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Mr Colin Le Ray  
General Manager  
Guernsey Ports

By email to [commercialandproperty@ports.gg](mailto:commercialandproperty@ports.gg)

28 September 2023

Dear Mr Le Ray,

Further to your recent letter on Future Marina Fees, please find below feedback from the Guernsey Yacht Club following consultation with the membership of the Club. The intention of this feedback to Guernsey Ports is to be constructive and balanced.

The consultation took the form of a short questionnaire, seeking responses to the following questions:

**What is your reaction to the future marina charges proposed by Guernsey Ports?**

**How would future marina changes influence your future boating activities?**

**How do you think the future marina charge will contribute to the Island's current and future economy?**

**Which of these statements best reflect you?**

- Current berth holder or pool berth holder
- On the waiting list to become a berth holder
- Former berth holder with no intention to return
- Potential berth holder but not on waiting list
- No interest in becoming a berth holder

A small number of the responses to the GYC survey, were in support of the proposed marina fees, with comments relating to proper investment in the infrastructure, ability to demand improvements in the marina, such as ability to use the Swan pontoons more easily and discouragement for those not prepared to invest in their boating activities.

However, while there were some responses from the Club's membership in support of the proposed increase in mooring fees, of well above inflation, the overwhelming majority of the responses were very much against the proposals.

Many of the members who responded were shocked at the magnitude of the proposed mooring fee increases and are of the view that Guernsey Harbours and specifically the leisure side, eg marinas and pool moorings, already make a surplus for Guernsey Harbours. Words such as horrified, shocking, extortionate, angry, dismay, disbelief, disgusted, appalled and unjust were common in responses.

Many of the respondents are extremely unhappy about their mooring fees paying for losses incurred by Guernsey Airport.

Members who responded were also critical of the level of facilities available to them and were concerned that when comparisons were made with other places, eg South Coast UK marinas, the comparison was not balanced or like for like. Marina users in Guernsey do not have 24/7 tidal access, decent Wi-Fi, the level of security afforded in other places, dedicated parking, showers and toilets. In addition, respondents said the fees charged in the UK etc already included VAT and that if GST were to be introduced in Guernsey this would be a further increase on top of that being proposed.

Over 25% of the Club members who responded to the questionnaire said they would be forced to sell their boat, with some saying that they would leave the Island completely on the back of the proposed marina charge increases.

A more concerning response received was that some people may cut costs on safety items such as life raft and life jacket servicing. Some said they won't replace out of date flares or update electronic safety equipment and will just have to take chances and hope for the best! More calls on the RNLI can be anticipated as a result.

Conversely, some responded with comments saying that reluctantly they would have to pay up. Boating is very important to them and is good for their general health and wellbeing and that they couldn't envisage life without a boat.

Concern was raised that the proposed mooring fee increases may have a detrimental effect on the finances of Guernsey Ports. Rather than increasing revenues, respondents were of the opinion that the reverse could happen if a significant number of people sold their boats and gave up their moorings. They were also of the view that the proposed fee increases would harm the economy of the Island. People will have less money to spend locally, visitors may be discouraged if Guernsey is not competitive with its neighbours.

Concern was also expressed about the negative impact the unintended consequences of the proposed mooring fee increases would have on the local marine traders.

Of the respondents over 75% were current berth or mooring holders with the remainder formed of those on the waiting list and potential berth holders, with a tiny proportion of former berth holders and those with no intention of mooring a boat.

The Guernsey Yacht Club promotes and encourages a wide range of on-water activities. As the responses to the Club's consultation suggest the mooring fee proposals could have a negative impact on the number of boats on the water and therefore access to on water activities, the Guernsey Yacht Club does not support the proposals as they currently stand.

In summary, the Guernsey Yacht Club understands and accepts that Guernsey Ports needs to increase revenue and it understands Guernsey Ports needs to invest in its infrastructure. The Club does not support the Harbour revenue subsidising the loss-making airport.

The Guernsey Yacht Club would, however, support an increase in mooring fees aligned more closely to RPI and related to tangible improvements to the marinas and their immediate facilities.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Wilson  
Acting Commodore