

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 29

Policy for the Control of Rabbits, Rats and other Rodents in Board Maintained Watercourses

Review	Audit & Risk Committee on 30 April 2024
Board Approved	11 June 2024
Due for Review	Within 5 years

Introduction

Historically the Board has routinely responded to requests to control rabbits, rats and other rodents in Board Maintained watercourses, this has become unsustainable both financially and ethically responsibly.

Policy

If a request is received from a ratepayer or a member of the public to control vermin, this should be passed to the Maintenance Director. The person taking the enquiry should inform the informant that the Board does not routinely carry out control of vermin, but will review the situation in relation to whether it is causing a flood risk.

Methods of Control

A board employee will visit the site and take photographs

The Maintenance Director, in consultation with the Works Supervisor, will then make the following assessments:

- (a) Is damage being caused to the bank of the watercourse?
- (b) Is it clearly vermin that are causing damage?
- (c) Is the problem only in the watercourse, or is it associated with an adjoining site.
- (d) Can control be safely carried out?

If the Maintenance Director considers the damage to be such that if uncontrolled extra maintenance will be required to the bank, then control of vermin can be considered.

Control can also be considered if the landowner(s) concerned are prepared to also carry out control on adjoining land/properties.

Unless the Board has suitably qualified staff, all vermin control will be carried out by a pest control contractor.

The Board reserves the right to implement Byelaw 12 (Control of Vermin) and / or Byelaw 13 (Damage by animals to bank).