



## **CONNECTION CHARGES STATEMENT**

### **STANDARD CONDITION 4B OF THE GAS TRANSPORTER LICENCE**

#### **STANDARD CHARGES USED BY NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS IN CHARGING FOR CONNECTION SERVICES**

**This statement is effective from 5 April 2021**



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## 2. Domestic Connection Standard Charges

### Statement of Charges

**Standard Charges for connecting to mains in question operating at pressures up to and including 2barg (medium pressure)**

	<b>Inc. Excavation &amp; Reinstatement</b>	<b>Ex. Excavation &amp; Reinstatement</b>	<b>Zero Horizontal Length</b>
<b>(ex vat)</b>	<b>£627</b>	<b>£434</b>	<b>£373</b>

The charges in the above table are exclusive of VAT.

### Application

Standard charges are applicable for up to 20 metres of service pipe to be laid on land owned or occupied by the person requiring the connection, where the service termination is not more than 3 metres above the exterior ground surface level, subject to the eligibility criteria being met.

Where the eligibility criteria for standard charges are not met, Northern Gas Networks will produce a bespoke quotation for the required new connection works.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a standard charge, the new connection must be for individual premises, anticipated to consume 73,200 kWh per annum or less and within 23 metres of a Northern Gas Networks relevant main, subject to the following:

- The person requesting the connection is the owner or occupier of the premises, or their agent, and
- The premises is used or proposed to be used mainly or wholly for domestic purposes, and
- There is no existing gas supply to the premises, and No unusual security or similar access restrictions apply, e.g. where a property is within a secure military base a standard charge will not be applicable, and
- At the time of the request the customer does not anticipate that the completion of the works will be affected by any unusual health, safety or environmental risks, e.g. working under scaffolding erected by others, presence of asbestos dust, etc. and
- The individual premises does not form part of a multiple development, or
- Where the individual premises does form part of a multiple development that it can be demonstrated<sup>1</sup> that there is a separate identifiable domestic customer for each premises. Any individual premises that meet the criteria stated above, is eligible, regardless of whether the enquiry is part of a single or multiple connection requests.

<sup>1</sup> Acceptable forms of evidence in respect of the identification of the person who owns or occupies a premises (being either a single premises or a premises within a multiple development) are:

- The name and address of the owner or occupier of each premises or;
- A written statement specifying the reasons why a name and address cannot be provided and confirming that the each of the premises are individually owned or occupied.

## Description of Charging Categories

### Inc. Excavation & Reinstatement

This category refers to the circumstance where Northern Gas Networks will carry out excavation and reinstatement of trenches etc. on private land.

When a specialist surface e.g. a mosaic, coloured tarmac, tiles etc. is encountered within private land the customer may choose to pay the standard charge and have excavations reinstated with black tarmac or relaid modules (without any damaged modules being replaced by new ones) or they may choose to pay a supplementary charge that will pay for the employment of a specialist reinstatement contractor. There is no guarantee that an exact match can be achieved particularly if the existing surface is weathered or the original surfacing material is no longer manufactured.

Customers are advised to relocate or protect growing plants because Northern Gas Networks will not replace them if they are destroyed or damaged.

### Ex. Excavation & Reinstatement

This category refers to the circumstance where the customer has elected to carry out excavation and reinstatement of trenches etc. on private land. The customer should complete excavation prior to Northern Gas Networks attending site to avoid having to pay for a works variation (to pay for Northern Gas Networks to carry out the excavation) or an abortive visit charge.

### Zero Horizontal Length

This category refers to the circumstance where no excavation will occur on private land. i.e., the customer occupies a house or flat that fronts directly onto the street. They may have a connection to a meter box, or a ground floor house entry, or an entry into a basement or to a first floor flat where no more than 3m of above ground pipework will be installed.

This category does not include the installation or reinstallation of a connection to a pre-existing riser.

### Meter Housing

The charges include for the provision of meter housing where applicable. Northern Gas Networks will only transport to site and install 'bolt on' and 'semi concealed' meter boxes. Where a 'built in' meter housing is required, a customer must buy the meter housing from a suitable retailer and undertake its installation prior to Northern Gas Networks beginning work on site. No discount, from the standard charge is available if the customer buys their own meter housing.

On completion of works a meter box becomes the property of the customer; they are responsible for ongoing maintenance, however, Northern Gas Networks provides a chargeable repair service.

