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NFU Cymru Briefing – Responding to: NRW Consultation on its regulatory fees and charges 2023/24

NRW is consulting on their regulatory fees and charges. Feedback will be used to inform NRW's final charging scheme implemented from 1 April 2023, subject to Welsh Government approval.

NRW has undertaken a Strategic Review of Charging (SRoC). This has focussed on the changes to the fees and charges associated with applications for **new permits and amended permits** with some very large increases in fees proposed. NRW is proposing a 6% increase to its **annual subsistence charges**. The NFU Cymru Briefing summarising proposals can be [accessed here](#). The full consultation can be accessed on the [NRW website here](#).

Ahead of the consultation closing date on **Friday 6 January 2023**, NFU Cymru, in addition to preparing our own consultation response, is encouraging members to provide feedback directly to NRW on proposals.

NRW is gathering feedback via an [online survey](#). There are several sections in the [survey](#), the main questions of relevance to farming are as follows:

Questions 1 to 5 are generic questions which have to be completed

- **Proposals for new and amended permits**

Installations (Standard Rules Permit for on-farm AD using farm waste only) Question 10 & 11

Environmental Permitting Regulations (Rearing of pigs and poultry) – Questions 12 & 13

Reservoirs – Questions 18 & 19

Water Quality (Landspredding – sheep dip disposal) – Questions 25 & 26

Water Resources (Abstraction and Impoundment Licences) – Questions 27 & 28

- **Proposals for annual subsistence charges (6%)**

Questions 31 & 32

Members are encouraged to respond to the sections of the NRW consultation survey relevant to their business.

NFU Cymru key points:

- NFU Cymru is concerned about NRW proposals to increase charges given the very significant inflationary pressures faced by farm businesses



- Farmers will be dismayed at the scale of increases proposed – more than tenfold in some instances
- We understand NRW has a duty to recover its costs but we are disappointed NRW has not made more effort to streamline the application process and deliver efficiencies to reduce costs
- Proposals are likely to have unintended consequences and work against important Welsh Government policy priorities such as sheep scab eradication or renewable energy generation
- Proposed increases in charges such as EPR (Intensive Pigs and Poultry) come at an already worrying time for the sector
- The proposed cost increases on this scale are a disincentive to improve management practices and place limitations on diversification options for farmers in Wales
- Proposals particularly disadvantage new entrants/young farmers.

NFU Cymru would welcome your feedback to inform our response ahead of the consultation closing date on **Friday 6 January 2023**. Please e-mail rachel.lewis-davies@nfu.org.uk

