



# Doncaster East

Internal Drainage Board

Our ref: 2014s1006-5-1-L007-004

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Ms M Hartley  
What do they Know

By email: [request-419719-f739a1ac@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-419719-f739a1ac@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Hartley

Re: FOI – board maintained drains

We refer to your request for information in eight parts together with clarification on the fifth point which relates to ease of access to a watercourse:

1. Do all agricultural ratepayers pay the same drainage rate
2. The smallest length in metres of Board maintained drains of an individual ratepayer
3. The largest length in metres of Board maintained drains of an individual ratepayer
4. The cost to the Board per metre of maintaining a drain.
5. Do ratepayers benefitting from Board maintained drains provide the Board with anything in return for maintenance of their drains?
6. The number of agricultural Board members with drains maintained by the Board (if any)
7. The length in metres of each Board member maintained drains. These can be numbered, I am not requesting details of any individual.
8. Has the Board made a resolution to make crop loss payments without evidence of damage to crops?

The Board's response to your request for information is as follows:

1. Yes
2. Considering the Freedom of Information (appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, to find, retrieve and extract the requested information would exceed the estimated cost of compliance as detailed in the FOI Act; this section of your request is therefore refused under section 12.
3. Considering the Freedom of Information (appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, to find, retrieve and extract the requested information would exceed the estimated cost of compliance as detailed in the FOI Act; this section of your request is therefore refused under section 12.
4. The Board uses separate contractors in different areas of its District and in some areas a separate contractor flail mows where another undertakes de-weeding. Depending upon the type of drain and different maintenance activity, costs can range between £0.12 to £0.92 per linear metre. For example, in one area the cost of flail mowing and separate de-weeding activity costs the Board £1.01 per linear metre but in another part of the district the cost per linear metre is £0.38.
5. The Contractors work with landowners to access land. Some ratepayers may have buffer strips adjacent to drains maintained by the Board, others do not. The expectation is the Board's contractors will work around cropping patterns.



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**Clerk and Engineer to**

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Black Drain DB  
Danvm Drainage Commissioners  
Doncaster East IDB  
Goole & Airmyn IDB  
Goole Fields District DB  
Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB  
Sow and Penk IDB

**Engineer to**

Selby Area IDB  
Swale and Ure DB

The Shire Group of  
Internal Drainage Boards  
is managed by JBA Consulting

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6. The Board currently has 2 elected member vacancies. From the current 10 elected members, 8 are associated with land through which a Board maintained drain runs.
7. The lengths of drain in metres per Board Member are as follows:
  - Member 1 – 5,015m
  - Member 2 – 4,537m
  - Member 3 – 894m
  - Member 4 – 6,401m
  - Member 5 – 8,726m
  - Member 6 – 12,402m
  - Member 7 – 3,626m
  - Member 8 – 4,490m
8. The Board has not made a resolution to make crop loss payments in the absence of evidence of damage to crops.

Yours faithfully



**Alison Briggs BSc (Hons) Env. Sc., MSc Env. Mngt. (Climate Change)**

*Environmental Officer and Administrator to the Board*

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