### Other Information

Northern Gas Networks may carry out work additional to that required by the customer in order to ensure that it develops and maintains its pipeline system in an economic and efficient manner. Where this occurs the cost of any additional works will not be charged to the person requiring the new connection.

Any premises which falls within a 'live' infill scheme and meets the standard charge eligibility criteria, will be required to pay an additional mains contribution cost as well as the standard charge.

### 3. Disconnection Standard Charges

#### Statement of Charges

Pipe Diameter	Footpaths, Unmade & Cultivated	All Road Types
< = 32 mm PE or 1" Metallic	£770	£1,155
63mm PE or 2" Metallic	£770	£1,155
90mm PE or 3" Metallic	£1,755	£2,596
125mm PE or 4" Metallic	£1,879	£2,763
180mm PE or 6" Metallic	£2,105	£3,054

The charges in the above table are exclusive of VAT.

#### Application

These charges are applicable for disconnection of gas service pipes (up to 6" diameter) connected to the low pressure (below 75mbar) distribution networks. The amount to be charged is based upon the diameter of the pipe to be disconnected and the type of surface where the disconnection is to be made.

Bespoke quotations will be issued for disconnection of gas mains or gas service pipes connected to the medium and intermediate pressure networks or above 6" diameter.



## 4. Service Alteration Standard Charges

### Statement of Charges

Northern Gas Networks applies a charging methodology based on the length of external pipework to be laid.

The standard charges that apply are:

<b>32mm Domestic service alteration requiring up to and including three metres of external pipe work</b>	<b>£624</b>
<b>Additional per metre charge for any additional external pipe work over three metres</b>	<b>£60</b>
<b>Domestic back to back (reduced scope) meter alteration</b>	<b>£435</b>
<b>Full Reconnect</b>	<b>£72</b>
<b>Partial Reconnect</b>	<b>£36.50</b>
<b>Customer to Dig service alteration (up to and including three metres of external pipe work)</b>	<b>£391</b>

The charges in the above table are exclusive of VAT.

Where the eligibility criteria for these standard charges are not met, Northern Gas Networks will produce a bespoke quotation for the required alteration works.

### Eligibility Criteria

The service pipe and service pipe alteration works must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for the standard charges:

- Domestic service pipe diameter 1" metallic/32mm polyethylene, or less;
- Operating at a pressure of below 2 barg;
- The existing service entry (the location where the service pipe enters the property) is not more than 3 metres above ground level;
- The proposed service entry (the location where the service pipe enters the property) will not be more than 3 metres above ground level;
- The total length of the alteration is not more than 20 metres and is all within private land.
- The pipe to be altered is a pipe that is designed to supply only one or two supply meter points;
- If Northern Gas Networks is required to alter existing pipework to meet a request for an increase in load;
- No unusual security or similar access restrictions apply, e.g. where a property is within a secure military base a standard charge will not be applicable;
- At the time of the request the customer does not anticipate that the completion of the works will be affected by any unusual health, safety or environmental risks, e.g. working under scaffolding erected by others, presence of asbestos dust, etc.

### **Customer to Excavate and Reinstale**

Customers requesting an alteration of an existing supply can benefit from a reduced price quotation for the works by excavating and backfilling a trench for the supply pipes on land in their ownership.

Any deviation from a standard job or if the excavation is not prepared as per the guidance provided or the excavation is not completed prior to NGN attending site, a further charge for a works variation (to pay for NGN to carry out the excavation) or an abortive visit charge will be applicable.

### **Meter Housing**

The charges include for the provision of meter housing where applicable. Northern Gas Networks will only transport to site and install 'bolt on' and 'semi concealed' meter boxes. Where a 'built in' meter housing is required, a customer must buy the meter housing from a suitable retailer and undertake its installation prior to Northern Gas Networks beginning work on site. No discount, from the standard charge is available if the customer buys their own meter housing.

On completion of works a meter box becomes the property of the customer; they are responsible for ongoing maintenance, however, Northern Gas Networks provides a chargeable repair service.

### **Moving and Connecting Meters as part of Service Alteration Works**

The standard charges do not include any work associated with moving meters and connecting to external or internal pipework. Northern Gas Networks will carry out these works at the request of the customer and on payment of the associated charges. Details of the charges can be found in the Northern Gas Networks metering charges statement on the Northern Gas Networks website: [www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk](http://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk) or in the alter pack sent to customers.

