

Wessex Water Services Limited
2025-26 Indicative charges for New Connection Services

Introduction

This document sets out our indicative charges for new connection services for 2025-26.

Each year, we review our approach to charging for new connection services to ensure that they are consistent with Ofwat's Charging Rules for New Connection services¹, and reflect the latest available information.

The key changes made this year are as follows:

- We have removed income offset from the calculation of infrastructure charges (Tables 8-1 and 8-2). Ofwat has said this should not be applied for any connection entered into from April 2025.
- We have updated our presentation of sewerage infrastructure charges (Table 8-2) to
 reflect the environmental incentive for committing to zero surface water discharge into
 our network. We now present the <u>credit that would apply</u> by claiming this environmental
 incentive, rather than the net infrastructure charge that would be paid in such
 circumstances. This provides consistency of presentation with Ofwat's forthcoming
 common framework for environmental incentives, as well as with our water infrastructure
 charges, and has not affected the level of our charges.
- To ensure our charges continue to reflect the specific work involved in installing a new connection, we have introduced new charges which include:
 - Enabling a smart meter where this is installed instead of a basic meter (Table 4-2).
 - An out of hours working fee, to recover our costs when it is not possible for us to deliver a S45 service connection in normal business hours (Table 4-2).
 - Customer requested return visits to complete a S45 service connection (Table 4-2).

Across all our charges, we continue to review the underlying labour and materials rates for both contestable and non-contestable elements of new connections work, and update our charges where appropriate. This is required to ensure that we recover the full costs of provision going forwards, and that our charges remain cost-reflective.

We forecast that these changes will result in the cost of delivering the connections set out in Ofwat's Common Worked Examples increasing by more than 10%. While this varies by scenario, the removal of the income offset generally accounts for the majority of the increase. We will publish a full statement of significant change when our final charges are confirmed, setting out the changes for each of Ofwat's scenarios.

In the meantime, we have allocated time for informal discussions on these indicative charges on **Wednesday 11 December**, **10-12am**. We welcome any appointment bookings or other feedback on these indicative charges to <u>developer.services@wessexwater.co.uk</u>.

¹ Ofwat, Charging Rules For New Connection Services (effective April 2022).

We are committed to being fully transparent in the process of setting our charges. This publication ensures that we are providing full and early visibility of what we are expecting to charge over 2025-26. However, these are indicative charges only and should not be relied on. Our final charges will be published no later than 1 February 2025 and will likely vary from these indicative charges as a result of final inflation figures and any other new information that becomes available before publication.

We also note that Ofwat has issued a statutory consultation on changing its Charging Rules for New Connection services, to take effect from 1 April 2025². Ofwat has said that it will issue revised rules as soon as possible after 9 December. Any confirmed changes to its Charging Rules (and associated Common Terms and Worked Examples) will be reflected in our final charges published by 1 February 2025.

² <u>Statutory consultation on changing Ofwat's charging rules to further protect customers in the new developer services framework - Ofwat.</u>

Table 3-1 Charges payable for asset plans and viability studies

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Extract of our network map (i.e. map of existing sewers or mains) – printed or sent electronically	Each	£15
Extract of company's network map (i.e. map of existing sewers or mains) – online access	Each	FREE
Pre-Planning Enquiry Response - to advise points of connection and/or discharge, capacity* and asset protection arrangements	per enquiry	FREE
Site Specific charge for the verification of Odour Modelling	per enquiry	£1,009
Site Specific charge for the Fly Risk assessment	per enquiry	£466

^{*} If computer network modelling is required to assess capacity for a development that is neither allocated in a Local Plan nor has development management approval, we can still provide this service but it will be subject to payment of a fee. Please contact our planning liaison team for details.

