

Student Accommodation

In line with Scottish Government guidance, full time students studying at a Scottish University or College are exempt from water and wastewater charges.

Student accommodation is typically council tax banded by the Scottish Assessors and is therefore not an eligible premise in the non-household market.

The exception is a small number of instances where student accommodation is part of a combined site, including non-household premises, and the entire site is served by a single metered supply. In such cases, where practical, deductive sub meters record the consumption at the council tax banded student accommodation. These sub meters are reflected in a meter network at the CMA such that consumption at the student accommodation is not subject to wholesale charges.

Any non-domestic property or non-domestic element within a student accommodation property (e.g. office or shop) that is not currently in charge will be processed into the market in accordance with the relevant market processes for registering gap sites.

The definition of a full time student for the purposes of applying this policy is based on the definition used by local authorities for exemption from Council Tax. A full time student is:

- Someone who is undertaking a course of education at a college or university for 21 hours or more per week for a least 24 weeks
- Under 20 years old and is undertaking course(s) of non-advanced education which leads to the award of a relevant qualification for 12 hours or more for at least 3 months

Water and sewerage charges apply for any occupancy by non-full time students. These will be household charges levied by Scottish Water directly to the occupier.

When a premise changes use (e.g. Student accommodation ceases to be occupied by full time students or vice versa) Scottish Water should be advised and the charges will be amended accordingly.