



BOAT LICENCE CHANGES 2011 – CONSULTATION REPORT

This short consultation concerned the following topics:

1. Licence fee increases to take effect from 1/4/2011
2. Prompt and late payment arrangements
3. Changes to boat licence conditions.

There were 55 written responses, verbatim copies of which are published at <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/listening-to-you/consultations-and-reviews/completed-consultation-reports>. These included responses from the four largest national organisations representing boater interests (AWCC, IWA, NABO and RBOA). A very brief summary of themes is appended.

There was much 'meat' within the responses, not all of which was relevant to the immediate decisions we needed to make, and we intend to return to them when planning improvements to the boat licensing system.

It came as no surprise that the majority of respondents were unhappy about the rise in boat licence fees, but we made the intention and reasons for these clear in the paper. We announced the fee increase in the September 2011 issue of our monthly e-newsletter [Boaters Updates](#).

Fees for three and six month licences are now set at 48% and 68% of the twelve month fee respectively, not the 60% and 85% proposed in the consultation.

The proposals for changes to the prompt and late payment arrangements were less controversial, and we intend to implement these in due course. Before doing so, we will re-visit the consultation feedback document.

The changes listed to boat licence terms and conditions took effect in August 2011.

Simon Salem
February 2012

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION THEMES

Comment themes	No. of respondents mentioning
Object to increase in Licence fees by 5.1%	19
Object to increase of fees for a 6 month licence to 85% of an annual one	16
Object to increase of fees for a 3 month licence to 60% of an annual one	19
Support monthly payment plan - increase affordability of licence	5
re. proposal to bring forward PPD- Object to proposal to bring forward 10% PPD date	8
re. proposal to bring forward PPD - must send out licence renewals at least 2 weeks earlier	6
re. proposal to bring forward PPD - must process licence renewals faster than three weeks	8
re. proposal to bring forward PPD - would send app 2 weeks early but not have payment taken until date	2
Support new LPC/PPD changes	1
Support higher fee for index plates	1
Support changes to Licence T&Cs	1
Opposed to boat length definition	5
Houseboat Certificate - proposal should be clear that no additional certificates will be issued	1
Opposed to transient mooring permits	5
Support deterring 'continuous mooring' by introducing a daily fee	1
Opposed to Licence T&C change C8	2
Support inclusion of Weaver to 'River Waterways' but there are others to add (River Kennet)	1
Opposed to River only existence	1
Concerned that Credit Card fees are to increase	1
Current refund terms are not fair to boaters - BW should refund all unused months	2
Wide beam boats should be charged a higher fee	2
All boats within Marinas should be licensed	1
Insufficient Consultation Period	4