

S.I. No. of 2024.

CANALS ACT, 1986 and 2018 (BYE-LAWS), 2024.

ARRANGEMENT OF BYE-LAWS.

1. Citation, Commencement and Revocation.
2. Definitions.
3. Issue and revoking of permits.
4. Construction and safety measures on boats.
5. Equipment of boats.
6. Liquid petroleum gas on boats.
7. Storage of inflammable spirit on boats.
8. Fire extinguishers on boats.
9. Domestic appliances on boats.
10. Batteries on boats.
11. Maximum dimensions of boats.
12. Appointment of master of boat.
13. Care for other canal users and property.
14. Alcohol or drugs.
15. Prohibitions on navigation.
16. Restriction on navigation by night etc.
17. Navigation.
18. Avoidance of danger to self and to other canal users and speed on canals.
19. Boats under sail.
20. Operation of locks.
21. Precedence of boats for berths.
22. Mooring of boats and fixing of ropes.
23. Placing of buoys etc.
24. Going aground etc. of boats.
25. Placing of objects on canal property.
26. Parking of caravans etc. on canal property.
27. Use of a structure, tent, caravan or vehicle as a dwelling.
28. Removal of boats etc. from canal property.

- 29. Commercial operations on canal property.
- 30. Notice of Waterways Ireland's intention to remove articles from canal property.
- 31. Removal and disposal of articles from canal property.
- 32. Encroachments on canal property.
- 33. Wandering or straying animals on canal property.
- 34. Prohibitions or restrictions on the access of mechanically or electrically propelled vehicles to canal property.
- 35. Protection of wildlife, water quality, fisheries, invasive species, waste, heritage, events, diving and underwater activities, prohibited activities.
- 36. Tolls and charges.
- 37. Waterways Ireland's non liability for delays and stoppages.
- 38. Annual canals permit
- 39. Annual houseboat permit
- 40. Use of Waterways Ireland drydocks.
- 41. Appeals
- 42. Notices
- 43. Authorised Officers
- 44. Fixed Payment Notice

Schedules.

Schedule 1 - Tolls and Charges

Schedule 2 – Form and amount of Fixed Payment Notice

S.I. No. _____ of 2024

CANALS ACT, 1986 and 2018 (BYE-LAWS), 2024

Waterways Ireland in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 7 of the Canals Acts 1986 and 2018 (No. 3 of 1986 and No. 15 of 2018) hereby makes the following bye-laws:

1. Citation, Commencement and Revocation

1. (1) These Bye-laws may be cited as the Canals Acts, 1986 and 2018 (Bye-Laws) 2024.
- (2) These Bye-laws shall come into operation on the _____ day of _____ 2024.
- (3) The Canals Act, 1986 (Bye-Laws), 1988 (S.I. No. 247 of 1988) are hereby revoked.

2. Definitions and Interpretation

2. (1) In these Bye-laws, except where the context otherwise requires—

“**accommodation space**” means the space surrounded by a permanent boat structure in which there is provision for any of the following activities: sleeping, cooking, eating, washing, toilet, navigation and steering excluding spaces intended exclusively for storage of fuel, water and supplies, open cockpits with or without canvas enclosures and engine rooms;

“**annual canals permit**” means a permit referred to in Bye-law 38;

“**annual houseboat permit**” means a permit referred to in Bye-law 39;

“**annual registration**” means the registration of relevant boats with Waterways Ireland in accordance with section 3(1)(m) of the Shannon Navigation Act 1990 (No. 20 of 1990).

“**Authorised officer**” means an officer of Waterways Ireland appointed as an authorised officer under Section 7B (1) of the Canals Acts 1986 and 2018.

“**Barrow navigation**” means the river and lateral canal section from Athy, County Kildare downstream to St Mullins, County Carlow;

"boat" includes barge, vessel or any other water craft;

"canals" without prejudice to the meaning in the Canals Acts, 1986 and 2018, mean collectively the Grand Canal, the Royal Canal, the Grand Canal Barrow Line and the Barrow navigation;

"canal property", without prejudice to the meaning in the Canals Acts, 1986 and 2018, includes any building, plant, equipment, property or land owned or used by Waterways Ireland in the execution of their duty under the Canals Acts, 1986 and 2018;

"CE marking" means a mandatory conformity marking required in the European Union for regulating the sale of goods that meets European health, safety and environmental standards;

"commercial licence" means a licence issued in writing by Waterways Ireland to the owner of a commercial boat under Bye-law 29 of these Bye-laws;

"event" is any occasion or gathering held on canal property or the navigation by any individual, group or organisation to which the public are invited or which is arranged by any group or association for its members which involves more than 5 boats or 20 people.

"fixed payment notice" means a notice under section 7A of the Canals Acts 1986 and 2018 regarding an alleged offence in contravention of these Bye-laws made under section 7A of the said Acts;

"Grand Canal Barrow Line" means the canal section from Lowtown, County Carlow downstream to Athy, County Carlow;

"heritage boat" means a boat over 25 years old which is of significance because of its intrinsic construction or because of its association with the commercial, cultural,

economic, industrial, maritime, military, political, social or other history of Ireland or generally;

“houseboat” means a boat on the canals which is being used as a private dwelling;

“master”, in relation to a boat, means the person for the time being in command of or in charge of the boat;

“natural heritage area” means an area that has been designated as such by way of a Natural Heritage Order under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (No. 38 of 2000), or that, pending a decision by the Minister under section 17 or 18 of that Act, is subject of a notice under section 16 of that Act;

“owner” includes in relation to any boat the master or hirer.

“passenger boat” and **“passenger ship”** means a boat or ship as described in the Merchant Shipping Act 1992 (No 2 of 1992).

“permit” means a permit or licence issued by Waterways Ireland under Bye-law 3 and section 7(3) of the Canals Acts 1986;

“personal watercraft” (PWC) means a craft of less than 4 metres in length which uses an internal combustion engine or electric motor having a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion, and which is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing or kneeling on, rather than within the confines of, a hull;

“pleasure craft” includes any yacht, launch, radon, wherry, tender, skiff, gig, dinghy, shallop, punt, canoe, float, or other ship, boat, vessel, or craft (including amphibious craft) but does not include any commercial boat or houseboat or personal watercraft;

“polluting matter” has the meaning given to it by the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (No. 1 of 1977);

“Powered personal transporter” means a vehicle-

- a. designed and constructed for the carriage of a single person, but not designed or constructed for a person with restricted mobility or for the carriage of goods,
- b. with a maximum unladen weight of 25 kilograms,
- c. with a maximum design speed of no less than 6 kilometres per hour and no greater than 25 kilometres per hour, and
- d. equipped with an electric motor having a maximum continuous rated power less than or equal to 0.5 kilowatts;

“serviced houseboat mooring” means a mooring designated by Waterways Ireland to the houseboat owner. The mooring will have a hard edged floating or fixed structure and be provided with access to electricity and water on site, and with pump-out facilities nearby;

“Shannon Navigation” means the Shannon navigation as defined in Section 1 of the Shannon Navigation Act, 1990 (No. 20 of 1990);

“suitable personal flotation device” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 2 of the Pleasure Craft (Personal Flotation Devices and Operation) (Safety) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 921 of 2005) (as amended by Regulation 2 of the Pleasure Craft (Personal Flotation Devices and Operation) (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 400 of 2018);

"underway" in relation to a boat means a boat which is not at anchor nor made fast to the shore nor aground;

“vehicle” means anything on wheels, runners or articulated tracks and includes a caravan;

"visitor's permit” means a permit referred to in Bye-Law 38 (4) of these Bye-laws which may be issued to a boat to visit the canals for a period of up to 60 consecutive days in any one calendar year. This permit also allows the boat to which it is issued to navigate on the Shannon navigation during the 60 consecutive day period.

