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## FIRE TARIFF AGREEMENT & FIRE FIGHTING ALLOWANCE POLICY

<b>Owner</b>	Head of Revenue
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### 1 Background

The Water (Scotland) Act 1980 (Section 9A Part II) states that Scottish Water must not make charges in respect of water used for fire-fighting purposes or for the provision of capacity for firefighting purposes. The Wholesale Scheme of Charges sets out the charging arrangements for Supply Points with firefighting usage or capacity. This policy document provides further details on how Scottish Water will assess the eligibility of applications for the related charging adjustments and allowances.

### 2 Related Documentation

Water (Scotland) Act 1980 (Section 9A Part II)	<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/45/section/9A">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/45/section/9A</a>
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### 3 Definitions

Meter-based fixed charges will be adjusted where a **Fire Tariff Agreement** has been granted. Volumetric charges will be adjusted via a **Fire-Fighting Allowance**. For qualifying supply points, an application must be made to Scottish Water for a Fire Tariff Agreement or Fire Fighting Allowance, following process 26 of the Operational Code.

### 4 Meter Based Annual Charges

Where additional capacity is provided to a Supply Point solely for firefighting purposes, the registered Licensed Provider may apply to Scottish Water for a Fire Tariff Agreement to reduce meter-based fixed charges based on non-fire-fighting capacity requirements.

A Fire Tariff Agreement is available to Supply Points where the capacity required solely to support fire-fighting equipment is greater than the capacity which would otherwise have been

required at the Supply Point. Allowances will not be granted to provide free fire-fighting capacity on top of non-fire-fighting capacity.

Any applications for Fire Tariff Agreements must be made with a completed Meter Size data sheet showing fire-fighting and other fittings at the Supply Point and, where relevant, information from a meter datalogger.

Where a Fire Tariff Agreement is agreed, meter-based fixed charges will be based on the smaller meter size which would be required to support only non-firefighting usage and fittings. Non-fire-fighting requirements will be assessed using the meter size data sheet in Appendix A of Form N of the Operational Code and, where relevant, information from a meter datalogger.

The reduction in meter-based fixed charges will be applied in the CMA systems by reducing the chargeable size and sewerage chargeable size of the meter.

Where fire-fighting demand is significantly higher than non-fire-fighting demand, a combination meter may be required to ensure that consumption at both high and low flow-rates is accurately recorded.

## **5 Volumetric Charges**

No volumetric charges will apply to water supplied to a Supply Point (or to the corresponding foul sewerage drained from the Supply Point) which has been utilised for fire-fighting, fire-fighting training purposes or the testing of firefighting apparatus or equipment.

Where water has been used for the purposes outlined above, a Licensed Provider can apply for a Fire Fighting Allowance to Scottish Water, following process 26 of the Operational Code. Any application must include the following supporting information:

- The date on which the Services were utilised for the purposes outlined above
- Details of the nature of the consumption
- In the case of fire-fighting training or testing fire-fighting apparatus, meter readings immediately before and after the training or testing

Where a Fire Fighting Allowance is agreed, this will be applied in the CMA systems by creating an adjustment meter on the Supply Point covering the duration and volume of the allowance.

## **6 Fire Stations**

Where the Supply Point is a fire station which has facilities for firefighting training and the testing of fire-fighting apparatus, annual and volumetric charges will be adjusted as set out below.

## **6.1 Meter Based Annual Charges at Fire Stations**

Meter Based Annual Charges will be based on the size of water meter which would be required for non-fire-fighting capacity requirements.

Any applications for Fire Tariff Agreements at a fire station must include a completed Meter Size data sheet showing fire-fighting and other fittings at the Supply Point and, where relevant, information from a meter data logger.

An 80/20mm combination meter must be installed at the Supply Point to ensure that both high flowrate consumption for fire-fighting purposes and low flow-rate consumption for domestic purposes are accurately and separately measured. Meter-based fixed charges will be based on the smaller meter size which would be required to support non-firefighting usage and fittings. Non-fire-fighting requirements will be assessed using the meter size data sheet in Appendix A of Form N of the Operational Code and, where relevant, information from a meter datalogger.

The reduction in meter-based fixed charges will be applied in the CMA systems by reducing the chargeable size and sewerage chargeable size of the meter.

If an 80/20mm combination meter is not already installed at the Supply Point, Scottish Water will organise to have one installed.

## **6.2 Volumetric Charges at Fire Stations**

At fire stations, high-flow consumption recorded by the 80mm dial of an 80/20mm combination meter will be assumed to be consumption for firefighting, training or testing of fire-fighting apparatus. Low-flow consumption recorded on the 20mm dial will be assumed to be non-firefighting usage.

Any consumption recorded on the 80mm dial of an 80/20mm combination meter will not attract volumetric wholesale charges. Consumption on the 20mm dial will be charged at the relevant volumetric wholesale charges as outlined in the Wholesale Scheme of Charges.

## **7 Conditions**

The following conditions shall apply to any fire tariff agreements or fire-fighting allowances granted by Scottish Water:

- Scottish Water may review Fire Tariff Agreements to assess their continuing eligibility. Where adequate information to support continuation is not provided by the Licensed Provider, the agreement will be terminated.
- The Licensed Provider is responsible for informing Scottish Water of any material changes in water use on site.
- Scottish Water reserves the right to verify the water use at any time and review the agreement based on the findings.
- No allowance shall be granted in respect of fire-fighting other than via this policy.

- A Fire Tariff Agreement shall not be automatically transferable on change of ownership or tenancy. It is the responsibility of the Licensed Provider to notify Scottish Water or any change of ownership or tenancy. If a change of ownership or tenancy is not notified to Scottish Water and should have resulted in cancellation of a Fire Tariff Agreement, Scottish Water will backdate the correct charges at the supply point to the date of change of ownership or tenancy.
- The effective date of the Fire Tariff Agreement will be the submission date of the accepted application unless the Licensed Provider demonstrates that the current configuration and water use has existed from an earlier date.
- Moving, removing, disconnecting or separating apparatus may provide an alternative method of separately recording non-fire-fighting consumption and capacity. These options can therefore be considered as an alternative to a Fire Tariff Agreement or Fire Fighting Allowance.
- Scottish Water reserves the right to request a change of meter configuration at the Supply Point under section 24b of the Water Scotland Act 1980 (amended by the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002).