Table 3-2 Abortive and additional visit charges

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Any abortive site visit	per visit	£76 + any relevant costs
Additional site inspections	per visit	£138
If site is not ready, standing time for standard 3-man gang	per hour	£165
If site is not ready, abortive fees for standard 3-man gang	each visit	£2,555
If site is not ready, remobilisation charges for standard 3-man gang	as required	£1,277

Table 3-3 Traffic management & road closure charges

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Streetworks permits*	Per charges published at the time by Highway authority area and local council	On application or check the relevant website for information
Road closure - signage	Per closure	£792
Person in attendance for traffic management**	Per day	£301
Suspend / bag off pedestrian crossing	Per crossing	Varies with location***
Suspend / bag off traffic lights	Per job	Varies with location****
Temporary 2 way lights	Per job	£313
Temporary 3 way lights	Per job	£788
Temporary 4 way+ lights	Per job	£826
Designated parking bay suspension	Per job	£186
Temporary pedestrian crossing system	Per job	£834
Electronic variable message sign	Per week	£593

^{*}Permit fees are set locally by each council and highway authority and vary considerably. Therefore, the appropriate charges, consistent with those published at the time of your application, will be added to your quote.

Please visit your local highway authority's website for more details of their fees. Any terms and conditions that apply to their charges will be passed through to you where appropriate, for example: applying a Highway Permit, fees for cancellation, variations or rescheduling of permits. At the time of our publication, there are a range of permit fees: £0-£130 for up to 10 days work and for road closures: £74-£345 depending on the highway authority and the type of road.

Additionally for road closures, the council charges to apply a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO). At the time of publication, examples are: Devon £865 and Bristol £2,177. Please visit your council website for further details and their terms and conditions which we will pass through.

If you need any assistance finding Highways or Council permit fees, please contact us.

Where you require an expedited acceleration of the approvals of a road closure, where applicable and permitted by the relevant Highways Authority, a separate charge will be invoiced as a pass-through cost (currently costs vary to approx £1000). In such cases, the timing of the approval of the road closure remains at the discretion of the Highways department and is not guaranteed.

^{**} This is a highways requirement. At the time we provide an initial quote, we may not be aware if the highway authority will require a person in attendance. Therefore, if this is required you will be informed and invoiced separately for this. The "person in attendance" is provided by our traffic management provider and is fully trained/qualified to do this work.

^{***} This charge will reflect our 3rd party provider at the time of charging. This is currently £430 in BANES, £730 in Wiltshire and £679 in other areas.

^{****} This charge will reflect our 3rd party provider at the time of charging. This is currently £430 in BANES, £730 in Wiltshire and £1,002 in other areas.

Table 4-1 Service connection administration charges (non-contestable) Section 45

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration and application fee where Wessex Water makes the connection (first connection)	per connection	£138
Administration and application fee where Wessex Water makes the connection (each subsequent connection)	per connection	£32
Administration fee where an Accredited Third Party makes the connection (first connection)	per connection	£47
Administration fee where an Accredited Third Party makes the connection (each subsequent connection)	per connection	£26
Trench inspections (where we inspect service pipes laid by others)	per trench	£46

Table 4-2 Service connection charges (contestable) Section 45

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Point of connection enquiry (where the customer has not selected the point of connection)	per enquiry	FREE
Design of service connection (where contestable)	per application	FREE
With Excavation by Wessex Water:		
* Connection (≤32mm diameter) to main including supply and installation of meter & meter box & up to 2 linear metres of service pipe	per connection	£1,068
* Additional connection (≤32mm diameter) - No Excavation required including supply and installation of meter and meter box	per connection	£241
* Connection (>32mm diameter) to main including supply and installation of meter & meter box & up to 2 linear metres of service pipe	per connection	£2,472
 * Additional connection (>32mm diameter) - No Excavation required including supply and installation of meter and meter box 	per connection	£1,497
Supply and lay additional communication pipe in Verge/Unmade Ground (reinstate where required)	per linear metre	£245
Supply and lay additional communication pipe in Footpath (reinstate where required)	per linear metre	£438
Supply and lay additional communication pipe in Road (reinstate where required)	per linear metre	£610
Manifold Connection by means of four port manifold (four connections**) including up to 2 linear metres of communication pipe	per manifold	£2,485
Manifold Connection by means of six port manifold (six connections**) including up to 2 linear metres of communication pipe	per manifold	£2,573
With Excavation by Others:		•
* Connection (≤32mm diameter) to main (including supply and installation of meter & meter box)	per connection	£390
* Additional connection (≤32mm diameter) including supply and installation of meter and meter box	per connection	£241
* Connection (>32mm diameter) to main (including supply and installation of meter & meter box)	per connection	£1,580
* Additional connection (>32mm diameter) including supply and installation of meter and meter box	per connection	£1,497
Manifold Connection by means of four port manifold (four connections**)	per manifold	£1,742
Manifold Connection by means of six port manifold (six connections**)	per manifold	£1,776
Other Applicable Charges:		
Supply and lay additional communication pipe without excavation	per linear metre	£42
Supply 15mm meter (non-AMR)	per meter	£46
Supply 15mm meter (AMR)	per meter	£93
Smart enabling fee	per meter	£86
Install and commission meter and/or meter box - labour only, components not included (only for meter types that necessitate a non-contestable delivery)	per meter	£31
Connection charge for building water (if not metered)	per plot	£99
Traffic management fees		Table 3-3
Road closure fees		Table 3-3
Out of Hours fee	per night	£2,249
Customer requested return visit	per visit	£187

^{*} Connections are contestable unless the work would present heightened risk to existing assets or could affect supplies to existing customers. Our definition of heightened risk is set out and reviewed annually as part of the Contestability Summary. This can be found in the technical guidance documents here.

^{**} Meters charged seperately

Table 4-3 Disconnection charges (non-contestable) Section 62

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Permanent disconnection for domestic properties	each	FREE

Water supply requisitions and water main diversions

Where you requisition a water supply main or request a water supply main diversion (under sections 41 or 185 of the Water Industry Act 1991) we will offer you a price for the scheme based on the fixed charges set out in the charging arrangements if it is reasonable for us to do so.

Where the included works are affected by external factors outside our control, are subject to known or unknown site-specific risks and uncertainties or involve a degree of complexity in delivering the scheme which would make it unreasonable for us to provide an upfront charge, we will provide you with a high-level bespoke estimate.

The high-level bespoke estimate will be designed to fairly recover the costs incurred in delivering the scheme. It will consist of a brief description of the works involved and a site-specific budget price estimate for the whole scheme, taking into account the level of detail and information available to us at the time.

Should you decide to proceed with the scheme, based on the bespoke estimate, it will be delivered on a rechargeable basis with any savings achieved returned to you and any additional costs incurred payable by you.

Instances where you will be offered a bespoke price estimate include, but are not limited to:

- Laying of water mains:
 - o 300mm or greater in diameter, or
 - o involving valve complexes; or
 - requiring a shut down or supply interruption to sensitive organisations or a significant number of customers.
- Where entry to lay or access to the pipe is required through:
 - o land in multiple ownership or occupation;
 - land designated or planned for premium use:
 - o land subject to protracted negotiation or dispute; and
 - o land owned by a protected undertaker (e.g. land owned by Network Rail or the Crown, rivers or motorways).
- Where laying the main would involve crossing a river or motorway.
- Where we are unable to serve statutory notice for the works or require the consent of a 'protected undertaker'. E.g. crossing land owned by Network Rail, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence or the Crown.
- Where ground conditions are particularly difficult (e.g. excavation of rock or artificially hard material) or require temporary or specialist works.
- Where the work to be carried out is close to or in land with particular environmental, historical or archaeological characteristics or in a flood plain.
- Where services or other utility assets (including our own) are discovered or known to be located in close proximity.
- Where the works involved are subject to third party or consenting authority restrictions, constraints or refusals (such as night working).
- Where road closures affect major junctions or where high speed traffic management is required.

There may be occasions where providing an indicative estimate is not possible or where the estimate will not meet the degree of confidence desired by you. In such cases, we will discuss with you the best way to proceed.

