



Planning Appeals Commission  
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By Email

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**RE: THE CONJOINED PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRIES COMPRISING OF:**

- 1. 2024/WHR01 – a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licencing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0008 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.**
- 2. 2024/WHR02 - a Public Local Inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licencing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0009 – NIEA, to abstract and impound water on behalf of Dalradian Gold Ltd.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of Infrastructure (Dfi), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) have directed the Commission to conduct Public Local Inquiries to consider representations made in respect of the applications listed above comprising of the 'Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold)'. A Pre-Inquiry meeting took place on 20 March 2024. As a result of procedural issues arising the original timetable was suspended. The Commission is now in a position to set out the revised arrangements.

You are receiving this letter as you made representation to NIEA in relation to the above applications by Dalradian Gold Ltd, to abstract and impound water. If you wish to take part in the conjoined local public inquiries please notify the Commission by letter or email to [Dalradian.CPI@pacni.gov.uk](mailto:Dalradian.CPI@pacni.gov.uk) by **4pm on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024** and comply with the deadlines set out below. If you wish to rely on your original letter of objection, no further action is required.

The Commission will open the public local inquiries at **10.30am on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. These will be held in person at the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh in relation to the above. Further details, including a draft timetable will be communicated to parties by 4pm on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

As per the revised "*Procedures for the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold) conjoined Public Local Inquiries*" document published on the Commission's website you are encouraged to pool resources together with people with common cause in nominating representatives to speak at the inquiries.

If you wish to submit a statement of case for the two applications (AIL 2024 0008 – NIEA and AIL 2024 0009 – NIEA) for licences to abstract and impound water please ensure that it is submitted to the Commission by **4.00pm on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. The statement of case should not exceed 1,500 words. You may submit the statement of case electronically. Appendices may be used for supporting information, but arguments must be confined to the main body of the statement. Please note that if your statement of case and rebuttals are over the word limit outlined above you must submit an executive summary.

Approximately 590 people have made representation to the Department in respect of these two applications. However, 68 people have not supplied an email address and therefore a full electronic exchange of evidence cannot occur. Parties are therefore asked to supply an electronic copy and hardcopies by the dates specified. The applicant, the Department and the third-party supporters of the proposal are requested to provide 73 hard copies of each document, most of which will be distributed to the third-party objectors. The objectors need to provide 10 hard copies of each document.

The Department, whilst reserving its opinions on the final outcome of the applications, will be expected to give clear views on each of the main issues before the inquiries. All parties will have an opportunity to comment on any suggested conditions. The conditions will be discussed on a without prejudice basis.

The Commission will exchange the statements of case following their submission. You or your clients will be afforded an opportunity to comment in writing on the other parties' statements **by 4.00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. The total length of any rebuttal statement should not exceed 1,500 words. At this stage we expect the applicant, the referring authority and the third-party supporters of the proposal to provide 73 hard copies of each document, most of which will be distributed to the third-party objectors. The objectors need to provide 10 hard copies of each document.

The Commission proposes to conduct the inquiries using a combination of formal and informal hearing procedures. However, invoking formal procedures will be at the discretion of the presiding Commissioners. Written evidence will be taken as read and there will be no opening statements from the parties. The inquiries will work through an agenda prepared by the Commissioners, who will lead a round table discussion on each agenda item in turn. Before moving on from each item, the Commissioners will give all parties an opportunity for submissions to cover any issues pertinent to that item. After the conjoined inquiries, the Commission will prepare the separate reports with recommendations on the issues raised within the representations to the respective Departments. The final decision on all the applications will rest with the Departments.

As referred to above, the Commission has produced a bespoke booklet entitled "*Procedures for the Curraghinalt Project (Dalradian Gold) conjoined Public Local Inquiries*". The booklet can be downloaded from our website [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk). If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

**Jemma Lynas**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

### **SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS**

Statements of case by:-	<b>4pm on 18/10/2024</b>
Rebuttals by:-	<b>4pm on 25/11/2024</b>
Inquiry opens at:-	<b>10.30am on 13/01/2025</b>