

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 set out in section 4.1 of this Policy, it is referred to as Non-Standard and a bespoke allowance will be calculated. .

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. Where additional supporting detail is provided, a Non-Standard allowance will instead be calculated.

4.1 Standard Return to Sewer Percentages

TYPE OF USE	% RTS
Bowling Club with 1 Green (real grass) and Bar	75%
Bowling Club with 2 Greens (real grass) and Bar	55%
Bowling Club with 1 Green (real grass) and no Bar	55%
Bowling Club with 2 Greens (real grass) and no Bar	35%
Golf Club with 1 Supply Feeding Clubhouse & Sprinklers	60%
Golf Club with Individual Main for Water Sprinklers	0%
Garden Centres	70%
Cricket/Football/Rugby Clubs with a Real Grass Pitch, Shower Facilities with no Bar	40%

Cricket/Football/Rugby Clubs with a Real Grass Pitch, Shower Facilities with Bar	50%
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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 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 typically 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 water (other than that 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 Conditions

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

- Standard Return to sewer allowances will apply from the date on which the Licensed Provider has demonstrated to Scottish Water's satisfaction that such an allowance is justified i.e., the point at which a full application, including all relevant information, is received.
- Non-Standard Return to Sewer allowances will be applied and backdated no more than 3 months prior to the receipt of a full and complete application to allow time for the Licensed Provider time to collate any necessary supporting information.
- A Return to Sewer allowance of less than 95% 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.
- SW reserves the right to review the Return to Sewer allowance at any Supply Point where a percentage of less than 95% has been granted.



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- Should SW 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 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.