) to deny the company permission to land the cables was [widely welcomed throughout Portsmouth](#), and Let's Stop Aquind is committed to defending the city's environment and continue to highlight the dangers posed to our wildlife and green spaces, the unsuitability of Aquind to carry out a billion-pound engineering project and the [threat to national security of a Russian funded infrastructure project](#) in the home of the Royal Navy.

Group co-founder Viola Langley commented on the situation:

"We are outraged that the owners of Aquind have dared to launch a Judicial Review to try to reverse the decision by Kwasi Kwarteng. This project would do untold damage to the fabric of our city and its residents. We will endeavour to counter this effort by Aquind to cause so much harm and disruption for so little gain. There must be a better way especially at this critical time."

ENDS

For further information on Let's Stop Aquind contact founder Viola Langley by email: langleyviola1@hotmail.com.



Notes to Editors

Let's Stop Aquind is a community pressure group with the sole aim of stopping the Aquind Interconnector, a High Voltage electric cable planned to connect Northern France with a sub-station at Lovedean in the South Downs at a cost of £1.2 billion. Far from providing cheap or "green" energy, the Interconnector would bring French nuclear power to the national grid at an unregulated price for private profit, and would contradict the government's policy of developing sustainable energy sources locally.

Built around a Facebook group with more than 3900 members, Let's Stop Aquind is a broad coalition of citizens, local politicians and businesses concerned about the environmental impact of the cable, the chaos and pollution it would cause to the Portsmouth and the wider region, and the ownership, funding and political activities of the company behind the proposal. Let's Stop Aquind has the support of every councillor on Portsmouth City Council including the leader Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Portsmouth South Labour MP Stephen Morgan and Portsmouth North Conservative MP and Minister Penny Mordaunt.

The Interconnector is backed by Aquind Limited, a company with an opaque ownership structure and a history of offshore funding, but no experience of managing large scale engineering projects.

The Interconnector project would last 5-7 years and threatens the environment of rare migrating and wading birds, would cause irreparable damage to precious green spaces adjacent to the Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest, would cut through and pollute the land under the main allotments in Portsmouth, would occupy (in some cases permanently) numerous sporting facilities and public spaces, could potentially disturb landfill contaminated with asbestos and other hazardous materials and would result in a steep increase in airborne pollution in an already dangerously polluted city, thanks to the construction traffic and the chaos caused by digging up one of the 3 roads linking Portsmouth (the second most densely populated city in the UK) to the mainland.

Let's Stop Aquind believes that the Interconnector project should never have been granted the status of Nationally Significant Infrastructure, which has meant that the approval process has been taken out of local hands and entrusted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Kwasi Kwarteng. Furthermore, **Let's Stop Aquind** and its supporters see the Aquind Interconnector as a threat to national security - where our energy sources would be put in the hands of a foreign power and in the care of an entirely inappropriate and obscure private company with an unusual history of generous political patronage.

Let's Stop Aquind can be found on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and at stopaquind.com.