

Mineral Prospecting Licence Application MCTA1/22

Consultation Overview

Consultation open from
06 June 2022 to 28 August 2022

Purpose of Consultation

In accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, the Department for the Economy (the Department) has received an application from Mount Castle Trust (the applicant), for a Mineral Prospecting Licence (MPL). The Department has accepted the application as valid.

General information on MPL applications and how the Department assesses applications can be found on the Departmental website using the link below:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/minerals-licensing>

The purpose of this document is to provide consultees with an overview of the application and the consultation process for the application. This consultation will run from 06 June 2022 for a period of 12 weeks, ending on 28 August 2022.

The following documents are attached.

<i>Annex A</i>	<i>Redacted Application Form for the MPL Application</i>
<i>Annex B</i>	<i>Minerals Prospecting Overview</i>
<i>Annex C</i>	<i>Mount Castle Trust Company Brief</i>
<i>Annex D</i>	<i>Map of area under consideration</i>
<i>Annex E</i>	<i>List of Wards and Townlands in the Application Area</i>
<i>Annex F</i>	<i>Public Notice</i>

All information related to the application and the consultation process can be found on the Department's website at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations> by following the link to consultation on MCTA1/22

General Information

1. The application is for an area currently licensed by the Department to the applicant. The current licence, known as MCT1/16, will end on 30 September 2022
2. The Department received the application on 1st March 2022.

Consultation Process

The objective of this consultation is to ensure that the Department publishes its' intention to grant the MPL and provide the general public with an opportunity to submit comments. This will help ensure that the Department receives a wide range of views and can take an informed decision on either the granting, or not, of the MPL and/or on any additional terms and conditions that should be included in the MPL.

The following outlines the consultation/notification process that the Department will follow for this application:

- The Department has notified the following relevant organisations that it has accepted the MPL Application MCTA1/22 as valid and has invited them to make representations by 28 August 2022.

All NI Executive Departments
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Derry City and Strabane District Council
BT Group Plc
Invest NI

NIE Networks
NI Environment Link
Northern Ireland Water Ltd
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Tourism NI
The National Trust

- A Public Notice (Annex F) will be placed in the following newspapers:

The Belfast Gazette
Tyrone Constitution
Ulster Herald

Strabane Chronicle
Strabane Weekly News

- The Public Notice will appear in the first publication of each newspaper in weeks commencing 06 June 2022 and 13 June 2022.

To minimise risk related to the current on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the Department encourages anyone wishing to consider the documentation to do so online at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations>. However, if necessary, arrangements can be made for the physical documentation to be viewed. This can be done by contacting the Department on 028 9052 9377 to arrange an appointment at a suitable time and location.

Submitting a Response to the Department

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of the application must do so to the Department on, or before 28 August 2022.

Section 11(5) of the Mineral Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 requires the Department to consider all representations made to it within the specified timeframe. After the consultation period has closed the Department will consider comments received. Once responses have been analysed, a decision will be taken on whether or not to grant the licence for application MCTA1/22.

A summary of all the comments received during the consultation process and the Department's response to each will be published on the Department's website.

Anyone wishing to make representations to the Department on the intention to grant a licence for application MCTA1/22 should do so by:

Email: MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk

or

Post: Department for the Economy
Minerals and Petroleum Branch
Room 9
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Given the current Covid-19 restrictions, the Department requests that where possible, representations are submitted by email.

Please note that, within the parameters outlined in the Confidentiality and Data Protection section below, your representation may be shared with the applicant.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

Your response may be made public by the Department and placed on the Department's website as part of the consultation process.

In addition, information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)). If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA and EIR, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

If you do not want your name or all or part of your response to be made public, please state this clearly in the response and mark your response as 'CONFIDENTIAL.' Any confidentiality disclaimer that may be generated by your organisation's IT system or included as a general statement will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

For information regarding the Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR is available using the following link: [Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice](#)

Applicants for an MPL may need to include commercially sensitive information in their applications, such as financial forecasts and proprietary data. The Department handles such information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and other relevant law, which take full cognisance of issues of transparency and confidentiality. This has resulted in the redaction of information from the published application form.

Copies of the Consultation

This Consultation Document and all other information relevant to the consultation, is available:

- on the Department's website at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations>,
- by email request to MPLconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk,
- on request in writing to the Department at the address above, or
- on request by calling 028 9052 9377

If you require access to the documentation in a different format – e.g. Braille, disk, audio cassette, and larger font – or in a minority ethnic language, please contact the Department on 028 9052 9377 and appropriate arrangements will be made as soon as possible.