

PRESS RELEASE

31 October 2019

BOAT LICENCE FEES FOR 2020-21

The Canal & River Trust is today announcing that headline private and business boat licence fees will rise by 2.5% from 1 April 2020.

As previously announced, in March 2018, following the Trust's national boat licence consultation, a number of changes will be made to licence fees over five years.

From 1 April 2020, a 2.5% 'prompt payment' discount (reduced from 5%) will apply for those who pay on time in full, and a new 2.5% discount will apply for those who manage their payments online including, for the first time, for boaters paying by direct debit. This means that boaters who may not be able to afford to pay in one lump sum will also be able to benefit from a small discount on the full licence fee.

In addition to the current length-based pricing, from April 2020 the Trust will start the phased introduction of additional pricing bands for boat widths over 2.16m (7ft 1"), as announced in March 2018, with a surcharge of 5% applied until March 2021 (when it will increase to 10%). This means that boats over 2.16m wide will be subject to an increase in licence fees of 7.6% overall from 1 April 2020.

Jon Horsfall, head of customer service support at Canal & River Trust, said: "Income from private boat licences accounted for around 10% of our annual income last year, and helps ensure that we can carry out the vast amount of work needed to keep the waterways available to boaters.

"We know that not every boater is in a position to pay their licence in a single payment so we're pleased to be able to extend a portion of the previous 'prompt payment' discount to those paying by direct debit, as well as all those managing their payments online. We'd encourage boaters to sign up to online licensing to benefit from the 2.5% discount.

"The changes we're making to boat licensing are intended to ensure the financial contribution made by boaters towards the cost of looking after the waterways is spread fairly across the boating community. We are staggering the changes for wider vessels that we announced last year over a five-year period from 1 April 2020 so there's no sudden impact on any boaters."

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

More information on boat licences is available here: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/buy-your-boat-licence>

The Trust has published a Boater Report showing how the charity uses income from boating, and other sources, to maintain the canals and rivers for navigation:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/boating/boating-blogs-and-features/boater-report>

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For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Information on prompt payment and self-serve discount:

How you pay	Discount for Prompt Payment in full	Discount for self-serve (online web licensing) and/or Direct Debit	Total discount
Pay in full or by Direct Debit, credit or debit card using customer self-serve (online web licensing)	Yes	Yes	Full discount (5%)
Pay in monthly instalments by Direct Debit	No	Yes	Part discount (2.5%)
Pay in full using cash or cheque in person	Yes	No	Part discount (2.5%)