



Wessex Water Services Limited
Assurance statement for 2020-21 Indicative Wholesale Charges

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Introduction

Our wholesale charges document fixes the charges that, in the absence of any contractual agreement, our licensed providers have to pay for services we provide in the course of carrying out our duties as a water and sewerage undertaker.

Ofwat's Wholesale Charging Rules published in January 2019 requires undertakers to publish 2020-21 indicative wholesale charges in October 2019.

For the purposes of this document we provide information on wholesale charges defined by Ofwat in its wholesale charging rules.

Indicative charges were reviewed by the Board of Directors in September 2019 based on the best information at the time. Final charges will be updated for November CPIH and the outcome of the PR19 final determination, published in December 2019. Updated charges will be published as part of a wholesale charges document which will fix charges from 1 April 2020. In the event that other new information becomes available, including that received through ongoing stakeholder engagement, 2020-21 wholesale charges will be updated accordingly before their final approval by the Board.

Board ownership

The Board owns and is accountable for the development of the wholesale charges document.

On 29 July 2019 the Board considered and approved the strategy for wholesale charges and the associated governance processes.

On 30 September 2019 the Board considered proposals for changes to wholesale charges policies to be implemented from 1 April 2020 and approved indicative wholesale charges for 2020-21. These charges were subsequently published on 11 October 2019.

The Board further confirmed that to the best of its knowledge and belief the Ofwat assurance requirements were met and duly approved the giving of this assurance statement.

The Board therefore authorised the Company's Managing Director to sign-off of the assurance statement.

Assurance statement for 2020-21 indicative wholesale charges

In making this Assurance Statement, the Board has considered the requirements set out by Ofwat in its Wholesale charging rules and confirms that, to the best of its knowledge and belief:

1. The company complies with its legal obligations relating to the indicative wholesale charges it has published;
2. The Board has assessed the effects of the new charges on water supply and sewerage licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services to eligible customers and to business end-users (as a whole or in groups) and finds that there are no cases where the impact exceeds +5%;
3. The company has appropriate systems and processes in place (including up-to-date models and data) to make sure that the information published about its indicative wholesale charges is accurate; and
4. The company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its indicative wholesale charges.

In addition, the Board considers the Indicative wholesale charges consistent with Ofwat's Wholesale charging rules.

The Board has made this statement based on the information available to it at the current time.

In the event that new information becomes available, including that received through stakeholder engagement and consultation, 2020-21 wholesale charges will be updated accordingly before their final approval.

Signed



Date: 30/09/2019

Andy Pymer
Managing Director
(on behalf of the Board)

Board considerations

In making this Assurance Statement the Board has considered the following requirements set out by Ofwat in its Wholesale Charges Rules (“the Ofwat Assurance Requirements”):

1. The Company complies with its legal obligations relating to the indicative wholesale charges it has published

The Company engaged Mott MacDonald who reviewed and confirmed that:

a. Our Indicative Wholesale Charges for 2020-21 are appropriate to meet our obligations under:

- Ofwat’s Wholesale Charging Rules published in January 2019;
- The Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended in 1999 and 2014) – sections 93A (in so far as the indicative wholesale charges do not derogate from the duty to promote the efficient use of water), 142-148 (as currently in force);
- The Water Industry (Charges) (Vulnerable Groups) Regulations 1999;
- The Water (Prescribed Conditions) Regulations 1999;
- The Water (Meters) Regulations 1988 (Amended 1988)
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – section 43.

b. Our indicative wholesale charges are consistent with the Company’s obligations under licence conditions E and R.

c. That our charges calculations are:

- based on a reasoned forecast of charge multipliers for the charging year; and
- consistent with the Company’s obligations under licence condition B and the PR19 draft determination of prices.

In addition, in 2017 the Company engaged Frontier Economics to review the methodologies by which the Company’s charges are set to confirm that they are defensible under the Competition Act 1998. The balance of charges has not materially changed since then.

2. The Board has assessed the effects of the new wholesale charges on water and sewerage licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying eligible premises (as a whole in groups). It confirms that none of the above groups is expected to see an increase in bill in excess of 5% as a result of the charges proposals

In making this statement, the Board reviewed all proposed changes in charges compared to the previous charging year and considered how these translated into bill changes for a selection of eligible premises.

The indicative wholesale charges for 2020-21 are calculated using a forecast November CPIH of 2.00% (revenues in the draft determination are provided in 2017/18 prices), in line with the most recent forecasts published by HM Treasury.

The Board expects the following changes to wholesale bills:

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Price Control	100 m ³ pa	Change vs. last year	1,000 m ³ pa	Change vs. last year	50,000 m ³ pa	Change vs. last year
Wholesale Water	188	-15.3%	1,841	-15.6%	81,956	-15.6%
Wholesale Wastewater	196	-10.1%	1,583	-12.2%	79,685	-12.1%
Total combined bill	384	-12.7%	3,424	-14.0%	161,641	-13.9%

In addition, the Company engaged Mott MacDonald who reviewed and confirmed that no eligible premises' or retail licensee's wholesale charges will increase by more than 5%. As part of the review the incidence effect for every wholesale tariff at every possible volume or Rateable Value was calculated and assessed.

3. The Company has appropriate systems and processes in place to make sure that the information published about its indicative wholesale charges and additional information is accurate

The Board reviewed and approved the governance and assurance processes and procedures for the setting of charges in July 2019.

In addition to the external assurance laid out above, the Company continues with its internal charges assurance processes including:

- regular update of a charges compliance manual;
- ensuring clear ownership of the process resides with a senior manager, in this case the Director of Regulation and Reform.

The charges setting process requires the economic regulation team to engage with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that the charges proposals are well rounded and practical, in particular there is significant engagement with the Company's internal lawyers and those responsible for billing and collecting charges.

4. The Company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its Indicative Wholesale Charges

The Board was informed that stakeholders have been engaged with in a timely manner. The Company has engaged with its external stakeholders in the following ways:

- The Wessex Water Partnership considered and made comments on our indicative wholesale charges in September 2019.
- The Company met with a number of licensed providers regularly throughout the year. Wholesale charging policy was a standing item on the agenda. We have not received any specific proposals on or changes to our wholesale charges.