

# Appendix 7:

## Water quality charging scheme

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## Key messages

We have reviewed the activities and costs associated with Water Quality Permitting. Consequently, the existing charges have been amended and new charges proposed. Supplementary charges are proposed where Habitat Regulation Assessments and or Environmental Risk Assessments are required.

We propose to expand the choice of bespoke permits to include six activities.

Landspreading charges, most of which are associated with the disposal of spent or unused sheep dip will require approximately a 10-fold increase in charges to cover our costs.

We are introducing charges for consent to discharge dechlorinated potable water and raw water from a pipework (greater than 229 mm diameter), well or borehole into a watercourse as a result of maintenance or construction works (Water Industry Act, 1991, Section 166 repeated or single event consents) using NRW specific powers to charge.

## Introduction

Our charges reflect the amount of effort required in determining the application, the potential environmental impact or risk, and the extent of the public participation.

It is forecasted that the income generated from the proposed charges will equate to 100% cost recovery.

## Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) – Water quality discharge

Within EPR, operators can apply for two types of permits; a standard rule set and bespoke. The standard rule permit requires operators to adhere to a set of pre-defined standard rules. A bespoke permit is used if the activity, due to the nature of the environmental risk or the nature of the activity, does not fit into one of the standard rule sets.

The water quality discharge activities subject to our strategic review of charges, are for:

- [Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2016, Schedule 21 and Schedule 22](#)
- [Water Industry Act 1991, Section 166 consent](#)

# Our charge proposals

## Bespoke permits

We are proposing to expand on the Bespoke permits available under EPR and offer the following:

- Combined sewer overflow (CSO)
- Domestic treated sewage
- Foul sewer pumping station emergency discharge
- Landspreading
- Trade effluent
- Water Company sewerage network.

Operators may also request to amend a permit. An operator may apply for a variation, a transfer, or to surrender the permit to reflect any change in circumstances which could affect the original conditions ([Part 2, Chapter 3](#)). We may also initiate a variation to the permit conditions to ensure they reflect the most current legislation ([Regulation 20](#))

## Activities that qualify for exemptions

The following activities qualify for exemptions and are not subject to a charge as defined in [Schedule 2 \(Paragraph 5\) of the Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2016](#):

- Septic tank or package sewage treatment plant (<2m<sup>3</sup> per day to ground and <5m<sup>3</sup> per day to surface water)
- Ground source heating or cooling systems
- Discharging small quantities for scientific purposes
- Management of vegetation in or near inland freshwaters.

## Pre application advice

NRW provides a basic pre-application advice service to assist with the application process and help the applicant understand what to do to comply with the law. This advice is provided free of charge. We offer basic advice on:

- confirmation of type of licence or permission required
- the correct application forms to use
- what guidance the applicant must follow

- guidance to help the applicant work out their application charge.

Any subsequent advice is provided through our Discretionary Advice Service charged at a rate of £125 plus VAT per hour and is provided at NRW's discretion.

## Multiple application discounts

Where an operator submits multiple standalone water discharge and groundwater activity permits at the same site, we are proposing to implement the following charges and discounts:

- 100% of the relevant application charge in the tables of charges for the largest application charge
- 50% of the relevant application charge for any secondary activities that are part of the same operation
- 10% of the relevant application charge for the same activity carried out multiple times on the same site.

## Add-on charges

Where required, we are proposing to introduce an add on charge to conduct a [Habitat Regulation Assessment](#) and or an [Environmental Risk Assessment](#).

## Applications with insufficient detail to progress

If we return an application due to insufficient detail and so are unable to progress past the duly made stage, we are proposing to retain 10% of the application charge. An application will only be returned after the operator has been given an opportunity to supply missing information.

## Withdrawn applications

If an application is withdrawn by the operator after reaching the duly made stage, we propose to retain 100% of the application charge. If an application is withdrawn by the operator before progressing from the duly made stage, we propose to retain 10% of the application charge.

# Charges for water quality permit applications

We propose the following charges, based on recovery of our costs to process water quality applications:

## Standard Rules Permits

### Standard Rule SR2010 No.2, discharges to surface water: cooling water and heat exchangers

These rules allow you to discharge up to 1,000 cubic metres of water per day from a cooling circuit or heat exchanger to inland surface freshwaters, coastal waters or relevant territorial waters (as defined in [Section 104 of the Water Resources Act 1991](#)).

Cooling water or thermal discharge	Proposed charges
New	£5,415
Variation – Minor	£933
Variation - Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352
Add-on: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£2,637
Add-on: Environmental Risk Assessment	£2,637

**Standard Rule SR2010 No.3, Surface Water Domestic Sewage Discharge  $\geq$  5 m<sup>3</sup> per day to 20m<sup>3</sup> per day**

It is no longer possible to apply for a new permit. It is possible to vary, transfer or surrender an existing permit.

<b>Domestic sewage</b>	<b>Proposed charges</b>
Variation - Minor	£809
Variation - Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352

# New bespoke permits

## Combined sewer overflow

Single pipe that combines both wastewater from our homes and businesses (toilets, sinks, showers, baths etc) and surface water from roofs and gutters. Storm water is released by an overflow pipe, which spills at designated points, into watercourses or the sea.

Combined sewer overflow	Proposed charges
New	£6,047
Variation - Substantial	£4,838
Variation – Normal	£3,024
Variation – Minor	£907
Variation - Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352
Returned or not duly made	£605
Withdrawn	£6,047
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£3,024
Add-on charge: Environmental Risk Assessment	£3,024

## Domestic treated sewage

Water and human excretions or other waterborne wastes incidental to the occupancy of a residential building or a non-residential building but is free from industrial wastes.