- (2) (a) In these Bye-laws, any reference to a Bye-law or Schedule which is not otherwise identified is a reference to a Bye-law or Schedule of these Bye-laws;
- (b) In these Bye-laws, any reference to a paragraph or sub-paragraph which is not otherwise identified is a reference to the paragraph or sub-paragraph of the provision in which the reference occurs;
- (c) Where the provisions of any of these Bye-laws are limited by such Bye-law to any particular canal or locality then such Bye-law shall apply only to such canal or locality to which it is so limited.
- (d) the Bye-law and paragraph headings are for the convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Bye-laws;
- (e) Reference to a body or organisation shall include any other body or organisation established from time to time in succession or substitution or then carrying on that function;
- (f) Reference to any statute or provision of any statute shall be deemed also to refer to any statutory modification, substitution, extension, amendment or re-enactment thereof or any statutory instrument, order, rule, regulation, bye-law, permission, instrument or direction made thereunder or under such modification, substitution or re-enactment.
- (g) Words denoting the singular number only shall include the plural number also and vice versa.
- (h) Words denoting the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender also and the word “person” shall include a body corporate or unincorporated association.
- (3) These bye-laws do not apply to boats operated in the course of duty by:
- (a) Waterways Ireland,
 - (b) An Garda Síochána,
 - (c) The Defence Forces and Civil Defence,
 - (d) The Revenue Commissioners,
 - (e) Inland Fisheries Ireland,
 - (f) The Irish Coast Guard,

- (g) The Commissioners of Irish Lights,
- (h) The Royal National Lifeboat Institution,
- (i) The Electricity Supply Board,
- (j) or any boat involved in law enforcement, emergency, rescue, recovery, and safety mission.

3. Issue and revoking of permits.

3. (1) Waterways Ireland may issue permits to authorise and regulate the use of boats on the canal property.

- (2) Permits may contain such reasonable written conditions as Waterways Ireland think fit.

- (3) Permits shall be for stated periods, locations or journeys.

- (4) Permits may be revoked or withdrawn by Waterways Ireland.

- (5) Waterways Ireland may, at its discretion, decline to issue any permit.

- (6) Where Waterways Ireland propose to revoke or withdraw a permit it shall, subject to paragraph (7) of this Bye-law, serve notice on the owner of the boat.

- (7) Where it has not been found possible on reasonable enquiry to ascertain the name and address, or to locate the owner, or where the boat, in the opinion of Waterways Ireland or any of its authorised officers, is or is likely to become or create an obstruction or danger to the canal property or other users or is likely to deposit or discharge any offensive or polluting matter on to any part of the canal property, Waterways Ireland or any of its authorised officers may withdraw or revoke the permit without prior notification to the owner.

- (8) Any boat on canal property which is without a valid permit but is being used for a purpose for which a permit is required under these Bye-laws may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

- (9) The owner or master of the boat shall ensure that the permit, licence number, boat number, identification disc issued by Waterways Ireland shall be displayed in such a manner on the boat as to be always visible and legible from the canal bank during daylight hours.

4. Construction and safety measures on boats.

4. (1) A person shall not navigate or moor any boat on the canals unless such boat and the equipment thereof shall be maintained in good and efficient working order, and shall be such and so maintained that no danger is liable to be caused thereby to any person or property.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the owner of each boat used on the canals shall ensure that—
- (a) all steering gear is maintained in good and efficient working order and is properly adjusted;
 - (b) each boat is constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent to such extent as is reasonably possible the emission of any exhaust gasses the emission of which might cause damage to persons or property or to the environment, or endanger the safety or health of any user of the canals;
 - (c) all fuel tanks and all apparatus supplying fuel to the engine of a boat are—
 - (i) of sound construction and adequately vented and have suitable provision for the prevention of spillage of fuel into the boat or canal property; and
 - (ii) placed as far as practicable away from the engine, the exhaust pipe and any cooking or heating appliances;
 - (d) all fuel supply pipes are fitted with a valve designed to shut off the supply of fuel between the tank and the engine;
 - (e) all joints and cocks are easily accessible and maintained in such a manner as to eliminate the risk of fire from leaking fuel;
 - (f) all electric leads shall be adequately insulated and protected and so placed that they cannot cause any danger;
 - (g) each boat with a fixed engine is equipped with a master switch capable of switching off all power to the engine and that each such switch shall be fitted as close as practicable to the terminals of the battery of the boat;

- (h) a toilet fitted to a boat shall be so constructed and fitted as to prevent polluting matter from being discharged or passing into the canals.
- (i) at least one CE approved Carbon Monoxide alarm shall be installed and maintained in working order on all boats that have an accommodation space.
- (j) at least one CE approved smoke alarm or fire detection alarm shall be installed and maintained in working order on all boats that have an accommodation space.
- (k) all open boats fitted with an engine and Personal Watercraft must have an emergency stopping device (kill cord) fitted and attached to the operator while underway.
- (l) The master of a boat shall ensure that said boat does not carry onboard more passengers and crew than is permitted by the boat manufacturer and as stamped on the Watercraft Builder's Plate.

(3) Every boat on the canals shall comply with the requirements of the European Union (Recreational Craft and Personal Watercraft) Regulations, 2017 (S.I. No. 65 of 2017), – the European Union (Recreational Craft and Personal Watercraft) (Procedures for Watercraft Identification) Regulations, 2017 (S.I. No. 217 of 2017) and the European Union (Recreational Craft and Personal Watercraft) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 288 of 2023).

(4) All Houseboats carrying high voltage electrical installation (i.e 220v or 110v) shall have the electrical installation system fitted and maintained to prevent leakage of electrical current. This provision will come into effect two years from the date of the coming into operation of these Bye-Laws specified in Bye-law 1 of these Bye-laws.

