

Statement of significant changes to charges – Retail

(Published January 2021)

Introduction

This statement of significant changes is made under Ofwat's charges scheme rules (rule A2) <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/charges-scheme-rules/>. It sets out changes we are making to our charges in the 2021-22 charging year for residential customers.

This statement does not discuss the increase in the total bills (i.e. wholesale charges plus retail charges) for business customers, because we exited the business customer retail market with effect from 1 April 2017. Information about significant changes to our non-household wholesale charges can be found in our Updated statement of significant changes to primary non-household wholesale charges, published in October 2020 <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/3960/statement-of-significant-changes-to-charges.pdf>

This statement does not discuss the year-on-year change in infrastructure charges. Information about our infrastructure charges can be found in our Infrastructure Charges Scheme and Charging Arrangements document <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/developing-building/connection-charging-arrangements>

(a) Bill increases of more than 5% from the previous year (for a given customer type assuming a constant level of consumption)

Residential customers

Assuming a constant level of consumption (or rateable value or number of bedrooms in the case of rateable value-based charges and assessed measured charges respectively), no class of residential customer will experience an increase in their total charges (i.e., wholesale plus retail) of more than 5% from the previous year.

The tables below provide a summary of bill increases for each basis of charge (measured, assessed measured, rateable value) for a range of customers.

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Measured customers

Volume m3/a >>>	50	100	150	200	250	300	350
Dual Service							
Change £	8.90	14.13	19.35	24.58	29.80	35.02	40.25
Change %	3.75%	3.52%	3.42%	3.37%	3.34%	3.32%	3.30%
Sewerage Only							
Change £	4.70	6.87	9.04	11.22	13.39	15.57	17.74
Change %	3.22%	2.88%	2.73%	2.65%	2.60%	2.56%	2.53%
Water Only							
Change £	4.21	7.26	10.31	13.36	16.41	19.46	22.51
Change %	4.59%	4.45%	4.40%	4.37%	4.35%	4.34%	4.33%

Assessed measured customers

Number of bedrooms >>>	Single Occupier	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5 Bedroom
Dual Service						
Change £	10.20	12.27	14.38	15.96	16.45	17.22
Change %	3.70%	3.61%	3.54%	3.50%	3.49%	3.48%
Sewerage Only						
Change £	5.21	6.06	6.95	7.61	7.80	8.13
Change %	3.11%	2.98%	2.88%	2.83%	2.81%	2.79%
Water Only						
Change £	4.99	6.21	7.43	8.35	8.65	9.09
Change %	4.62%	4.55%	4.50%	4.48%	4.47%	4.46%

Rateable value customers

RV £ >>>	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500
Dual Service										
Change £	6.88	10.23	13.58	16.93	20.28	23.63	26.98	30.33	33.68	37.03
Change %	4.01%	3.70%	3.56%	3.48%	3.43%	3.39%	3.36%	3.34%	3.33%	3.31%
Sewerage Only										
Change £	3.89	5.34	6.79	8.24	9.69	11.14	12.59	14.04	15.49	16.94
Change %	3.54%	3.14%	2.95%	2.83%	2.76%	2.71%	2.67%	2.64%	2.61%	2.59%
Water Only										
Change £	2.99	4.89	6.79	8.69	10.59	12.49	14.39	16.29	18.19	20.09
Change %	4.85%	4.60%	4.49%	4.43%	4.40%	4.37%	4.36%	4.34%	4.33%	4.32%



(b) Details of significant changes in charging policy from the previous year

Residential customers

Social tariff update

To support more customers we are increasing our social tariff to £6, this will support funding for up to 107,000 customers. We are also reviewing the level of income to become eligible to be on the tariff.

Business customers

Structure of wholesale charges for business customers

In 2017-18, we introduced a new transitional fixed wholesale charge for non-household customers. This was intended to help smooth the transition to the opening of the non-household retail market and reduce the risk of bill increases for larger customers. When we introduced these fixed wholesale charges, we made clear that they were temporary and that they would be phased out over time.

We removed the fixed wholesale charge for our wastewater charges in 2020-21 and reverted to fully volumetric charges. We intend to phase out and remove our water fixed wholesale charges over the current five-year price control period, but are committed to doing so in a way that does not lead to significant bill changes for customers. For the 2021-22 charging year we are proposing to delay the further phasing out of the water fixed wholesale charges, due to forecast increases in water charges arising from other factors. We expect to continue the phasing out of these wholesale charges from 2022-23.

New ammonia charge

We are introducing a separate wholesale charge for ammonia within the Mogden formula that is used to determine trade effluent charges. This will provide more clarity for businesses on the costs of treating their ammonia discharges, enabling them to respond to these price signals. This change will mean our wholesale charges will partly reflect the amount of ammonia discharged into the sewerage system and will translate into lower wholesale charges for customers with a low ammonia discharge, and higher wholesale charges for customers with a high ammonia discharge, making the wholesale charges more cost-reflective. We set out a shadow charge in 2020-21 to ensure our customers could prepare for the charge being introduced in the following charging year. We have engaged with our trade effluent customers and have decided to phase in the charge in order to limit the bill increases for customers next year.