

AffinityWater

Wholesale Charges Board Assurance Statement 2023/24



1. Introduction

The Board of Affinity Water Limited (the "Company") has overseen the preparation of Affinity Water's Wholesale Charges 2023/24 (Wholesale Charges Schedule). The Board met on 6th January 2023 to review the preparation of the Wholesale Charges 2023/24 and the assurance provided by internal and external assurance providers.

The Board has:

- Considered compliance with the requirements published in Information Notice 22/03, setting out Ofwat's expectations for company charges in 2023/24;
- Considered compliance with the requirements of Ofwat's Wholesale Charging Rules (re-issued on 20 October 2021);
- Considered the actions undertaken by management to prepare the Wholesale Charges 2023/24 to meet these requirements;
- Reviewed the processes established to provide assurance that the Company complies with its legal obligations relating to Wholesale Charges 2023/24 and assurance reports provided by internal and external assurance providers;
- Assessed the effects the Wholesale Charges 2023/24 will have on water supply licensees supplying customers in Eligible Premises and noted that there are instances where Primary Wholesale Charges increases will exceed 5%;
- Approved the Statement of Significant Changes in Wholesale Charges 2023/24 set out in Section 2 below;
- Approved the Board Assurance Statement set out in Section 3 below; and
- Considered the compliance with each of Ofwat's Charging Rules as set out in Appendix 3 (Compliance with Wholesale Charging Rules).

2. Statement of Significant Changes in Wholesale Charges 2023/24

The Board has reviewed how changes in wholesale tariffs would affect the wholesale charges made to water supply licensees supplying customers in Eligible Premises. It has reviewed the Schedule of Primary Wholesale Charges set out in Appendix 1 and the schedule of changes in typical wholesale bills in Appendix 2, noting that in all cases, increases in Primary Wholesale Charges are set to exceed 5%. The likelihood that final wholesale charges would need to increase by more than 5% was highlighted earlier this year in the Company's publications of 15th July and 15th October and in the Statement of Significant Change it published in October.

During the year, the Board received information assessing the impact of bill changes on customer bills and on the handling strategy developed by management to manage implementation of changes to charges. Having given due consideration and made enquiries of management, it approved the impact assessments and handling strategies developed.

The majority of non-Primary charges are also likely to increase by more than 5%. We have assessed the overall wholesale revenue associated with non-Primary Wholesale Charges as less than 0.5% of Primary Wholesale Charges and are therefore satisfied that the overall impact on water supply licensees of these increases is not significant.

The Board considered the differences between the final Primary Wholesale Charges set out in Appendix 1 and the company's Indicative Primary Wholesale Charges published on 15 October 2022. Final charges differ from indicative charges by 0.05% on average, after accounting for the difference between forecast and actual inflation and this is not material. The Board notes that in its indicative charges publication, the Company was fully transparent about the inflation forecast used to project its indicative charges and highlighted that the final charges outcome could differ as new information became available.

3. Board Assurance Statement

The Board of Affinity Water Limited, having made due enquiry of management and having considered reports from internal and external assurance providers confirms, to the best of its knowledge, that:

(a) The company complies with its legal obligations relating to the Wholesale Charges 2023/24 it has published.

(b) The Board has assessed the effects of the new charges on water supply licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and (assuming such charges are passed through by water supply licensees to their customers) on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) and approves the impact assessments and handling strategies developed in instances where bill increases for licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) exceed 5%.

(c) The company has appropriate systems and processes in place (including up-to-date models and data) to make sure that the information published about its Wholesale Charges 2023/24 is accurate.

(d) The company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its Wholesale Charges 2023/24.

(e) Where final Wholesale charges are significantly different from the indicative Wholesale charges published for the same period, the Board has considered the reasons why those changes occurred and has issued a statement explaining why those changes were not anticipated and/or mitigated.



