

Press release: Boaters' views sought in consultation on proposed charges

Boat owners who keep or use a boat on waterways managed by the Environment Agency are being encouraged to have their say in plans to increase charges.

A public consultation into proposed increases to boat registration charges for 2019-20 and 2020-21 launched today and will run until the 30 August 2018.

The Environment Agency is the second largest navigation authority in the UK and is responsible for more than 1,000 km of navigable waterways including the non-tidal River Thames, River Great Ouse and Upper Medway Navigation.

The proposed charges form part of plans to create a financially sustainable service on waterways used by almost 30,000 boats. Currently the cost of running the service far exceeds the income generated from charges, risking a reductions in the levels of maintenance of waterway structures such as locks and the standard of customer service boat users expect.

The two year proposal gives time to complete a wider review of navigation charges alongside bringing in other measures to make the waterways less reliant on government grant-in-aid funding.

Mark Ormrod, the national manager for navigation at the Environment Agency, said:

Our navigation service plays an important role in protecting our waterways and supports both recreation and business for thousands of people.

This consultation is a valuable opportunity for our customers to tell us what parts of our service are most important and give us their ideas about how we should fund them so I would encourage as many boaters as possible to take part.

An increase in charges is essential to work towards creating a sustainable service that covers the cost of maintaining our valued waterways and delivering a safe and efficient service for our customers.

The proposed increases will raise an additional £930k to invest in the waterways over the proposed 2-year period. The increases by waterway are:

- River Thames: 5.7%
- Anglian Waterways: 7.5%
- Upper Medway Navigation: 10%
- Unpowered and boats covered by joint registration agreements: 7.7%

Subject to the consultation response, new charges could be implemented from 1 January 2019 on the River Thames and 1 April 2019 for our Anglian Waterways and the Upper Medway Navigation.

To take part in the consultation, please visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

[News story: Students praise quality of colleges and training providers](#)

Colleges and training providers across the country are continuing to impress students, with new figures showing that at least 90 per cent of learners are happy with their place of study and its teaching quality.

In one of the largest student satisfaction surveys of its kind, which had over 300,000 respondents, findings published by the Department for Education revealed:

- 90% of learners were satisfied with their FE provider
- 91% of learners were satisfied with the teaching from the FE provider
- 82% of learners were likely to recommend their learning provider to friends or family

The Government has taken significant steps to improve the standards in our further education sector, through multi-million pound schemes including, the Strategic College Improvement Fund (SCIF), National Leaders of Further Education programme and National Leaders of Governance programme.

Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Anne Milton said:

We want to improve the quality of education for everyone and I'm thrilled that today's student satisfaction figures give the FE sector the recognition it deserves.

Further education can bring amazing opportunities for learners. I've been fortunate to see first-hand how colleges and training providers across the country are changing the lives of people of all ages and from so many different backgrounds. It's been a privilege to hear the personal stories of all those involved in Further Education. The passion and commitment of teachers and the life changing experiences of young people shine through.

The figures come at the same time that further education colleges across the country have seen an increase in the number of good or outstanding ratings they have received from Ofsted.

The survey took place between October 2017 and May 2018, with a total of 341,627 learners taking part from an eligible population of 1,821,629, across 923 colleges and other training providers.

[News story: Chief Secretary heralds beer exports from Bungay, Suffolk, all the way to Brazil](#)

The Chief Secretary celebrated the latest figures that showed food, drink and agricultural exports from the East of England were worth £1.97 billion, up nearly 10 per cent on the previous year.

The Chief Secretary was hosted by beer exporters in Suffolk and explained what the Government is doing to help improve exports from this important region. She learned that beer from Bungay was being exported to Brazil, Belgium and around the rest of the world.

A booming export market has been vital in helping to grow the economy and create jobs in the East of England. The East of England employment rate is at a record high and there are 100,000 more businesses in the region now than in 2010.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss will say:

The East of England is thriving, and is selling the best it has to offer to the rest of the world to enjoy.

The government is hugely committed to ensuring the East of England and its businesses are as competitive and productive as possible in the global marketplace.

And to make sure these positive results get even better, it's important that businesses have the chance to increase their trade. We are determined to make sure that happens.

The government is already investing more than £3 billion on major road schemes in the East of England, including upgrading 21 miles of the A14, a new link road between the A5 and M1 north of Luton and contributing to the construction of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road.

Press release: Restaurant boss banned after company hired illegal worker

Shui Ping Lee, also known as David Lee and David Shui Ping Lee, was the sole director of Goodwin Ichiban Limited (Goodwin). The company was incorporated in June 2011 and traded as Ichiban Noodle café and Ichiban Fusion from 184 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow.

In January 2017, Home Office Immigration Enforcement requested evidence of the document checks made in respect of an employee. As a result of that check, on 9 February 2017 Goodwin Ichiban was fined £15,000 for employing an illegal worker.

However, the company was unable to pay the fine and was placed into liquidation in October 2017.

Following the conclusion of the liquidation, the Insolvency Service investigated the company's failure and on 31 May 2018, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Shui Ping Lee after he admitted that the company had employed an illegal worker.

Shui Ping Lee, 55 from Glasgow, is disqualified from acting as a director of a company for three-and-a-half years – effective from 21 June 2018.

Commenting on the ban, Dave Elliot, lead investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Illegal workers are not protected under employment law, and as well as cheating legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities, these employers don't ensure appropriate tax is paid, and as a result can undercut honest competitors.

This should serve as a warning to other directors who may feel tempted to break the law. "Immigration laws make employers responsible for preventing illegal workers in the UK. To comply with the law, a company must check and be able to prove documents have been checked prior to recruitment showing that a person is entitled to work in the UK.

Notes to editors

Sui Ping Lee is of Glasgow and his date of birth is September 1962.

Company Goodwin Ichiban Ltd (Company Reg no. 07653106) was incorporated on 1 June 2011 and was placed into creditors' voluntary liquidation on 2 October 2017.

Mr Lee signed an undertaking on 28 May 2018, which was accepted by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy on 31 May 2018.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Government response: HMCTS response to Public Accounts Committee report on court reform programme](#)

HMCTS response to Public Accounts Committee report on court reform programme – GOV.UK

HMCTS response from CEO Susan Acland-Hood to Public Accounts Committee report

on court reform programme.



HMCTS CEO Susan Acland-Hood said:

Today's report highlights the ambitious and transformational nature of our reform programme. We will study the committee's recommendations and respond in detail.

Significant progress is being made to deliver the programme, including new digital services which have seen high take-up and satisfaction rates.

We do recognise the need to engage more actively with our key stakeholders, and this is a key priority over the next phase of reform. This is a challenging programme but we remain confident that it is on track to deliver the benefits promised and to help create a better, more straightforward, accessible and efficient justice system for all who use and need it.

In the last six months, the £1bn courts and tribunals reform programme has delivered a range of changes, including:

- A new fully accessible online Civil Money Claims service giving the public the ability to make a small claim online – with 13,000 claims made online since its launch in late March, and user satisfaction at 90%;
- A new system for applying for divorce online, which has cut errors in application forms from 40% to less than 1%;
- A new probate system in testing which has also cut errors, speeds up the process, and a user satisfaction rate of 95%;
- A pilot of fully video hearings in the tax tribunal to test the potential for the use of video more broadly across the courts and tribunals system. This is now the subject of an independent, academic evaluation
- The national roll-out of a new in-court system to record the results of cases digitally and instantly;
- A national Track Your Appeal service in social security and child support tribunals, allowing thousands of users, many vulnerable, to be kept informed about the progress of their Personal Independent Payment

appeal.

Published 20 July 2018

Thank you for your feedback