

creating a better place



Environment
Agency

George Howarth MP
Lathom House
North Merseyside Business Centre
Woodward Road
Kirkby
L33 7UY

Date: 1 December 2017

Dear George Howarth MP,

Consultation on the Environment Agency's strategic review of charges

I hope all is well in your constituency area of Knowsley.

I am writing to you today to make you aware that the Environment Agency has launched a consultation into the fees we charge for our permits. This is called the strategic review of charges and will run until 12th January 2018. We would like you to share this information with any of your constituents who may be affected by this.

This is the biggest review the Environment Agency has ever carried out of its charging regime with the aim to seek full cost recovery for the services we provide. This is not the case at the moment and will mean significant increases in costs for some businesses and operators.

This consultation is an opportunity for businesses to have their say and sets out our approach to charging for the financial years 2018 to 2023. We have worked closely with businesses and partners over the past 12 months to shape and inform this review.

We are proposing these changes because the charges we make to the businesses we regulate, no longer fully cover the cost of our activities. We want to ensure we're financially sustainable, reducing any reliance on grant in aid income from the taxpayer, and have charges in place that work better for business and the environment.

We have reviewed the way we regulate and the charges we set, to help us make it as easy as possible for businesses to do the right thing. Our proposals will ensure our charges are more closely linked to the cost of regulation and the risks to the environment.

By introducing this new charging proposal we will:

- significantly simplify the way customers work out their charges – replacing the existing complicated, multi-regime system with a standard scheme that applies to everyone;

Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HG
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

- make sure people pay for the regulatory service they receive - this is not always the case at the moment, and this will mean a change in costs for most of our charge payers;
- offer optional enhanced services that customers may want to use;
- reduce reliance on taxpayer funds currently needed to support our regulatory work.

You can view the consultation documents and questions online at the gov.uk website at: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/environmentagency-charging-proposals-fromapril2018/>.

If you or any of your constituents would like to discuss this in further detail, please contact us via our dedicated team at strategicrevcharges@environment-agency.gov.uk.

If you wish to discuss anything else regarding the work of the Environment Agency in your constituency I would welcome you to contact me directly. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or arrange a time to meet either myself or a member of my Area Management Team.

Yours,



Lee Rawlinson

Area Director – Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire

Email: correspondence.gmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk