

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS FOR A MINING LICENCE OR LEASE

Any company applying for a mining licence or lease under the Mineral Development Act (NI) 1969 should take note of the following points:

- The Department will only issue a mining licence or lease if the applicant company is in possession of all necessary planning permissions and other approvals necessary for the project being undertaken.
- A mining licence or lease is specific to an area of ground. Therefore, for surface mining activity, that area must be in the ownership of the applicant or the applicant must demonstrate that legally binding contracts exist with landowners. Royalty payments to landowners will be required from the applicant and will be made through the Department, which will set the rate for such payments.
- The applicant must also put forward a mining plan, showing areas of overburden storage, extraction, remediation works and operational facilities, together with all necessary infrastructure to protect the environment and support the development.
- The applicant will be required to demonstrate that it's financial support is adequate to complete the project and will be required to post a remediation bond to ensure reinstatement of the area.
- The Department will consult with stakeholders on the application and will advise the applicant of the outcome of that consultation. Applicants will be required to respond to comments made by consultees.
- All applicants for mining licences or leases must demonstrate in advance that they possess the necessary statutory insurances and public liability cover which will indemnify the Department against any claim arising from the conduct of the undertaking.