

SEPA Consultation on 2018 Reservoir Charging Scheme

Closed 19 Nov 2017

Contact

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We Asked

SEPA Consultation on 2018 Reservoir Charging Scheme closed on 19 November 2017 following a four week public consultation. The consultation process forms part of the work to review and update the 2018 Reservoir Charging Scheme and beyond.

The consultation was to seek your views on charges in 2018/19 and beyond for the work undertaken by SEPA for the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 and the Reservoirs (Scotland) Regulations 2016 and to review charges going forward.

The proposals were:-

While our charges are reflective of costs incurred from 2015 to present, we believe that once the scheme is bedded in, our cost will change. We therefore propose to carry forward the existing scheme for a further year and review the reservoir charges in 2018 after we have collected a representative year of “normal” work. Depending on the conclusions of the review we may change the charging scheme

For the 2018/19 charges we propose to take account of inflation compared to 2017/18. These charges will take effect from 1st April 2018. The inflationary change would be the Retail Prices Index (RPI) published by the Office for National Statistics as at 30 September 2017.

If the review shows no change is required then charges for subsequent years will be changed in-line with RPI published by the Office for National Statistics, as at 30 September in the immediately preceding year e.g. RPI at 30/9/2019 would be applied to charges in 2019/20 to give the new charge in 2020/21 (and so on).

A link to the consultation response report can be found [here](#):

You Said

We did not receive a high level of response, in total we only received 11 consultation responses.

The majority thought that the level of increase was too high. SEPA decided to limit the increase to CPI (3%) which was less than the RPI figure (3.9%). One respondent did not think that the way SEPA regulates reservoirs was sensible. This was not part of the consultation as the initial assessment was taken by government on the way SEPA regulates.

A full analysis of the responses received can be found in the Consultation outcome report.

We Did

In taking account of the small number of views received, SEPA embarked on a review of the amount of time being recorded by SEPA employees on Reservoir work. From the data that has been collected from 2016 till now the review shows that charges shall remain at the current levels allowing for inflationary increases. The charging scheme allows for increases in-line with RPI published by the Office for National Statistics, as at 30 September in the immediately preceding year if required. This conclusion means that there is no change required to the scheme as it is written.

Links:

[Consultation outcome report](#)