5. Equipment of boats.

5. (1) The master, owner or person in charge of a boat used on the canals shall ensure that the boat is equipped with—
- (a) bow and stern mooring lines suitable for the tonnage and length thereof and of sufficient length and tensile strength to moor the boat securely;
 - (b) a suitable anchor, where it is appropriate to the type of boat, and a cable, chain or hawser for use with the anchor;

- (c) sufficient fenders to prevent damage to other boats using the canals, or to canal property;
 - (d) a sufficient number of life buoys and personal flotation devices for all those on board.
- (2) The owner of every mechanically propelled boat used on the canals shall, in addition, ensure that the boat is equipped with
 - (a) an efficient exhaust silencer, and
 - (b) a good and effective means of reversing.
- (3)
 - (a) A person on a pleasure craft (other than a personal watercraft) of less than 7 metres length overall shall wear a suitable personal flotation device while on board an open craft or while on the deck of decked craft, other than when the craft is made fast to the shore or at anchor.
 - (b) The master or owner of a pleasure craft (other than a personal watercraft) shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person who has not attained the age of 16 years complies with paragraph 3(a) of this Bye Law.
 - (c) The master or owner of a pleasure craft (other than a personal watercraft), which is not a craft referred to in paragraph (3)(a) of this Bye-law, shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person who has not attained the age of 16 years wears a suitable personal flotation device while on board an open craft or while on the deck of a decked craft other than when it is made fast to the shore or at anchor.
 - (d) Every person on a personal watercraft shall always wear a suitable personal flotation device while on board or being towed in any manner by a personal watercraft or any type of boat.
- (4) The requirement to wear a suitable personal flotation device does not apply to rowers in boats which are:
 - (a) designed and specifically used for rowing in boat races and which are capable of being entered into regattas or other events recognised by the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, and

(b) of a design and type in respect of which events are held in the Olympic Games or other international rowing regattas.

(5) The master of any boat using the waterway will ensure that a suitable personal flotation device is readily available for each person aboard while under way

6. Liquid petroleum gas on boats.

6. (1) A person shall not have on board a boat used on the canals any cylinder containing liquid petroleum gas or other combustible gas unless such cylinder is—

- (a) secured on deck away from hatches or other openings of the boat or placed in a housing which is ventilated and specially adapted to secure such cylinder and to allow access to the cylinder only from the top of the cylinder;
- (b) installed in an upright position with the valve of the cylinder uppermost;
- (c) installed at a safe distance from any cooking or heating appliance;
- (d) not installed in an engine area or in or near the fuel supply of the boat.

(2) Butane and propane gas burning installations shall comply with International Standards Organisation (ISO) 10239:2014 Small Craft Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) systems and as amended by the ISO.

7. Storage of inflammable spirit on boats.

7. The owner, master or person in charge of any boat navigating or moored on the canals shall take proper steps to ensure that inflammable spirit taken on to a boat shall be loaded, stored and used in such a manner as not to be or become a danger or nuisance to any persons or property.

8. Fire extinguishers on boats.

8. (1) No person shall navigate or moor on the canals a boat which has an enclosed cabin unless there is on board—

- (a) in the case that the boat does not exceed 5 metres in length, a dry powder fire extinguisher of 1.0 kilogrammes capacity,
- (b) in the case that the boat exceeds 5 metres but does not exceed 9 metres,
 - (i) where the boat does not have cooking facilities, a dry powder fire extinguisher of 1.0 kilogrammes capacity, or

- (ii) where the boat has on board cooking facilities, 2 dry powder fire extinguishers each of which is of 1.0 kilogrammes capacity
 - (c) in the case that the boat exceeds 9 metres –
 - (i) where the boat does not have cooking facilities, 2 dry powder fire extinguishers each of which is of 1.0 kilogrammes capacity, or
 - (ii) where the boat has cooking facilities, 3 dry powder fire extinguishers each of which is of 1.0 kilogrammes capacity.
- (2) A boat shall be deemed to comply with the requirements laid down in paragraph (1) of this Bye-law if, in place of a dry powder fire extinguisher, it carries a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher of 2.0 kilogrammes capacity, an automatic engine-room fire-extinguishing system, a fire blanket for a cooking area or a foam extinguisher of 9 litres capacity.
- (3) Fire extinguishers carried on boats in compliance with this Bye-law shall—
- (a) be in good working order, and
 - (b) be located in accessible positions on the boat as near as practicable to points on the boat where the potential for fire is greatest.

9. Domestic appliances on boats.

9. The owner, master or person in charge of a boat used on the canals which is equipped with any appliances for heating, cooking, heating water or keeping food refrigerated, shall ensure that such appliances shall be firmly secured to a solid surface of the boat.

10. Batteries on boats.

10. A person shall not navigate or moor a boat on the canals unless any battery used on the boat is -
- (a) securely installed in a ventilated compartment so as to prevent accidental movement and damage to such battery, and
 - (b) fitted so as to be as far away as practicable from any petrol cock, fuel tank or fuel filter.

11. Maximum dimensions of boats.

11. (1) A person shall not navigate or moor any boat on the Grand Canal, Grand Canal Barrow Line and Barrow Navigation, if such boat exceeds 18.7 metres in length, 4.1 metres in beam and 1.2 metres in draft, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.

- (2) A person shall not navigate or moor any boat in Grand Canal Dock Dublin if such boat exceeds 45.1 metres in length, 9.1 metres in beam and 4.4 metres in draft, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.

- (3) A person shall not navigate or moor any boat on the Grand Canal between lock 36 and Griffith Bridge if such boat exceeds 24.4 metres in length, 4.4 metres in beam and 1.2 metres in draft, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.

- (4) A person shall not navigate or moor any boat on the Royal Canal if such boat exceeds 21 metres in length, 4.1 metres in beam and 1.2 metres in draft, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.

12. Appointment of master of boat.

12. (1) The owner of a mechanically propelled boat, which is powered by an engine exceeding 10 BHP, shall not navigate or permit the navigation of the boat on any part of the canals unless—
 - (a) the owner, or some other person whom the owner deems competent, has been designated by the owner to be master of the boat, and
 - (b) the boat has a competent crew of such number and of such skills as to enable the boat to be navigated safely on any part of the canals, and
 - (c) the master shall be in command of the boat at all times when the boat is under way.

- (2) A person under the age of 16 years shall not operate a personal watercraft (PWC) or a boat capable of a speed through the water equal to or greater than 17 knots.

- (3) The owner of a personal watercraft (PWC) or a boat capable of a speed through the water equal to or greater than 17 knots shall not allow a person who has not attained the age of 16 years to operate or control the craft.
- (4) A person who has not attained the age of 12 years shall not operate or control a boat powered by an engine with a rating of more than 5 horsepower or 3.7 kilowatts.
- (5) The owner of a boat powered by an engine with a rating of more than 5 horsepower or 3.7 kilowatts shall not allow a person who has not attained the age of 12 years to operate or control the craft.

13 Care for other canal users and property.

13. Persons on canal property shall behave with due care and attention and with reasonable consideration for the property and for other persons using the canals.

14. Alcohol or drugs.

14. Persons who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs to such an extent as to have their capability to navigate or have proper control of any boat impaired shall not—
 - (1) navigate such boat on the canals, or
 - (2) use any equipment or installation owned by Waterways Ireland.

