



# Connection Charges Statement

1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

**INDEPENDENT WATER NETWORKS**



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## 1.0 Introduction

Independent Water Networks Ltd (IWNL) operates across a number of regions within England under Ofwat's New Appointments and Variations (NAV) provisions. A new appointment is made where a limited company such as IWNL is appointed and authorised by Ofwat to provide water and/or sewerage services for a specific geographic area.

IWNL connects new housing and mixed used developments with new water and wastewater services. This statement sets out the principles, and where appropriate, the costs that IWNL will use to determine charges for providing new connections from its network to premises located within its licensed area(s).

This document does not cover new connection requirements outside of IWNL's NAV boundary. Should you wish IWNL to provide the water and/or wastewater infrastructure for your new build development, please contact IWNL, using the Contact Information below, and we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

This Connection Charging Scheme has been created in accordance with Ofwat's "Charging Rules for New Connection Services (English Undertakers)" to the extent that they apply to small companies such as IWNL.

When determining charges, we will take account of:

- (a) fairness and affordability;
- (b) environmental protection;
- (c) stability and predictability; and
- (d) transparency and customer-focused service.

At our discretion, we may charge a fee of £10 (exc VAT) for each hard copy of this document provided in accordance with a request. An electronic copy of this document is available free of charge from the IWNL website at [www.iwnl.co.uk](http://www.iwnl.co.uk).

## 2.0 Contact information

If you would like to contact IWNL in relation to any of the services referred to in the Connection Charges Scheme, you can contact our Asset Team using the following details:

Independent Water Networks Limited

Driscoll 2

Ellen Street

Cardiff CF10 4BP

Telephone: 02920 442716

Email: [developerenquiries@iwnl.co.uk](mailto:developerenquiries@iwnl.co.uk)



## 3.0 Applying for a connection

If you are seeking to connect a main to an existing IWNL water main or sewerage system in order to supply a new development located within IWNL's area of appointment, you will need to submit an application to IWNL. An application form can be found on the IWNL website at [www.iwnl.co.uk/developers/developerservices/new-connections](http://www.iwnl.co.uk/developers/developerservices/new-connections) or alternatively, you can request a connection application form using the contact details in section 2 above.

The information that you provide via this form will allow IWNL to assess your request and provide a quotation for the requested works. To process your enquiry, we may also require information from the upstream company to whose system our network connects. Once we have received this information, we will provide you with a connection offer.

Any proposed connection to an IWNL network (whether for supply or discharge purposes) must be assessed and approved by IWNL prior to the works commencing to ensure the integrity of IWNL's network can be maintained. Failure to obtain approval in advance could impact IWNL's ability to adopt relevant assets. As part of the process, it may also be necessary to liaise with the incumbent water operator, so as to gain consent for any works.

Once we have received your completed application, we will process your request and provide you with a connection offer that will be valid for 3 months. Where applicable, the connection offer may be subject to us receiving any information we may require from the upstream water company that our network connects to. The connection offer will include a description of the works to be carried out by us, a breakdown of costs and the terms on which the connection is to be provided.

## 4.0 Requests for connection to premises outside of IWNL's appointed area

The provision of connections to premises that are outside of IWNL's appointed areas are outside the scope of this statement. Should you wish IWNL to provide the water and/or wastewater infrastructure for your new build development, please contact IWNL and we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

## 5.0 Contestable & non-contestable works

There are some services which only IWNL can undertake, these are described as "non-contestable services". For other services, termed as "contestable services" you are free to contract with any contractor who is accredited to the Water Industry Regulation Scheme (WIRS) to undertake the works. WIRS is a scheme administered by Lloyd's Register on behalf of the water industry in England and Wales. Services that fall within the description of "Non-Contestable Services" are listed below:

### **NON-CONTESTABLE WORK**

Any work that may result in supply interruptions or affect water quality to existing customers may only be carried out by IWNL. Such activities include;



