

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BRANCH



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Dear Stella

CREGGAN COUNTRY PARK AND RESERVOIRS BILL

Thank you for your letter of the 2 April 2014, outlining the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development queries following briefing from Creggan Country Park on the proposed DARD Reservoirs Bill.

The Department for Regional Development (DRD) does not itself own any reservoirs nor does it envisage any managerial responsibilities for reservoirs under the Reservoirs Bill. As you will be aware, the DARD Reservoirs Bill is concerned with the safety of reservoirs and preventing an uncontrolled release of water as a result of reservoir failure. NI Water already manages the reservoirs under its control in line with standards set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975 (England and Wales). The introduction of the Reservoirs Bill will therefore not have a major impact on NI Water. It will however be required to introduce a new activity in relation to the preparation and maintenance of formal on-site and off-site flood plans.

NI Water has given consideration to instances where there may be multiple managers. For the majority of reservoirs within its control, NI Water will be the designated 'Reservoir Manager' and carry out all related responsibilities. In some instances NI Water envisages that under the Reservoirs Bill it will become a joint Reservoir Manager, an example of this would be Camlough Reservoir where it will become a joint Reservoir Manager with Newry and Mourne District Council. This is because the Council has

historically operated the control valves and has stated a requirement to be able to continue to do so in order to top up the level of the Newry canal.

The Department's Transport NI has confirmed that it maintains an adopted footpath in the vicinity of one of the Creggan Reservoirs. However neither this, nor the existence of a NI Water pumping station near the dam at Creggan Country Park, constitutes a managerial role and NI Water understands that holding wayleaves or rights of way does not constitute a responsibility as Reservoir Manager under the proposed Reservoir Bill.

On this basis neither the Department or NI Water envisage themselves becoming a Manager or joint Manager of the reservoirs at Creggan Country Park.

I am copying this letter to Paul Carlisle, Clerk to the Committee for Regional Development.

This letter is fully disclosable under FOI.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Doherty', with a horizontal line underneath.

ALAN DOHERTY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer