

Response ID ANON-EXVA-TTTY-9

Submitted to Consultation on Protecting Hedgerows
Submitted on 2023-07-12 09:55:15

Introduction

1 Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason.:

2 What is your name?

Name:
Rosie Pearson

3 What is your email address?

Email:
communityplanningalliance@mail.com

4 Which of these sectors do you most align yourself or your organisation with?

Other (please state)

Please specify, if needed :
Community group

5 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is its name?

Organisation :
Community Planning Alliance

6 In which part of the United Kingdom are you based?

England

If other, please state :
United Kingdom

7 If you are a farmer or a land manager, what enterprises do you have on your farm (if applicable)?

8 Are you happy to be contacted in the future for further research?

Yes

Consultation Questions

9 Should we maintain the requirement for buffer strips that are 2m from the centre of the hedgerow?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Wildlife needs all the help it can get

10 If we maintain the 2m buffer strip requirement, should we also replicate an exemption for field sizes under 2 hectares?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

As a community group seeking greater environmental protections, we have to answer no to the idea of an exemption, although we recognise that farmers may feel differently and that food production is also important.

11 If we maintain the 2m buffer strip requirement, should we also replicate an exemption for hedgerows under 5 years old?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

No. Those new hedgerows are still hedgerows and the buffer strip requirement should be the same.

12 Should we maintain a no cutting period to ensure hedgerows are managed in a way which protects important bird species?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Essential to maintain and enforce this.

13 Should the no cutting period remain as 1 March to 31 August, or be amended to an alternative?

Remain 1 March to 31 August

Please set out your reasoning or evidence below :

Cutting date evidence :

No file uploaded

14 If we maintain a no cutting period, should we also replicate exemptions to the regulations?

Not Answered

Please use this space for any additional comments:

15 If you answered yes to the previous question, should there be a requirement to apply to the relevant authority for an exemption?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

No land owner or land manager should be able to take an exemption without applying formally for it.

16 Should we introduce a new exemption to the hedgerow management requirements for farms under 5 hectares?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

We should retain robust hedgerow management requirements. Environmental standards should be raised not lowered.

17 If we amend the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 to include additional management measures, we will require an additional definition of what constitutes an important hedgerow for the proposed measures. Do you agree with the below definition of an 'important hedgerow' for hedgerow management activities only?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

18 Where should we focus our ambitions for future hedgerows policy?

Answer::

Our organisation ran a survey on the threats to hedgerows and trees. 200 responded.

Hedgerows are at risk from a myriad of threats (farming was only a small part of the problem in our results)

Future focus needs to be on protection, enforcement and prosecution. The universal feeling in our survey responses was that hedgerows need greater protection and that relevant bodies are not doing enough to protect hedgerows.

You can read the results here. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/war-trees-hedges-survey-results-rosie-pearson>

19 If we develop further protections, should we consider extending them to hedgerows outside of agricultural land?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

As per our survey, farmers are only a small part of the threat to hedgerows:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/war-trees-hedges-survey-results-rosie-pearson>

Delivery questions

20 Do you agree stop notices should be introduced, prohibiting a person from continuing a harmful activity? Stop notices can be used on their own or in conjunction with a monetary penalty.

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Yes. Protection, enforcement and prosecution are essential.

21 Do you agree compliance notices should be introduced, requiring a non-compliant person to undertake certain actions to bring themselves back into compliance?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments :

Yes. Protection, enforcement and prosecution are essential.

22 Do you agree restoration notices should be introduced to rectify any harms resulting from non-compliance?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Yes. Protection, enforcement and prosecution are essential.

23 Do you agree variable monetary penalties should be introduced, increasing in value relative to the severity of actual harm?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Yes or fixed penalties as per the question below. Protection, enforcement and prosecution are essential.

24 Do you agree fixed monetary penalties should be introduced, and used at the discretion of the regulator?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Yes or variable penalties as per the question above. Protection, enforcement and prosecution are essential.

Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

25 Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?

Very satisfied

26 Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Comments: