

INLAND WATERWAYS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS JOINT POSITION STATEMENT

The Representative Organisations named below wish to promote the inland waterways of Great Britain by:-

- encouraging a modern, integrated and sustainable approach to the use of inland waterways.
- protecting, conserving and improving inland waterways as a vital part of our national heritage.
- maximising the opportunities that inland waterways offer for leisure, recreation, business enterprise and freight transport.
- securing sustainable funding arrangements.

In order to achieve these objectives, we believe that:-

1. there should be a comprehensive overhaul of inland waterways legislation, to facilitate effective management of the existing inland waterways network.
2. navigation authorities should identify new ways of working and new opportunities to sustain the waterways in order to safeguard the environmental, social and economic value of the waterways for the future.
3. the importance of maintaining the inland waterways network for leisure and recreation, tourism, sport for all, public health, business enterprise and freight transportation should be recognised throughout central Government and devolved administrations.
4. inland waterways should actively be promoted to a wider public by the provision of increased opportunities for leisure and recreation, including waterborne activities and non-boating activities such as walking and cycling.
5. the Government should clarify its expectations of navigation authorities in respect of their many environmental obligations, specifying priorities and timetables, identifying additional costs and how these should be funded.
6. the Government, navigation authorities and other public agencies should make funds available for the restoration of existing derelict, abandoned and unusable waterways where there is a strong business case establishing social, economic or environmental benefits, and the construction where necessary of new waterways, in order to provide public benefits through opportunities for greater public and commercial access and use.
7. in partnership with IWAC and AINA, the Government should use the current review of its June 2000 publication "Waterways for Tomorrow" to produce a policy statement for the sustainable maintenance and development of the inland waterways that contains clear Key Performance Indicators, timescales for delivery and an appropriate funding strategy.

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Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs
British Canoe Union
British Marine Federation
DBA The Barge Association
Inland Waterways Association

National Association of Boat Owners
Royal Yachting Association
Scottish Inland Waterways Association
Save Our Waterways