Ian Tyler
Chairman
13 January 2023

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Primary Wholesale Charges

Central Region

Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80
Household Volumetric Charge (£/m ³)	1.0926
Household Watersure Maximum Charge (£/year)	150.16
Household Lift Tariff Maximum Charge (£/year)	169.60
Household Metered Field Supply Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80

Non-Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Colne Area	0.6894
Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Lee Area	0.8474
Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Rickmansworth Area	0.6894
Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - North Surrey Area	0.7084
Household Non-Metered Swimming Pool, Sprinkler or Pond Charge (£/year)	80.90
Household Non-Metered Leisure Pool or Hot Tub Charge (£/year)	28.40

Assessed Charges

	2023/24
Household Assessed Charge - 1 occupier (£/year)	87.80
Household Assessed Charge - 2 occupiers (£/year)	142.40
Household Assessed Charge - 3 occupiers (£/year)	201.40
Household Assessed Charge - 4 or more occupiers (£/year)	260.40

East Region

Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80
Household Volumetric Charge (£/m3)	1.8622
Household Watersure Maximum Charge (£/year)	194.77
Household Lift Tariff Maximum Charge (£/year)	169.60

Non-Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Tendring Hundred Area	1.2734
Household Non-Metered Hosepipe Charge (£/year)	50.30

Assessed Charges

	2023/24
Household Assessed Charge - 1 occupier (£/year)	95.00
Household Assessed Charge - 2 occupiers (£/year)	162.10
Household Assessed Charge - 3 occupiers (£/year)	231.00
Household Assessed Charge - 4 or more occupiers (£/year)	331.50

Southeast Region

Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80
Household Volumetric Charge (£/m3)	1.9817
Household Watersure Maximum Charge (£/year)	231.57
Household Lift Tariff Maximum Charge (£/year)	231.95

Non-Metered Charges

	2023/24
Household Non-Metered Sprinkler Charge (£/year)	80.90
Household Non-Metered Tap Charge (£/year)	27.70

Assessed Charges

	2023/24
Household Assessed Charge - 1 occupier (£/year)	145.60
Household Assessed Charge - 2 occupiers (£/year)	244.70
Household Assessed Charge - 3 occupiers (£/year)	351.70
Household Assessed Charge - 4 or more occupiers (£/year)	458.70

Metered Charges for larger meters and non-eligible premises

	2023/24 Excl.VAT
Fixed Charge 12-15mm Meter (£/year)	16.80
Fixed Charge 19-21mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 25mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 30-32mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 38-40mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 50mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 65mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Fixed Charge 75-80mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Fixed Charge 100mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Fixed Charge 150mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Fixed Charge 200mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Household Metered Field Supply Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Standby Charge (£/year)	20162.64
Standard Volumetric Charge (0-3Ml) Central Area (£/m3)	1.0926
Mid User Volumetric Charge (3-50Ml) Central Area (£/m3)	1.0299
Volumetric Charge Tariff D2C (no longer offered to new customers) (£/m3)	1.1053
Large User Volumetric Charge (Over 50Ml) Central Area (£/m3)	0.7049
Standard Volumetric Charge (0-3Ml) East Area (£/m3)	1.8622
Mid User Volumetric Charge (3-50Ml) Southeast Area (£/m3)	1.9817

Non-Metered Charges for non-eligible premises

Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Colne Area	0.6894
Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Lee Area	0.8474
Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Rickmansworth Area	0.6894
Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - North Surrey Area	0.7084
Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Folkestone Area	1.2734
Non-Metered Swimming Pool, Sprinkler or Garden Pond Charge (£/year)	80.90
Non-Metered Leisure Pool or Hot Tub Charge (£/year)	28.40
Non-Metered Field Supply Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80

Assessed Charges for non-eligible premises

Assessed Fixed Charge (£/year)	16.80
Assessed Volumetric Charge (£/m3) - Central Area	1.0926

Non-household schedule of primary wholesale charges

Central Region

Metered Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Fixed Charge 12-15mm Meter (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Fixed Charge 19-21mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 25mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 30mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 38-40mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 50mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 65mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 75-80mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 100mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 150mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 200mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge Metered Field Supply (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Large User Fixed Charge (Over 50Ml) (£/year)	16250.04

