

Environment Agency charge proposals for boat registrations from January 2025

Consultation response form

Date: May 2024

# Introduction

The Environment Agency is the second largest navigation authority in the UK. We are responsible for managing 1,010km of inland waterways, plus Rye and Lydney harbours. It’s our job to keep these waterways open and safe for a variety of uses, but especially for boating.

Around 26,000 boats are kept or used on the waterways we manage. It is a legal requirement for the owners to register these boats with us. We charge for registration so the people who benefit from our navigation services contribute towards the significant costs of managing and maintaining our navigable waterways. We operate and maintain approximately 2,500 assets, such as locks, weirs, and moorings. We maintain riverbanks and manage channels to ensure safe navigation. We remove boat wrecks and other debris including fallen trees.

Around 96% of our boating customers are private individuals using their boats for leisure, and in some cases as their homes. The remaining 4% are businesses or not for profit organisations or charities, who use their boats commercially or to provide a service to others.

To achieve this, from January 2025, we propose to increase our boat registration charges for the River Thames, Medway navigation and Anglian waterways. This consultation sets out our proposals from 2025 for the ‘National navigation boat charging scheme’ for these waterways.

The consultation document, ‘Environment Agency charges proposal: boat registration’, sets out our proposals in more detail. This and the supporting documentation listed below are available on our consultation web site on [Citizen Space](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/charges-proposal-boat-reg):

* guide to how we calculate our charges
* draft national navigation boat charging schemes from 2025

We would like you to share your views on the proposed changes to our charges for boat registration.

## What we are consulting on

We propose to increase the ‘Environment Agency national navigation boat charging scheme’ (Boat Charging Scheme) by 9% for the River Thames, Medway navigation and Anglian waterways. These increases will come into effect from 1 January 2025 for the River Thames and 1 April 2025 for the Medway navigation and Anglian waterways.

We also propose to use this increase for negotiations about our national joint registration agreements with Canal & River Trust (Gold Licence), Paddle UK and British Rowing.

We aim to secure an increase in funding in response to inflation over the last three years. This will help us to continue to deliver the navigation service, while we develop our longer-term strategy. Over the next year we will work with stakeholder groups and listen to the needs and priorities of our customers to develop our strategy and improve the service we offer now and in the future.

We recognise that the last few years have been challenging for everybody. We have tried to balance our proposals, considering the inflationary pressures on the service with the current economic climate for our customers. We do understand that these proposals will be difficult for some customers, especially for some of our customers who call our waterways their home or use them to make a living.

Without the additional funding these proposals will bring, we will not be able to sustain the current service. Our boat registration charges have not kept pace with the rate of inflation, and we need to address this in the short term.

To help customers understand what our proposals mean for them, we have estimated impacts for a range of different types and sizes of boats in section 3.1 of the consultation document.

### How to respond to this consultation

This consultation will run for 11 weeks, from 24 May 2024 to 9 August 2024. You can view the consultation document, questions and all supporting documents using the [Citizen Space online consultation tool.](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/ea-charge-proposals-for-mf)

**Please use this form if you are responding by email rather than online.** Complete the questions, and where there are text boxes, give supporting information where possible to support your answer.

To provide you with background information you will need to complete the questions about our charge proposals for boat registration, we refer you to specific sections in the consultation document.

To return the completed response form, please email the form to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk using the heading ‘Charges consultation: boat registration’*.*

The consultation will close at midnight on Friday 9 August 2024. We will consider all responses received by this date before finalising our proposals to submit for approval by government.

**Ask for a copy of the consultation document**

Please contact us if you need a copy of the consultation document to be sent to you. You can do this by contacting our:

National Customer Contact Centre

Telephone: 03708 506 506

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

### Consultation principles

We’re running this consultation in line with the guidance set out in the government's [Consultation Principles](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691383/Consultation_Principles__1_.pdf).

If you have any questions or complaint about the way this consultation has been carried out, please email Consultation.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

### How we will use your information

We will take into consideration the feedback we receive and summarise this in a consultation response document which will be publicly available on GOV.UK after the consultation closes. We may include comments or quotes, unless you specifically request that we keep your response confidential.

We will not publish names of individuals or personal data, but we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations. We will not respond individually to responses. If you have asked to be notified, we will contact you to let you know when the consultation response document is published.

We will circulate a link to our response document to all consultees and other interested parties who have asked to be kept informed. We will not respond individually to consultees.

Please answer the following questions.

**Privacy**

We would like to keep you informed about the outcomes of this consultation.