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- Design
  - establishing a point of connection to our existing network;
  - design and installation of reinforcement works;  Design Approval
- Design approval
  - approval of on-site water distribution system (except where self-certification arrangements are in place)
- Installation
  - work on an existing main requiring specialist attention due to risk related to the material type, previous incidents or the strategic importance of the main;
  - mains connections that involve heightened risk to existing assets or could affect supplies to existing customers;
  - installation of an offsite main intended to be shared with an unrelated new development;
  - serving notices for land entry, and negotiation with third party landowners and occupiers;
  - source of water connections to water companies' existing assets;
  - service connections larger than 63mm in diameter, except where the connection is to be constructed as part of main laying works;
  - service connections less than 63mm in diameter on existing service connections less than 63mm in diameter on existing mains where a water company assessment indicates that the condition of the main or the material heightens the risks to existing assets or could affect supplies to existing customers.
- Commissioning
  - decommissioning of mains

For further information and a definitive list of contestable and non-contestable works, please refer to the Code of Practice for the Self-Laying of Water Mains and Services – England and Wales Edition 3.1. This can be accessed via the water UK website at:

[www.water.org.uk/technical-guidance/developers-services/codes-for-adoption/](http://www.water.org.uk/technical-guidance/developers-services/codes-for-adoption/)

## 6.0 Self-lay connections

You may choose to appoint and use your own contractor to carry out the elements of the work described as “contestable”. This is known as a ‘Self Lay’ scheme.

Where you appoint the contractor, you will be responsible for paying the resulting contractor charges for carrying out the work.

Any proposed connection works to an IWNL network must be assessed and approved by IWNL prior to the works commencing, to ensure the assets are designed and constructed to a suitable standard. On acceptance of the completed works, IWNL will take ownership of the assets provided by your contractor



## 7.0 Charges for new service connections

In providing a connection, we will provide a communication pipe to the curtilage of your premises. This usually runs between and from the street in which our water main is laid to a point adjacent to the boundary of your premises. (Street has the meaning given to it by the New Road and Street Works Act 1991).

You will be responsible for providing the supply pipe from the communication pipe to your property. Our connection offer will include a description of the works to be carried out by us and a breakdown of the areas of significant cost. The quotation will also set out the terms under which the connection is to be provided.

Our connection charge will comprise:

- The full cost of works undertaken by us to provide the connection from our existing main to the curtilage of your property.
- Charges levied on us by third parties in respect of the works (for example legal costs in securing any land rights, street works notices, or costs passed down to us from the incumbent water company)

Sometimes we may undertake work that is over and above that required to meet your connection requirements. In these cases, we will either:

- base our charge on the works that would be required to meet your sole connection needs; or
- apportion costs between your needs and the needs of the wider network.

The approach we adopt will be the lowest cost approach to you.

For information:

- All water connections to premises are metered in accordance with the provisions of the Water Industry Act 1991.
- We will only provide connections to private pipework that complies with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (1999)

If you are a non-household customer wishing to connect to IWNL's network, you will need to have selected and informed IWNL of your nominated water retailer.

## 8.0 Charges

We provide a wide range of services to support new developments. The way that we currently charge for many of these services is set out in legislation, under the Water Industry Act 1991. The upfront fixed charges for any work undertaken by IWNL to support new developments typically fall into one of five main charging categories. We may also provide for other alternative methods for calculating charges but, where we do so, each alternative method will be explained clearly as part of the Charging Arrangements.

a) Connection Charges - These charges relate to the services we provide to customers that require connections to a water main or public sewer.

b) Diversion Charges - These charges are payable when customers ask us to move our pipes so that land can be cleared to facilitate development. Unlike requisition charges, the full costs reasonably incurred in diverting an asset are payable by the developer.

c) Infrastructure Charges - These charges are payable when domestic premises are connected to our water supply network and sewerage system for the first time



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Infrastructure charges are collected by all water and sewerage companies and are standard across the water industry.

d) Requisition Charges - These charges relate specifically to the services we provide to customers that require us to construct new water mains or sewers to extend our networks to several properties within a new development. Developers pay a contribution towards the cost we reasonably incur in delivering the requisitioned mains and sewers. However, in some cases, we are required to increase capacity in our existing networks as a direct consequence of the connection of a new development. Where this happens, we include the costs of the network reinforcement works when calculating the contribution a developer is required to pay us.

e) Self-Lay Charges and Payments - A developer may choose to employ a Self-Lay Provider (SLP) to construct new water mains and service connections as an alternative to requisitioning them from us. The developer pays the SLP directly for constructing the new water assets and we subsequently make a payment to the developer or SLP when the mains are adopted by us.

## 9.0 Payments

IWNL offers the following payment methods;

- Credit/Debit Card
- Cheque
- Bank Transfer