15. Prohibitions on navigation

15. (1) Waterways Ireland may prohibit navigation on the canals or any part thereof from time to time for the purposes of—
 - (a) work on the canal property, or
 - (b) any event authorised by Waterways Ireland.
- (2) Waterways Ireland, or any authorised officer, may prohibit navigation on the canals or any part thereof from time to time for the purposes of—
 - (a) an emergency, or
 - (b) preventing the passage of a boat in respect of which a permit has not been issued under these Bye-Laws, or has been withdrawn, or is not displayed in the manner prescribed in Bye-law 3(9) of these Bye-laws.

16. Restriction on navigation by night etc.

16. (1) A person shall not navigate, or cause to be navigated, on the canals any boat by night or in poor visibility, except with the permission of Waterways Ireland.

(2) In this Bye-law "night" means the hours between sunset and sunrise.

17. Navigation.

17. (1) Two mechanically propelled boats shall not run abreast of each other on the canals.

(2) Boats navigating with the stream on the canals shall have precedence of passage through a bridge over those navigating against the stream.

(3) Boats navigating in opposite directions shall pass port side to port side. Where necessary, boats navigating against the stream shall reduce speed, or stop, to allow clear passage to boat a navigating with the stream.

(4) The master, or person in charge of any boat, who is navigating such boat in order to overtake another boat shall overtake on the port side of the boat to be overtaken.

18. Avoidance of danger to self and other canal users and speed on canals.

18. (1) The master, or person in charge, shall not navigate a boat on the canals at such speed or in such a manner as to cause or be likely to cause danger, injury, damage, obstruction or nuisance to other users of the canals, or to any property.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) of this Bye-law, a master, or person in charge, shall not navigate a boat on the canals at a speed in excess of 6 Km per hour.

(3) The master, or person in charge, shall not navigate a boat on the Barrow Navigation at a speed in excess of 11 Km per hour except as necessary for safe navigation in conditions of fast flow.

(4) The master, or person in charge, of any boat on the canals approaching or passing any place where work is being carried on shall reduce speed.

- (5) The master, or person in charge, of any boat used on the canals shall reduce the speed of such boat when approaching any lock on the canals and be prepared to stop and keep out of the way of any boats leaving such lock.

19. Boats under sail.

- 19.(1) A person shall not navigate a sailing boat on the canals unless the mast can be lowered on and secured to the deck of the boat.
- (2) A boat under sail on the canals shall have a right of way over any other boat, except for a mechanically propelled boat which is restricted in its ability to manoeuvre.
- (3) When two boats under sail on the canals are approaching one another, so as to avoid the risk of collision, one of them shall keep out of the way of the other as follows:
 - (a) when each boat has the wind on a different side, the boat which has the wind on the port side shall keep out of way of the other boat, or
 - (b) when both boats have the wind on the same side, the boat which is to windward shall keep out of the way of the boat which is to leeward.
- (4) A person shall not hoist a sail when navigating into or out of a lock.
- (5) For the purpose of this Bye-law, the windward side shall be deemed to be the side opposite to that on which the main sail is carried or, in the case of a square rigged boat, the side opposite to that on which the largest fore-and-aft sail is carried.

20. Operation of locks.

20. The master, or person in charge, of a boat shall—
 - (1) as soon as possible after entry to a lock chamber, control the movement of the boat within the lock by using a line or lines connected to the posts, bollards or rings provided for that purpose;
 - (2) not refuel the boat while it is in the chamber;

- (3) not permit the ignition while in a lock chamber, of any match, artificial lighter or other means of producing a naked flame by any person on board a boat carrying inflammable spirit;
- (4) not attempt to open or close the gates of any lock other than by means provided for that purpose;
- (5) not attempt to open or close the gates of any lock before the water level on either side of such gates is level;
- (6) not operate any sluice until the lock gates are closed;
- (7) not cause or permit any boat under his or her control to delay unnecessarily in any lock;
- (8) ensure that, whenever there is more than one boat in a lock at the same time, the engine of each boat is switched off before the lock gates are closed and remains switched off until the lock gates are opened to allow the egress of the boat;
- (9) not fill or empty or cause the filling or emptying of a lock when there is another boat approaching within sight and reasonable distance of the lock from the opposite direction to the boat under his or her control and where the level of the water in the lock is suitable for the approaching boat to enter the lock;
- (10) not navigate the boat singly through any lock when there is another boat approaching within sight and reasonable distance from the same direction which are capable of being accommodated in the lock at the same time.
- (11) ensure that the person(s) operating the lock gates and racks is wearing a suitable flotation device;
- (12) ensure that all persons on board wear a suitable personal flotation device when approaching and transiting through any movable bridge or lock and;

- (13) ensure that no person remains onboard a kayak, canoe, paddle board or other such craft while it is passing through a lock.

21. Precedence of boats for berths.

21. At every harbour or landing place on the canal property, boats shall have precedence for berths in order of their arrival.

22. Mooring of boats and fixing of ropes.

22. (1) A person shall not moor a boat—

- (a) at any lock, sluice, barrage, weir or bridge in such a way as to cause damage to or cause an obstruction to safe use of the said lock, sluice, barrage, weir or bridge;
- (b) alongside another boat except where there remains sufficient space for two boats to pass and repass at the same time;
- (c) so as to cause danger or obstruct the passage of any boat in any part of the canals;
- (d) in Shannon Harbour (Southern quay wall) in County Offaly, Tullamore Harbour in County Offaly, Edenderry Harbour in County Offaly, Richmond Harbour (Western quay wall) in County Longford, Ballybrannigan Harbour in County Longford, Mullingar Harbour in County Westmeath, Longwood Harbour in County Meath, Kilcock Harbour in County Kildare for more than a maximum of 5 days per month without the permission of Waterways Ireland;
- (e) in Grand Canal Dock and Spencer Dock in the city of Dublin, without a valid houseboat permit for those locations, for more than a total of 40 days in any six months period without the permission of Waterways Ireland;
- (f) along the Dublin Metropolitan canals from the 12th Lock Grand Canal to Grand Canal Dock and from 12th Lock Royal Canal to Spencer Dock in the city of Dublin, without the permission of Waterways Ireland;
- (g) in possession of an annual canals permit between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Grand Canal and between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Royal Canal, within 1km of Bell Harbour Monasterevin on the Grand Canal Barrow Line for more than 10 days per calendar month without the permission of Waterways Ireland.