Non-Household Standard Volumetric Charge (0-3Ml) (£/m3)	1.1052
Non-Household Mid User Volumetric Charge (3-50Ml) (£/m3)	1.0299
Non-Household Large User Volumetric Charge (Over 50Ml) (£/m3)	0.7049

Non-Metered Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Non-Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Colne Area	0.6208
Non-Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Lee Area	0.7757
Non-Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Rickmansworth Area	0.6208
Non-Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - North Surrey Area	0.6393

Assessed Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Fixed Charge 12-15mm Meter (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Fixed Charge 19-21mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 25mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 30mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 38-40mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 50mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Assessed Volumetric Charge (£/m3)	1.1052

East Region

Metered Charges

2023/24
excl. VAT

Non-Household Fixed Charge 12-15mm Meter (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Fixed Charge 20mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 25mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 40mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 50mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 80mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 100mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 150mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Large User Fixed Charge (Over 100MI) (£/year)	30917.52
Non-Household Large User Fixed Charge (50MI - 100MI) (£/year)	19307.52
Non-Household Mid User Fixed Charge (25 - 50MI) (£/year)	8867.52

Non-Household Standard Volumetric Charge (0-3MI) (£/m3)	1.8747
Non-Household Standard Volumetric Charge (3-5MI) (£/m3)	1.8747
Non-Household Mid User Volumetric Charge (5-25MI) (£/m3)	1.6685
Non-Household Mid User Volumetric Charge (25-50MI) (£/m3)	1.3138
Non-Household Large User Volumetric Charge (50-100MI) (£/m3)	1.1050
Non-Household Large User Volumetric Charge (Over 100MI) (£/m3)	0.9889

Non-Metered Charges

2023/24
excl. VAT

Non-Household Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Non Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Tendring Area	1.2602

Assessed Charges

2023/24
excl. VAT

Non-Household Fixed Charge Assessed (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Employee Based Volumetric Charge (£/m3)	1.8747

Southeast Region

Metered Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Fixed Charge 12-15mm Meter (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Fixed Charge 20mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 25mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 30mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 40mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 50mm Meter (£/year)	30.20
Non-Household Fixed Charge 80mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 100mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge 150mm Meter (£/year)	120.00
Non-Household Fixed Charge Metered Field Supply (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Standard Volumetric Charge (0-3MI) (£/3m3)	1.9939
Non-Household Mid User Volumetric Charge (3-50MI) (£/3m3)	1.8677
Non-Household Large User Volumetric Charge (Over 50MI) (£/3m3)	1.3988

Non-Metered Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Non-Metered RV Fixed Charge (£/year)	30.40
Non Household Rateable Value Charge (£ per £ RV) - Folkestone Area	1.2602

Assessed Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
Non-Household Fixed Charge Assessed (£/year)	16.80
Non-Household Employee Based Volumetric Charge (£/3m3)	1.9939

Special Agreements Wholesale Charges

	2023/24 excl. VAT
AFWP001 Volumetric Charge (0-3MI) (£/3m3)	0.8290
AFWP001 Volumetric Charge (3-50MI) (£/3m3)	0.7724
AFWN002 Fixed Charge (£/year)	120.00
AFWN002 Volumetric Charge (£/3m3)	0.5146
AFWN006 Volumetric Charge (£/3m3)	0.0000
AFWP007 Volumetric Charge for first 654m3 per six month period (£/3m3)	0.0000

