

Wholesale Retail Code Change Proposal (CP) 030

Modification proposal:	Wholesale Retail Code Change Proposal 030: Developer Services – New Connections processes		
Decision:	Ofwat has decided to confirm these change proposals		
Date of publication:	11 May 2016	Implementation date:	Immediate

Background

‘Developer Services’ refer to services provided by any company to develop and build new connections to existing water and sewage networks. At present the system is open to competition and each undertaker governs requests for permission to develop new connections and minimum requirements for undertaking this work. With the drafting of Wholesale Retail Code a decision was made to standardise the process with that which exists in Scotland. This change involves changes all undertaker systems and was expected to go live at market opening. During the completion of IT systems by companies involved in the Retail Market Opening a proposal was made to delay the implementation of this section of the code due to the non urgent nature of the change.

The modification proposal¹

Thames Water Commercial Services Limited proposed WRC030 to allow the Developer Services sections of the code to delay implementation for 6 months post market opening on 3 April 2017. In addition, the modification provides for a period of time for investigation into whether this change is required as evidence presented showed the current system to be without significant problems. The change charges the Code Panel to investigate and draft a solution for Developer Services from 1

¹ The proposal is available on the Open Water website

October 2017 to 1 October 2018. If a new proposal is not adopted by 1 October 2018 the existing text will be implemented.

Interim Code Panel recommendation

At its meeting on 9 March 2016 the Interim Code Panel reviewed an earlier version of the proposal. The Panel requested the proposal go to industry consultation. The consultation elicited a number of responses, broadly positive but clarifying the need for a set review schedule. The proposal returned to the Panel 13 April where the consultation responses were reviewed and a request for the proposal to amend was made. The resultant final modification was voted on on 25 April where it received unanimous support to recommend. Minutes of the meeting indicate Panel considered the change to positively impact on the efficiency and proportionality of the code but a small detrimental effect on the seamless markets objective and principal².

Our decision

After review of the supporting documentation we have concluded that the implementation of WRC030 is consistent with the Principals and Objectives³ and we agree with the assessment that the change is proportional, increases efficiency and the resultant difference to the Scottish code is not detrimental as it reflects the current status quo. We consider that confirming this change is consistent with our principal objectives and statutory duties.

Reasons for our decision

We consider that the implementation of and WRC030 will contribute to effective codes and changes contained are correct and desirable.

Adam Cooper
Director, Retail Market Opening

² Available at: <http://www.open-water.org.uk/icp>