

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 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 2017 to 31st March 2018

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 Planning Applications

The Canal & River Trust (“Glandŵr Cymru”) is a Statutory Consultee on planning 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 Planning Applications

Glandŵr Cymru received a total of 54 registered planning application consultations in Wales and 4 statutory pre-applications to which there was a duty to respond within the period 01 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. The figures reported below relate to these consultations:

Consultation Type	Number of consultations received requiring a response in 2017/18
Statutory pre-applications	4
Registered Planning Application Consultations received from LPAs	54
Planning Application Consultations received from others	0
TOTAL	58

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	48	4	52
No. of consultations in Compliance with statutory deadlines & agreed extensions	5	0	5
No. of application consultations in non-compliance	1	0	1
TOTAL	54	4	58

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

Reason for Non Compliance with 21 day deadline or agreed extension for consultations

A substantive response to 1 consultation was not provided by Glandŵr Cymru within 21 days of receipt and/or within an agreed extension period. However, a substantive response was provided within 4 days of the deadline.

The reason for non-compliance on this consultation was that internal consultations took longer than expected.

Relevant Applications

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:

	Number of relevant application consultations
No. of consultations in compliance with statutory deadlines	4
No. of consultations in compliance with statutory deadlines and agreed extensions	0
No. of application consultations in non-compliance.	0
TOTAL	4

In summary, the overall response rate for relevant applications within 21 days and/or an agreed extension period is **100%**.

Reflection on Performance as a Statutory Consultee

The overall combined response rate for all consultations for which there is a statutory duty to respond has improved since the 2016/17 report, from 98% to 99% within 21 days and/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.

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