Table 5-1 Providing a public main as a Section 41 requisition (non-contestable) Section 41

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Mains administration and application fee	per application	£438
Mains design checking fee (applied whether design is done by us or thin party)	per requisition	£278
Mains connection for connecting 49 properties or less that involves heightened risk to existing assets or could affect supplies to existing customers	per connection	£5,069
Mains connection for connecting 50 properties or more that involves heightened risk to existing assets or could affect supplies to existing customers	per connection	£8,782
Laying of additional mains where required to connect to nearest water main		Table 5-2

Table 5-2 Providing a public main as a Section 41 requisition (contestable) Section 41

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Point of connection enquiry (where the customer has not selected the point of connection)	per enquiry	FREE
Mains design fee (excluding checking fee)	per requisition	£572
Re-design fee where layout subsequently amended	per request	£320
Excavation by Others - Supply and lay pipe	per linear metre	£90
Excavation by Wessex Water - Supply and lay additional pipe in Verge/Unmade Ground	per linear metre	£127
Excavation by Wessex Water - Supply and lay additional pipe in Footpath	per linear metre	£154
Excavation by Wessex Water - Supply and lay additional pipe in Road	per linear metre	£239
Land entry agreements including compensation and legal fees	per linear metre	£33
Providing a booster where a customer desires guaranteed pressure greater than 0.7 bar at any point on the site	per booster	£178,709
Routine in-line mains connections (second connection of main in case of diversion)	per connection	£671
Pressure testing	per test	£544
Chlorination	per phase	£382
Sampling and undertaking standard analysis	per sample	£192
Traffic management fees		Table 3-3
Road closure fees		Table 3-3

Table 5-3 Adopting self-laid mains (non-contestable) Section 51

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Pre-commencement fee	per application	FREE
Re-inspection fee	per site visit	FREE
Legal agreement fee (for new agreements or reassessments of previous assessments)	per adoption	FREE
Late notification of meter details (Non-household only)	per connection	£25
Service connection administration fees (where an SLP is providing these)	per connection	Table 4-1
(Excavate), supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required)		Table 5-1

Table 5-4 Adopting self-laid mains (contestable) Section 51

Table 3-4 Adopting Self-laid mains (Contestable) Section 31	1	
Description	Unit pricing	Price
Mains design fee (excluding checking fee)	per design request	£572
(Excavate), supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required)		Table 5-2

Table 5-5 Diverting water mains (contestable and non-contestable) Section 185

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration and Application fee	per application	£174
Design fee (where a main is to be diverted) (refundable in part)	per design	£2,270
Technical assessment fee (where the design for the diversion is provided by the customer)	per assessment	£270
Inspection fee (where the diversion work is provided by the customer)	per inspection	£261
Disconnection/reconnection of main (shut off)	per connection	£1,262
Disconnection/reconnection of main (line stop)	per connection	£5,517
Decommissioning redundant communication pipe	per linear metre	£33
Reinstatement of ground for washout/sluice valve installation	each	£209
(Excavate), supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required)		Tables 5-1 & 5-2

Table 6-1 Sewer connection charges (contestable and non-contestable) Section 106 & 107

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration, Application & technical approval fee	per application	£93
Connection by means of a Y-junction or saddle (including materials)	per connection	£473
Inspection of a connection via a manhole	per application	£121

Wastewater requisitions and sewer diversions

Where you requisition a sewer or request a sewer diversion from us (under sections 98 or 185 of the Water Industry Act 1991) we will offer you a price for the scheme based on the fixed charges set out in these charging arrangements if the construction work required is simple.

That is:

- The total length of sewer (gravity and pumped) is less than 100m in length.
- Any gravity sewer is no more than 300mm in diameter or deeper than 3m.
- Any pumped sewer is no more than 80mm in diameter or deeper than 1.5m.
- The ground conditions require no temporary or specialist works.
- All waste excavated is classified as inert.
- Where entry to lay or access the pipe is through land that:
 - o Is owned and occupied by a single legal interest;
 - o Is scrubland, moorland or bare agricultural land which is pasture or arable; and
 - Has no hope of development premium hope value.
- Where we are able to serve statutory notice for the works and do not require the consent of a 'protected undertaker'.

Where the included works are affected by external factors outside our control, are subject to known and unknown site-specific risks and uncertainties or involve a degree of complexity in delivering the scheme which would make it unreasonable for us to provide you with an upfront charge, we will work with you using our stage gate process.