Appendix 2

Typical Wholesale Water Bill Changes – Non Household

Movement in wholesale bills	Typical Bill £/year		change
	2022/23	2023/24	
Average Measured Contestable Small Business Customer Central Region (15mm meter)	505.22	560.82	11.0%
Average Measured Constestable Small Business Customer SouthEast Region (15mm meter)	709.97	788.05	11.0%
Average Measured Contestable Small Business Customer East Region (15mm meter)	529.05	587.23	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable medium customer (Central Region) (40mm meter)	4,679.34	5193.78	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable medium customer (East Region) (40mm meter)	7,553.80	8384.50	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable medium customer (Southeast Region) (40mm meter)	6,376.84	7078.12	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable large customer (Central Region) (100mm meter)	46,395.00	51495.04	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable large customer (East Region) (100mm meter)	66,520.04	74557.52	12.1%
Typical non-household contestable large customer (Southeast Region) (100mm meter)	63,085.84	70024.12	11.0%
Typical non-household contestable extra large customer (Central Region) (150mm meter)	321,030.00	368700.04	14.8%
Typical non-household contestable extra large customer (East Region) (150mm meter)	458,775.00	525367.52	14.5%
Typical non-household contestable extra large customer (Southeast Region) (150mm meter)	630,175.84	699484.12	11.0%
Average Unmeasured RV constestable business customer (Rickmansworth Region)	361.02	414.68	14.9%
Average Unmeasured RV constestable business customer (Colne Region)	380.62	426.47	12.0%
Average Unmeasured RV constestable business customer (Lee Region)	369.23	413.60	12.0%
Average Unmeasured RV constestable business customer (North Surrey Region)	336.76	376.90	11.9%

Appendix 2 (cont.)

Typical Wholesale Water Bill Changes – Household

Movement in typical wholesale water bills	Typical Bill £/year		change
	2022/23	2023/24	%
Average Household Measured Customer (Central Region)	132.76	145.51	9.6%
Average Household Measured Customer (East Region)	154.37	169.50	9.8%
Average Household Measured Customer (Southeast Region)	191.77	211.01	10.0%
Average Household Unmeasured Customer (Rickmansworth Region)	177.91	201.37	13.2%
Average Household Unmeasured Customer (Colne Region)	200.01	222.05	11.0%
Average Household Unmeasured Customer (Lee Region)	218.62	243.10	11.2%
Average Household Unmeasured Customer (North Surrey Region)	186.50	206.79	10.9%
Average Household Unmeasured Customer (East Region)	237.75	264.71	11.3%
Social tariff Central and East Region	157.87	169.60	7.4%
Social tariff Southeast Region	200.25	231.95	15.8%
Household Measured Low consumption 65m3/year Central Region	80.79	87.82	8.7%
Household Measured Low consumption 42m3/year East Region	87.26	95.01	8.9%
Household Measured Low consumption 65m3/year Southeast Region	132.85	145.61	9.6%
Household Measured High consumption 300m3/year Central Region	312.12	344.58	10.4%
Household Measured High consumption 225m3/year East Region	394.28	435.80	10.5%
Household Measured High consumption 300m3/year Southeast Region	552.42	611.31	10.7%
Household Assessed 1 occupier (Central Region)	80.80	87.80	8.7%
Household Assessed 2 occupiers (Central Region)	130.00	142.40	9.5%
Household Assessed 3 occupiers (Central Region)	183.20	201.40	9.9%
Household Assessed 4 or more occupiers (Central Region)	236.30	260.40	10.2%

Appendix 2 (cont.)

Movement in typical wholesale water bills	Typical Bill £/year		change
	2022/23	2023/24	%
Household Assessed 1 occupier (East Region)	87.30	95.00	8.8%
Household Assessed 2 occupiers (East Region)	147.70	162.10	9.7%
Household Assessed 3 occupiers (East Region)	209.70	231.00	10.2%
Household Assessed 4 or more occupiers (East Region)	300.30	331.50	10.4%
Household Assessed 1 occupier (Southeast Region)	132.90	145.60	9.6%
Household Assessed 2 occupiers (Southeast Region)	222.10	244.70	10.2%
Household Assessed 3 occupiers (Southeast Region)	318.50	351.70	10.4%
Household Assessed 4 or more occupiers (Southeast Region)	414.90	458.70	10.6%
Watersure customer (Central & Saffron Walden Region)	139.60	150.16	7.6%
Watersure customer (Southeast Region)	200.25	231.57	15.6%
Watersure customer (East Region)	170.30	194.77	14.4%
Average Measured Non-contestable Business Customer Central Region	497.19	549.99	10.6%
Average Measured Non-contestable Business Customer Southeast Region	704.18	779.75	10.7%
Average Measured Non-contestable Business Customer East Region	525.14	581.05	10.6%