### **3rd Party Service Pipe Alteration works**

Where a 3<sup>rd</sup> party e.g. an Independent Connection Provider relays a  $\leq 2$ " steel service pipe as part of the service alteration Northern Gas Networks will pay a fixed allowance of £467 per service on satisfactory completion of the work.

### **Vulnerable Customers**

Northern Gas Networks does not charge for the alteration of a meter position and / or service pipe to meet the physical needs of:

- the disabled,
- chronically sick or
- persons of pensionable age.

In this instance, 'needs' means that as a result of a person's physical condition, the alteration is required to allow that person to operate the emergency control valve, and / or read the meter.

### **Other Information**

When a specialist surface (e.g. a mosaic, coloured tarmac, tiles etc.) is encountered within private land the customer may choose to pay the standard charge and have excavations reinstated with black tarmac or re-laid modules (without any damaged modules being replaced by new ones) or they may choose to pay a supplementary charge that will pay for the employment of a specialist reinstatement contractor. There is no guarantee that an exact match can be achieved particularly if the existing surface is weathered or the original surfacing material is no longer manufactured.

Customers are advised to relocate or protect growing plants because Northern Gas Networks will not replace them if they are destroyed or damaged.

Northern Gas Networks may carry out work additional to that required by the customer in order to ensure that it develops and maintains its pipeline system in an economic and efficient manner. Where this occurs the cost of any additional works will not be charged to the person requiring the alteration.



## 5. Meter Box Repair Standard Charges

### Statement of Charges

Description	Cost
Supply and install Replacement Surface Mounted Meter Box (excluding back plate)	£137
Supply and replace Meter Box Door	£88
Supply and install Vandal resistant Door	£137
Supply and install “Pregnant” Meter Box Door	£113
Replace Meter Box Door Hinge and / or Lock	£73

The charges in the above table are exclusive of VAT.

### Application

These charges are applicable in respect of Northern Gas Networks service to repair meter box doors for domestic gas meter boxes that are designed to accommodate a meter with a badged capacity of 6 standard cubic metres per hour that are associated with service pipes attached to Northern Gas Networks pipe-line system.

### Other Information

Payment is required in advance of works being undertaken.

### Charge for Re-establishment of Supply Meter Point

In accordance with Uniform Network Code (UNC) where a meter is found to be offtaking gas following Isolation by a shipper the Transporter will re-establish the registration of the relevant Shipper and recharge all relevant charges:

Site Visit charge: £45

UNC charges: in accordance with prevailing UNC arrangements



## 6. Connection Design Charges

### a) Charging for Connections which are deemed Sufficiently Complex

Sufficient Complexity connections occur when the connection, disconnection or service alteration is to be made to an above 7 barg. system, or where there are known obstacles on the proposed route of the new apparatus and the anticipated total cost of the construction works including applicable overheads is expected to exceed £10,000, or where the total construction costs including applicable overheads, based on past experience of projects of a similar nature, is expected to exceed £100,000.

Sufficient Complexity reinforcements occur when the reinforcement includes any apparatus that is designed to operate at above 7 barg. or where there are known obstacles on the proposed route of the reinforcement apparatus and the anticipated total cost of the construction works including applicable overheads is expected to exceed £10,000, or where the total construction costs including applicable overheads, based on past experience of projects of a similar nature, is expected to exceed £250,000.

#### Statement of Charges

Where the design of Sufficient Complexity projects is resourced internally, Northern Gas Networks will predict the number of hours that its staff will take to complete the design and charge on the basis of the number of hours multiplied by the applicable hourly rate, which is **£53** per hour excluding VAT.

Where the nature of a new connection project is of Sufficient Complexity, Northern Gas Networks may use an external design organisation.

Where an external design organisation is used, the design charge will be levied according to the cost to Northern Gas Networks, and overheads will be applied at the appropriate rate.

It is also possible for Northern Gas Networks to use a combination of external and internal resources to complete a design. In this situation, Northern Gas Networks will charge for each type of resource using the appropriate methodology as outlined above.

#### Application

Charges for the design of Sufficient Complexity projects will be levied in advance and no refund is applicable except where the project is a reinforcement project that proceeds to the construction phase that passes the Northern Gas Networks Economic Test.

