# Growing Illegal Bonfire Site at Stoneyford Reservoir Sparks Outrage in Co Antrim



### Illegal Bonfire Site in Co Antrim Raises Concerns

A growing illegal bonfire site at Stoneyford Reservoir in County Antrim has sparked anger among locals and government officials. The site, owned by Northern Ireland Water (NI Water), has turned into a dumping ground and recently has been defaced with 'UVF' graffiti. The deteriorating situation has led to calls for immediate cleanup, as the accumulating junk poses traffic safety hazards.

Residents and local officials, including DUP Councillor James Tinsley, have expressed frustration over the lack of action from authorities. Tinsley described the situation as "a total disgrace" and urged NI Water, the council, and the PSNI to address the issue. NI Water acknowledged the problem but cited threats of violence against their staff as a challenge in taking corrective measures.

A spokesperson from NI Water highlighted that past attempts to remove waste had been met with threats, making it difficult to manage the site. Despite the reservoir being out of service and not impacting water quality, its natural habitat, home to various wildlife, is being threatened.

Local authorities, including Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, have condemned the illegal dumping and bonfire activities. The council, along with the PSNI, is actively seeking solutions in collaboration with NI Water and other agencies. PSNI confirmed that they are aware of the issues and are working with multiple stakeholders to find a resolution.

Residents remain concerned about the environmental and community impact, with fears that the bonfire, traditionally set alight on July 11th, could cause further harm if left unchecked. The situation underscores the urgent need for a coordinated response to secure and clear the site.