

## **Response to: Proposal to apply Code powers to the Aquind Limited**

Respondent: Name Withheld

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Aquind is a major infrastructure project and currently going through the planning process with several local authorities as there is an overland power cable some 20 miles long running from Eastney in Portsmouth to Lovedean.

This cable route is infact two parallel sets of cables 5.0m apart with fibre optic cables laid at the same time.

<https://horndeanmatters.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/consultation-document-aquind-interconnector.pdf> page 22 for the route, pages 44 to 48 for the details of the excavations.

I am gravely concerned that the granting of this power would then allow Aquind to install the power cables at the same time as the fibre optic cables bypassing the planning and street works licence approaches.

The disruption installing a single excavation of duct for telecoms operation is significantly less than the disruption of installing a twin pair of cable runs at a significantly lower depth with multiple cables 600m to 2000m long on drums between joints so this can not be used as a method to bypass approvals.

If Ofcom grant this licence then it should be 1) only after the planning process for every element of the scheme has been approved through its usual processes and 2) does not allow the installation of other utility services including power cables without this first going through the planning and other relevant processes first.