Domestic treated sewage – ground water	Proposed charges		
	<5m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥5m <sup>3</sup> per day to 15m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥15m <sup>3</sup> per day
New	£3,376	£4,167	£5,609
Variation - Substantial	£2,729	£3,362	£4,515
Variation - Normal	£1,759	£2,154	£2,875
Variation - Minor	£627	£745	£962
Variation - Administration	£352	£352	£352
Transfer	£352	£352	£352
Surrender	£352	£352	£352
Returned or not duly made	£338	£417	£561
Withdrawn	£3,376	£4,167	£5,609

Domestic treated sewage – ground water	Proposed charges
	All categories
Add on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£2,734



Domestic treated sewage – surface water	Proposed charges		
	<5m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥5m <sup>3</sup> per day to 20m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥20m <sup>3</sup> per day
New	£3,622	£3,974	£5,609
Variation - Substantial	£2,926	£3,700	£4,923
Variation - Normal	£1,882	£2,365	£3,130
Variation - Minor	£664	£809	£1,038
Variation - Administration	£352	£352	£352
Transfer	£352	£352	£352
Surrender	£352	£352	£352
Returned or not duly made	£362	£397	£561
Withdrawn	£3,622	£3,974	£5,609

Domestic treated sewage – surface water	Proposed charges
	All categories
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£2,734
Add-on charge: Environmental Risk Assessment	£2,734

## Foul sewer pumping station emergency discharge

The foul sewer carries used wastewater to a sewage works for treatment.

Foul sewer pumping station emergency discharge	Proposed charges
New	£5,274
Variation - Substantial	£4,219
Variation – Normal	£2,637
Variation – Minor	£791
Variation - Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352
Returned or not duly made	£527
Withdrawn	£5,274
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£2,637
Add-on charge: Environmental Risk Assessment	£2,637

## Landspreading

Sheep dip and wash-waters produced during animal disease outbreaks. This includes the spreading to land of waste sheep dip and disposal of wash-water produced from the cleaning and disinfecting after an outbreak of animal disease. If you choose to plunge dip sheep and dispose of it via a permit to land as opposed to disposing of it at a suitably licensed facility, the charges are as proposed below.

Non-waste solid discharges to land. This can include disposal of animal carcasses when derogations from the animal by product regulations are in force (for example, as a response to an animal disease outbreak in an emergency).

Landspreading	Proposed charges
New	£3,728
Variation - Substantial	£3,011
Variation – Normal	£1,935
Variation – Minor	£680
Variation – Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352
Returned or not duly made	£373
Withdrawn	£3,728
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£1,670

## Trade effluent

Trade effluent includes any effluent which is discharged from premises used for carrying on any trade or industry ([Section 221 of the Water Resources Act 1991](#))

Trade effluent – ground water	Proposed charges		
	<5m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥5m <sup>3</sup> per day to 15m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥15m <sup>3</sup> per day
New	£3,315	£5,356	£9,238
Variation - Substantial	£2,686	£4,319	£7,424
Variation – Normal	£1,742	£2,763	£4,704
Variation – Minor	£642	£948	£1,530
Variation - Administration	£352	£352	£352
Transfer	£352	£352	£352
Surrender	£352	£352	£352
Returned or not duly made	£331	£536	£924
Withdrawn	£3,315	£5,356	£9,238

Trade effluent – ground water	Proposed charges
	All categories
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£4,534

Trade effluent – surface water	Proposed charges		
	<5m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥5m <sup>3</sup> per day to 20m <sup>3</sup> per day	≥20m <sup>3</sup> per day
New	£3,504	£5,667	£9,782
Variation - Substantial	£2,837	£4,568	£7,860
Variation - Normal	£1,837	£2,919	£4,976
Variation - Minor	£670	£995	£1,612
Variation - Administration	£352	£352	£352
Transfer	£352	£352	£352
Surrender	£352	£352	£352
Returned or not duly made	£350	£567	£978
Withdrawn	£3,504	£5,667	£9,782

Trade effluent – surface water	Proposed charges
	All categories
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£4,806
Add-on charge: Environmental Risk Assessment	£4,806

## Water company sewage network

Sewage disposal works – including a sewage pumping station at the head of a works.

Sewage network - pumping station.

Water company sewage network	Proposed charges
New	£5,573
Variation - Substantial	£4,458
Variation - Normal	£2,786
Variation - Minor	£836
Variation - Administration	£352
Transfer	£352
Surrender	£352
Returned or not duly made	£567
Withdrawn	£5,573

Water company sewage network	Proposed charges
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£2,786
Add-on charge: Environmental Risk Assessment	£2,786

# New charges

## Water Industry Act 1991, Section 166 consents

A Section 166 consent is a special type of consent specifically for low-risk water undertaker discharges from water supply installations and pipelines. They are only required where the discharge point is bigger than 229mm. There are two different types of consents that can be granted:

- Section 166a, single event consent
- Section 166b, repeated event consent.

At present there is no charge for Section 166 consents. Under Section 166 consents, we require the water undertaker to provide information with the application. We review the information provided to decide whether to grant the consent.

We propose to charge for Section 166 consents using the power to charge in Article 12A of [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#). A Section 166 consent will not be considered duly made until the application charge is paid.

Section 166 consents (WIA 1995)	Proposed charges
166a	£772
166b	£1,260

Section 166 consents (WIA 1995)	Proposed charges
Add-on charge: Habitat Regulations Assessment	£630

## Consultation questions – See Appendix 9