- (2) A person shall not affix any mooring rope to any sluice, lockgate, bridge or other property of Waterways Ireland not provided for the purpose of mooring.
- (3) Where a mooring rope is affixed to any sluice, lockgate, bridge or other property of Waterways Ireland that is not provided for the purpose of mooring, the rope may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.
- (4) Where a boat is moored on any part of the canals in contravention of this Bye-law the boat may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

23. Placing of buoys etc.

- 23.** (1) Except as is permitted under Bye-law 27 of these Bye-laws, a person shall not place on the canal property any buoy, perch, marker, mooring or mooring post for a period longer than 5 days, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.
- (2) Any buoy, perch, marker, mooring or mooring post placed or left in the canal property in contravention of this Bye-law may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

24. Going aground etc. of boats.

- 24.** (1) The owner, master, or person in charge of any boat which has—
- (a) gone aground on any part of the canal property, or
 - (b) sunk in any part of the canals, shall, as soon as possible after the going aground or the sinking, inform Waterways Ireland thereof, and take all such steps as may be necessary to re-float the boat or remove it from the canal property.
- (2) The owner, master or person in charge of any boat which has sunk in any part of the canals shall mark the place with a marker or buoy where such boat sank and shall maintain the marker or buoy in that place until such boat has been raised.

- (3) Where a boat has gone aground or has sunk in any part of the canal property, the boat may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

25. Placing of objects on canal property.

25. (1) A person shall not place on any part of the canal property any object whatsoever, except as a temporary mooring post, other than with the permission of Waterways Ireland.

- (2) Any object may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland where such object is placed in contravention of this Bye-law.

26. Parking of caravans etc. on canal property.

26. (1) A person shall not park a caravan or any vehicle on canal property in such a place or in such a manner as to cause or be likely to cause danger, injury, damage, obstruction or interfere with the use of the canal property.

- (2) A person shall not park a caravan or any vehicle at the same place on canal property, or within 500 metres of the same place, for a period of more than one week in any calendar month, except with the written permission of Waterways Ireland.

- (3) Any caravan or vehicle may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland where such caravan or vehicle is parked in contravention of this Bye-law.

27. Use of a structure, tent, caravan or vehicle as a dwelling.

27. (1) A person shall not place or use any structure, tent, caravan or vehicle as a dwelling on canal property, except with the written permission of Waterways Ireland.

- (2) Any such structure, tent, caravan or vehicle placed or used on canal property in contravention of this Bye-law may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

28. Removal of boats etc. from canal property.

28. Any boat, vehicle or object may be removed by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland where such boat, vehicle or object interferes with the use of the canals or canal property.

29. Commercial operations on canal property.

- 29.(1) A person shall not engage in any commercial operations on the canal property, except with the written permission of Waterways Ireland. This provision does not apply to sales of merchandise at events on the canals by the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, Heritage Boat Association, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Royal Canal Amenity Group, or registered charities that have received permission from Waterways Ireland to do so.
- (2) Anything whatsoever which is used on canal property for the purposes of a commercial operation in contravention of this Bye-law may be removed and stored by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.
- (3) Licences issued to commercial operations may contain such written conditions as Waterways Ireland deems fit.
- (4) Failure to comply with the conditions of the licence may result in withdrawal of the licence and removal of the commercial operations from canal property.
- (5) All passenger boats, passenger ships and vessels used for commercial operations and carriage for reward shall be certified by the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 2022. This requirement does not apply to vessels and boats that are specified in the Licensing of Passenger Boats (Exemption) Regulations, 2002 (S.I. No. 274 of 2002).
- (6) The master of a passenger boat, passenger ship or vessel used for commercial operations and carriage for reward shall possess a commercial endorsement awarded by a competent authority approved by the Department of Transport. This requirement does not apply to vessels and boats that are specified in the Licensing of Passenger Boats (Exemption) Regulations, 2002 (S.I. No. 274 of 2002).

30. Notice of Waterways Ireland's intention to remove articles from canal property.

30. (1) Where Waterways Ireland, or any person acting on the authority of Waterways Ireland, propose to remove any boat, buoy, perch, marker, mooring, mooring post, tent, caravan, vehicle or object (in Bye-laws 30 and 31 referred to as an article) in accordance with the provisions of Bye-laws 3, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 or 29 of these Bye-laws, Waterways Ireland shall, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Bye-law, serve notice of ~~their~~ its intention on the owner of the article.
- (2) Where it has not been found possible on reasonable enquiry to ascertain the name and address of the owner of the article or where the owner fails on request to remove an article within a reasonable period, Waterways Ireland or any person acting on the authority of Waterways Ireland, may remove the article forthwith.
- (3) Where an article in the opinion of Waterways Ireland, or any authorised officer, is or is likely to become or create an obstruction or danger to the canal property or other users or is likely to deposit or discharge any offensive or polluting matter on to any part of the canal property, Waterways Ireland or any authorised officer, or any person acting on the authority of Waterways Ireland, may remove such article without prior notification to the owner.

31. Removal and disposal of articles from canal property.

31. (1) Where any article has been removed and stored in accordance with Bye-Laws 3, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30(3) of these Bye-laws there shall be payable to Waterways Ireland by the owner of such article compensation equal to the costs incurred by Waterways Ireland in the removal and storage of, and including the cost of making good any expense, loss or damage caused by, such article. The amount of the compensation shall be computed by Waterways Ireland and their certificate as to the amount thereof shall be final.
- (2) Waterways Ireland may dispose of any article which has been removed and stored in accordance with Bye-laws 3, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30(3) of these Bye-laws in any manner it thinks fit where the owner of the article has not claimed it and paid the compensation due within one month following the date of such removal.

- (3) Where Waterways Ireland proposes to dispose of an article in accordance with the provisions of this Bye-law, it shall, subject to paragraph (4) of this Bye-law, and provided the article is valued by Waterways Ireland at more than One thousand Euro (€1,000), serve on the owner of the article a notice of its intention to dispose of the article.
- (4) Where it has not been found possible on reasonable enquiry to ascertain the name and address of the owner of the article, Waterways Ireland shall publish in at least one daily newspaper notice of their intention to dispose of the article.
- (5) Compensation under this Bye-law may, in default of being paid, be recovered as a simple contract debt in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (6) Waterways Ireland shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising from the removal, storage or disposal in accordance with these Bye-laws of any article.

32. Encroachments on canal property.

- 32.** (1) A person shall not erect or place any encroachment whatsoever on any part of the canal property, other than with the consent of Waterways Ireland.
- (2) Any encroachment erected or placed on the canal property in contravention of this Bye-law may be removed by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.
 - (3) Where Waterways Ireland, or any person acting on the authority of Waterways Ireland, proposes to remove any encroachment from the canal property Waterways Ireland shall, subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), serve notice of its intention on the person or persons encroaching.
 - (4) Where it has not been found possible on reasonable enquiry to ascertain the name and address of the person or persons encroaching, or where the person or persons encroaching fails on request to remove the encroachment within a reasonable period, it may be removed forthwith by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.

- (5) Where an encroachment in the opinion of Waterways Ireland, or any authorised officer, is or is likely to become or create a serious danger to the canal property or users or is likely to deposit or discharge any offensive or polluting matter on to any part of the canal property, Waterways Ireland or any authorised officer, or any person acting on the authority of Waterways Ireland, may remove such encroachment from the canal property without prior notification to the person or persons encroaching.
- (6) Where an encroachment has been removed by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland, compensation equal to the costs incurred by Waterways Ireland, including the cost of making good any expense, loss or damage caused by the encroachment, shall be payable to Waterways Ireland by the person or persons encroaching. The amount of the compensation shall be computed by Waterways Ireland and their certificate as to the amount thereof shall be final.
- (7) Compensation under this Bye-law may, in default of being paid, be recovered as a simple contract debt in a court of competent jurisdiction.

