

**From:** Daniel Musson  
**Sent:** Mon 02/08/2010 10:52

**Subject: Surface Water Drainage charges**

You may remember that we fed in directly to a major campaign against unfair surface water charges, particularly those of you in Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire as United Utilities targeted sports clubs in an apparent attempt to set a precedent. Whilst this campaign was largely successful (and the support from Northern counties was vital in achieving this), we now have the opportunity to influence legislation through a consultation exercise being conducted by DEFRA.

I strongly urge you to mobilise your network of Clubs to respond to this consultation (through CDGs, direct email etc) the potential impact on Clubs cannot be underestimated if the water companies were to get their undoubted wish to re-introduce the charges. Some Clubs were facing financial disaster as water bills rose from hundreds of pounds to several thousand overnight.

All the details are as follows:

*The Government is inviting views on its guidance to water and sewerage companies on concessionary schemes for community groups to protect them from unaffordable surface water drainage charges, to accompany provisions made in the Flood and Water Management Act. It covers the need for a concessionary scheme, which community groups should be included in concessionary schemes, what constitutes a fair and affordable charge and the needs of other customers.*

*The consultation is aimed at water and sewerage companies, Ofwat, the Consumer Council for Water, community and voluntary groups and other non-household water and sewerage customers.*

*The deadline for responses is 22 October and further information on how to respond to the consultation can be found at -*

*<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>*

If you have any questions at this stage please let me know.

Regards,

Dan.

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