

Assurance statement

New connections and developer services 2025/26

ASSURANCE STATEMENT AS AT 8 JANUARY 2025

This assurance statement is provided in relation to United Utilities Water Limited's (UUV) new connections and developer services charges and charges scheme for 2025/26.

Our charges for new connections and developer services are the charges that are payable in respect of new connections, for any services we provide in the course of carrying out our regulated duties.

The charges presented here are consistent with UUV's final determination for 2025/26, published by Ofwat on 19 December 2024. Our new connections and developer services charges scheme reflects our non-primary regulated charges for site-specific activities and the relevant revenue from our wholesale price controls.

1. LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE

UUV's new connections and developer services charges and charges scheme have been prepared in accordance with its legal obligations, the Charging Rules for New Connection Services¹, and the Charges Scheme Rules² issued by the Water Services Regulation Authority ("Ofwat").

UUV has also taken into account the Company's statutory obligations relating to charging.

UUV's legal department has provided a legal review of the charges scheme to check for and enable consistency with UUV's operating and legislative requirements under its Instrument of Appointment and principal governing legislation.

Management has undertaken a review of each charging rule to demonstrate how each charging rule has been complied with, and this document will be published on the United Utilities website.

2. SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

The Board manages the effective and efficient delivery of its obligations and operation of everyday activities within the business by the interaction of:

- **Authorisations, approvals and procedures:** These are set out in the United Utilities Group PLC (UUG) Internal Control Manual (ICM) to provide guidance to employees as to the system of internal controls which they must follow when acting on behalf of UUV and UUG as a whole. The ICM sets out a framework within which underlying detailed procedures and policies operate.
- **Policies:** The Board has adopted an overriding set of business principles. These are supported by a range of underlying policies that provide guidance to its employees as to how they should conduct themselves when acting on behalf of UUV and UUG as a whole. Everybody working for or on behalf of UUV must comply with the policies (to the extent they are applicable to their roles). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken. This could lead to dismissal and possible civil or criminal prosecution in serious cases. Significant policy changes are presented to the appropriate committee for discussion to review the potential impacts to customers of proposed changes, prior to being approved for implementation.

¹ Issued under sections 51CD, 105ZF, 143B and 144ZA of the Water Industry Act 1991

² Issued under sections 143(6A) and 143B of the Water Industry Act 1991

Assurance statement

New connections and developer services 2025/26

- **Governance and control:** The Board delegates responsibility for specific matters to a number of committees and working groups. This provides a framework that employees are expected to be aware of and comply with where relevant to their role to ensure business decisions are taken in accordance with best business governance practices. Potential changes to charges are presented to the appropriate committee for discussion and potential impacts to customers of proposed changes are reviewed. Monthly Charges Reform meetings in relation to Developer Services charges are a focal point for the Company to review all developments in charges to ensure that charging issues are given proper consideration by the directors and senior managers with accountability for approving the Company's annual charges schemes.

To oversee and take decisions affecting the execution of its obligations, the UUW Board:

- Receives and reviews performance reports from the relevant employees of the Company;
- Receives and reviews presentations from the UUG Corporate Audit Team, the financial and technical Auditors;
- Receives and reviews presentations from the directorates with responsibility for wholesale and household retail services, and functional (e.g. Finance and IT) directorates;
- Has access to executive and senior managers in the Company to verify information.

Specifically in relation to charges, the Board:

- Reviews and approves the Charges Assurance Statements;
- Reviews and approves the Statements of Significant Changes;
- Receives board reports, highlighting progress and any issues from the relevant business areas;
- Has access to senior managers in the Company to verify information;
- Is presented with information regarding compliance with Ofwat charging rules and the management of the various constraints;
- Is presented with evidence of stakeholder consultation;
- Is presented with significant proposed changes to the charges schemes and any modifications to the tariff structure prior to inclusion within the charges schemes; and
- Receives updates on progress with proposed changes at appropriate times.

Policy statements have been developed to support the application of the high level charging principles contained within the Charges Schemes. These statements are allocated, owned and reviewed by appropriate operational managers. A process is defined for approval of both changes to policy statements and for the introduction of new policies.

There are processes that support these policy statements with a plan to review these to reflect changes made to the Charges Schemes for 2025/26.

The Company's charges processes also include procedural and quality controls designed to provide assurance of the accuracy, completeness and reliability of data reported. The Company's procedures for the charges include:

- The written methodologies are subject to annual review and approval by an appropriate manager.
- The charges schemes are subject to a series of reviews by members of the Company's legal team for compliance with the relevant legislation.
- On completion, each charges scheme is reviewed and approved by operational and senior managers.

Assurance statement

New connections and developer services 2025/26

The charges scheme preparation is subjected to an established series of internal reviews and approvals by employees who are independent of the data compilation process.

The Board considers that the Company has appropriate systems and processes in place to make sure that the information contained in the new connections and developer services charges and the charges scheme is accurate.

3. ENGAGEMENT WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

UW has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its new connections and developer services charges and charges schemes for 2025/26. The Company carried out a variety of stakeholder consultation activities during 2024 - including focus group sessions in May and September - and technical update sessions in March and July which included a section on charges.

UW has continued to consult with stakeholders on the approach taken for the development of charges, including ongoing communication on the removal of the income offset from 1 April 2025. Communication of our transition plan for the removal of the income offset was first communicated on 5 October 2022 at the annual Developer Day. We have continued with our compliance review of our sustainable development incentives to ensure that the criteria of the schemes are being met and are driving the right customer behaviour.

UW has published an Engagement With Stakeholders document which includes a summary of engagement with CCW³ in relation to charging matters and UW's response to the feedback received. The same document contains a summary of stakeholder events held during the year, key feedback received from stakeholders and UW's response to these. This engagement has included explanation of the likely increase in charges for 2025/26.

4. DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

The Board considers that in preparing and approving the new connection and developer services charges and charges scheme the Company has, using the best information available at the current time, applied the processes, procedures, governance and internal systems of control described above. They have been applied in a manner which has enabled it to satisfy itself, to the extent that it is able to do so from the facts and matters available to it, that the charges scheme is reliable, accurate and complete in all material respects and meets its obligations.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Louise Beardmore

Chief Executive Officer

³ Consumer Council for Water