Notice of request for more information

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

# Notice requiring further information

To: c/o Mr C J Bennett (Company Director)
Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales) Ltd
Oldends Lane
Oldends
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire
GL10 3RL

Application number: EPR/WP3231NB/V006

Natural Resources Wales, in exercise of its powers under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the above Regulations, requires you to provide the information detailed in the attached schedule. The information is required in order to determine your application for a permit, duly made on 18 November 2025. The information requested should be sent to the following address by **3 March 2026.**

Information should be sent to:

Anna Griffiths
Permitting Service
Natural Resources Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

| Name | Date |
|---|---|
| A. M. Griffiths | 20/01/2026 |

Anna Griffiths, Senior Specialist Advisor - Installations and RSR Permitting
Authorised on behalf of Natural Resources Wales

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## Schedule

**The following information is required in order to determine the permit variation application for The Creamery, Aberarad:**

## 1. Thermal Plume Dispersal Modelling

The WFD Ecology Impacts Report by D.W. Sharpe submitted (as an appendix to DPCW.01.04 EPTR Issue 1) with the current variation application does not reflect the change of temperature applied for in this current variation application. Also, the Water Framework Directive waterbody classifications have been updated since the last assessment conducted as part of permit variation (EPR/WP3231NB V004).

On this basis, provide a detailed assessment of the proposed temperature increase of the discharge via thermal plume dispersal modelling. This is to be based on the proposed maximum discharge rate of 900 $m^3$/day and should compare the current effluent temperature of 21°C with the proposed temperature of 25°C. This information is required so that this proposed change in temperature can be properly assessed on the River Teifi receiving water using Water Framework Directive (WFD) criteria.

The receiving watercourse GB110062043564 'Teifi (Afon Clettwr to Afon Ceri)' was designated 'High' status for temperature in the 2021 WFD River waterbodies cycle 3 dataset but has declined to "Good" in the 2024 WFD cycle 3 interim dataset. This change in classification needs to be assessed in the context of the proposal to increase the temperature of the final treated effluent. The assessment needs to consider the temperature benchmark for Salmonid Waters and whether the proposed effluent temperature increase is likely to cause deterioration against the "High" temperature status benchmark given in The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) (Directions) (England and Wales) 2015.

## 2. Assessment of Substantial Change Criteria

Please read the criteria for the application potentially being a substantial variation based on the proposed increase of the effluent temperature. The topic of heat is presented in section A13 of our RGN 8 guidance on "Substantial changes in operation at installations, mining waste facilities and other facilities involving solvent and combustion". Provide written justification and evidence to confirm if the proposed increase in effluent temperature from 21°C to 25°C meets the criteria for the application to be a substantial variation or not. Please note that the Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (England and Wales) Regulations 1997 referenced in section A13 have now been superseded. Therefore, you should use the updated legislation - The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) (Directions) (England and Wales) 2015 as the basis for the assessment. If the assessment concludes that the proposed increase in temperature is a "substantial change," we will advise what additional fee needs to be paid to reflect the change from a normal to a substantial variation application.

## 3. Proposed Acid Wet Scrubber

Please confirm if the proposed acid wet scrubber will generate any liquid effluent. If it will, please specify the intended disposal route for this effluent and the estimated quantity and frequency of disposal. If liquid effluent will be generated by the proposed scrubber for release to the environment, via the installation's effluent treatment plant, the H1 risk assessment for discharges to surface water must be updated to reflect the addition of this proposed new effluent stream.

## 4. Releases to Air from proposed new emission point A2

Section 5.2.2 of DPCW 01.04 EPTR Issue 1.pdf states that nitric acid is likely to be emitted from the new wet scrubber emission point A2. Please provide an assessment of predicted nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition for this pollutant for each of the ecological receptors (SAC, SSSIs and Ancient Woodlands) identified in DPCW 01.04 ERA Issue 1.pdf.

This information is required to assess the predicted impact on nearby ecological receptors of releases to air from the operation of the proposed new Acid Wet Scrubber serving the Cleaning In Place system.

