

Information notice

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August submission data requirements

Introduction

In 2014-15 we will decide the price and service package (the 'price controls') that each of the monopoly water and sewerage and water only companies in England and Wales must deliver in each of the five years between 2015 and 2020.

In 'Setting price controls for 2015-20 – business planning expectations: A consultation' (the business planning consultation), which we published in April 2013, we explained that we planned to collect a limited amount of information from companies in August 2013 (the 'August submission'). This is as follows.

- **Cost information** needed to ensure the cost assessment tools we use to help us set price controls are as robust as possible. This will benefit both companies and customers – by allowing us to make better judgements on costs and focus our challenge to companies' proposals where it is really needed.

- Information on companies' **customer service** performance, which is needed to help us assess companies' performance against the service incentive mechanism (SIM).

We also explained that we would publish the final requirements for the August submission shortly after the consultation closed on 23 May 2013. This information notice sets out those requirements. We have made only minor changes to the August submission data tables from those set out alongside our business planning consultation.

We do not anticipate making significant further requests for information to support the development of our cost assessment tools before business plans are submitted to us. But, as we finalise our cost assessment tools, we may find we need to make further targeted requests for historic cost information. We will give companies as much notice as possible of any such requests if we find that we need to issue another information notice and supplementary data tables.

August submission – our requirements

We have set out the information we require, including line-by-line definitions, in a series of [data tables](#).

Companies should submit the requested data to us by **9 August 2013** by emailing the completed data tables to business.plantables@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk.

Alongside the August data submission tables we have also published [guidance](#) to help companies complete their submissions. This includes a log of the minor changes – reflecting feedback from companies – that we have made to the draft August submission data tables.

Unless specified, companies do not need to provide commentary alongside their August submission. But if there are any significant changes in companies' costs over time, they may wish to provide a brief explanation to help us build robust cost assessment tools.

This is a formal document that alerts our stakeholders to a change in the way that we regulate the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales.

Each company's Board is responsible for deciding the assurance it needs to confirm the accuracy and completeness of its August submission. We expect each company's Board to sign off the data submitted, and confirm it has done this alongside its submission.

Cost information

We are asking for information about wholesale water and wastewater costs during the period 2010-15. This includes both historic and forecast data. Historic data should be consistent with information companies have submitted as part of their published regulatory accounts. For forecast data, we expect companies to draw on available management information for 2013-15, and do not expect them to provide us with any data related to their 2015-20 costs.

We have included an additional table which collects historic data for pension costs (table 7). We will use this data to ensure our cost assessment models deal with pension costs appropriately.

We will not require companies to resubmit historic data from the August submission alongside their business plans, but our final methodology statement may

More information

[Business planning data tables – August submission](#) Updated on 4 July 2013

[‘Guidance – August data submission’](#), June 2013

[‘Setting price controls for 2015-20 – business planning expectations: A consultation’](#), April 2013

[2014 price review webpages](#)

mean that companies need to restate some lines. If there are any cases where we require companies to restate August data, we will make this clear when we confirm our final business plan data table requirements.

Customer service information

We are asking companies for information for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13. This is so we can use the SIM to assess customer service performance during 2010-15, and make any necessary adjustments to price controls for 2015-20.

The information in the August submission will inform our draft determinations. We will ask companies to provide 2013-14 data in summer 2014 to inform our final determinations.

Queries about the August submission

If companies have any queries about the tables or guidance, they should email us at business.plantables@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk. We will share answers to common questions by email to companies' regulatory directors, so that all companies have equal access to all relevant information.



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