

Development Control Charges and Fees

This document has been prepared to detail the applicable charges and fees associated with the regulatory functions of the member Internal Drainage Boards ("IDBs") of the Water Management Alliance ("WMA").

The charges and fees detailed in this document relate to the following activities;

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1. Consent Application Fees

The charges associated with consent application fees are set out in table 1 below.

Description	Reason for the charge being levied	Fee due ¹
Application to alter a watercourse	Application for consent in accordance with Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991	£50.00 per structure
Application for Byelaw consent (other than Byelaw 3)	Application for consent in accordance with Board's Byelaws (other than Byelaw 3)	£50.00 per site
Application to discharge surface water to a watercourse (Byelaw 3)	Application for consent in accordance with Byelaw 3	£100.00 per site
Application to discharge treated foul water to a watercourse (Byelaw 3)	Application for consent in accordance with Byelaw 3	£100.00 per site

Table 1: Consent Application Fees

Where an application form is submitted without payment of the relevant fee due, the application is not deemed valid and may not be considered by the Board.

¹ VAT is not payable on applications to the Board (statutory charges are beyond the scope).

2. Surface Water Development Contribution (SWDC) Rates

Prior written consent is required from the Board where a development will result in an increase in the rate or volume of flows in any watercourse and, one of the conditions imposed as part of any such approval is the payment of a development contribution to the Board. The charge is made to help fund the cost to the Board resulting from increases in the rate and/or volume of surface water flows.

The relevant fee will be stipulated as part of a notification of intent to consent, at which point the applicant will be given a month to accept the SWDC as a condition of consent. The fee is payable when formal consent is issued following the applicant's confirmed acceptance of the conditions of consent. The SWDC is not due at the point of application.

The contribution is calculated by:

- Determining the impermeable area of the site to be positively drained (in square metres, m²)
- For larger sites, determining the Greenfield Runoff Rate. The greenfield runoff rate is the rate of discharge expected on an undeveloped site within a given rainfall event and varies geographically based on rainfall data and catchment characteristics. The annual average flow rate (Qbar) varies between 1.5 and 7 l/s/ha within the WMA catchment areas.

Additional SWDC Information:

- The Surface Water Development Contribution rates stated within this document are to be increased by inflation annually, and will be reviewed in detail on a 5 yearly basis. The next detailed review is scheduled for Q1 2028 for implementation in 2029.
- The impermeable area of the site to be positively drained (in square metres, m²) should only reflect the additional impermeable area that is positively drained post development. It is therefore determined by taking away the area of impermeable surface positively drained to the watercourse prior to development from the proposed area of impermeable surface to be positively drained to the watercourse post development.
- Surface Water Development Contributions are payable at the rate applicable when the consent application is validated by the Board

The Surface Water Development Contribution charges are shown in Table 2 overleaf.

SWDC per m ² of impermeable surface					
Gravity Catchment			Pumped Catchment		
Discharge Rate	Total Site Impermeable Area		Discharge Rate	Total Site Impermeable Area	
	< 0.5HA	≥ 0.5HA		< 0.5HA	≥ 0.5HA
≤ Qbar	£1.58	£1.58	≤ Qbar	£1.89	£1.89
≤ 3x Qbar	£1.58	£2.05	≤ 3x Qbar	£1.89	£2.46
≤ 6x Qbar	£1.58	£2.52	≤ 6x Qbar	£1.89	£3.02
≤ 12x Qbar	£1.58	£3.47	≤ 12x Qbar	£1.89	£4.16
≤ 24x Qbar	£1.58	£5.36	≤ 24x Qbar	£1.89	£6.42
≤ 40x Qbar	£1.58	£9.14	≤ 48x Qbar	£1.89	£10.96
> 40x Qbar / unattenuated	£1.58	£11.03	> 60x Qbar / unattenuated	£1.89	£13.23

Table 2: SWDC charges.

3. Maintenance Fees

A Maintenance Fee is a one-off charge payable where the Board will opt to maintain a new culvert, bridge, weir, outfall or other structure within their Internal Drainage District, using the Board's permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The relevant fee will be stipulated as part of a condition of consent. The applicant will be given a month to accept the fee as a condition of consent. The fee is payable when formal consent is issued following the applicant's confirmed acceptance of the fee.

When a maintenance fee is paid, the Board will continue to maintain the structure for a defined amount of time. Please be aware that maintenance will be undertaken using permissive powers however there is no change in the ownership or liability associated with the watercourse.

Any fees stated within this section are to be increased by inflation annually.

3.1. Culverts in watercourses not owned by the Board

The Board may consider maintaining private culverts in watercourses not owned by the Board subject to the payment of a maintenance fee.

In such instances the Board will maintain the clear flow of water through the structure, provided it is structurally sound (as determined by the Board's Officers). This will include desilting and vegetation clearance on a recurrence deemed necessary to meet water level management requirements. The responsibility for structural maintenance will remain with the riparian landowner and the Board maintains the right to remove structures which pose a flood risk or safety risk due to poor repair.