Appendix 3: Compliance with Wholesale Charging Rules

In compliance with Ofwat's Wholesale Charging Rules issued on 20 October 2021, we provide detailed information below on how we ensure compliance with each relevant charging rule.

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
Rules 1 to 6	Introduction and Interpretation	Not applicable
Part 1: Rules for Wholesale Charges other than Wholesale Connection Charges		
Rule 7	Each water undertaker must publish the Wholesale Charges payable by a water supply licensee for the supply of water to Eligible Premises that are connected to the undertaker's supply system. This includes the Eligible Premises to which a Special Agreement would otherwise apply (although nothing in these rules requires the publication of a customer's name or address).	Sections 5 and 7 of our Wholesale Charges Scheme published on our website on 13 January specifies the Wholesale Charges payable by a water supply licensee for the supply of water to Eligible Premises (including those Eligible Premises to which a Special Agreement would otherwise apply).
Rule 8	Rule not applicable to Affinity Water Limited	Not applicable
	Each relevant undertaker must also, as a minimum, publish the Wholesale Charges (or the methodology for calculating such charges where the charges cannot be determined in advance) that would, where relevant, be payable by a water supply or sewerage licensee for: (a) the replacement of lead service pipes; (b) the provision and maintenance of fire hydrants; (d) the carrying out of inspections to ascertain whether any provision contained in or made or having effect under the Water Industry Act 1991 with respect to any water fittings or with respect to the waste or misuse of water is being or has been contravened; (e) site inspections; (f) the provision and use of standpipes;(g) the testing of meters; and(h) the disconnection of a service pipe (or for otherwise cutting off a supply of water) to any premises and the reconnection of such premises to a water main.	Sections 6 and 8 of our Wholesale charges Scheme 2023/24 sets out our non-Primary wholesale charges applicable to water supply licensees including charges (or the methodology for calculating such charges) for items (a) to (h).

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
Rule 10	Wholesale Charges must be published by 13 January in the year immediately preceding the Charging Year in relation to which they have effect.	Our Wholesale Charges 2023/24 were published on our website on 13 January 2023.
Rule 11	Wholesale Charges must be published on a relevant undertaker's website and in such other manner as the undertaker considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing it to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it.	Our Wholesale Charges 2023/24 were published on our website on 13 January 2023. We provide a website link to our Wholesale Charges Scheme to all water supply licensees with whom we have a contract under Section 66D of the Water Industry Act 1991. We have altered the presentation of our charges so that it meets the recommendations for charges presentation developed by the industry.
Rule 12	Wholesale Charges must be published with such additional information or explanation as is necessary to make clear what services are covered by each charge.	Section 8 of our Wholesale Charges Scheme explains what services are covered by each non-Primary wholesale charge.
Rule 13	Relevant undertakers whose areas are wholly or mainly in England must determine what types of charges may or may not be imposed and the amount of any charges that may be imposed in accordance with the principle that Wholesale Charges should reflect: (a) fairness and affordability; (b) environmental protection; (c) stability and predictability; and (d) transparency and customer-focused service.	<p>We reflect fairness and affordability by setting charges that comply with the price controls, and by improving the cost reflectivity of our tariffs over time.</p> <p>We achieve environmental protection, principally by charging for water according to measured usage, and by making sure that unmeasured charges on average reflect aggregate unmetered usage. This incentivises more careful water use through charges.</p> <p>Principally we achieve transparency, stability and predictability by adherence to Ofwat's charging rules that ensure we consider mitigating actions if charges are expected to increase by 5% or more and that we give advance notice of any significant changes to charges, consult with stakeholders in a timely manner and publish indicative tariffs in advance.</p>
Principles for determining the amount of charges		
Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
Rule 14	Consistent principles and methodologies must be applied to the calculation of charges for different classes of Eligible Premises, regardless of the services provided.	<p>We promote use of consistent principles and methodologies for setting charges by following a charges setting procedure that includes for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of relevant internal charging policies • How we operate charging methodologies, such as the tariff differential <p>By adhering to the procedure, we promote consistency in our approach to charges as between different classes of Eligible Premises and consistency year on year.</p>

