

Your Reference: 2021/WHR01, 2021/WHR02
2024/WHR01, 2024/WHR02
Our reference: TC 080/20_1, TC 081/20_1
AIL 2024/0008, AIL 2024/0009

Chief Commissioner
Water Appeals Commission
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2 April 2026

Dear Commissioner

DALRADIAN GOLD LTD (CURRAGHINALT) PROJECT: PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

I refer to your letter of 25 February 2026 regarding the above matter. Your letter addressed various matters relating to the updated material from NIEA which was first brought to the Commission's attention in August 2025 ("the updated material"). As previously confirmed, the updated material is available on NIEA's website. It is also available on DfI's website and will be notified in an advertisement to be placed in the Ulster Herald, Tyrone Constitution, Fermanagh Herald, Ulster Herald, Impartial Reporter, Strabane Chronicle, Strabane Weekly and the Belfast Gazette.

In relation to the first and last points in your letter, NIEA referred the applications to the Commission to enable consideration of public representations. We have not sought the Commission or the public local inquiry ("PLI") to assist in the processing of the applications themselves. We are fully aware of our responsibilities as the decision maker for the discharge and abstraction applications and consistently set this out in our correspondence. We fully accept that it is for the Commission to set down the procedures for the conduct of the PLI.

In relation to the second point in your letter, we note the suggestion that NIEA has turned down the opportunity to submit further written material to the PLI. To be clear, the NIEA first brought the updated material to the Commission's attention in August 2025. We have continually stated that the updated material was relevant to the PLI and indicated in our letters of 22 August 2025, 23 September 2025, 20 January 2026 and 5 February 2026 that the Commission may consider it appropriate to put arrangements in place for the provision of written representations from other participants in the PLI to address the updated material.

We do not now request that any provision for written representations be made. Having said that, however, NIEA consider that participants to the PLI should be able to refer to NIEA's updated material in their oral evidence to the PLI, if they so wish. This information is in the public domain

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and represents the latest information on the matters it addresses (albeit, as set out in our letter of 5 February 2026, the material is updated evidence which we do not consider will materially impact on overall positions). We would be grateful if the Commission confirm in advance of the resumption of the PLI that they have no objection to participants referring to the updated material in their oral evidence.

NIEA has previously confirmed that the NIEA updated material does not require the provision of further environmental information “(FEI)” from the applicant. This of course is only relevant to the application for planning permission. The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, and so FEI, are not applicable to the Water Order 1999 or the Abstraction and Impoundment Licensing Regulations 2006.

Finally, a significant volume of new information has been submitted under the transboundary consultation undertaken by DfI. NIEA is currently assessing this material, but consider that it will be relevant to the Appropriate Assessment that NIEA considers it will be required to prepare in respect of the applications made to NIEA for Discharge Consent and Abstraction & Impoundment Licences.

Given the volume of new information, NIEA will not now prepare a draft Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment in advance of the PLI. We will await the conclusion of the PLI process before finalising these assessments. This reflects the position NIEA indicated in its rebuttal evidence that it would take in relation to preparing an Appropriate Assessment.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Interim Chief Executive

