

Michelle Morris Chief Executive
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale
Gwent
NP23 6XB

Our Ref: NRW/SE/10220

Date: 24th August 2020

Warning letter

Dear Chief Executive,

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Natural Resources Wales believes that Silent Valley Leachate and Disposal Facility held by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have committed the following offence:

Offence: Contravention of Section 38(2). It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition. Specifically, permit conditions 1.1.1 Management, 2.1.1 Activities, and 4.3.1 Notifications (Permit: EPR/UP3335SN)

Date: 11th June 2020, as detailed in CAR_NRW0036810

The offence relates to a pollution incident at Silent Valley leachate lagoon. Debris and sediment had accumulated in the leachate sewer line, which caused a blockage and surcharge from a manhole into the surrounding SSSI, including leachate entering the Nant Merddog watercourse.

We have requested an improved inspection and maintenance programme, along with a more sustainable solution for the sewer line in the longer term. This is also a requirement of your permit.

The SSSI is a sensitive habitat and if an incident occurs again we will have no option than to consider more significant enforcement action.

We have issued this **warning letter** as a response to the above offence on this occasion, however, our decision could change if any further relevant information comes to light, including, but not restricted to, information that:

- You have committed earlier offences;
- the environmental impacts of these offences is greater than we presently understand them;
- the offences are continuing or have been repeated;
- you have committed other offences of which we are presently unaware.

We will take these offences into account if we consider that you are involved in any future offending.

This warning does not:

- prevent any other prosecuting authority taking action against the Council; or
- affect our right to issue enforcement, clear-up or remediation notices; or seek recovery of costs or damages according to law.

If you wish to complain about the manner in which the investigation has been conducted, our complaints procedure can be found on Natural Resources Wales' website.

Yours faithfully,



David Griffiths

Arweinydd Tîm rheoleiddio Dywydiant De Ddwyrain – South East Industry
Regulation Team Leader

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales
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