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
Rule 15	Charging structures must reflect the long-run costs associated with providing the relevant service.	<p>The majority of our wholesale measured tariffs consist of two-part tariffs with a fixed annual charge and a volumetric rate. Our tariffs are differentiated geographically, reflecting the creation of Affinity Water from three predecessor companies. We have aligned fixed charges across our company area, but volumetric rates differ.</p> <p>We set the fixed annual charge to reflect the annualised costs of provision and maintenance of the meter asset and meter space over its asset life, so that fixed charges reflect the use of such assets that are local to and used only by water supply licensees for retailing water services to their end customer. The remaining supply costs are recovered through the volumetric rate. We offer reductions to the standard volumetric rate to reflect the avoided use of network assets by the customers of water supply licensees using larger volumes of water.</p> <p>We assess our large user volumetric rate against the long run marginal cost in our water resources plan to make sure that we are not charging a volumetric rate below our estimate of long run marginal costs. Some Eligible Premises remain on unmeasured charging. We take measures to ensure that wholesale unmeasured tariffs on average are reflective of the volumes of water used by unmeasured users of water in aggregate, principally through our application of a tariff differential. In this way, we achieve cost reflective balance between measured and unmeasured charges.</p>
Rule 16	Differences between charges for services provided to Eligible Premises that are larger users of water and sewerage services and charges for services provided to Eligible Premises that are smaller users of water and sewerage services must only be based on cost differences associated with differential use of network assets, differential peaking characteristics, different service levels and/or different service measurement accuracy.	We confirm that we have based our mid-user and large-user wholesale tariffs, that are available to customers of water supply licensees that are larger users of water, on our assessments of the cost differences associated with the avoided use of network assets by such customers.
Rule 17	Where cost differences associated with differential peaking characteristics are used as a basis for differences between charges for services provided to Eligible Premises that are larger users of water and charges for services provided to Eligible Premises that are smaller users of water, the charges fixed on that basis must be structured on an appropriate peak demand basis.	We do not have different wholesale tariffs for services provided at times of peak demand for water.
Rule 18	Rule not applicable to Affinity Water Limited	Not applicable

Rule No. Wholesale Charging Rule		Our Compliance
Unmetered charges		
Rule 19	No Unmetered Wholesale Charges may be imposed unless the basis on which those charges are fixed or determined is clear and, in the case of Rateable Value Charges, it is clear: (a) which Rating Valuation List charges are fixed or determined by reference to; and (b) if the undertaker uses a different value or other amount to that specified in such a list, the methodology or other basis on which that different value or other amount is calculated.	Our Wholesale Charges Scheme specifies in Section 4 the Rating Valuation List used to fix charges by reference to rateable value and the methodology used to determine notional rateable values where the value in the Rating Valuation List is not appropriate.
Wastewater charges, Trade effluent and Concessionary drainage charges		
Rules 20-24	Rules not applicable to Affinity Water Limited	Not applicable
Special agreements		
Rule 25	Where a Special Agreement would apply to the provision of services to Eligible Premises if the undertaker continued to provide the services, a relevant undertaker must impose on a water supply licensee or, as the case may be, a sewerage licensee only such charges as would enable the licensee to charge for those services at the same rate or rates as would have applied if the Special Agreement had applied.	Our Wholesale Charges Scheme sets out in Sections 5 and 7 the wholesale tariffs applicable to each of the special agreements that were in place on 1 April 2017 when Affinity Water Limited exited the non-household retail market. Such wholesale charges enable water supply licensees to charge their customers for those services at the same rate or rates as would have applied if Affinity Water Limited had continued to supply the end customer in accordance with the Special Agreement.
Small companies		
Rule 26	Rule not applicable to Affinity Water Limited	

