

# Mineral Prospecting Licence Applications MPLA1/19 and MPLA2/19

## Consultation Overview

13 September 2021

*(closing date for response 05 December 2021)*

### **Purpose of Consultation**

In accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, the Department for the Economy (the Department) has received two applications from Dalradian Gold Limited (the applicant), for Mineral Prospecting Licences (MPL). The Department has accepted the applications as valid.

General information on MPL applications, and how the Department assesses applications, can be found on the Departmental website using the link below:

[DfE Minerals Licencing](#)

The purpose of this document is to provide consultees with an overview of both applications and the consultation process for the applications. This consultation will run from 13 September 2021 for a period of 12 weeks, ending on 05 December 2021.

The following documents are attached.

<i>Annex A</i>	<i>Redacted Application Forms for MPL Applications</i>
<i>Annex B</i>	<i>Minerals Prospecting Overview</i>
<i>Annex C</i>	<i>Dalradian Gold Limited Company Brief</i>
<i>Annex D</i>	<i>Map of area under consideration</i>
<i>Annex E</i>	<i>List of Wards and Townlands in Application Areas</i>
<i>Annex F</i>	<i>Public Notice</i>

All information related to the two applications and the consultation process can be found on the Department's website at: [DfE Consultations](#) and following the link to consultation on MPLA1/19 and MPLA2/19.

## General Information

1. The two applications are for areas previously licensed by the Department to the applicant. The previous licences ended on 31 December 2019 and were referenced DG1 and DG2.
2. The applicant already holds Crown Estates Options for both areas. Precious metals i.e. gold and silver are vested in the Crown and the applicant has continued, and intends to continue, gold exploration in both these areas under their Crown Estates Options.
3. While there are two separate MPLs applications under consideration, given that they involve the same applicant, are in adjacent geographical locations and are for similar activities, the Department has decided to combine the two consultations into one. Any issue raised in conjunction with either application that is not applicable to the other, will be considered as required.
4. The Department received these applications in July 2019. The delay to the consultation process was initially a result of a legal issue and more recently due to Covid-19 restrictions. Part of the consultation process requires hard copies of the documentation to be displayed in public buildings in the locality of the application area. The Department decided that the risk to public health was such that the consultation should be postponed until such times as the restrictions eased. It is now clear that risk from the display of the documentation can be managed within current Covid guidelines. Please note that as a result of the delay, the Department required the applicant to update both their application and their Company brief – both versions of these documents are provided on the Department's website for information.

## Consultation Process

The objective of this consultation is to ensure that the Department publishes its' intention to grant the two MPLs and provide the general public with an opportunity to submit comments. This will help ensure that the Department receives a wide range of views and can take an informed decision on either the granting, or not, of the MPLs and/or on any additional terms and conditions that should be included in the MPLs.

The following outlines the consultation/notification process that the Department will follow for these two applications:

- The Department has notified the following relevant organisations that it has accepted the MPL Applications MPLA1/19 and MPLA2/19 as valid and has invited them to make representations by 05 December 2021.

All NI Executive Departments	NIE Networks
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	NIEnvironment Link
Mid Ulster District Council	Northern Ireland Water Ltd
Derry City and Strabane District Council	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
BT Group Plc	Tourism NI
Invest NI	The National Trust

- A Public Notice (Annex F) will be placed in the following newspapers:

The Belfast Gazette	Strabane Chronicle
Tyrone Courier	Strabane Weekly News
Mid Ulster Mail	Londonderry Sentinel
Tyrone Constitution	Derry Journal
Impartial Reporter	Derry News (known as Derry Now)
Dungannon Herald	Derry Post
Portadown Times	Belfast Telegraph (NW edition)
Ulster Herald	Fermanagh Herald

The Public Notice will appear in the first publication of each newspaper in weeks commencing 13 September and 20 September 2021.

- To minimise risk related to the current on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the Department encourages anyone wishing to consider the documentation to do so online at [DfE Consultations](#). However, if absolutely necessary, arrangements have been made for the physical documentation to be viewed the premises outlined below:
  - Department for the Economy, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB - **viewing by appointment only**, please contact 028 9052 9377.
  - Derry City and Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN and 47 Derry Road, Strabane, BT82 8DY - **viewing by appointment only**, please contact 028 71 253 253.
  - Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Customer Connect Centre, Strule House, 16 High Street, Omagh, BT78 1BQ. Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.
  - Mid Ulster District Council, Magherafelt Office, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN - **viewing by appointment only**, contact the Planning Department on 03000 132 132.

### **Submitting a Response to the Department**

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of the applications must do so to the Department on, or before, **05 December 2021**.

Section 11(5) of the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 requires the Department to consider all representations made to it within the specified timeframe. After the consultation period has closed the Department will consider comments received. Once responses have been analysed, a decision will be taken on whether or not to grant the licences for applications MPLA1/19 and/or MPLA2/19.

A summary of all the comments received during the consultation process and the Department's response to each will be published on the Department's website.

Anyone wishing to make representations to the Department on the intention to grant application MPLA1/19 and MPLA2/19 should do so by:

Email: [MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk)

or

Post: Department for the Economy  
Minerals and Petroleum Branch  
Room 9  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

Given the current Covid-19 restrictions, the Department requests that where possible, representations are submitted by email.

Please note that, within the parameters outlined in the Confidentiality and Data Protection section below, your representation may be shared with the applicant.

### **Confidentiality and Data Protection**

Your response may be made public by the Department and placed on the Department's website as part of the consultation process.

In addition information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)). If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA and EIR, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

If you do not want your name or all or part of your response to be made public, please state this clearly in the response and mark your response as 'CONFIDENTIAL.' Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by your organisation's IT system or included as a general statement will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

For information regarding the Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR is available using the following link: [Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice](#)

Applicants for an MPL may need to include commercially sensitive information in their applications, such as financial forecasts and proprietary data. The Department handles such information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and other relevant law, which take full cognisance of issues of transparency and confidentiality. This has resulted in the redaction of information from the published application forms.

### **Copies of the Consultation**

This Consultation Document and all other information relevant to the consultation, is available:

- on the Department's website at [DfE Consultations](#).
- by email request to [MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk),
- on request in writing to the Department at the address above, or
- on request by calling 028 9052 9377.

If you require access to the documentation in a different format – eg Braille, disk, audio cassette, and larger font – or in a minority ethnic language, please contact the Department on 028 9052 9377 and appropriate arrangements will be made as soon as possible.