The standard maintenance fee is calculated based on the costs that will likely be incurred by the Board in maintaining the clear flow of water through the structure over a defined period. The fees for culverts up to 150 metres are shown in tables 4 and 5 below. For culverts over 150 metres the Board's Officers will determine the maintenance fee based on a case by case basis.

Length of Culvert (Ø < 750mm)	Length of Adoption	
	50 years	100 years
< 18 metres	£2,019.02	£4,351.33
19 – 50 metres	£7,270.07	£17,217.89
51 – 100 metres	£13,147.72	£31,650.92
101 – 150 metres	£19,373.47	£46,780.16

Table 4: Maintenance Fees for culverts in a watercourse not owned by the Board with an internal diameter of less than 750mm

Length of Culvert (Ø ≥ 750mm)	Length of Adoption	
	50 years	100 years
< 18 metres	£2,436.75	£5,395.65
19 – 50 metres	£9,947.81	£23,912.24
51 – 100 metres	£15,825.46	£38,345.27
101 – 150 metres	£27,406.70	£66,863.23

Table 5: Maintenance Fees for culverts in a watercourse not owned by the Board with an internal diameter greater than or equal to 750mm

3.2. Culverts in watercourses owned by the Board

Any consent granted to install a culvert within a watercourse owned by the Board will be subject to the payment of a Maintenance Fee. The works may also require a Deed of Easement with the Board (please see section 4 of this document).

In such instances the Board will be responsible for maintaining the clear flow of water through the structure (including desilting and vegetation clearance on a recurrence deemed necessary to meet water level management requirements) as well as the structural integrity of the culvert in perpetuity. As such the maintenance fee is derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining both the clear flow of water through the structure as well as the structural integrity.

The maintenance fee for culverts in watercourses owned by the Board can be calculated by adding the relevant figure from table 6 below to the cost of replacement as determined by the Board's officers. For culverts over 150 metres the Board's Officers will determine the maintenance fee based on a case by case basis.

Length of Culvert	Internal Diameter of Pipe (Ø)	
	Ø < 750mm	Ø ≥ 750mm
< 18 metres	£4,351.33	£5,395.65
19 – 50 metres	£17,217.89	£23,912.24
51 – 100 metres	£31,650.92	£38,345.27
101 – 150 metres	£46,780.16	£66,863.23

Table 6: Maintenance Fees for culverts within Board owned Watercourses.

3.3. Watercourses

The Board may consider adding private watercourses to their arterial network, and therefore maintaining them, in line with Policy 8 of the [Planning and Byelaw Strategy](#). Whether this is to be subject to the payment of a maintenance fee will be determined on a case by case basis and would be derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the watercourse over a defined time period, as determined by the Board's Officers.

3.4. Sustainable Drainage Systems

The Board may consider maintaining private drainage systems in line with Policy 10 of the [Planning and Byelaw Strategy](#). Whether this maintenance is to be conditional on to the payment of a maintenance fee will be determined on a case by case basis and would be derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the structure over a defined time period, as determined by the Board's Officers.

3.5. Pumping Stations

The Board may consider maintaining private pumping stations subject to the payment of a maintenance fee. The fee will be determined on a case by case basis and will be derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the structure over a defined time period, as determined by the Board's Officers.

3.6. Water Level Control Structures

The Board may consider maintaining private water level control structure subject to the payment of a maintenance fee. The fee will be determined on a case by case basis and will be derived from the costs that will be incurred by the Board in maintaining the structure over a defined time period, as determined by the Board's Officers.

4. Easements

Where accesses or works (including freespan bridges) are proposed within / across an area of land owned by a WMA member Board a Deed of Easement will be required. This payment may be due irrespective of who will be responsible for the future maintenance of any structures erected as part of the proposed works.

In accordance with Section 63 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the WMA Member Boards may not dispose of land owned by the Board for a consideration less than the best that can reasonably be obtained, other than with the consent of the relevant Minister.

To ensure compliance with Section 63 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 the WMA Member Boards will engage the services of a chartered surveyor, to value the proposed disposition. For the avoidance of doubt, the disposition of land includes the granting of an easement (enabling a third party to cross land owned by the Board).

5. Additional Costs

The Board passes on its costs for preparing legal agreements relating to granted consents, including any legal fees and Land Registry costs incurred. A charge may also be levied for the provision of information regarding flood risk and drainage infrastructure, at the discretion of the Board's Officers, or for work relating to hydrological models of watercourses, depending on the type and amount of information required. VAT may be chargeable on fees relating to legal agreements, flood risk/drainage data and hydrological models.

6. Refund Policy

If a formal consent is granted and a SWDC or maintenance fee is paid, the Board will consider withdrawing consent for a new structure, and refunding the SWDC or maintenance fee, if the proposed works are abandoned by the applicant within 3 years of the consent being issued. If subsequently the proposals are re-established a new consent application will be required. Future consent is not guaranteed. Application Fees are non-refundable.