

# The Royal Parks Regulations

Consultation  
Amending The Royal Parks Regulations  
February 2018

**Contents**

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Proposed Changes to The Royal Parks Regulations.....	5
3. Consultation Questions.....	9
Annex A .....	10

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Royal Parks (TRP) is a registered charity that manages over 5000 acres of historic parkland in and around London, including Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. TRP also cares for a number of other open spaces in London, including Victoria Tower Gardens and Brompton Cemetery.
- 1.2. This consultation paper concerns proposed changes to The Royal Parks Regulations. The last changes to the Park Regulations were in 2012.
- 1.3. The Royal Parks are owned by the Sovereign in right of the Crown, with statutory responsibility for their care resting with the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. TRP manages the Parks on behalf of the Government.
- 1.4. The Secretary of State has powers under the Parks Regulations (Amendment) Act 1926 to make regulations to secure the proper management of The Royal Parks. The current principal regulations are The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces 1997.
- 1.5. Managing the Parks is about balancing the needs of different users, preserving the environment and protecting wildlife. The Park Regulations effectively set out a code of behaviour for the park environment, which helps to ensure that they can be enjoyed by everyone.
- 1.6. Further information about The Royal Parks is available on our website at: [www.royalparks.org.uk](http://www.royalparks.org.uk)

The five main objectives of The Royal Parks are:

- to protect, conserve, maintain and care for the Royal Parks, including their natural and designed landscapes and built environment, to a high standard consistent with their historic, horticultural, environmental and architectural importance;
- to promote the use and enjoyment of the Royal Parks for public recreation, health and well-being including through the provision of sporting and cultural activities and events;

- to maintain and develop the biodiversity of the Royal Parks, including the protection of their wildlife and natural environment, together with promoting sustainability in the management and use of the Royal Parks;
- to support the advancement of education by promoting public understanding of the history, culture, heritage and natural environment of the Royal Parks and (by way of comparison) elsewhere;
- to promote national heritage including by hosting and facilitating ceremonies of state or of national importance within and in the vicinity of the Royal Parks.

## **2. Proposed Changes to The Royal Parks Regulations**

- 2.1. The Royal Parks is proposing a number of changes to the Park Regulations. These are set out below.

### **Introduction of a 20mph speed limit for motor vehicles in Hyde Park, The Regent's Park, St James's Park and The Green Park**

- 2.2. The current Park Regulations state that vehicles must not be driven or ridden on a park road in The Green Park, Hyde Park (other than the Serpentine Road, where the speed limit is 15mph), St James's Park or The Regent's Park at a speed exceeding 30mph. We propose to reduce the speed limits in the Parks to 20mph. This is in line with Greenwich, Richmond and Bushy Parks and with an increasing number of roads elsewhere.
- 2.3. 20mph speed limits have already been introduced in many boroughs in the capital. London Borough of Camden, which borders the north of The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, already has a 20mph limit on the roads that it manages. Westminster City Council is also in the process of trialling a 20mph limit across a number of locations, including some near Hyde Park. We consider it wrong that drivers may drive faster within a park environment than on many of the surrounding roads.
- 2.4. We consider that a lower speed limit will contribute towards enhancing visitor safety, the protection of wildlife and improving the park ambience.

### **Q1: Do you support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in: Hyde Park? The Regent's Park? St James's Park? The Green Park?**

### **Q2: If you do not agree with our proposal to reduce the speed limit in Hyde Park, The Regent's Park, St James's Park and The Green Park, please explain why.**

### **Increase parking charges in The Royal Parks**

- 2.5. Parking charges were introduced in Hyde Park and The Regent's Park 23 years ago, and in Greenwich Park in 2000. Changes to the charging rates may only be made by regulation.

The current rates have been in place since 2010 and have not kept pace with the Retail Price Index.

- 2.6. We intend, therefore, to introduce increases that will bring our existing parking charges in line with inflation, and maintain a broad

comparison with the rates levied by authorities in the surrounding areas. We propose a higher charge on Sundays given that the Parks currently experience greater congestion on that day which is detrimental to the park ambience and environment.

*Details of the scheme*

- 2.7. We propose that parking charges should be increased in all the public car parks in Hyde, The Regent's and Greenwich Parks, and would welcome your views on the proposed charges as set out below. The charges are per 15 minutes.

Park	Current charge (Mon-Sat)	Proposed charge (Mon-Sat)	Current charge (Sun/Bank Holiday)	Proposed charge (Sun/Bank Holiday)
Hyde	60p	70p	35p	70p
Regent's	60p	70p	35p	70p
Greenwich	30p	35p	30p	60p

**Q3: Do you support an increase in parking charges?**

**Q4: If you support an increase in charges in principle, do you think that our suggested rates are about right, too high or too low?**

**Introduction of ticketless and cashless payments for car parking**

- 2.8. At present, the Park Regulations require a car parking ticket to be displayed in a parked vehicle. The introduction of ticketless and cashless payments for car parking would allow The Royal Parks to embrace new technology and to introduce facilities such as pay by phone. The removal of cash payments would result in a reduction in operator costs, as well as an elimination of cash-associated theft and criminal damage to payment terminals.
- 2.9. This proposal would reflect the position in most nearby local authorities.

