

Our Ref: WA/064/0004/002 / WA/064/0004/006

Helygog  
Brithdir  
Dolgellau  
Gwynedd  
LL40 2SA  
08/04/2026

Dear Ian Richardson

## **Inspection of abstraction licence WA/064/0004/002 and impoundment licence WA/064/0004/006**

During a site visit on 04/03/2026, it was confirmed that the proposed hydro scheme on Nant Helygog at Helygog, Brithdir (SH 78872 19800) has never been built.

Your abstraction licence contains the following condition (condition number 9.8):

*9.8 This licence shall cease to be of any effect if the abstraction it authorises has not commenced within 3 years of the licence issue date.*

Your impoundment licence contains the following condition (condition number 4.6):

*4.6 This licence shall cease to be of any effect if the intake works authorised by it have not commenced within 3 years of the licence issue date.*

These are known as self-destruct conditions and are applied to abstraction and impoundment licences to help us secure the proper use of water resources and to prevent unused water being tied up in the event that proposals are unable to go ahead.

Self-destruct conditions include the date (the 'self-destruct date') by which abstraction and intake work construction must have commenced for the licence(s) to not expire and remain active.

**The visit confirmed that the authorised abstraction and impounding work construction has not commenced by the self-destruct condition date. Your abstraction and impoundment licences have therefore expired in accordance with the self-destruct conditions and applications for a new licences will need to be submitted if you still wish to progress with your previously licensed proposal.**

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to our normal determination processes, timescales and the appropriate fee.

Further information on how to apply can be found on our website where you can also submit your application(s):

Applying for a new abstraction and impoundment licence:

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/water-abstraction-andimpoundment/apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence>

Information on our fees and charges is available on our website:

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-regulate/our-charges>

Applications must be supported by evidence to demonstrate that any issues which have delayed progression of the proposal by the previously applied self-destruct date have been resolved and that there is a continued justification of need for the water.

Please note: You must not undertake any abstraction, and intake works until any new abstraction and impoundment licences have been issued for the proposal, including any licence required for the removal of an existing (part of fully built) structure.

Any abstraction and intake works construction/removal undertaken after the self-destruct date has passed and before any new licence is granted are illegal and subject to enforcement action, which could include prosecution.

Please ignore any further correspondence requesting the submission of returns (volume abstracted) data after the 27 August 2018 (the self-destruct date applied to your licence).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thomas', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Environment Officer Dwyfor & Meirionnydd Team

Direct e-mail: [WR-NW@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:WR-NW@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

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