

Telephone 08459 33 55 77

Website www.defra.gov.uk

Date 22 August 2011

CONSULTATION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dear Consultee

1. We are writing to invite views on the proposed abolition of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council (IWAC) which was announced by the Government on 22 July 2010 as part of its Arms length Body Review and agreed by Scottish Ministers. Although the Government's preferred option is to abolish IWAC, Ministers wish to consider respondents' views before reaching a final decision.

2. IWAC was created on 1 April 2007 by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as successor to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (IWAAC) to advise Government, navigation authorities and other interested persons on matters relevant to Britain's inland waterways.

3. The Government's proposal to move British Waterways into civil society in April 2012 will mean that for the future it will no longer need an organisation to provide advice for policy development.

4. Should the Government proceed with its proposal to abolish IWAC this would be done using an Order under the Public Bodies Bill once it has been enacted.

5. The following documents can be found on Defra's website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/>

- Consultation document
- List of Consultees

6. We welcome views and comments from all of you with a potential interest in our waterways i.e. members of the public, waterway authorities, non-governmental

organisations, local authorities and communities and user groups. If you are aware of anyone or any organisation that might be interested in seeing and commenting on the consultation paper but is not listed, please let us know (via the contact point in below) and we will also seek their views.

7. While we welcome your views on any of the content of this consultation document we have also included some questions which are included as examples of the sort of issues you may wish to consider in preparing your response.

Responses

8. Please e-mail responses no later than **14th November 2011** to IWACresponses@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Or if you wish you can send in your response by letter to:

**IWAC Consultation
Inland Waterways Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 3B Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Tel: 0207 238 6372 / 4805**

For Scottish responses, please also copy your reply to scotlandscanals@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or by letter to:

IWAC Consultation
Freight and Inland Waterways Branch
Scottish Government
Area 2GN
Victoria Quay
Leith EH6 6QQ

9. The consultation is in line with the Code of Practice on Consultations. This can be found at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/consultation-guidance>

10. When this consultation ends we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also members of the public may also ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

11. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that will not count as a confidentiality request.

12. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation.

But because of the law, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

13. We will summarise all responses and place the summary on our website at www.defra.gov.uk We will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.

14. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Information Resource Centre
Defra
Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 2AL
Tel: 0207 238 6575
Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

15. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email:

Consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk

If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely

David Foot
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs