

Dear

Boat Name , **Index No.**

This letter is to extend a big welcome as I see that you've recently purchased your first boat licence with us. I do hope your boat and our canals and rivers give you much pleasure over the coming months and years.

I expect by now that you will have explored the boating pages of our website. We hope that this contains all the essential information you need to help you get around. We're always pleased to get feedback so if there's anything you have difficulty finding, do please drop an email to feedback@canalrivertrust.org.uk and this will help us improve it. Or if you're not an internet user, just make a call to our customer service team on 03030 404040.

Hopefully you'll have given us your email address with your licence application, in which case, you'll receive our regular e-newsletter for boaters. If you haven't done this, please drop an email to bltemail@canalrivertrust.org.uk. This is a digest of boating news with occasional comment pieces from boaters. If you feel inspired to share your early impressions of canal or river boating, please consider writing them down and sending to our editor, damian.kemp@canalrivertrust.org.uk .

I see from our records that you don't have a home mooring for your boat, so you're registered as a 'continuous cruiser'. This means that throughout the period of your licence you must 'bona fide' navigate and not stay in the same place for more than 14 days. The definition of navigating implies a journey of some length, so you can't shuffle to and fro in a small area, just because that's where your work or other commitments are.

As a new continuous cruiser, we want to ensure that you don't pick up habits that will lead you into difficulty with our local enforcement team. They are responsible for the regular checks to make sure that all boats are paying their fair share through the licence fee, and that continuous cruisers move in line with the legal requirements. We have published guidance which is designed to help you understand these. Just click on the link on <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating/mooring/want-to-be-a-continuous-cruiser> .

We analyse all continuous cruiser boat movements systematically every month, so to help you avoid problems, we'll write to you if our sightings of your boat start to suggest that you're not moving in a way that suggests proper navigation. If we don't see enough increase in your movement pattern, we'll continue to send you reminders, but by the time we come to send you your first licence renewal form, if it's still not adequate, the only basis on which we will issue you with another licence is if you secure a home mooring in the area where you need to stay. I'd ask you to note that this is a recent change to our process so please don't be confused by other sources which say this is not the case – that will have been based on old information. (See this

news report: <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/spreading-the-word-about-the-demands-of-living-afloat>

You can find information about how to find a home mooring on our website at <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating/mooring/finding-a-home-mooring>

Do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions about your boat licence.

Yours sincerely

Linzi Dean
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