



Yorkshire & Humber
Drainage Boards

LAND DRAINAGE RATE DEMAND

If you have received a Land Drainage Rate Demand, it means we believe you are the occupier of land within the land drainage district. Regardless of whether there is a Board-maintained watercourse on your land, you are liable to pay drainage rates. If you are not the occupier or if the information on the rate demand is incorrect, please inform us as soon as possible. The law requires the occupier to notify the Board of any changes.

The rate demand is a local tax payable on demand. The Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) allow a short, non-statutory grace period from the date of the rate demand for payment. Payment should be made by 31st May of the current year.

If you are having difficulty paying your rate demand, contact us immediately. In special circumstances, the Board may agree to accept payments in instalments. If such an agreement is breached, the full amount will be demanded immediately and any similar request in the future will be denied.

WHAT IF I SELL THE LAND OR GIVE UP MY TENANCY?

The occupier on the 1st April of the current year is responsible for payment of the full amount who may enter into a private agreement with the new occupier or your landlord about rates you have paid or owe. The IDB will not be party to these agreements.

DO YOU PAY BUSINESS RATES?

If we have sent you a rate demand for a property that you pay business rates on (or on part of it) you should tell us immediately so that you are not paying too much.

NO PURCHASE ORDERS

Land drainage rates are a form of local tax that is statutorily payable on demand. A rate demand is not a commercial invoice, the Board will not provide a purchase order to a ratepayer.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT PAY MY LAND DRAINAGE RATES?

Do not ignore your land drainage rates demand. If we have not received payment by 31st May of the current year and you have not contacted us, we will begin a process to recover the debt.

We may contact you again to remind you that money is owed; it is likely we will make an additional administrative charge to cover out costs in issuing a reminder, costs which we will seek to recover later.

If after we have reminded you, there remains an outstanding balance, we will ask the court service to summon you to a court hearing. A summons means that you will be asked to appear in court as a defendant in front of a Magistrate to explain why you have not paid the rate demand. This is a very serious matter, if this happens you may wish to seek your own legal advice. If you do not give a valid reason for not paying the rates the Board will ask the Magistrate to issue a liability order, a type of court order, that allows us to employ debt recovery agents to recover the debt.

Please note that at this stage complaints about the board's maintenance programme or the valuation of land will not be considered or dealt with by the Magistrate.

DEBT RECOVERY

If a debt collection agent contacts you to recover monies owed, they will first recover their fees and then the amount owed to the Board. If you attempt to make a payment directly to the Board during this period, it will not affect the amount you must pay to our debt collection agents. Any excess payment will be returned to you after all debts and fees are settled. In these circumstances, we reserve the right to charge an administrative fee for processing any refund.

Once a debt collection agent is appointed, the Board will not engage in any communication about the debt until the agent's fees, the Board's costs, and the debt have been fully paid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about drainage rates and making payments, please visit our website yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk or call us on **01430 430237**.

Deposition of Arisings

Dredging work is carried out as part of the Board's normal watercourse maintenance programme, this is to ensure conveyance of water in the land drainage network and reduce the risk of flooding.

This process generally includes the removal of silt and weed but may occasionally result in larger amounts of material if the watercourse requires widening or deepening. The Board have statutory powers to dispose of these arisings, within one mechanical operation onto land adjoining the watercourse without making payment to do so.

Board staff and contractors have been instructed as follows:

Arisings to be placed not less than 500mm from the crest and no further than 6000mm from the crest of the bank top and spread evenly over the area*.

*If a track or scheme/strip is more than 6000mm wide, at the request of the Ratepayer the arisings may be deposited beyond this point as long as this does not extend beyond the reach of the machine being used for the maintenance works. This does not imply a standard for reasonable care, and does not imply a standard under which the Board will exercise its statutory powers.

The Board is aware of modern cultivation practices so wish to give occupiers of land an opportunity to consider the viability of planting within this maintenance area, to either make plans to mitigate any potential issues, such as leaving a maintenance margin or decide to accept any impact.

In certain circumstances the Board's engineer may agree alternative actions, provided these are agreed before cultivating or planting takes place, there is no increased cost to the Board and the proposal does not negatively impact the Board's programme of works.

If there is a safety issue, such as working near a public footpath or highway, the Board may dispose of arisings differently.

Late Harvested & Root Crops

Late harvested crops or root crops such as Potatoes, Sugar Beet, Carrots, Maize etc, planted adjacent to Board maintained watercourses without a sufficient maintenance margin (minimum of 6 metres or 20 feet) results in increased operational costs to the Board which is passed onto local taxpayers.

A common example of these costs is illustrated below:

An excavator is moving along a large watercourse undertaking maintenance work but is prevented from continuing due to the presence of Maize planted tight up to the watercourse in just one field. The machine must stop, track back to the road, is then loaded onto road transport, moved, tracks to the other side of the field – Including staff and standing time this move has cost at least £500. The machine then returns to complete the task later in the season, this costs an extra £500 – The total additional cost to the local taxpayer is at least £1,000 more than it would have been due to the presence of the Maize.

The Board have statutory powers to carry out works regardless of crop status but will actively avoid doing so where it can. As the Board's operating costs continue to rise the Board cannot afford to accommodate these extraneous costs so encourage occupiers to always leave a maintenance margin.

To reduce the risk of flooding to other occupiers, if any root or other late crop is restricting the Board's progress and there is concern that there is a restriction to flow evident as a result of this, the occupier may be asked if they will give written permission to the Board to travel across the crop and shall not hold the Board liable for crop loss.

The planting of Bio-mass products such as willow within 9 metres of a watercourse is an offence without prior land drainage consent.

Failure to seek land drainage consent before entering a stewardship scheme such as SFI, that is within 9m of the watercourse is at the occupier's risk. The Board will not be responsible in any way whatsoever if a stewardship scheme is not compatible with the Board's maintenance operations. We recommend that if an occupier is considering entering a SFI scheme that they first contact the SFI administrator to ascertain if the Board's operations may impact their SFI payments. The Board WILL NOT adapt their maintenance practices to accommodate a stewardship scheme without express prior agreement.