

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear, unambiguous guideline on the Return to Sewer allowance. The policy will also act as a backbone of any Scottish Water (SW) processes or procedures related to the Return to Sewer allowance.

2 Related Documentation

SW-WHPOL-RTSCHK-01 Return to Sewer Allowance Application Checklist

3 Definition

The Return to Sewer allowance is stored as Data item D3007 in the Central Systems and defines the % of water supplied to a Water Supply Point which is returned to the Scottish Water sewer via the corresponding Sewerage Supply Point. The default value is 95%, which assumes that 95% of the water that goes into a non-household premises is returned to the sewer as waste water. If a Licensed Provider (LP) believes that the return to sewer at a Supply Point is less than 95% of metered water volume supplied to the premises, the LP must apply to SW for a reduction in the Return to Sewer allowance and detail how and where the water is lost.

If the situation at the Supply Point is not one of the standard scenarios catered for in this Policy or if the LP disputes the percentage, they will be required to provide calculations to support the application.

For all accepted applications, Scottish Water will notify the Central Market Agency of the extent of the allowance.

4 Sports Grounds/ Golf Courses

For a number of businesses, such as sports clubs and golf courses less waste water than the standard 95% may be returned to sewer due to regular watering of greens, pitches and courses. Typical return to sewer percentages are shown in Table 4.1 below. For any applications from these types of business, the applicable Return to Sewer allowance from Table 4.1 will be applied unless further supporting detail is provided by the LP justifying why it should be less.

4.1 Return to Sewer Percentages

TYPE OF USE	% RTS
Bowling Club with 1 Green (real grass) and catering or other indoor facilities	75%
Bowling Club with 2 Greens (real grass) and catering or other indoor facilities	55%
Bowling Club with 1 Green (real grass) and no catering or other indoor facilities	55%
Bowling Club with 2 Greens (real grass) and no catering or other indoor facilities	35%
Golf Club with 1 Supply Feeding Clubhouse & Sprinklers	60%
Golf Club with Individual Main for Water Sprinklers	5%
Garden Centres	70%
Cricket/Football/Rugby Clubs with a Real Grass Pitch, Shower Facilities with no catering or other indoor facilities	40%



Cricket/Football/Rugby Clubs with a Real Grass Pitch, Shower Facilities with catering or other indoor facilities

50%

5 Swimming Pools

A reduced Return to Sewer allowance will be considered for swimming pools that have modern air extraction to take account of evaporation caused by heated water and a large surface area. They are not liable for Trade Effluent Consent.

Allowance requests must be received in writing and must be calculated for each premise, as evaporation will depend on the surface area of the pool.

The evaporation loss must be calculated and deducted from the standard 95% Return to Sewer allowance.

Please note that losses from a boiler are negligible. The reason is that as pool water comes into the boiler, it is heated via heat exchangers and then is returned directly to the pool.

5.1 Example of Evaporation Losses Calculation

Example:

Swimming pool area: 12m by 25m (300m²)

Daily opening hours: normally open 12 hour per day and covered when not in use.

Days open per year: normally open 309 days per year taking into account holidays.

Yearly average consumption: 10585m³/year (must be based on actual meter read data spanning at least 12 months)

Yearly Evaporative Losses

= Rate per hour (0.470 litres) x area of pool x daily opening hours x days open per year

= 0.470 x 300 x 12 x 309 = 522828 l/year or 522.83m³/year

Return to Sewer allowance

= (standard 95% RTS) – (Yearly evaporation loss/Yearly average consumption x 100)

= (95%) – (522.83/10585 x 100) = 90%

Return to Sewer allowance for this customer would be set at 90%.

6 Headage Assessment

For any type of non-household customer not covered in sections 4 and 5 above and where all of the water used, other than for domestic use does not return to sewer, an application for a reduced Return to Sewer allowance must be based on a headage assessment and supported by evidence to why a significant proportion of water supplied to the premises is not returned to sewer.

Scottish Water will consider the use of alternative information to support the calculation of Return to Sewer allowances where it can be demonstrated that this information is likely to be more reliable than a headage calculation. An example would be production data which reliably demonstrated the amount of water supplied to a premises in a given period which was used in the manufacture of an end product rather than being returned to sewer.



The headage assessment must be calculated using domestic consumption based on the number of employees, this figure should then be expressed as a percentage of total volume which becomes the return to sewer figure for that supply.

The figures in table (6.1) must be used to calculate domestic consumption based on the number of employees.

6.1 Employee Type

Permanent Residents	120 litres/head/day
Full time employees (workplace with canteen)	50 litres/head/day
Part time (or full time with no canteen)	25 litres/head/day

6.2 Example of Headage Assessment Calculation

Example:

Business: Plastic Manufacturer with a canteen
Total water consumption: 1700m³ per quarter (90 days)
Employees: 20 Full Time

Return to Sewer allowance

$$= 20 \times 50 \text{ litres} \times 90 \text{ days} = 90\text{m}^3 \times 95\% = 85\text{m}^3$$

85m³ expressed as a percentage of 1700m³ is 5%.

Return to sewer allowance for this customer would be set at 5%

7 Foul Sewerage Meter Based Annual Charge

Section 5.3.2 of the Wholesale Charges Scheme suggests that where a low Return to Sewer allowance has been assigned to a Supply Point, the Foul Sewerage Meter Based Annual Charges will be derived from the size of the water meter that would be required to provide the volume of water that is returned to sewer.

Where a Return to Sewer allowance of less than 95% has been agreed, the Sewerage Chargeable Meter Size at the Supply Point will be revised accordingly.

Water meters are sized based on a combination of the annual consumption and the likely peak demand (based on the known Loading Units) at a Supply Point. At Supply Points with a Return to Sewer allowance of less than 95%, the Sewerage Chargeable Meter size will be determined based on the same consumption tables used for sizing Water meters. A copy of the table is shown below. The Loading Units are not relevant for the Sewerage Chargeable Meter size as this is a notional size for charging purposes rather than a physical meter.

Meter Size	Consumption Profile
	From - To (m3/year)
20mm	0 - 2609
25mm	2610 – 6263
40mm	6264 - 10439
50mm	10440 - 62599
80mm	62600 - 100159



100mm	100160 - 150239
150mm	150240 - 375599
200mm	375600 - 625999
250mm	626000 - 1001600
300mm	1001601 - 9999999

8 Conditions

The following conditions shall apply to any Return to Sewer allowance granted by Scottish Water.

- A non-standard (i.e. less than 95%) Return to Sewer allowance shall not be automatically transferable on change of ownership or tenancy. It is the responsibility of the Licensed Provider to notify Scottish Water of 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 non-standard Return to Sewer allowance, Scottish Water reserves the right to backdate the correct charges at the supply point to the date of change of ownership or tenancy.
- Scottish Water reserves the right to review the Return to Sewer allowance at any Supply Point where a percentage of less than 95% has been granted.
- Scottish Water reserves the right to carry out flow monitoring in order to verify volumes returned to sewer.
- Should Scottish Water carry out such a review and there is a significant difference between the agreed allowance and what is actually being returned to the sewer, SW may amend the Return to Sewer allowance for that Supply Point from the date that the review was undertaken.
- Scottish Water reserves the right to conduct a site visit to verify any details provided to support an application for a reduced Return to Sewer allowance.
- Licensed Providers are responsible for informing Scottish Water immediately of any significant increase or decrease in consumption or change of circumstances at the Supply Point which could affect the accuracy of the Return to Sewer allowance.
- No Return to Sewer allowance of less than 95% shall be granted other than via this policy.
- Scottish Water may amend, withdraw or replace this Policy.