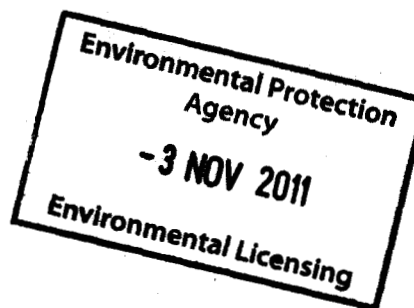


**Paul Boland and Catherine Boland
Killaskillen
Kinnegad
Co. Meath**



26 October 2011

**Office of Licensing & Guidance
EPA Headquarters
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford**

Re: *Objection to proposed determination of Licence P0487-06*

Dear Sirs

In accordance with section 87(5) of the Environmental Agency Acts 1992 to 2011, Paul and Catherine Boland of Killaskillen, Kinnegad, Co. Meath, wish to lodge an objection to the Proposed Determination (Licence P0487-05) issued by the Agency on 11th October 2011.

In accordance with section 87(6) of the Environmental Agency Acts 1992 to 2011 we request an oral hearing of the objection.

Please find attached details of the objection as well as the required fee of € 226

These objections are raised by:

**Paul Boland and Catherine Boland
Killaskillen
Kinnegad
Co. Meath**

If you require further clarification in relation to any of the outlined objections please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,


Paul Boland

Objection and history of problems with Lagan Cement

We have lived in Kinnegad for over eleven years. When we first purchased our home it had 2 bedrooms 1 kitchen 1 living room and a bathroom. Approximately 6 years ago we employed Tom Foy and son to refurbish and extend our property to great success we now have a 4 bedroom home dining room kitchen bathroom and en-suite.

Roughly five years ago we experienced problems with water in our well as it dried up. We contacted Lagan who sent representatives to our property. The representatives ran a hose from an adjoining derelict property. This stop gap method lasted three days and during that time the water was brown and filthy. We then called Lagan to see what further action was to be taken to which we received no response. As we had young children in the house we could not operate without a water supply and we had no option but to pay for a new well to be sunk at our own expense of approximately €3,000.

We are still having problems with water quality. There are high levels of manganese and iron though this is a financial burden it is not our greatest concern.

Our main concern is our children and the effects the blasting is having on them. Two years ago my wife and my daughter were outside our home when Lagan arrived and put up a sensor on my path outside my home and left, 3 or 4 minutes later a blast went off. My wife was 7 months pregnant with our son the vibration was so strong she fell off her chair and onto the path my 5 year old daughter was on a scooter on the path and she also fell off this left my wife and child shaken and crying. This blasting is continuous and is having a very detrimental effect on our family and children.

I cannot stress enough how much this blasting is having on my family. Our children are experiencing a level of stress and fear in relation to the blasts. Our children have shown a number of stress related symptoms and out of concern for our children's welfare we engaged the services of a child psychologist. In that regard we enclose herewith a copy of the report prepared by the child psychologist.

To decrease the children's direct exposure to the blast we have endeavored to remove the

children from the house while the blast are taking place but with four young children and with a child under the age of one this is not always possible or practical. In any event we and our children have the right to the quiet enjoyment of our property. Furthermore our children are now afraid to play outside of the family home and have difficulty interacting with school events.

If permission is granted the effects will be permanent and my children will be in need of psychiatric help through their adult life.

Prior to all incidents Lagan cement 5-6 years ago offered to purchase my land making several offers but we were happy in our home and we still are, unfortunately for the sake of our children we felt that in their best interest we should sell up. Catherine Boland did contact Lagan to enquire about Lagan purchasing their property. However Catherine who has experienced the brunt of the mining blasts was at her wits end and the stress of the blasting coupled with the stress of being heavily pregnant (at the time) left her with no alternative but to approach Lagan directly. Catherine believed that this would be the quickest remedy to the ongoing disruption to her family, herself and the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of our family home. We at the time felt that we had no alternative but to offer the property to Lagan. We have spent years renovating our home to a standard we are satisfied with but we are now terrified to stay in it.

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Athena Family Solutions

**Adult & Child Psychotherapy
Play Therapy
Family Mediation**

USFI 1A Main Road Tallaght Village Dublin 24. Ph: 006 7716835 / 007 9758282 email: athenatherapycentre@gmail.com

13th December 2010

Client Progression Report:

Amy Boland & Ellie Boland

I have worked with the two above named clients individually over a period of ten weeks. Both children are of the appropriate development and maturity for their ages.

