SHE ALERT
Breach of Marine Licence

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Date of incident	25th June 2026		Directorate	SHEPD Networks	
Region	Large Capital Delivery	Location	Ardmore, Skye	Classification	Minor Permit Breach

What happened ?

A Marine Licence was issued by Marine Directorate's Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for subsea cable installation and associated works between Ardmore and Loch Pooltiel, NW Skye on 30/05/26.

Two suspensive conditions were applied, requiring the submission of an updated Construction Environmental Management Plan and a Cable Burial Protection Plan. Each condition clearly stated that **no works** were to take place without receipt of **written approval** from MD-LOT.

These documents had been submitted to MD-LOT for approval but had not yet received formal approval.

The Marine Consents Manager checked their company mobile phone on 25/06/26 to find a WhatsApp group message showing concrete mattress installation proceeding on the cable route before the approvals had been received and it transpired that other works, namely boulder relocation, had also taken place in the days prior, resulting in a breach of the Marine Licence.

MD-LOT have been notified of the licence condition breach and investigation into the events is ongoing to establish a root cause and identify future improvements.

Remember to always check the conditions of any licence/permit or consent and ensure that all conditions have been fully discharged before commencing any works.

