



Middle Level Commissioners and Administered / Associated Internal Drainage Boards

Consent for Discharge to a Watercourse - Advice

Under the byelaws of the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Internal Drainage Boards (known as The Board), consent is needed to discharge any increase in flow or volume of surface water or foul water. The consent must be given before the discharge can be made into the Board's drain.

To cover the cost of dealing with this discharge, the Board requires a contribution, depending on the amount and speed of water discharged, which will allow the Board to maintain and improve their system. This cost does not include any works which might be needed to private ditches etc., to help the water flow into the Board's drain.

The contributions are reviewed quarterly, and are calculated as follows:

- For new or increased surface water discharge, the fee is per hectare of impermeable area created, or the actual cost of the works needed to deal with the additional flow or volume, whichever is greater.
- For new or increased effluent discharge from waste water treatment works / sewers, or similar installations, or for surface water if an impermeable area is not relevant, a charge is made per cubic metre discharged per day, or the actual cost of the works needed to deal with the additional flow or volume, whichever is greater.

For the current fees see the Fees document on the consent page of our website, and for help with calculating the contribution due, see our fee checker spreadsheet. The minimum fee is £300. The contribution is required by The Board before the discharge starts, and is calculated on the date the payment is received by The Board.

Any application for discharge consent must include adequate information to demonstrate that the development will not detrimentally affect the surrounding land drainage system, or show that the developer will undertake improvement works to prevent this. The following may be required in order to determine whether a discharge consent application can be approved.

- Plan(s) clearly showing in a distinctive colour the increased impermeable area.
- Details of the receiving systems including any mitigation works, if required, e.g. channel deepening, channel re-profiling, enlarged culverts etc.
- Engineering details of access culverts, manholes, outfall structures, method statements etc.
- Associated engineering calculations.
- Copies of correspondence concerning future liability, maintenance schedules etc. from relevant authorities.
- An Environmental Assessment
- A Flood Risk Assessment

If surface water discharges totally to soakaways, and these have been approved by the local planning authority, then discharge consent is not needed, and an 'infiltration devices option 1 or 2' must be submitted, with supporting evidence if needed. Please see our 'Infiltration Device Certification and Checking Service Guidance Document' for further information. This process relies on the soakaway performing properly. If it is found later that a soakaway is not dealing properly with the surface water, then a discharge contribution must be paid, in line with the bullet points above. The Board may require technical evidence to show the soakaway works properly, and may investigate the works if necessary.

Please send your application for discharge consent, and / or certificate of approved use of soakaways, using the relevant application forms, to the address below.

Middle Level Commissioners
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85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs PE15 0AH

Tel: 01354 653232

Email: planningmatters@middlelevel.gov.uk

Website: www.middlelevel.gov.uk