A habitats screening report for emissions to air from the installation has been attached to the covering email for this notice. The applicable Critical Loads for nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition at the sites identified can be found on the Air Pollution Information Systems website at this link: APIS app | APIS.

## 5. Storage of CIP Chemicals

The document "DPCW.01.08/NDM response" letter dated September 2025 explained that an updated environmental accident management plan has been submitted to the NRW Operations Team regulating the site. The version submitted with the original environmental permit variation application was Issue 1, dated 11/03/2021, whereas the latest version submitted to the NRW Operations Team is Issue 8 (submitted by email to NRW on 21/11/2025).

Further to this, we are aware that Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales) Ltd has recently submitted a Ciria C736 Risk Assessment to the NRW Operations Team as part of ongoing permit improvement condition (IC24) work and this has been shared with the Installations and RSR Permitting Team. The NRW Operations Team is in the process of reviewing this revised C736 Risk assessment (required by IC24) and will provide a response in due course.

Screenshots of the CIP bulk chemicals inventory from the Environmental Accident Management Plan (Issue 8) and the Ciria C736 Risk Assessment are reproduced in Appendix 1 of this Notice.

When Table 1 and 2 in Appendix 1 are compared, there are some differences in the information presented. On this basis, confirm:

i) Table 1, accident management plan V8 extract presents 6 materials associated with the CiP bulk storage system, whereas the Ciria Risk Assessment presents 8 materials. Please confirm which table is correct.

ii) Table 1 shows Caustic chemical – **MIDA FLOW 116 WO (Klenz 30CL300)** as being stored in a double-walled storage tank, whereas Table 2 shows two separate MIDA Flow 116 WO tanks containing different concentrations of caustic. The **Mida flow 116 WO (Klenz 30CL300)** is described as being stored in a Polypropylene Single Skinned Tank, which differs from the double-walled storage tank described in Table 1. The **MIDA Flow 116 WO (1.5% caustic)** is described as being stored in a stainless steel tank but doesn't state if it is single or double skinned. Please confirm whether the storage tanks for both MIDA Flow 116 WO chemicals are single or double skinned.

iii) Table 1 describes **Caustic Detergent (diluted) – typically 1.2-2.0% dilution of Spectak BPC VC101** as being stored in a 24,000 L double walled tank. Table 2 describes (presumably the equivalent chemical) **CIP Mida Flow 116 WO (Detergent Caustic 1.5%)** as being stored in a 25,000 L stainless steel tank. Please confirm which table states the correct tank capacity and whether the tank is double or single walled.

iv) Table 1 describes **Acid detergent (diluted) – typically 0.5-0.6% dilution of Pascal VA5** as being stored in a 24,000 L double walled tank. Table 2 describes (presumably the equivalent chemical) **CIP Mida Flow 201 LG (Detergent Acid 0.7%)** being stored in a 25,000 L stainless steel tank. Please confirm which table states the correct tank capacity and whether the tank is double or single walled.

v) Table 1 describes **Pre-rinse – negligible % dilution for Spectak BPC VC101 and Pascal VA5** as being stored in a 24,000 L double walled tank, whereas Table 2 describes (presumably the same chemical) **CIP Water With Detergent (Pre-Rinse)** as being stored in a 25,000 L stainless steel tank. Please confirm which Table states the correct tank capacity and whether the tank is double or single walled.

vi) The **CIP Waste water tank** is described as being double-walled in Table 1 and single walled in Table 2. Please confirm which table is correct.

Provide a procedure for the inspection, management and removal of clean uncontaminated surface water collected within the CIP Chemicals Bulk Storage bunded area during normal operations. The procedure shall include but not be limited to: frequency and nature of bund inspections, how the uncontaminated surface water is removed and what happens to it after removal.

## 6. 2 x Beel Industrial Boilers (Medium Combustion Plant)

The Annex 1 MCP Spreadsheet completed by Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales) Ltd and submitted as part of a Regulation 61(1) Notice response on 28 July 2023, states that the Beel boilers operate on both Natural Gas and Liquid Fuels Other than Gasoil.

Please specify what the "Liquid Fuels Other than Gasoil" is, so that we can ensure the correct emission limits to air are set if required. (It is noted that the current version of the installation permit (EPR/WP3231NB/V005) states Table S1.1 that

these boilers are fuelled on LNG or Light Fuel Oil, whereas the Ciria C736 Risk Assessment provided in 2025 lists Heavy Fuel Oil).

## 7. Installation design capacity

Section 2.2.2 of "DPCW.01.04 EPTR Issue 1.pdf" states:

> "The maximum holding capacity is 1,000 tonnes of milk, maximum production throughput is 853 tonnes of milk per day. There is no change to the production capacity, throughput or treated effluent volumes as part of this application."

However, the latest version of the permit for the installation (EPR/WP3231NB/V005 – issued 16 May 2023) includes Improvement Condition IC17 which required the Operator to report:

a) the maximum capacity of the installation that was used in the most recent risk assessment submitted to NRW; and
b) the maximum capacity of the installation at the current time.

The response to this improvement condition is attached as Appendix 2 of this Notice. Part a) of the improvement condition response confirms that the maximum capacity of the installation used in the most recent risk assessment submitted to NRW was 720 tonnes of milk per day, with a maximum holding capacity of 698,867 litres of milk per day. The response to part b) of this improvement condition confirms the maximum capacity of the installation at the current time (28 March 2025) was 779 tonnes of milk per day, with a maximum holding capacity of 750,743 litres of milk per day.

In contrast to the above, the response to our "Not Duly Made" Letter received on Friday 9 December 2025 states that a normal run is 31:15 hours and that production figures should read "750.8 tonnes of milk per day, with no change in holding capacity, which is the same as the readings submitted for the IC17 response".

Please confirm which is the correct maximum design capacity of the installation in tonnes of milk / day (expressed as a 24-hour period): 853 tonnes per day, 720 tonnes per day, 779 tonnes per day or 750.8 tonnes per day.

Please confirm the maximum holding capacity in litres of milk per day (expressed as a 24-hour period): 1,000,000 litres milk per day, 698,867 litres milk per day or 750,734 litres of milk per day.

It is intended to use the last risk assessed figures of 720 tonnes milk per day with a maximum holding capacity of 698,867 litres of milk per day as an upper limit in Table S1.1 of the permit to prevent capacity creep. If these amounts have increased, the current site risk assessment must be updated in line with H1 as described in IC17 and provided for review as part of the response to this notice.

**End of Schedule.**

# Appendix 1

## TABLE1: EP017 – Environmental Accident Management Plan (version 8) – Extract of Raw Materials Inventory

| Name | Use | Location | Capacity and Storage | Properties (as per data sheets, where possible) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caustic chemical – MIDA FLOW 116 WO (Klenz 30CL300) | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 25,000L | • Milky/pale/yellow appearance<br>• Odour – product specific<br>• pH >12 (neat)<br>• Short term toxicity to fish and aquatic life |
| Nitric acid – MIDA FLOW 201LG | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 20,000L | • Colourless<br>• Odour – product specific<br>• pH <2 (neat)<br>• Short term toxicity to fish and aquatic life |
| Caustic Detergent (diluted) – typically 1.2-2.0% dilution of Spectak BPC VC101 | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 24,000L | • No data for <2.0% dilution |
| Acid detergent (diluted) – typically 0.5-0.6% dilution of Pascal VA5 | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 24,000L | • No data for <0.6% dilution |
| Pre-rinse – negligible % dilution for Spectak BPC VC101 and Pascal VA5 | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 24,000L | • No data for negligible dilution |
| Waste water | Clean in place | New bulk CIP | x1 double-walled storage tank – maximum capacity 45,000L | • Nil |

