

Mr Walters

Our ref: NAT/CCS/14046

Your ref:

Date: 15 June 2023

Dear Mr Walters,

I am writing to update you with our recent decision regarding Moneystone Quarry and the ongoing query regarding the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Firstly I'd like to apologise for the delay in responding to you and to thank you for your patience regarding this matter.

As you'll be aware we received advice from James Penman, an All Reservoir Panel Engineer (ARPE) in 2021 advising that Moneystone Quarry did not constitute a large raised reservoir under the Reservoirs Act 1975. We were challenged on this decision so sought a second opinion from a different ARPE Rachel Pether, who gave a difference in opinion and recommended that Moneystone Quarry was a large raised reservoir.

The inconsistency in recommendations given by the ARPE's appointed by the Agency is due to differences in technical opinion on the definition of 'surrounding land' which is currently not defined under the Act. Mr Penman's interpreted the natural ground level of the surrounding land was the high point on the base of the outlet pipe trench before the overflow weir was removed. Mrs Pether's interpretation was that the natural ground level of the surrounding land was the level of the downstream bed, which was significantly lower – in theory allowing for more storage above that point.

We have decided that Moneystone Quarry does fall under the ambit of the Act and therefore will be registered accordingly. We are currently working with the undertaker regarding appointing engineers.

When registering a reservoir, the undertakers have a process to follow with appointing Engineers and issuing certificates before we then carry out a formal risk designation whereby we determine if the reservoir is high risk or not high risk.

As previously agreed I have provided a copy of the recent report of the site visit in October 2022. The report was finalised in March 2023. The report does contain minimal redactions under the National Security exemption following guidance in the National Protocol for the Handling, Transmission and Storage of Reservoir Information and Flood Maps

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I hope that you'll be reassured that we will be working with undertaker to ensure compliance with the Reservoirs Act.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Acford
Senior Team Leader
National Reservoir Safety