#### Eligibility Criteria

New connections, disconnections, connection alteration and reinforcement works may all be designated to be Sufficient Complexity, provided that they conform with the definition above.

### c) Charging for design associated with other connections related activities

Northern Gas Networks will only apply charges for design to new connection projects, which meet the respective eligibility criteria above.

Charges for design will not be applied where a new connection project does not meet the eligibility criteria above. In addition, no charge for design shall be made in respect of the following activities:

- reinforcement schemes associated with connections work, which are not of Sufficient Complexity;
- final connections to the Northern Gas Networks main;
- alterations to services <7barg;

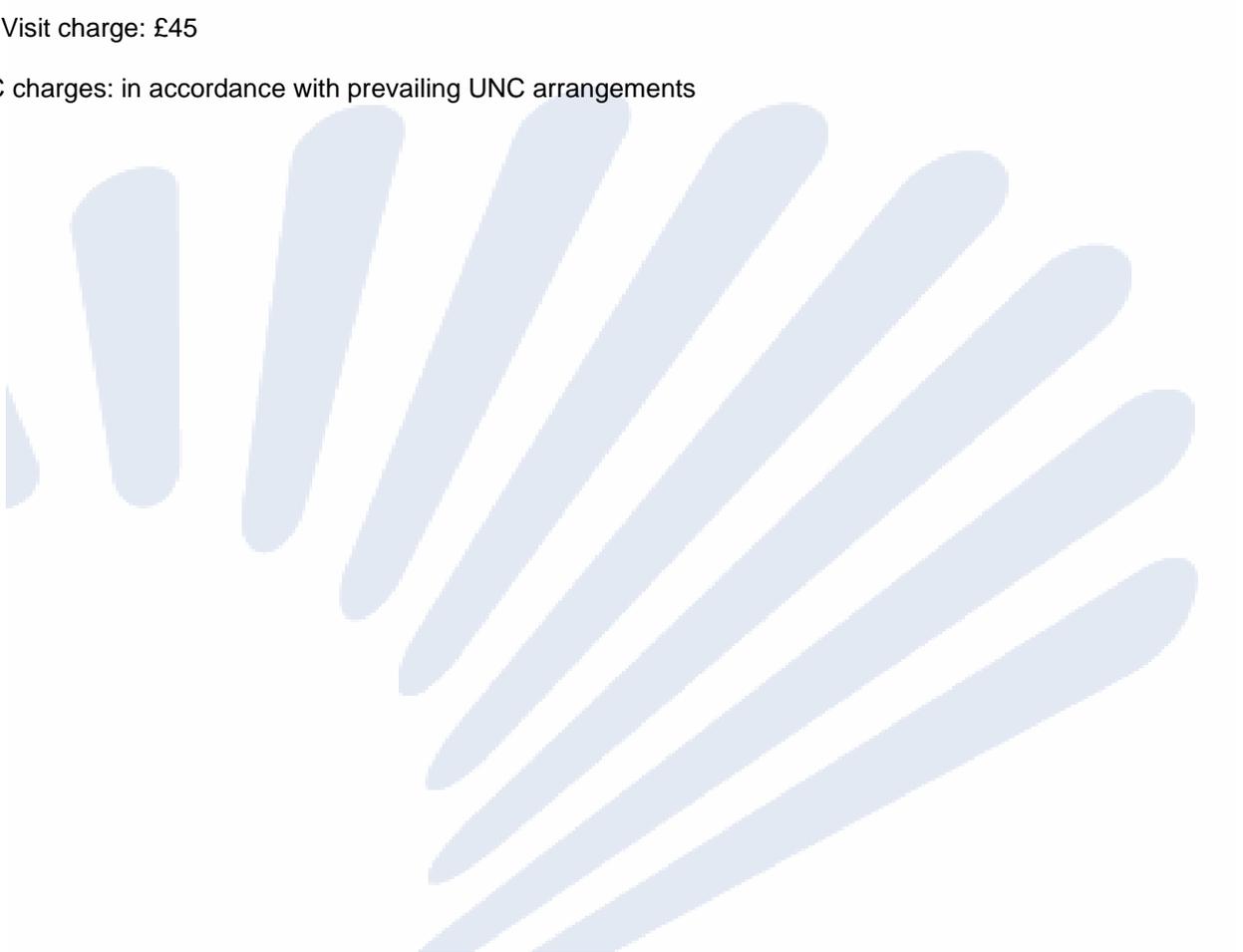
- disconnections of services <7barg;
- connection to premises anticipated to consume 73,200 kWh or less, which are not part of a request to connect multiple supply points.