**Q5: Do you support the introduction of ticketless and cashless payments for car parking?**

**Q6: If you do not support our proposal to introduce ticketless and cashless payments for car parking, please explain why.**

**Minor drafting amendments to clarify the intention of existing regulations**

- 2.10. Since the last revision of The Royal Parks Regulations in 2012, the number of drones being used in the Parks has increased to the detriment of wildlife and the visitor experience. We consider that drones should be specifically referenced in the Regulations to make clear that their use is prohibited outside designated areas without written permission.
- 2.11. Similarly, to eliminate any ambiguity in the Regulations, we propose to explicitly state that barbecues and fireworks are not allowed to be lit in the Parks. Regulation 4(31) already states that “no person using a Park shall cause or permit any fire to be lit or to place, throw or let fall a lighted match, similar object or any other thing so as to be likely to cause a fire”.
- 2.12. We consider that these minor amendments will provide clarity to visitors and assist the enforcement of the Park Regulations.

**Q7: Do you agree that the regulations should make clear that drones cannot be used in the Parks, without permission?**

**Q8: Do you agree that the regulations should make clear that barbecues cannot be lit in the Parks, without permission?**

**Q9: Do you agree that the regulations should make clear that fireworks cannot be lit in the Parks, without permission?**

**Q10: Do you have any other comments that relate directly to any of our proposals?**

Please email your comments to:  
[consultation@royalparks.org.uk](mailto:consultation@royalparks.org.uk)

Or write to:  
Consultation – Regulations Review  
The Royal Parks  
The Old Police House  
Hyde Park  
London  
W2 2UH

The closing date for comments is Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

A summary of responses will be published after the closing date for consultation. All information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure under Freedom of Information legislation. If a correspondent requests confidentiality, this cannot be guaranteed and will only be possible if



THE  
ROYAL  
PARKS

considered appropriate under the legislation. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be considered as such a request, unless you specifically include a request, with an explanation, in the main text of your response.

If you have any questions or complaints about the process of consultation on this paper, please contact:

Consultation – Regulations Review  
The Royal Parks  
The Old Police House  
Hyde Park  
London  
W2 2UH

Email: [consultation@royalparks.org.uk](mailto:consultation@royalparks.org.uk)



### 3. Consultation Questions

**Q1: Do you support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Hyde Park? The Regent's Park? St James's Park? The Green Park?**

**Q2: If you do not agree with our proposal to reduce the speed limit in Hyde Park, The Regent's Park, St James's Park and The Green Park, please explain why.**

**Q3: Do you support an increase in parking charges in Hyde, The Regent's and Greenwich Parks?**

**Q4: If you support an increase in charges in principle, do you think that our suggested rates are about right, too high or too low?**

**Q5: Do you support the introduction of ticketless and cashless payments for car parking?**

**Q6: If you do not support our proposal to introduce ticketless and cashless payments for car parking, please explain why.**

**Q7: Do you agree that the regulations should make explicit that drones cannot be used in the Parks without permission?**

**Q8: Do you agree that the regulations should make clear that barbecues cannot be lit in the Parks without permission?**

**Q9: Do you agree that the regulations should make clear that fireworks cannot be lit in the Parks without permission?**

**Q10: Do you have any other comments that relate directly to any of our proposals?**

**Consultation Principles 2016**

**A. Consultations should be clear and concise**

Use plain English and avoid acronyms. Be clear what questions you are asking and limit the number of questions to those that are necessary. Make them easy to understand and easy to answer. Avoid lengthy documents when possible and consider merging those on related topics.

**B. Consultations should have a purpose**

Do not consult for the sake of it. Ask departmental lawyers whether you have a legal duty to consult. Take consultation responses into account when taking policy forward. Consult about policies or implementation plans when the development of the policies or plans is at a formative stage. Do not ask questions about issues on which you already have a final view.

**C. Consultations should be informative**

Give enough information to ensure that those consulted understand the issues and can give informed responses. Include validated assessments of the costs and benefits of the options being considered when possible; this might be required where proposals have an impact on business or the voluntary sector.

**D. Consultations are only part of a process of engagement**

Consider whether informal iterative consultation is appropriate, using new digital tools and open, collaborative approaches. Consultation is not just about formal documents and responses. It is an on-going process.

**E. Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time**

Judge the length of the consultation on the basis of legal advice and taking into account the nature and impact of the proposal. Consulting for too long will unnecessarily delay policy development. Consulting too quickly will not give enough time for consideration and will reduce the quality of responses.

**F. Consultations should be targeted**

Consider the full range of people, business and voluntary bodies affected by the policy, and whether representative groups exist. Consider targeting specific groups if appropriate. Ensure they are aware of the consultation and can access it. Consider how to tailor consultation to the needs and preferences of particular groups, such as older people, younger people or people with disabilities that may not respond to traditional consultation

methods.

### **G. Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted**

Consult stakeholders in a way that suits them. Charities may need more time to respond than businesses, for example. When the consultation spans all or part of a holiday period, consider how this may affect consultation and take appropriate mitigating action.

### **H. Consultations should be agreed before publication**

Seek collective agreement before publishing a written consultation, particularly when consulting on new policy proposals. Consultations should be published on gov.uk.

### **I. Consultation should facilitate scrutiny**

Publish any response on the same page on gov.uk as the original consultation, and ensure it is clear when the government has responded to the consultation. Explain the responses that have been received from consultees and how these have informed the policy. State how many responses have been received.

### **J. Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion**

Publish responses within 12 weeks of the consultation or provide an explanation why this is not possible. Where consultation concerns a statutory instrument publish responses before or at the same time as the instrument is laid, except in exceptional circumstances. Allow appropriate time between closing the consultation and implementing policy or legislation.

### **K. Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods**

If exceptional circumstances make a consultation absolutely essential (for example, for safeguarding public health), departments should seek advice from the Propriety and Ethics team in the Cabinet Office. This document does not have legal force and is subject to statutory and other legal requirements.