33. Wandering or straying animals on canal property.

- 33.** (1) A person shall not allow any animal to be turned loose or permitted to stray on any part of the canal property, except with the written permission of Waterways Ireland.
- (2) Any animal turned loose or permitted to stray in contravention of this Bye-law may be removed and impounded by, or on the authority of, Waterways Ireland.
 - (3) Where an animal is impounded in pursuance of the powers conferred by this Bye-law there shall be payable to Waterways Ireland by the owner of such animal compensation equal to the costs incurred by Waterways Ireland in the removal, transportation and impounding of the animal and including the cost of making good any expense, loss or damage caused by the animal while on canal property in contravention of this Bye-law. The amount of the compensation shall be computed by Waterways Ireland and its certificate as to the amount thereof shall be final.
 - (4) Compensation under this Bye-law may, in default of being paid, be recovered as a simple contract debt in a court of competent jurisdiction.

34. Prohibitions or restrictions on the access of mechanically or electrically propelled vehicles to canal property.

34. Waterways Ireland may prohibit or restrict the access of mechanically or electrically propelled vehicles to any part or parts of the canal property.

35. Protection of wildlife, water quality, fisheries, invasive species, waste, heritage, events, diving and underwater activities, prohibited activities

Protection of Wildlife

- (1) (a) The Royal and Grand Canals are proposed Natural Heritage Areas under the Wildlife Acts, 1976 (No. 39 of 1976) and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 (No. 38 of 2000) and are of high conservation significance for wildlife and habitats.
- (b) Unless authorised by Waterways Ireland and with the appropriate license from the competent authority, a person shall not:
- (c) kill, injure or otherwise interfere with or damage any species of wild life or habitat on canal property which is protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000 or the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011);
- (d) facilitate the killing, injuring or otherwise interference with any species of wildlife on canal property by domestic animals as a result of inadequate control;
- (e) destroy, damage or cut any tree, shrub or plant on any canal property;
- (f) remove any sand, gravel or other material from the canal property;
- (g) light any fire which might endanger any part of the canal property or cause nuisance to other canal users;

Protection of Water Quality

- (2) A person shall not:
- (a) cause or permit any polluting or deleterious matter to enter canal property which adversely impacts compliance with the biological, chemical or hydro-morphological requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003);

- (b) discharge, cause or permit any deleterious matter to enter the canals, or deposit or cause to be deposited waste oil or any offensive matter on any part of the canal property;
- (c) cause or permit any deleterious matter to enter the navigation, contrary to the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 (No. 1 of 1977);
- (d) discharge any sewage, bilge oil or other soiled water (black water) into the canals;
- (e) wash any animal in the canals or any motor car or other vehicle or any article or thing upon any part of the canal property. This Bye-law does not prohibit the washing of boats for aesthetical and maintenance reasons;
- (f) wash or discharge from any agricultural machinery or discharge slurry or effluent associated with agricultural activity;
- (g) empty the contents of any composting toilet system into the canal or onto canal property;
- (h) extract any water from the canals without agreement from Waterways Ireland and subject to the Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Act 2022 (No. 48 of 2022).

Protection of fisheries

- (3) Anglers on the Royal Canal, Grand Canal and Grand Canal Barrow Line and Barrow Navigation shall comply with the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No 10 of 2010) and relevant regulations issued by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Protection against spread of Invasive Species

- (4) A person shall not:
 - (a) transport, release or allow to disperse or escape any animal or plant into the Canals or Barrow Navigation, listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of the Third Schedule to the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (EU) 1143/2014, or anything from which they could reproduce, or a vector material that is listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule to the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (EU) 1143/2014;
 - (b) transport, release or allow to disperse or escape any species of crayfish into the Canals or Barrow Navigation, listed in the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) (Freshwater Crayfish) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 354 of 2018);

- (c) throw, shoot or otherwise propel any stone, shot, bullet or other missile from, into or over any boat on the canals, or the canal property, except to allow for control of invasive species such as mink with the permission of Waterways Ireland.

Prevention of Waste

- (5) A person shall not deposit or leave any litter on any part of the canal property in contravention of the Waste Management Act, 1996(No. 10 of 1996) and the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (No. 12 of 1997).

Protection of Heritage

- (6) A person shall not destroy, damage or deface any canal property and have due regard for the protection of all heritage structures as legislated for under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (No. 30 of 2000), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001), and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (No. 2 of 1930).

Holding of events on canal property

- (7)
 - (a) A person shall not hold any event on canal property without the permission of Waterways Ireland.
 - (b) Waterways Ireland may set whatever requirements regarding insurance, risk assessment, biosecurity measures, waste management, indemnity of Waterways Ireland, appropriate assessment of the impact on birds and wildlife, Health and Safety procedures as it deems necessary.

Diving and underwater activities on the canal property

- (8)
 - (a) Diving operations shall not impede the safe passage of boats in the navigation.
 - (b) Boats operating in support to a diving operation shall display the “A” flag of the International Code of Signals, in a suitable position and high enough to be visible from all directions.
 - (c) All boats shall keep at a sufficient distance from a boat displaying the “A” flag of the International Code of Signals.

Prohibited activities on canal property

- (9) A person shall not:

- (a) bathe or swim in any lock on canal property;
- (b) bathe or swim in any harbour or dock on canal property , except with the permission of Waterways Ireland;
- (c) transit through a lock or movable bridge on canal property without the wearing of a suitable personal flotation device;
- (d) destroy, damage or deface any notice placed by Waterways Ireland, or any notice placed with Waterways Ireland's permission, on any part of the canal property;
- (e) destroy, damage or unlawfully remove any lifesaving equipment from any part of the canal property;
- (f) permit any animals to cause damage to the canal property, or nuisance to canal users;
- (g) permit a dog to be unleashed on any canal property or permit any dog to cause a nuisance to canal users.
- (h) leave any dog faeces or fouling on canal property.
- (i) erect any advertising sign or hoarding on any part of the canal property, except with the written permission of Waterways Ireland.
- (j) cause an obstruction to navigation by leaving in place any nets, wires or other objects across the canals or any part thereof.
- (k) cut adrift any boat moored on the canals;
- (l) go aboard any boat on the canal property without the permission of the owner of that boat except as is necessary to moor or move another boat or to gain access to another boat, or in case of an emergency;
- (m) leave open any gate or rail used as a fence, or part of a fence, on any part of the canal property.
- (n) lift any boat in or out of any canal without the prior permission of Waterways Ireland. Waterways Ireland will designate locations for boat lift out and lift in. Open boats, kayaks and canoes may be launched and recovered at slipways without permission;
- (o) use any bicycle, tricycle or powered personal transporter in a manner that endangers or causes a nuisance to themselves and other users of any greenway, blueway, towpath or cycle path;
- (p) ride or walk any horse, pony or equine animal on a greenway, blueway, towpath or cycle path without the permission of Waterways Ireland;

- (q) place a line or lines or other structures over canals or any part thereof without the written permission of Waterways Ireland;
- (r) cause emissions from boat stoves in contravention of the Air Pollution Act 1987 (No. 6 of 1987).

