



Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

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  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
92 Ann Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3HH

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
(NIEA)  
Chief Executive's Office  
17 Antrim Road  
Tonagh  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL.  
Telephone: 028 877442053  
Email: [REDACTED]

[Dalradian.CPI@pacni.gov.uk](mailto:Dalradian.CPI@pacni.gov.uk)

10 February 2026

Dear Commissioner

## **DALRADIAN GOLD LTD (CURRAGHINALT) PROJECT: PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY**

Thank you for your letter of the 4 February 2026 in respect of the above matter.

We note that the Commission has indicated it will not accept any further written material. We therefore understand that the documents referred to in our previous correspondence will not be formally admitted as part of the Public Local Inquiry process.

Nevertheless, since NIEA are, as you point out in your letter, a referring authority with decision-making responsibilities, we consider it appropriate that such information as we deem relevant should be made available to those making representations to the PAC on the applications before it. To that end, four of the documents referred to in NIEA's letter of 22 August 2025 are now available on our website. Those documents are:-

- [Specialist review of documentation and advice relating to buried archaeological remains;](#)
- [Hydrology – Estimate of Allowable Flow Variation to Streams in Curraghinalt Project using JNCC CSM using NRFA data up to 2023;](#)
- [Hydrology report on estimated flow variation allowances in Pollanroe Burn with the application of the JNCC Common Standards Monitoring flow targets using updated NRFA baseline river flow reference data up to end of 2023 hydrological year;](#) and
- [The available raw data on the latest freshwater pearl mussel surveys](#) (undertaken 2024-2025)

In your letter you indicate that “*the presiding Commissioners will be accepting oral testimony at the hearing sessions in line with our procedures*”. We understand from the Commission's letter that parties to the inquiry may therefore refer to this material in their oral evidence, but no arrangements are to be made for written submissions on this or any other material.



An Agency within the Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne  
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

An Agency within the Department of  
Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Standard

NIEA indicated in our letter of the 21 January 2026 that we thought it would be helpful for the PAC to make provision for the submission of written responses to the latest published material from NIEA. To reiterate, this latest material is updated evidence which we do not consider will materially impact on overall positions. It has been published since it is available to NIEA, and with the intention that its publication would assist the Commission to robustly explore the relevant facts as part of a transparent inquiry process.

NIEA continue to be of the view that making arrangements for written representations on this latest material would not jeopardize the agreed timeline for the hearings. It is our opinion that there is sufficient time to allow for written representations on the materials. To be clear, however, NIEA agrees that it is important that there is no further delay to the Inquiry proceedings and that the current timetable is not revised.

NIEA also propose to publish the draft Habitats Regulations Appropriate assessments (draft HRAs) by the 6 March 2026. Once the draft HRAs are published, we will write to the Commission again to invite you to accept them into evidence, in order that parties may comment on them in their oral evidence.

Yours sincerely



  
**Chief Executive**

