Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/26-748

Water Catchment Unit
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[redacted]

30 October 2026

[redacted],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your further information requests, received by the Department on 21, 22 and 23 September 2026, in relation to water pollution incident WR 8/26/0074 in which you sought the information below. This response is drafted as a response to all three queries/requests. I can confirm that the Department has considered your requests and answers are provided below:

Correspondence of 21/9/26

Incident Report 820341 – 4 September 2026, you asked to confirm:

1 What source was identified for the discharge observed on 4 September?

An active discharge was observed from the consented discharge/sampling point from a local commercial premises.

2 Was the Cleggan Quarry drainage system, settlement ponds and/or consented discharge point inspected?

A thorough inspection of the local commercial premises at point (1) above was carried out.

3 Were any water or sediment samples or field measurements taken?

Due to the cloudy nature of the discharge at the time of the investigation, a tripartite statutory sample was taken to establish compliance with the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

4 Was the discharge assessed against Water (Northern Ireland) Order Consent TC 139/05?

In all such cases, the results obtained are assessed against the emission limits set in any relevant Water (NI) Order 1999 Consent. To request routine monitoring sample results for any site, please email industrialconsents@daera-ni.gov.uk quoting the relevant TC number, site name and/or address.

5 What were the findings of the investigation?

The statutory sample result obtained, and visual inspection, confirmed the Low Severity classification of the incident.

6 Were any mitigation, corrective, compliance or enforcement measures required?

The Lead Investigating Officer (LIO) spoke to staff at a local commercial premises and requested that appropriate and sufficient mitigation measures be installed by the discharger.

7 Has Incident 820341 been closed, and if so, what was the recorded outcome?

As of the date of this request, the matter remains under active investigation as part of NIEA Water Pollution Incident Reference WR 8/26/0074.

8 Was this incident considered a recurrence or continuation of the earlier August incident WR 8/26/0074?

NIEA consider that this was a recurrence of previously investigated matters, also under WR 8/26/0074.

Incident Number 842269 – 15 September 2026, you asked to confirm:

1. Whether an NIEA officer attended following the report made on 15 September.

An NIEA Inspector attended and carried out an investigation on the morning of 16 September 2026.

2. What observations were made?

The waterway was observed to be slightly hazy with no visible suspended solid impact.

3. Whether the pollution/discolouration was traced upstream;

The slight haze was visible upstream at Gardrum Road but the discharge from a commercial premises in the area was observed to be running clear.

4. **Whether a source was identified;**

No polluting discharge was identified.

5. **Whether the Cleggan Quarry drainage infrastructure or consented discharge point was inspected;**

The discharge point for a commercial premises in the area was inspected.

6. **Whether samples or field measurements were taken;**

No samples or field measurements were taken on 16 September 2026. No polluting discharge was identified.

7. **Whether the discharge was assessed against TC 139/05;**

No polluting discharge was identified. To request routine monitoring sample results for any site please email industrialconsents@daera-ni.gov.uk

8. **Whether any mitigation, compliance or enforcement action resulted;**

No polluting discharge was identified.

9. **Whether Incident 842269 remains open or has now been closed.**

No polluting discharge was identified.

You also stated that 'Given the previous August incident, followed by further reports on 4 September and 15 September, I would also be grateful if NIEA could confirm whether these repeated events are being considered collectively as part of the compliance history of the relevant discharge, rather than solely as isolated individual reports.

The investigations are being considered as a whole and assessed against our enforcement and monitoring policy. As a result of the sample taken on 4 September 2026, and in line with DAERA Enforcement Policy, an Advisory Letter was issued. As of 15 September, the ongoing matters have been assessed as Low Severity in terms of environmental impact, therefore, no formal enforcement action is currently being considered.

Correspondence of 22/09/26

An email was received on the 22 September 2026 asking the following questions:

1. **whether reports 820341 (4 Sep) and 842269 (15 Sep) were investigated;**
2. **whether site inspections were undertaken;**
3. **whether the source of each incident was identified;**
4. **whether any water or sediment samples were taken;**
5. **whether the incidents were linked to the same source as WR 8/26/0074;**
6. **what further mitigation, enforcement or regulatory action has been taken; and**
7. **whether NIEA considers the repeated incidents to indicate that the earlier mitigation measures were ineffective.**

Requests/questions 1 – 6 above are similar to those questions asked on 21 September 2026 and are answered elsewhere in this response. Following the visit of 4 September, additional precautionary measures were taken, at a commercial premises, to minimise the environmental impact.

Correspondence of 23/09/26

A further water pollution report (857533) was received by the Department on the 23 September 2026, a continuation of Water Pollution Investigation WR 8/26/0074, with a request for additional information, as follows:

Provide the new reference, findings and enforcement action.

As a result of this incident being reported, two NIEA Inspectors attended the location and assessed the consented discharge point from a local commercial premises and the waterway downstream from this discharge.

The active discharge appeared visually clean and clear. There was a slight haze in the water column for a short distance in the waterway downstream. The officers noted that there had been heavy rain the previous night.

This incident report and those previously reported (820341 and 842269) are collectively being considered under water pollution incident WR 8/26/0074. Following your reports, NIEA Water Pollution Response and Enforcement Team have arranged to discuss this matter with the relevant Regulation Team within NIEA.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter

that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



NIEA Water Catchment Unit