36. Tolls and charges

36. (1) The owner, master or person in charge of boat shall pay tolls and charges prescribed by Waterways Ireland for the use of the canals as set out in Schedule 1 to these Bye-laws.

(2) A charge of the amount specified in column III of Schedule 1 at any reference number shall be levied on and paid by the owner of a boat to Waterways Ireland in respect of the matter specified in column II of Schedule 1.

37. Waterways Ireland's non-liability for delays and stoppages.

37.(1) These Bye-laws make no representation or give any warranty as to the condition of the canals.

(2) Waterways Ireland shall not be liable for the consequences of any stoppage of navigation or delay arising from the execution of its duties or responsibilities under Canals Act, 1986 and 2018.

(3) The powers conferred on Waterways Ireland by these Bye-laws are in addition to and not a substitution for any statutory or other powers which it may have.

38. Annual canals permit

38. (1) Subject to paragraph (3) and (4) of this Bye-law, an annual canals permit shall be required by all boats, other than annual houseboat permit holders, to navigate the canals, pass through the locks and moor on the canals.

(2) An annual canals permit shall allow the boat to which it relates to navigate the canals, pass through locks and, moor on the canals during the period specified on such permit, subject to the boat complying with the mooring limits stated in Bye-Law 22 of these Bye-laws.

- (3) Exemptions to the annual canals permit requirement apply to the following type of boat:
- (a) an open or undecked punt, canoe, skiff, scull, rowing boat or other such fully open boat designed to be propelled primarily by oars or sail and not propelled by an engine of more than 30 horse-power (22.37KW).
 - (b) Boats holding a current annual registration (having discharged the annual registration fee) with Waterways Ireland in respect of the Shannon Navigation under Bye-Law 6 of the Shannon Navigation Bye-Laws, 2024.
 - (c) Houseboats holding a current annual houseboat permit.
 - (d) Boats holding a current Visitor's Permit.
 - (e) Boats holding a current Commercial Operating Licence from Waterways Ireland in accordance with Bye-Law 29.
- (4) Boats visiting the canals may obtain one 60-day visitor's permit per calendar year and pay the appropriate fee as listed in Schedule 1 to these Bye-laws. If the boat remains on the canals for a period of more than 60 days, the owner shall obtain an annual canals permit and pay the fee for an annual canals permit listed in Schedule 1.
- (5) A person applying for or renewing an annual canals permit in accordance with these Bye-laws shall:
- (a) make his or her application in writing or online to Waterways Ireland and the application shall be in such form as Waterways Ireland may specify;
 - (b) ensure that the boat is in good condition, self-propelled, and capable of being navigated along the entire length of each canal;
 - (c) not cruise the canals with a boat or moor a boat in contravention of this Bye-law.
 - (d) provide proof of third-party insurance to Waterways Ireland for the boat to which the permit application relates.
 - (e) pay the appropriate tolls and charges as set out in the Schedule 1 to these Bye-laws.
- (6) Where in the opinion of Waterways Ireland, a person is spending continuous or prolonged periods living aboard a boat in respect of the which the owner holds an annual canals permit, Waterways Ireland may require the owner of the boat to either

reduce the amount of time spent aboard or acquire a houseboat permit and move to a houseboat mooring to be allocated to the boat at the sole discretion of Waterways Ireland.

- (7) A boat shall not navigate or moor on the canals except under and in accordance with a permit or commercial licence issued by Waterways Ireland under these Bye-laws.

39. Annual houseboat permit

39. (1) An annual houseboat permit shall be required to moor a houseboat on the canals.
- (2) An annual houseboat permit shall allow the boat to which it relates to:
- (a) the use of a houseboat mooring on the canals designated by Waterways Ireland where the boat may be moored on a continuous basis for the duration of the period specified on the houseboat permit.
 - (b) to navigate the canals and pass through locks.
- (3) A houseboat owner shall not rent, let or sub-let or licence for use by a third-party part or whole of a houseboat.
- (4) The sale of a boat shall result in the termination of the annual houseboat permit and the new owner is required to apply for a houseboat mooring in such manner as Waterways Ireland may at any time prescribe.
- (5) The owner of a houseboat shall ensure that the houseboat is in good condition, self-propelled and capable of being navigated along the entire length of each of the canals.
- (6) The owner of a houseboat shall ensure that the houseboat is soundly constructed, adequately ventilated, insulated, heated and suitably equipped for living onboard on a permanent basis.

Types of annual houseboat permit

- (7) The following types of annual houseboat permit may be issued by Waterways Ireland:

(a). Urban - serviced houseboat mooring permit

This permit allows a houseboat to moor in Grand Canal Dock Dublin on a continuous basis for the period specified on the houseboat permit. The mooring location will be designated by Waterways Ireland.

(b). Suburban – serviced houseboat mooring permit

This permit allows a houseboat to moor on a serviced houseboat mooring between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Grand Canal and between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Royal Canal and within 1km of Bell Harbour Monasterevin, County Kildare on the Grand Canal Barrow Line on a continuous basis for the period specified on the houseboat permit. The mooring location will be designated by Waterways Ireland.

(c). Suburban - unserviced houseboat mooring permit

This permit allows a houseboat to moor at an unserviced houseboat mooring between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Grand Canal and between the 16th Lock and the 12th Lock on the Royal Canal on a continuous basis for the period specified on the houseboat permit. The mooring location will be designated by Waterways Ireland.

(d). Rural - serviced houseboat mooring permit

This permit allows a houseboat to moor at a serviced houseboat mooring in a designated mooring location in rural areas on Royal Canal, Grand Canal and Grand Canal Barrow Line between the 16th Lock on the Grand Canal westwards to Shannon Harbour, County Offaly; from the 16th Lock on the Royal Canal westwards to Richmond Harbour, County Longford and outside 1km of Bell Harbour Monasterevin, County Kildare on the Grand Canal Barrow Line on a continuous basis for the period specified on the houseboat permit. The mooring location will be designated by Waterways Ireland.

(e). Rural - unserviced houseboat mooring permit

This permit entitles a houseboat to moor at an unserviced mooring location in rural areas of Royal Canal, Grand Canal, Grand Canal Barrow Line and Barrow Navigation between the 16th Lock on the Grand Canal westwards to Shannon Harbour, County Offaly, from the 16th Lock on the Royal Canal westwards to Richmond Harbour, County Longford and outside 1km of Bell Harbour Monasterevin, County Kildare on the Grand Canal Barrow Line on a continuous basis for the period specified on the houseboat permit.

