



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

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By e-mail

16 December 2016

Dear Clerks and Chief Executives,

Membership Renewals for 2017

ADA appreciates the increasing pressures on all sections of the drainage, water level and flood risk management industry as budgets are balanced and we try to hold on to resources delivering crucial services to their local communities. ADA have recognised the Government's commitment to maintaining levels of capital and revenue spending on flood risk management and we have been working hard this year to increase the political awareness of the various issues in relation to maintaining good levels of public service in our industry covering capital investment, maintenance and operational activities. Of particular note was ADA's influence in helping to obtain a long-term maintenance spending settlement for the remainder of this government.

We have been able to do that with your help and, having the networks of skilled and experienced people discussing and sharing issues between risk management authorities and project delivery partners, senior policy decision-makers have gained a better understanding of just how economically and environmentally important good management of drainage, water level, water supply and flood risk can be.

Your collective membership across the country is very important to us and, with a small and dedicated team, we offer a service that we hope will provide you with added value to your committee activities. 2017 will see ADA focussing on its core work of being one of the more influential industry voices representing drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities with Government and senior civil servants. Through many of our members, our networks and influencing ability has strengthened over the past 12 months and, most importantly, we remain a politically neutral organisation.

In the Winter edition of the ADA Gazette we have asked for feedback from you, our members, about what matters to you and what you want us to focus on to help you do your job. Please do take the time to complete the quick survey online via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NZ2NR6P>. It will help us to try and provide you with the membership services that are best suited to your needs.

Continuing ongoing work from this year, here is a flavour of what we will be focussing on in 2017;

- Continuing to assist IDBs, Local Authorities, RFCCs and the EA to be able to exchange work more efficiently between each other through the use of Public Sector Co-operation Agreements.
- Continuing to focus on local priorities and local delivery mechanisms for water level and flood risk management work and help grow the local decision making processes.
- Continuing to work with the EA, LAs and IDBs on the details for possible transfer of operation of medium and low risk flood risk management assets.
- Reviewing membership categories and subscription rates
- Continuing to work with Defra on possible review of land valuations and ratings.

ADA – representing drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities

Member of EUWMA- the European Union of Water Management Associations

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- Providing position statements to government and evidence as required to select committees about water level and flood risk management activities
- Working and co-operating with other related associations and organisations to the benefit of the water level and flood risk management industry.
- Providing a rapid response service to members requiring practical advice and policy guidance
- Providing a central repository of information relevant to water level and flood risk managers,
- Reviewing how ADA may be able to assist Local Authorities in support of sustainable drainage policy and strategy.

Thanks to various efficiencies made in the way we run our business and income from successful events in 2016, I am very pleased to announce that we have frozen the ADA membership fees for 2017 at our 2016 rates and for that, your Internal Drainage Board(s) can expect the following continued services from ADA;

- Access to a network of water level management authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the opportunity to share information and experience.
- Influencing and informing meetings with senior civil servants, MPs and Ministers in central government, and feedback to ADA members.
- Quarterly publication of the ADA Gazette.
- Access to the members' area of the ADA Website which contains comprehensive coverage of news, views, information, data and publications relevant to the water level management industry

In addition for 2017, and to help provide you with greater value for your membership fees, we are introducing a **free on-line job advertising service** on our newly updated website for IDBs seeking new staff. I will also take the opportunity of highlighting **FLOODDEX 2017** taking place on 17th and 18th May, once again in Peterborough. Your support of the event in 2016 was hugely important for ADA and I would very much welcome your involvement again in 2017 with the excellent line-up of exhibitors and speakers we have planned.

Finally, ADA is committed to strengthening the role of IDBs in the local priority-setting and decision making for drainage, water level and flood risk management investment and, working closely with you all towards that goal, we will very much value your Board's continued membership of the association next year. Thank you.

With best seasonal wishes,

Innes Thomson
Chief Executive, ADA