Amy Boland

During this time I found Amy has shown symptoms of distress in relation to the violent shaking incidents that has occurred at her home due to blasting in the area. She has a good understanding of why these occur and prefers when she is taken away from her home before the blasting takes place.

Amy has spoken on a few occasions about the level of vibration experienced during the blasts from the local Quarry, however she is currently not showing signs of trauma.

Ellie Boland

During her sessions Ellie has shown symptoms of mild trauma. She has been suffering from night mares. She has recounted the ground trembling causing her to fall off her bicycle, hurting herself. She has also recounted the chairs falling over during these vibrations. Ellie has also stated that she feels very unsafe during these episodes. Her art work reflects startled emotions too.

Potential causes of trauma in young children include

- Falls and minor injuries, for example, a child falling off a bicycle.
- Sudden loud noises, especially in children and babies

Symptoms of Trauma

- Nightmares and night terrors
- Difficulty sleeping

Ellie is currently experiencing symptoms of mild trauma. She has been attending therapy over the past ten weeks, which is having a positive affect on her nightmares, however my concern is that she is continuously exposed to the blasting and the effect it has on her home.

This could be compared to living in a war zone, as the whole foundations of her home shake to the extent that she has fallen off her bicycle and outside furniture has toppled over. She has also experienced a time where she could not get herself onto her feet, the ground was so shaky. She recounted that her mother was unable to assist her as she was holding her younger brother in her arms. Ellie was afraid that her mother would fall to the ground during that incident. These experiences have left Ellie feeling extremely frightened and unnerved.

In order to flourish in life, one must experience basic conditions i.e. food, shelter and safety. Ellie's basic need of safety is currently not been met. This will have an effect on her further maturation and the way she experiences life.

Ellie has been experiencing recurring night mares and finding it hard to sleep. In my opinion these night mares have been caused by the trauma she is suffering from.

I feel that continued exposure to the blasting will lead to an increase in the level of trauma Ellie is currently experiencing. Any treatment Ellie receives will have minimum benefit to her if she is still constantly exposed to these blasts.

Continued exposure will lead to further symptoms developing such as:-

- Hyper-vigilance
- Flashbacks,
- Extreme sensitivity to light and sound,
- Abrupt mood swings
- Shame and lack of self-worth

I feel the longer the exposure the more symptoms will develop, as prolonged exposure to trauma can lead to panic attacks, avoidance behaviour and addictive behaviours in later years.

Recommendations:

I recommend that Ellie continue in therapy for the present and that she is not exposed to any further blasts and for the foreseeable future. Further exposure or prolonged exposure will deepen the level of trauma in Ellie and could begin to affect Amy too.

My immediate concerns are for Ellie. To ensure that she gains the full benefits of therapy and to ensure that she is not subjected to any additional stressful incidents caused by quarry blasts.

Elizabeth Kelly

Dip. Humanistic & Integrative Psychotherapy
Cert. Child Psychotherapy & Play Therapy
Priary Law Acc. Family Mediator

CRECH Report on
Sophie 3 years old.



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Happy Days Playschool

Kildangan, Kinnegad, Co. Meath.

Tel: 046 9739084 / 086 3784231.

27/10 /2011

To Whom it may Concern,

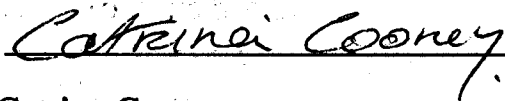
Sophie Boland attends my Playschool five mornings per week. She is an out-going, friendly, popular little girl who engages very well with the other children.

However, Sophie has noticeable irrational fears which are all involved with unexpected noises. Sophie has a phobia about balloons, as she has a huge fear of them bursting unexpectedly producing a loud noise. She also has an uncharacteristic fear of music and musical instruments and refuses to take part in these activities due to her fear of an unexpected noise level which she cannot control.

Considering that Sophie is such an outgoing confident child, these irrational fears are totally uncharacteristic and are interfering with her overall development in playschool. Despite many attempts by myself and other staff members to help Sophie rationalise and cope with fears such as these, to date we have been unsuccessful and she continues to retreat into herself and become very upset and withdraw from the group.

In my opinion, Sophie will need professional help as she gets older since she cannot always be protected from situations she fears throughout her childhood.

Yours Sincerely,



Catrina Cooney

Playschool manager.