Part 2: Rules for Wholesale Connection Charges (English Undertakers)		
Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
Rule 27	Subject to paragraphs 28, 29 and 30, relevant undertakers whose areas are wholly or mainly in England must set and publish their Wholesale Connection Charges as if: (a) those charges related to services in respect of household premises rather than non-household premises, and (b) the English New Connection Rules Charging Rules for New Connection Services (English Undertakers) applied to them.	Our Charging Arrangements for New Connections Services 2023/24 provides that our Wholesale Connection Charges are set as if this were the case.
Rule 28	The obligation in paragraph 27 excludes the rules in paragraphs 44 to 46 of the English New Connection Rules	Noted.
Rule 29	Not used	
Rule 30	Relevant undertakers must consult on their Wholesale Connection Charges at the same time as their charges under the Charging Rules for English New Connection Rules, and must publish them in their Charging Arrangements.	Noted.
Rule 31	Rule not applicable to Affinity Water Limited	Not applicable
Annex: Information requirements		
Assurance statements		
A1	Each undertaker should provide to Ofwat an assurance statement from its Board of Directors and publish its statement no later than the time of publication of its final Wholesale Charges confirming that: (a) the company complies with its legal obligations relating to the Wholesale Charges it has published;	Our Board has provided this statement of assurance in section 3 of this publication. Our Wholesale Charges 2023/24 have been calculated in the manner best calculated to comply with the Wholesale Price Control set by Ofwat under Condition B of our Instrument of Appointment at PR19. Our Wholesale Charges 2023/24 meet the requirements of Condition E of our Instrument of Appointment (Prohibition on Undue Discrimination and Undue Preference and Information on charges). These statements are supported by the systems and processes and associated assurance described against component (c) of our assurance statement below. It should be noted however it is not possible to provide absolute assurance that all Wholesale Charges are cost-reflective given the historical geographical cross-subsidisation of tariffs for unmetered water supplies. This statement itself sets out how we comply with the Wholesale Charging Rules (20 October 2021)

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
A1 cont.	<p>(b) the Board has assessed the effects of the new charges on water supply and sewerage licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) and approves the impact assessments and handling strategies developed in instances where bill increases for licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) exceed 5%;</p>	<p>We have used our charges setting model to calculate the level of Wholesale Charges 2023/24 and assess the effect of those charges on water supply licensees and (as a whole or in groups). Having exited the non-household retail market on 1 April 2017, we have assessed the effect of these changes on customers of water supply licensees assuming such charges are passed through by water supply licensees to their customers</p> <p>Section 2 above confirms that there are increases in Primary Wholesale Charges that exceed 5%, assuming a constant level of consumption.</p> <p>During the year, the Board received information about Charges Scheme Charges as well as on the impact assessments and the handling strategy developed by management. Having given due consideration and made enquiries of management, it has approved the impact assessments and handling strategies developed. The company published a Statement of Significant Changes on 15 October 2022.</p>
A1 cont.	<p>(c) the company has appropriate systems and processes in place (including up-to-date models and data) to make sure that the information published about its Wholesale Charges is accurate;</p>	<p>We have an established, robust system for managing all data required to provide Wholesale Charges. Our financial models have been developed by our Senior Regulatory Economist and assessed, reviewed and challenged to ensure that they meet requirements and are compliant with revenue controls which form the basis of these charges.</p> <p>Atkins Limited has reported on the processes that have been used to derive the base customer information and charge multipliers that have been used to compute wholesale charges. Atkins has confirmed that 'the Company has a good understanding of and has sufficient processes and internal systems of control to meet its reporting obligations and to manage its reporting risks' and that 'the Company has used the most recent robust data sources, applied a reasonable methodology and assumptions, explained this methodology clearly at a granular level so that it can be understood, audited and reproduced and has provided assurance on the inputs to the methodology.</p> <p>In December 2020, Frontier Economics reviewed our charges setting model and were able to provide assurance to our Board as to its proper functioning. We have made no structural changes to the model since then.</p>