### Charge for Re-establishment of Supply Meter Point

In accordance with Uniform Network Code (UNC) where a meter is found to be off-taking gas following Isolation by a shipper the Transporter will re-establish the registration of the relevant Shipper and recharge all relevant charges:

Site Visit charge: £45

UNC charges: in accordance with prevailing UNC arrangements



## 7. Adoption of Assets Charges

### Statement of Charges

Northern Gas Networks Limited applies a charge where it is asked to adopt or take ownership of gas pipes where they are laid by Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) who are not registered under the Gas Industry Registration Scheme (GIRS). Northern Gas Networks Limited does not apply a charge for this service where an ICP holds the relevant GIRS registration.

Standard charges are applied to small and large job categories where an ICP does not have the required GIRS registration scope. A bespoke charge will be made in respect of complex job categories. The Northern Gas Networks charges for this service are as follows:

<b>GIRS Registration Status</b>	<b>Small job</b>	<b>Large job</b>
<b>Non GIRS Design registered</b>	<b>£55</b>	<b>£80</b>
<b>Non GIRS Construction/Commissioning Registered</b>	<b>£340</b>	<b>£580</b>
<b>Non GIRS registered for both Design and Construction/Commissioning</b>	<b>£395</b>	<b>£660</b>

The above charges do not include VAT.

#### **NOTE:**

Where the principal ICP (The ICP applying for adoption or taking ownership of pipes) does not hold either the Design and/or Construction/Commissioning registration the above charges are payable unless the ICP is GIRS registered for Project Management and subcontracts to an organisation that is GIRS registered for Design and/or Construction/Commissioning.

### Complex Job Charge

Northern Gas Networks Limited will charge **£35** per hour in respect of bespoke below 7 barg. adoption or taking ownership charges, subject to a minimum charge equivalent to the standard charges above and dependent on the GIRS registration status.

### Application

Charges for adoption or taking ownership of assets where they are laid by Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) form part of the customer quotation and are payable on acceptance of the quotation. If Northern Gas Networks does not receive the required payment a rejection letter will be issued requesting payment of the relevant charge.

The standard charge categories are applied subject to the following criteria:

#### **Small Job**

- Low pressure (below 75 mbarg) with pipe sizes less than or equal to 180mm PE and less than 100m of pipe to be laid.
- The apparatus has been designed to connect less than 20 domestic properties

- Excludes jobs defined as “Complex”

### ***Large Job***

- Medium pressure (75 mbarg to 2 barg) with a pipe sizes less than or equal to 355mm PE and less than 1000m pipe to be laid.
- Low pressure (below 75 mbarg) with pipe sizes less than or equal to 355mm PE and less than 1000m of pipe to be laid, excluding those defined under “Small job”.
- The apparatus has been designed to connect less than 200 domestic properties and less than 20 Non Daily Metered I&C loads.
- Excludes jobs defined as “Complex”

### ***Complex Job***

- Any job not meeting the small or large job category
- Any job meeting the Sufficient Complexity obstacle category of Northern Gas Networks connections charging methodology statement pursuant to Standard Condition 4B of its Gas Transporter Licence.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To qualify for a reduction in charges a ICP must confirm their GIRS registration status and /or subcontractor GIRS registration status (if applicable), subject to the above rules. The GIRS registration status must be the “Full” registration status and appear on the GIRS Operator’s public listing. ICPs should indicate their registration status in the appropriate boxes on the customer quotation request form.



## 8. Abortive Visit Charges

### Statement of Charges

The charge to be applied for eligible abortive visits is £100 excluding VAT.

### Application

The abortive visit charge is applicable for all connection works.

The abortive visit standard charge is subject to the eligibility criteria, detailed below, being met.

### Eligibility Criteria

For an abortive visit charge to be applied, the following must occur:

- a) the customer refuses an on-site variation for a shipper self quote, which may require a job cancellation or deferral, or;
- b) the customer has not informed Northern Gas Networks with a minimum of 72 hours' notice, of on-site conditions which prevent the work from being carried out, or would make it unsafe to do so. For example this would include Vehicles/Skips/Scaffolding along the route of the gas supply or the customer not being present to allow access for internal works. Where on-site conditions outside of the customer's control prevent the work from being carried out, no charge shall be made, or;
- c) the customer refuses an on-site variation for a customer self quote (including alteration standard charge self-quotation), which may require a job cancellation or deferral.

