

Minerals and Petroleum
Branch
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SB
Telephone: 028 90 388462

27 June 2018

Councillor Sean McPeake
Chairman
Mid Ulster District Council
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Dear Councillor McPeake

MINERAL PROSPECTING ACTIVITY – COOKSTOWN/MONEYMORE AREA

Thank you for your letter dated 19 June 2018 concerning the above matter.

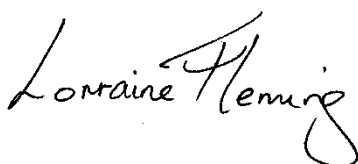
I can confirm that Shackleton Resources Ltd did undertake an airborne helicopter survey under a prospecting licence issued by the Department for the Economy, (DfE). The survey commenced on Tuesday 22 May 2018 and was completed on Thursday 24 May 2018. The survey was carried out to collect and record geophysical measurements to aid with understanding the underlying geology of the flight areas.

The company required clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority to fly over the area. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency, (NIEA) confirmed to DfE on Tuesday 15 May 2018 that it had no environmental issues with the survey being carried out. The Company also placed notices in the local newspapers advising of this airborne survey.

I note your disappointment that the Council didn't receive official notification of the activity within your district but there is no requirement for DfE to notify such activity to the Council. However, we note the Council's interest in such activity and have asked Shackleton Resources Ltd to engage fully with the Council and other stakeholders in the licence area to ensure full communication around proposed prospecting activities.

If it would be helpful to the Council I and GSNi colleagues would also be happy to meet with Councillors and Council officials to explain the mineral prospecting process and how the licences operate. Please let me know if you would wish to progress such a meeting and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Fleming
Head of Minerals and Petroleum Branch



Our Ref: TJ

11 July 2018

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr Tohill

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 28 June 2018, the following Motion was unanimously passed:

That this Council acknowledges the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for eligibility for benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland.

Council notes that PIP has special rules for applicants with terminal illnesses, which allows people to access payments quicker and without a face-to-face assessment. However, this avenue is only open to those who have been given a prognosis of six months or less. This restriction is unfairly excluding many people with terminal illnesses, including those with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), chronic heart failure and COPD, as they fail to access PIP under the special rules, meaning they have to wait much longer for their payments and undergo face-to-face assessments.

Council affirms that this is unfair and denies people the best quality of life during the time they have left and calls on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to follow the lead of the Scottish government and implement the call from Marie Curie and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time-restricted estimation of life expectancy.

This Council will write to all of the other Councils in NI asking them to support this campaign.

I look forward to receiving your response in relation thereto.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelpie', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

**John Kelpie
Chief Executive**



Our Ref: TJ

11 July 2018

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr Tohill

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 28 June 2018, the following Motion was passed:

That Derry City & Strabane District Council supports the use of Medical Cannabis when its use is assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient and then prescribed by the recipient patient's General Practitioner for such use.

This Council, being particularly concerned in regard to the life threatening condition endured by Billy Caldwell and all others within the district in a similar position, therefore urges the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on such use of Medical Cannabis and the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. That this campaign is taken forward by all eleven Councils.

I look forward to receiving your response in relation thereto.

Yours sincerely

John Kelpie
Chief Executive