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
A1 cont.	(d) the company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its Wholesale Charges; and	<p>During the year, we have provided information to and consulted with the Consumer Council for Water, and provided information to Ofwat and retail licensees about our Wholesale Charges 2023/24.</p> <p>On 15 July 2022 we published information setting out the scope for changes to charges, and on 15 October 2022, we published indicative Primary Wholesale Charges 2023/24 on the section of our website dedicated to water supply licensees.</p>
A1 cont.	(e) where final Wholesale Charges are significantly different from the indicative Wholesale Charges published for the same period, the Board has considered the reasons why those changes occurred and has issued a statement explaining why those changes were not anticipated and/or mitigated. For these purposes, "indicative Wholesale Charges" means the information referred to in A3 below and charges are "significantly different" if a reasonable person would consider the changes to be material.	We explain in this statement, the reasons for differences between our indicative wholesale charges published on 15 October 2022 and our final charges, published on 13 January 2023 following completion of the in period adjustment determination process and availability of the November inflation statistic.
Indicative charging information		
A2	Not Used	

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
A3	<p>No later than 13 October each undertaker (other than a small company) should provide to Ofwat and publish indicative Wholesale Charges. For these purposes, "indicative Wholesale Charges" are the primary Wholesale Charges that the undertaker reasonably expects to fix for the following period (based on the information available to it at that time).</p>	<p>On 15 October 2021, we published on our website our Indicative Wholesale Charges for 2023/24.</p>
A4	<p>No later than 13th October each undertaker (other than a small company) should, if it intends to make any significant changes to its Primary Wholesale Charges, provide to Ofwat and publish a statement of significant changes. For these purposes:</p> <p>(a) changes to the level of Primary Wholesale Charges, or to the methodology for calculating them, will be significant if a reasonable person would consider them to be material; and</p> <p>(b) a statement of significant changes should include:</p> <p>(i) what changes are expected;</p> <p>(ii) how water supply and sewerage licensees (as a whole or in groups) and customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) are likely to be affected; and</p> <p>(iii) the handling strategies that may be adopted by the undertaker or why the undertaker considers that no handling strategies are required.</p>	<p>On 15 October 2021, we published on our website and provided to Ofwat a statement confirming we had assessed the effects of our indicative Wholesale Charges for 2023/24 on water supply licensees (as a whole or in groups) and confirmed that there would be instances where bill increases were likely to exceed 5%. The same statement provided information about how water licensees and customers occupying eligible premises would be likely to be affected and a summary of our handling strategy.</p>

Rule No.	Wholesale Charging Rule	Our Compliance
A5	<p>Each undertaker (other than a small company) should provide to Ofwat an assurance statement from its Board of Directors and publish its statement no later 13th October using the best available information available at that time, that:</p> <p>(a) the company complies with its legal obligations relating to the indicative Wholesale Charges it has published;</p> <p>(b) the Board has assessed the effects of the new charges on water supply and sewerage licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) and approves the impact assessments and handling strategies developed in instances where bill increases for licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services to eligible customers and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) exceed 5%;</p> <p>(c) the company has appropriate systems and processes in place (including up-to-date models and data) to make sure that the information published about its indicative Wholesale Charges is accurate; and</p> <p>(d) the company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its indicative Wholesale Charges.</p>	<p>On 15 October 2022, we published on our website and provided to Ofwat a Board Assurance Statement to this effect.</p>