



# Water Industry Act 1999

## 1999 CHAPTER 9

### PART I

#### WATER CHARGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

#### **6 Right of consumer to elect for charging by reference to volume**

After section 144 of the Water Industry Act 1991 there is inserted—

*“Restrictions on charging*

#### **144A Right of consumer to elect for charging by reference to volume**

- (1) Where—
- (a) water is supplied by a water undertaker to premises in which, or in any part of which, a person has his home, and
  - (b) charges in respect of those premises are fixed by virtue of any charges scheme under section 143 above without reference to the volume of water supplied,
- the consumer may at any time give the undertaker a notice (in this section referred to as a “measured charges notice”) requiring the undertaker to fix charges in respect of the supply by reference to the volume of water supplied.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, a water undertaker must give effect to a measured charges notice before the end of a period determined in accordance with the undertaker’s charges scheme.
- (3) A water undertaker is not obliged to give effect to a measured charges notice if—
- (a) it is not reasonably practicable to fix charges in respect of the premises by reference to the volume of water supplied, or
  - (b) to do so would involve the incurring by the undertaker of unreasonable expense.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (4) Any dispute between a water undertaker and a consumer as to the application of paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (3) above may be referred to the Director for determination under section 30A above by either party to the dispute.
- (5) Where—
- (a) either the conditions in subsection (6) below or the conditions in subsection (7) below are satisfied in relation to premises in respect of which a measured charges notice has been given, and
  - (b) such other conditions as may be prescribed are also satisfied in relation to the premises,
- the consumer may, at any time before the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which the supply began to be measured by volume for charging purposes, revoke the measured charges notice by notice to the water undertaker.
- (6) The conditions in this subsection are—
- (a) that the person who gave the measured charges notice had not given any previous measured charges notice in relation to the premises, and
  - (b) that he remains the consumer in respect of the premises.
- (7) The conditions in this subsection are—
- (a) that the person who gave the measured charges notice has, since the notice was given, ceased to be the consumer in respect of the premises,
  - (b) that neither he nor the person who has become the consumer had given any previous measured charges notice in respect of the premises, and
  - (c) that any person who was in occupation of the premises when the measured charges notice was given remains in occupation.
- (8) Where a measured charges notice has been revoked under subsection (5) above, the water undertaker must—
- (a) if reasonably practicable, before the end of the period of twelve months referred to in that subsection, or
  - (b) in any other case, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that period,
- revert to fixing the charges for the supply in respect of the premises without reference to the volume of water supplied.
- (9) If and so long as a water undertaker is obliged under subsection (2) above to fix charges for the supply of water in respect of any premises by reference to the volume of water supplied, a sewerage undertaker is under a corresponding obligation to fix charges in respect of foul water drainage provided by the sewerage undertaker in respect of those premises by reference to that volume.
- (10) If a water undertaker is obliged under subsection (8) above to fix charges without reference to volume, a sewerage undertaker is under a corresponding obligation in respect of charges for services provided by it.
- (11) Any charges scheme under section 143 above—
- (a) must contain provision for determining the period mentioned in subsection (2) above, and
  - (b) shall have effect subject to the preceding provisions of this section.”