#### If you would like to receive emails acknowledging your response and or telling you when we have published the summary of responses, please tick the relevant boxes below.

☐ yes, I would like to receive an email acknowledging my response

☐ yes, I would like to receive an email to let me know the consultation response document is published

If you have ticked either of the boxes above, please tell us your email address.

Email:

By giving us your email address, you consent for us to email you about the consultation. We will keep your details until we have notified you of the response document publication.

We will not share your details with any other third party without your explicit consent unless required to by law.

You can withdraw your consent to receive these emails at any time by contacting us at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The Environment Agency is the data controller for the personal data you provide. For further information on how we deal with your personal data please see our [Personal Information Charter](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter) on GOV.UK. You can also email our Data Protection team: dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk.

#### Can we publish your response?

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response is kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it. For more information see our [Personal Information Charter](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter).

This is a required question, please tick one of the following:

☐ yes

☐ no

If you answered no, please tell us why.

### About you and the use of our waterways

To help us analyse and assess the consultation responses, we would like you to answer a few questions about youand the use of our waterways

#### Are you providing an individual or personal response or a response on behalf of an organisation?

Please tick one of the following:

☐ (a) responding as an individual

☐ (b) responding on behalf of an organisation or group

☐ (c) other

If you selected (b), what is the name of the organisation or group?

#### Please tell us about your boat registration.

Please tick one of the following:

☐ (a) I have an annual private boat registration

☐ (b) I have an annual business boat registration

☐ (c) I have a charity or not-for-profit registration

☐ (d) I have an annual joint registration (Gold, canoe, rowing)

☐ (e) I normally purchase a visitor boat registration

☐ (f) I do not have a boat registration

☐ (g) I have more than one type of boat registration

If you chose (a) or (b) or (c) please tell us which river or waterway your boat or boats are registered on.

Please select one of the following:

☐ Great Ouse System – Anglian Waterways

☐ Lincolnshire waterways – Anglian waterways

☐ Medway Navigation

☐ River Cam – Anglian Waterways

☐ River Nene – Anglian Waterways

☐ River Stour – Anglian Waterways

☐ River Thames

If you chose (e), purchase a visitor boat registration, please select which of the following waterways you use.

Please select all that apply.

☐ Anglian waterways

☐ Medway navigation

☐ River Thames

#### What type of boat do you have

Please select all that apply

☐ powered boat

☐ unpowered enclosed boat (houseboat)

☐ unpowered open boat

☐ other

☐ not applicable

#### How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick one of the following:

☐ from us

☐ from another organisation

☐ through an organisation, group, or trade association you are a member of

☐ press article

☐ social media, for example, Facebook

☐ through a meeting you attended

☐ other

If you selected *other,* please tell us how you found out about this consultation.

## Charge proposal: proposed boat registration charges on our waterways

We propose an increase of 9% for all boat registrations on these waterways:

* River Thames
* Medway navigation
* Anglian waterways (Great Ouse system and River Nene, River Stour, and Lincolnshire waterways)

These proposed increases will also impact the charges for our national joint registration agreements with Canal & River Trust (Gold Licence), Paddle UK and British Rowing.

Before responding to the following questions, please refer to these sections in the consultation document:

* Introduction (section 1)
* Definitions changes to the Environment Agency national navigation boat charging schemes from 2022 (section 2)
* Customer impact (section 3.1)

#### Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to increase boat registration charges on the River Thames, Anglian waterways, and Medway navigation by 9%?

Please tick one of the following:

☐ strongly agree

☐ agree

☐ neither agree nor disagree

☐ disagree

☐ strongly disagree

☐ do not know

☐ not applicable

Why do you think this?

#### Question 2: With the proposed increase of 9% in the boat registration charges, how will this affect your use of our waterways?

**Question 3: Please share any additional comments that you think may help us improve our current proposals.**

End of the consultation

### Publishing our consultation response

Thank you for completing this consultation. We aim to publish our response on GOV.UK within 12 weeks of this consultation closing and before we implement any changes. It will include a summary of the comments and queries we received, and a link to this document will be added to the consultation page of Citizen Space

We will include a list of organisations that responded. We will circulate a link to our response to all consultees and other interested parties who have asked to be kept informed. We will not respond individually to consultees.

# **Would you like to find out more about us or your environment?**

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or visit our website

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

## **incident hotline**

0800 807060 **(24 hours)**

## **floodline**

0345 988 1188 **(24 hours)**

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

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