Northern Gas Networks will apply VAT to these charges at the appropriate rate. This rate will depend on the nature of the work being carried out and the status of the customer being billed.

### Other Information

Such an invoice shall clearly state that the charge relates to a cancelled one off connection, and the reason for the cancellation.

Where Northern Gas Networks has visited the premises for the purpose of laying a new connection pipe and found a live supply to an Emergency Control Valve, an Abortive Visit Charge is not applicable.



## 9. Examples

The following examples are used for illustrative purposes only and show the application of Northern Gas Networks standard charges in a range of scenarios (new connections, disconnection and alterations).

### [a\) New connection standard charge](#)

#### Example Project Details

A request is received by Northern Gas Networks for the new connection of a house (not part of a multiple development) of which the request details are:

- Annual Quantity – 20,000 kWh per annum.
- Proximity of the premises to a relevant main – 5 metres.
- Length of pipe required on consumer's premises – 11 metres.
- Excavation type – Northern Gas Networks to excavate and reinstate.
- Termination – to a bolt on meter box on the front profile of the building.

#### Charges Applied

The request is eligible for a standard charge and a charge of **£627 plus VAT** is quoted to the customer.

### [b\) Disconnection standard charge](#)

#### Example Project Details

A request is received by Northern Gas Networks for the disconnection of a gas service pipe of which the request details are:

- Diameter of service pipe to be disconnected – 63mm.
- Pressure tier of network connected to – Low Pressure.
- Surface category of the disconnection – Unmade ground.

#### Charges Applied

The request is eligible for a disconnection standard charge of **£770 plus VAT** at the appropriate rate.

Note this charge does not include for any work related to the removal of the gas meter.

### [c\) Alteration standard charges](#)

#### Example Project Details

A request is received by Northern Gas Networks for the alteration of a gas service pipe of which the request details are:

- Diameter of service pipe to be altered – 32mm.
- Operating pressure of service pipe – Low Pressure
- Service entry – Ground Floor.
- Length of alteration required – 6 metres
- Surface adjacent to existing service entry is flower bed
- Surface adjacent to proposed meter box is tarmac
- Security or similar access restrictions – None
- A bolt on meter housing is required

## Charges Applied

The request is eligible for a standard charge. Three additional metres are required to the base charge resulting in **£804 plus VAT** charge which is self-quoted by the customer.

Note this charge does not include work related to the relocation or reconnection of the gas meter.



# 10. Glossary of Terms

## Abbreviation/Term

## Description

### **Infill**

An **Infill** is the extension of new relevant mains to an area having a number of existing premises, there may also be new premises being constructed in the area, where not all of the owners or occupiers of those premises have expressed a desire to be connected to a gas supply at the time the mains are laid. In an infill, an individual contract is formed when sufficient premises have returned completed acceptances for a gas connection and an individual charge is made to carry out that connection. Northern Gas Networks will only accept acceptances, which would establish an infill when the expected uptake of gas connections in the first 20 years is sufficient to make the project economic. The infill is only confirmed when sufficient acceptances have been received to confirm that the expected uptake of connections to gas is likely to be achieved. The charging arrangements for Infills are covered by the Gas Connection Charges Regulations.

### **Relevant Main**

A **Relevant Main** is a distribution main operated by Northern Gas Networks which is being used for the purpose of giving a supply of gas to any premises in its authorised area at a rate not exceeding 2,196,000 kWh per annum except any pipe which is not relevant in accordance with Section 10 (13) of the Gas Act 1986 as amended by the Gas Act 1995.



## 11. Complaints

If there is a problem with the service you have received from Northern Gas Networks, please contact us in writing, by e-mail or by telephone. It will be helpful, when contacting us, if you can provide any information relating to your case (i.e. reference numbers so that we can deal with your complaint more quickly).

Written complaint / query should be sent to:

Customer Service

Northern Gas Networks

1st Floor

1 Emperor Way

Doxford International Business Park

Sunderland

SR3 3XR

Telephone complaint: **0800 040 7766** (office hours)

E-mail complaint:

[customercare@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:customercare@northerngas.co.uk)

Copies of our complaints procedure can be found on our website:

<http://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk>.

