

Severn crossing tolling information note

Information on 8 January prices

Key points

The crossings will transfer to public ownership on 8 January 2018, to be managed by Highways England. Existing staff will transfer to Highways England.

The amount that crossing users pay will fall on 8 January. This is because VAT no longer applies when the crossings are in public ownership.

Payments for using the crossing will cease at the end of 2018.

Prices are shown below. Note that prices for TAGs will also fall by the same proportion.

| Category | Now | 1 January 2018 | 8 January 2018 | 1 January 2019 |
|----------|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | £6.70 | £6.70 | £5.60 | £0 |
| 2 | £13.40 | £13.40 | £11.20 | £0 |
| 3 | £20.00 | £20.00 | £16.70 | £0 |

The Government has announced that it is continuing to require payment to use the crossings, until the end of 2018, to cover costs it incurred during the concession period, and a proportion of the costs that will be incurred as a result of ending tolling.

Detailed points

Whilst tolls usually increase by the rate of inflation on 1 January every year, there will be no increase on 1 January 2018. The Department for Transport is required to produce a tolling order under the Severn Bridges Act for 1 January 2018; this will show the same prices as now.

The prices for 8 January 2018 have been calculated by removing the VAT component, and rounding to the nearest ten pence, for administrative convenience.

To reduce the prices people pay, which is not possible under the Severn Bridges Act, a Charging Order will be introduced under the Transport Act 2000. The Department for Transport is currently making the required legislative changes. This will be complete in time for the 8 January change. From the point of view of the user, and of administration, there is no difference between a toll and a charge. This charging order will be revoked at the end of 2018.

TAG prices will fall by the same proportion, reflecting the removal of VAT. There will be no change to the types of TAGs offered. Further consideration is being given to the issue of season TAGs purchased from 8 December, since they will extend beyond the period of returning to public ownership. No legislative changes are required to change TAG prices.

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