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> YOUR REFERENCE AlL 2024/0003 & AlL 2024/0004

Chief Executive NIFA

cc Water Regulation Team

By Email

DATE 27 June 2024

Re: Requests for a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0003 & AIL 2024 0004 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.

Dear

Thank you for your letter dated 21st June 2024, which seeks responses to a number of gueries.

The Commission has previously outlined the legislative position in respect of the public inquiry and the relevant period for making representations. Only those representations submitted within the statutory time period can be considered to fall within the terms of reference of the public inquiry. The timing of the submission of the representations to the Commission is a matter for the Department but should be aligned with the making of a valid Direction for the Commission to hold a public inquiry.

As previously advised the 2020 applications are deemed refused and the Commission has closed these cases. Representations submitted in line with the legislative requirements in respect of those deemed refused applications cannot fall within the remit of the AIL 2024/0003 and AIL 2024/0004 applications and any associated public inquiry.

The Commission is unsure as to the reference to 'consultees' in your letter and the statements that 'it will not require members of the public to submit them again'. We refer you to the relevant statutory timelines provided within the legislation and as referred to in previous correspondence.

Once we are in receipt of a valid Direction and the papers in relation to AIL 2024/0003 and AIL 2024/0004, the appointed Commissioner will review them. Only when we are satisfied that there are no further procedural issues arising, will we move to confirm the new timetable.

I would be grateful if you could provide our admin team with an indication of when we will be in receipt of the relevant paperwork.

Yours sincerely

