

Canal & River Trust as Statutory Consultee: Duty to Respond and Report for Wales

Purpose of the Report

The Canal & River Trust is a statutory consultee as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended) ('the order'). As a statutory consultee we are required to compile a report for the Welsh Government on our performance in responding to consultations. This is our annual report for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

The Trust is known as Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales. We are the charity who look after and bring to life 109 miles of canals in Wales. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of Wales.

Statutory Consultee Status for Applications

The Canal & River Trust ("Glandŵr Cymru") is a Statutory Consultee on applications involving:

Development likely to affect –

- *any inland waterway (whether natural or artificial) or reservoir owned or managed by the Canal & River Trust; or*
- *any canal feeder channel, watercourse, let off or culvert,*

which is within an area which has been notified for the purposes of this provision to the local planning authority by the Canal & River Trust.

In preparing a substantive response, Glandŵr Cymru's Planners take advice from a range of internal specialists including bridge, geotechnical and structural engineers, hydrologists, ecologists, heritage advisors etc.

The area notified for consultation with Glandŵr Cymru transcends 8 local authority boundaries in Wales.

Statutory Pre-application and Applications

Glandŵr Cymru received a total of 54 registered planning application consultations and 7 statutory pre-application consultations in Wales to which there was a duty to respond within the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The figures reported below relate to these consultations:

Consultation Type	Number of consultations received requiring a response in 2020/21
Statutory pre-applications	7
Registered planning application consultations received from LPAs	54
TOTAL	61

Of these 61 consultations received, the Trust did not receive sufficient information to enable us to make a substantive response to 2 of these consultations despite requests made. In addition, 1 consultation related to an

application that was withdrawn before the Trust made a substantive response. We therefore consider that the Trust had a duty to respond to 58 consultations.

The following analysis is based on these figures:

Glandŵr Cymru is required to make a substantive response within 21 days or within an extended period which has been agreed between the parties.

The table below sets out our compliance in this regard:

	No. of registered planning application consultations	Statutory pre-application	Total no. of consultations
No. of consultations in compliance with statutory deadlines	50	7	57
No. of consultations in compliance with agreed extensions to statutory deadlines	0	0	0
No. of application consultations not in compliance with deadlines	1	0	1
TOTAL	51	7	58

In summary, the overall response rate for statutory pre-application and planning application consultations within 21 days or an agreed extension period is 98%.

Reflection on Performance as a Statutory Consultee

The response rate for all consultations for which there is a statutory duty to respond is 98% in 21 days or an agreed extension.

We are committed to working with the Welsh Government and others to explore new innovative ways of working to improve the performance of statutory consultees and local planning authorities in achieving our shared objective of supporting the delivery of sustainable growth.

Data compiled May 2022

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