Examples of where our staged gate process shall apply include, but are not limited to:

- The laying of sewers involving any of:
 - o pumping stations or treatment works;
 - o the disposal of waste other than inert;
 - o the location and diversion of other services;
 - work where ground conditions are particularly difficult (e.g. excavation of rock or artificially hard material) or require temporary or specialist works;
 - o over pumping of existing flows;
 - dewatering of ground water;
 - the provision of site security;
 - work where the construction period is greater than 12 months;
 - work with restricted access;
 - o work with constraints such as night working or other restrictions;
 - work being carried out close to or in land with environmental, historical or archaeological characteristics or in a flood plain;
 - where road closures affect major junctions or where high-speed traffic management is appropriate;
 - o where entry to lay or access the pipe is required through:
 - land in multiple ownership or occupation;
 - land consisting of residential or non-residential gardens and amenity use;
 - land consisting of woodland, market gardens, allotments or a specialist agricultural use;
 - land designated or planned for premium use; and
 - land subject to protracted negotiation or dispute.
 - where laying the sewer would involve crossing a river or motorway;
 - where we are unable to serve statutory notice for the works or require the consent of a 'protected undertaker'. E.g. crossing land owned by Network Rail, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence or the Crown.

Table 7-1 Providing a public sewer or lateral drain (non-contestable) Section 98

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration & Application fee	per application	£342
Point of connection enquiry (where the customer has not selected the point of connection)	per requisition	FREE

Table 7-2 Requisition charges for new public sewers (contestable) Section 98

Description	Unit pricing	Price	
Gravity Sewer - Supply and lay ≤225mm diameter pipe at ≤3m depth - Excavation by Water Company (reinstate where required)			
In field		£1,995	
In made ground	per linear metre	£2,204	
In road		£2,367	
Gravity Sewer - Supply and lay >225mm & ≤300mm diameter pipe at ≤3m depth - Excavation by Water Company (reinstate where required)			
In field		£2,108	
In made ground	per linear metre	£2,338	
In road		£2,506	
Pumped Sewer - Supply and lay 80mm diameter pipe at ≤1.5m depth - Excavation by Water Company (reinstate where required)			
In field		£1,322	
In made ground	per linear metre	£1,392	
In road		£1,609	
Design & Installation of Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SuDS)	per scheme	Price on Application	
Land entry agreements including compensation and legal fees	per linear metre	£32	
Traffic management fees		Table 3-3	
Road closure fees		Table 3-3	
Decommissioning redundant pipe (if diverting a sewer under a section 185 diversion)	per linear metre	£33	

Table 7-3 Adopting existing sewerage assets (non-contestable) Section 102

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration & Application fee	per application	£114
Technical approval	per application	£526
Inspection	per application	£508
Pumping Station compliance fee	per pumping station	£1,448
Land transfer fee	per agreement	£1,050
Pumping Station telemetry provision via cellular communications, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum	per installation	£2,852
Pumping Station telemetry provision for sites with no cellular communications and/or multiple inhibit links, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum	per installation	Price on Application
Excavate supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required)		Table 7-2

Table 7-4 Adopting new sewerage assets (non-contestable) Section 104

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration & Application fee	per application	£150
Technical approval (Initial Submission)	per application	£692
Technical approval (Subsequent submissions)	per re-submission of application	£277
Adoption compliance fee - for our estimated construction cost <£50k	fixed cost (up to 2 inspections per month)	£1,231
Adoption compliance fee - for our estimated construction cost £50k - £100k	fixed cost (up to 2 inspections per month)	£2,954
Adoption compliance fee - for our estimated construction cost £100k - £1m	fixed cost (up to 2 inspections per month)	£4,679
Adoption compliance fee - for our estimated construction cost >£1m	fixed cost based on our estimated construction cost	0.40%
Legal agreement fee (for new agreements or reassessments of previous assessments)	per agreement or per adoption	£532
Surety or deposit (if appropriate) (refundable in part)	percentage of our estimated construction cost	10% or minimum of £5,000
SUDS Adoption compliance fee	per SUDS	Price on Application
Deed of grant fee	per agreement	£842
Pumping Station adoption compliance fee	per pumping station	£1,448
Land transfer fee	per agreement	£1,050
Pumping Station telemetry provision via cellular communications, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum	per installation	£2,852
Pumping Station telemetry provision for sites with no cellular communications and/or multiple inhibit links, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum	per installation	Price on Application
Excavate supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required)		Table 7-2

