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OUR REFERENCE

2021/WHR01
2021/WHR02
2024/WHR01
2024/WHR02

YOUR REFERENCE

TC 080/20_1
TC 081/20_1
AIL 2024/0008
AIL 2024/0009

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive
NIEA

By Email

DATE

04/02/2026

Re: Requests for a Public Local Inquiry under Schedule 1.3(4) of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 for application TrC 080/20_1 & TrC 081/20_1 and Regulation 17 of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 for application AIL 2024 0008 & AIL 2024 0009

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in relation to your letter dated 21 January 2026 and note your response in relation to Further Environmental Information.

As outlined in our letter of August 2025, the deadline for written submissions has passed. Also, as previously advised, the presiding Commissioners will be accepting oral testimony at the hearing sessions in line with our procedures. The public inquiry process is not open-ended, and the Commission should not be used to facilitate the processing of applications to NIEA. For the avoidance of doubt, any further written submissions at this stage will most likely have an impact on the inquiry timeline.

The NIEA, as the referring authority, has statutory obligations to fulfil as decision-maker. These are separate and distinct from the remit of the Commission in the public inquiry process, and we remain committed to conducting the public inquiry on the dates we published back in October 2025. However, if NIEA is of the view that further written submissions are necessary in the context of the public inquiry process, please let us know within five working days from the date of this response so we can plan ahead and set revised timelines accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chief Administrative Officer