## TABLE 2: Ciria C736 Risk Assessment 2025 – Extract

| Material / Hazard | Quantity Stored (L) | Available Containment Volume (L) | Containment % of stored volume (110% rule) | Containment % of stored volume (25% rule) | Primary Containment | Secondary Containment | Tertiary Containment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CIP Waste Water Tank** | 45000 | 153,000 | 340% | 133% | Single walled Stainless Steel Tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Fresh water tank** | 45000 | 153,000 | 340% | 133% | Single walled Stainless Steel Tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Mida Flow 201 LG (Acid 50%)** | 20,000 | 153,000 | 765% | 133% | Polypropylene double skinned tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Mida Flow 201 LG (Detergent Acid 0.7%)** | 25,000 | 153,000 | 612% | 133% | Stainless steel tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Mida Flow 116 WO (Klenz 30CL-300, Caustic 30%)** | 25,000 | 91,800 | 366% | 122% | Polypropylene single skinned tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |

| Material / Hazard | Quantity Stored (L) | Available Containment Volume (L) | Containment % of stored volume (110% rule) | Containment % of stored volume (25% rule) | Primary Containment | Secondary Containment | Tertiary Containment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CIP Mida Flow 116 WO (Detergent Caustic 1.5%)** | 25,000 | 91,800 | 366% | 122% | Stainless steel tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Water With Detergent (Pre-Rinse)** | 25,000 | 91,800 | 366% | 122% | Stainless steel tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |
| **CIP Water with Condensed Vapour (Scrubber Unit)** | 200 | 210 | 110% | N/A | Polypropylene double skinned tank | Concrete RC Bund Wall | Controlled drainage system and WWTP balance tank |

# Appendix 2

# Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales) Ltd – response to IC17

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

## ANNEX 1

| **Improvement Condition 17 Wording (IC)** | **Dairy Partners Response** |
|---|---|
| *17(a) The Operator shall submit to NRW the **maximum capacity** of the installation that was used in the most recent risk assessment submitted to NRW.*<br><br>Note- This would be the capacity specified in your submission made in the last variation (i.e. the one issued on the **16th May 2023.** | Dairy Partners to confirm the maximum capacity of the installation as specified in the risk assessment received as part of your permit variation application V004 (submitted in February 2022, permit variation issued 16th May 2023).<br><br>**Provide maximum capacity figures in:**<br><br>**1. Tonnes of milk per day =** 720<br><br>**AND**<br><br>**2. Litres of milk per day =** 698,867 |
| *As 17 (b) The Operator shall submit to NRW for approval the **maximum capacity** of the installation at the current time.*<br><br>Note - The current maximum capacity figure must represent the maximum capacity at the time when IC17 response was due (6 months from permit variation V005 issue **–16th November 2023).** | Dairy Partners to confirm the maximum capacity of the installation on the 16th of November 2023.<br><br>**Provide maximum capacity figures in:**<br><br>**1. Tonnes of milk per day =** 779<br><br>**AND**<br><br>**2. Litres of milk per day =** 750,743 |

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| Improvement Condition 17 Wording (IC) | Dairy Partners Response |
|---|---|
| | |
| *17 (c) If the maximum capacity of the installation has increased from the time of the last submitted risk assessment and the current time, the Operator shall review and update the risk assessment to account for the current maximum capacity. The risk assessment shall be submitted to NRW for review.* | Dairy Partners must submit a copy of the whole H1 tool/H1 risk assessment[1] which accounts for the difference in capacity (assuming the capacity figure in part (b) is greater than (a).<br><br>You will also need to send screen shots of the H1 tool as well as the H1 tool itself.<br><br>Note - we require a full H1 risk assessment to assess all potential risks associated with the increased maximum capacity of the whole installation.<br><br>**Dairy Partners to submit H1 tool/ H1 risk assessment methodology and include document reference:** |

**Signed -** .....

**Position -** Operations Manager

**Date -** 28-03-2025

[1] The risk assessment should follow the methodology set out in The Environmental Risk Assessment (EPR-H1). You may use a methodology other than EPR-H1 however the methodology must address the same issues as in EPR-H1 to an equivalent level of detail. Link to the H1 guidance can be found here : Risk assessments for specific activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)