Table 7-5 Diverting a public sewer asset – major or minor diversion (non-contestable)
Section 185

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Administration & Application fee (includes letter of agreement)	per application	£148
Technical assessment fee (where the design for the diversion is provided by the customer)	per assessment	£348
Inspection fee (where the diversion work is provided by the customer)	per site	£484
Surety or deposit (if appropriate)	percentage of our estimated construction cost	10% or minimum of £500 for minor diversion, or minimum of £5,000 for major diversion
Appraisal fee (where we divert a critical or major sewer) (refundable in part)	per appraisal	£2,000
Pumping Station compliance fee (for option 2 diversions)	per pumping station	£1,448
Land transfer fee	per agreement	£1,050
Pumping Station telemetry provision via cellular communications, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum - only chargeable under option 2 diversions where developer builds pumping station	per installation	£2,852
Pumping Station telemetry provision for sites with no cellular communications and/or multiple inhibit links, as compliant with Design and Construction Guide (DCG) and Wessex Water's Associated Addendum - only chargeable under option 2 diversions where developer builds pumping station	per installation	Price on Application
Excavate supply and lay pipe (and reinstate where required) or decommission redundant pipe		Table 7-2

Table 8-1 Water infrastructure charges Section 146

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Infrastructure credits to account for relevant use within the last five years	Number of credits	-£252 / -£152
Infrastructure charges due for the development	Charge per dwelling	£252
Relevant multiplier charges due for the development	Charge based on fittings	RM x £252
Environmental incentive for sustainable development consuming <100 lpppd	Credit per dwelling meeting specifications	-£100

The environmental incentive is a credit on the full water infrastructure charge that is available for those developer customers who provide evidence that a new property will consume less than 100 litres per person per day. Further details of the process to claim this credit are published on our website³.

Table 8-2 Sewerage infrastructure charges Section 146

Description	Unit pricing	Price
Infrastructure credits to account for relevant use within the last five years	Number of credits	-£1,004 / - £502 / - £100
Infrastructure charge due for development (no surface water abatement)	Charge per dwelling	£1,004
Relevant multiplier due for the development	Charge based on fittings	RM x £1004
Infrastructure charge for schemes with the inclusion of an agreed SuDS scheme that attenuates the flow of surface water into our existing or proposed network	Charge per dwelling	£502
Environmental incentive for schemes that commit to zero surface water discharge into our existing or proposed network	Credit per dwelling meeting specifications	-£402

The environmental incentive is available for those developer customers who commit to zero surface water discharge into our existing or proposed network, giving the duel outcome of benefitting the environment and lowering the charge paid. Customers that wish to claim the credit against the infrastructure charge will need to provide information on the applicable plots.

We previously presented this as an alternative sewerage infrastructure charge that would be paid in such circumstances (i.e. where the new connection results in zero surface water drainage). This year, reflecting Ofwat's forthcoming common framework for environmental incentives, we are instead presenting the <u>credit that would apply</u> by claiming this environmental incentive. The level of credit presented in Table 8-2 is against the infrastructure charge that would be paid for connections that include an agreed SuDS scheme (which most development sites will be required to include, in order to obtain planning permission).

This change also ensures consistency of presentation with our water infrastructure charges and associated environmental incentive. This change has not affected the level of these charges.

³ We expect to update the application process for this environmental incentive in advance of 1 April 2025, when Ofwat finalises its Envirionmental Incentives Common Framework that it has recently consulted on. See Ofwat, <u>EICF-consultation conclusions and final consultation.</u>

As the income offset no longer applies from 1 April 2025, we have removed this from Table 8-1 and 8-2. The full charges presented here will apply.