- (8) A person applying for or renewing a houseboat permit in accordance with these Bye-laws shall:
- (a) make his or her application in writing or online to Waterways Ireland and the application shall be in such form as Waterways Ireland may specify;
 - (b) provide evidence of the boat having passed an in-water inspection conducted by a certified marine surveyor within five years immediately preceding the date of such application confirming compliance with the safety requirements set out in these Bye-laws;
 - (c) provide proof of at least third-party insurance to Waterways Ireland for the boat to which the permit application relates;
 - (d) ensure that the boat is in good condition, self-propelled, and capable of being navigated along the entire length of each canal;
 - (e) not cruise the canals with a boat or moor a boat in contravention of this Bye-law;
 - (f) pay the appropriate tolls and charges set out in Schedule 1 to these Bye-laws.

40. Use of Waterways Ireland drydocks

40. (1) Waterways Ireland may permit a boat to use Waterways Ireland's dry docks at its sole discretion and shall set such conditions as it deems appropriate in relation to charges, insurance, health and safety requirements and management of the dry dock.
- (2) The owner or master of a boat shall pay a charge for the use of Waterways Ireland drydocks on the canals as set out in Schedule 1, the amount of which shall be determined by reference to the estimated length of the occupancy of the dry dock by the boat. The master of a boat shall not place the boat, or cause it to be placed, in a dry dock belonging to Waterways Ireland unless the charge has been paid to Waterways Ireland or arrangements for its payment, acceptable to Waterways Ireland, have been made.
- (3) Heritage boats may be granted use of dry docks facilities for inspections once every two (2) years and may be charged at 50 per cent of the dry dock fees. This use may be granted by Waterways Ireland at its sole discretion, subject to availability, for a maximum period of 3 days.

41. Appeals

41. (1) A person may appeal to the District Court against a decision by Waterways Ireland pursuant to these Bye-laws and on the hearing of the appeal, the District Court may make such order as it considers just.
- (2) An appeal under this Bye-Law shall be initiated by a person by their giving, within 6 weeks of the date on which the decision to which it relates was communicated to the person:
- (a) a notice in writing to the Clerk of the District Court for the district court district in which the place to which the matter relates or would occur or in which the appellant ordinarily resides or carries on any profession, business or occupation, stating the intention of the person to appeal against the decision, and
 - (b) a copy of the notice to an authorised officer at Waterways Ireland, The Docks, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 RW26.
- (3) The jurisdiction conferred on the District Court by this Bye-Law shall be exercised by the judge for the time being assigned to the district court district in which the place to which the matter relates or would occur or in which the appellant ordinarily resides or carries on any profession, business or occupation.

42. Notices

42. For the purpose of these Bye-laws 3, 30, 31 and 32 of these Bye-laws, a notice shall be deemed to have been well and sufficiently served if served or delivered by Waterways Ireland in accordance with Section 7D of the Canals Act, 1986 and 2018.

43. Authorised Officers

43. For the purpose of these Bye-laws, an authorised officer shall be an officer of Waterways Ireland appointed as an authorised officer under Section 7B (1) of the Canals Acts 1986 and 2018.

44. Fixed Payment Notice

44. A Fixed Payment Notice served by an authorised officer of Waterways Ireland in accordance with Section 7A(1) of the Canals Acts 1986 and 2018 shall be in the form set out in Schedule 2 to these Bye-laws or a form substantially to the like effect.

Schedules

- (1) Schedule 1 setting forth tolls and charges.
- (2) Schedule 2 specifying the form and amount of the Fixed Payment Notice.

Schedule 1

Tolls and Charges

I	II	III	IV
No	Description	Amount of charge	Bye-Law reference
(1)	Annual canals permit	€200 per annum	Bye-Law 38. (1)
(2)	Visitor's permit	€40	Bye-Law 38. (4)
(3)	Boats entering dry dock for repairs	Pay a fee of €25 per day.	Bye-Law 40
(4)	Annual houseboat mooring permit	Annual Cost per mooring	Description
	Urban - serviced houseboat mooring	€4,000	Bye-Law 39 (7) a
	Suburban - serviced houseboat mooring	€2,000	Bye-Law 39 (7) b
	Suburban - unserviced houseboat mooring	€1,000	Bye-Law 39 (7) c
	Rural - serviced houseboat mooring	€1,000	Bye-Law 39 (7) d
	Rural - unserviced houseboat mooring	€500	Bye-Law 39 (7) e
(5)	Ancillary Services		
	Use of toilet pump-out facilities the property of Waterways Ireland.	€2.00	Bye-Law 36
	Use of chemical toilets the property of Waterways Ireland.	€2.00	Bye-Law 36
	Use of showers the property of Waterways Ireland.	€2.00	Bye-Law 36
	Use of laundry washing machines the property of Waterways Ireland.	€5.00	Bye-Law 36
	Use of laundry drying machines the property of Waterways Ireland.	€5.00	Bye-Law 36
	Per 2kw hours of electricity supply from power bollards the property of Waterways Ireland	€1.00	Bye-Law 36
	Per large bag of general waste	€5.00	Bye-Law 36
	Per small bag of general waste	€3.00	Bye-Law 36

No: _____

Schedule 2

**Canals Act, 1986 and 2018 (Bye-laws) 2024
FIXED PAYMENT NOTICE**

Waterways Ireland

To.....

Address.....

.....

It is alleged that you have committed an offence under section 7 of the Canals Acts 1986 & 2018.

at *[insert description of the location or address where the offence is alleged to have been committed]*

on *[insert date and description of alleged offence]*

in contravention of the Canals Act 1986 and 2018 (Bye-Laws) 2024 in the particulars of the offence set forth below.

A prosecution in respect of the alleged offence will not be instituted during the period of 21 days beginning on the date of this notice, if during that period you pay to Waterways Ireland, The Docks, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 RW26 the sum of €150 accompanied by this notice.

Nature of the alleged offence	Relevant section of the Acts
Acting in breach of the Canals Act 1986 and 2018 (Bye-Laws) 2024, <i>[specify the bye-law(s)]. (Insert particulars of the offence alleged contrary to the bye-laws)</i>	Section 7A of the Canals Act 1986 and 2018.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....].

Dated this day of 20...

Signed: _____
 Authorized officer,
 Waterways Ireland

Consent to the making of these Bye-Laws

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, in so far as they relate to the charging of fees, consents to the making of the foregoing Bye-laws.

GIVEN under my Official Seal,

____ 2024

Minister for Public Expenditure.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, consents to the making of the foregoing Bye-laws.

GIVEN under my Official Seal,

____ 2024

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

GIVEN under the Official Seal of Waterways Ireland,

____ 2024

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 7 of the Canals Act, 1986 and 2018 empowers Waterways Ireland to make Bye-laws for the care, management, maintenance, control and regulation of the use of the canal property.

The Canals Act, 1986 and 2018 (Bye-laws), 2024 contain the detailed provisions prescribed by Waterways Ireland.

The tolls and charges for the use of certain facilities provided by Waterways Ireland on the canals are set out in Schedule 1.