

## **Northern Gas Networks < 7 Bar Mains Location arrangements for UIP/IGT connections**

### **1. Introduction**

Where a Utility Infrastructure Provider (UIP) or Independent Gas Transporter (IGT) experiences difficulty in locating NGN mains or finds that mains are inaccurately recorded, contract terms specify the commercial arrangements in place. This briefing note has been developed to clarify the procedural arrangements.

### **2. Overview**

Where a UIP or IGT experiences difficulty in locating Northern Gas Networks mains, Northern Gas Networks will provide assistance, and in certain cases, make payments for additional works in accordance with contract terms.

UIPs and IGTs should undertake reasonable initial site investigations before contacting Northern Gas Networks. Appendix A provides a process flow showing the key procedural interfaces between the UIP/IGT and Northern Gas Networks for requesting further assistance and confirming any payments required under the relevant contract terms.

In all cases reference should be made to the relevant contract terms for the work being carried out. The current contract terms are as follows:

- i). Northern Gas Networks General Conditions of Contract for a Self Lay Pipe [System] Not Exceeding 2,196,000 kWh
- ii) Northern Gas Networks Authorisation and Connection Conditions for New Self Lay Pipes Above 2,196,000 kWh and Maximum 7 Bar
- iii) Northern Gas Networks General Conditions of Contract For Site Engineering Works For Connected Offtake System
- iv) UIP/IGT Connection, Service Disconnection and Service Alteration Agreement

## Detailed Process

1. The UIP/IGT should undertake reasonable site investigations in the following order:

- Carry out visibility checks e.g. valve/syphon boxes on the route of the main, reinstatement patches on the route of mains and services to try and identify the line of the main for trial holes. Checks should be made to establish any background geography changes which may have taken place since the plan was produced.
- Initial trial hole - Excavate across the full width of the footpath where the main is shown in the footpath. Excavate in the carriageway where the main is shown in the carriageway. Trial hole depth should be 1.2m
- Trace adjacent or opposite existing services and/or call the Northern Gas Networks office (see published customer contact list) to check available records. Advice can be requested from the Network office at any point during the process.
- Second trial hole - Excavate on the existing service at the expected mains location in the footpath or road.
- Third trial hole - Excavate on the expected mains location for connection based on previous searches and information.

2. In cases where the main cannot be located in accordance with the above the UIP/IGT should make contact with the Northern Gas Networks office (see published customer contact list) for assistance, providing a plan of the works undertaken which clearly indicates the location of trial holes excavated. Northern Gas Networks will check any available records and identify further action to be taken which may include:

- Suggesting an alternative trial hole location
- Authorising an alternative point of connection including specifying the size of main to be laid (payment for additional gas distribution mains would only apply where the gas distribution mains record was inaccurate by more than 3m. Any payments would be agreed as in section 4).

Where the UIP/IGT does not wish to carry out any additional trial hole works, Northern Gas Networks would provide a timescale for a team to attend site to assist in location of the main free of charge. A response will be made within 4 hours of receipt of this call, indicating the lead time for attending site.

3. Once the location of the Northern Gas Networks main has been determined the UIP/IGT should contact the Northern Gas Networks office (see published post acceptance contact) to confirm any additional pipelaying works to be carried out and any Northern Gas Networks payments for this work. The UIP/IGT would need to contact the Northern Gas Networks office, providing a plan of the proposed position of connection to obtain authorisation for the additional works.

4. Northern Gas Networks will confirm the diameter of any additional pipework which needs to be laid. Where the Northern Gas Networks main has been found to be inaccurately recorded by more than 3m from its indicated position Northern Gas Networks will confirm a price to be paid to the UIP/IGT for the additional pipelaying. Any additional pipework laid would be adopted by Northern Gas Networks and would require a completion file for the works.

For self connections where the main located was a larger or smaller diameter than the recorded main, or a different material, Northern Gas Networks would also confirm any additional price to be paid for any marginal cost of installing the

connection. This would be based on any marginal cost difference from Northern Gas Networks contract and material rates. Any costs will be confirmed to the UIP/IGT job contact.

5. Where the UIP/IGT did not want to complete the additional pipelaying works they could request Northern Gas Networks (see published customer contact list) to complete the works free of charge. Timescales would be provided for a Northern Gas Networks team to attend site to lay the pipework. A response should be made within 4 hours of receipt of the call, indicating the lead time for attending site.

6. The UIP/IGT would need to invoice for any additional works on completion in line with the Northern Gas Networks agreed price, providing a completion file for additional pipework laid and a DR8 error report.