

Consultation - Mersey Gateway Bridge and Silver Jubilee Bridge toll charges

Halton Borough Council and the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board are consulting around proposed changes to toll charges and scheme details for crossing the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee bridges.

We are not consulting on the principle of toll charges. This was settled at the public inquiry held for the Mersey Gateway Project in 2009 and was then incorporated into the 2011 Order.

merseygateway.co.uk/consultation2024

ABOUT YOU

In this first section we are asking some simple questions about you to help us analyse the responses to this consultation. No contact or personal details will be published at any stage.

1. Are you responding to this consultation as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- I am responding as an individual **(please move straight to Question 3)**
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation

2. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state the name of the organisation and your contact details:

Organisation:

Your name:

Role:

Email:

3. What type of plans or accounts do you have with merseyflow? Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-pay plan (Sticker or Video) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local User Discount Scheme (LUDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Badge plan | <input type="checkbox"/> I use the merseyflow quick-pay app |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly travel pass | <input type="checkbox"/> None – I don't have a plan |

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation. You do not have to answer every question, so please feel free to skip a question if it doesn't apply to you or you would prefer not to answer a question.

4. We are proposing to increase toll charges by 20% from April 2025 – please let us have your views on this:

5. It is not an option to leave toll charges at their current level. Do you think that increasing toll charges by 20% is appropriate or do you think tolls should be increased in line with inflation over the period since 2017 when the Mersey Gateway Bridge opened which would mean an increase of 40%?

- Toll charges should be increased by 20%
- Toll charges should be increased by 40% in line with inflation since 2017

6. In the future we are proposing to typically consider changes to toll charges every three years (barring unforeseen circumstances which require a more regular review). Do you think this is:

- Too frequent – toll charges should be increased by a larger amount but less frequently
- About right
- Too infrequent – toll charges should be increased more frequently but by smaller amounts

7. Would a higher discount on the standard toll charges encourage you to open an account with Merseyflow?

- Yes (please move straight to Question 9)
- No (please move straight to Question 8)
- Not applicable – I already have an account (please move straight to Question 9)

8. If you don't already have an account with merseyflow, what would encourage you to open a merseyflow account?

9. We are proposing to raise the annual cost of the Local User Discount Scheme (LUDS) for eligible Halton residents by 20% to £12 from April 2025.

However, we are proposing to discount this annual cost for any LUDS plan customers who have already switched to, or who choose to switch to, the auto renew system. This means it will remain at £10 per year for the majority of eligible Halton residents, with others able to opt in moving forward.

Should there be a discount for those electing to renew their LUDS plan automatically on an annual basis?

Yes

No

10. With toll charges likely to increase, we also propose to increase Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) fees for people who don't pay for their crossing on time.

As PCN fees are set in bands this would mean a 25% increase in PCN fees from £40 to £50.

This would ensure that PCN charges for those who haven't paid for a crossing on time remain appropriate. Anyone receiving a PCN would still have a 14-day opportunity to pay it at a 50% discounted rate – equating to £25.

Do you think this proposed increase is appropriate?

Yes

No – I think there should be a higher increase in PCN fees

No – PCN fees should remain at the current rate

Please give us any additional feedback on this proposal for PCN fees:



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Mersey Gateway Crossings Board/Consultation,
c/o Halton Borough Council, Halton Direct Link, Brook St, Widnes WA8 6NB

Alternatively, you can complete this questionnaire online at:

merseygateway.co.uk/consultation2024