

2.4 Supplementary time and materials charges

Our wholly predictable and planned regulatory activity can be funded through fixed annual subsistence and application charges as described above.

We also intend to use time and materials, at a defined hourly rate, or other supplementary fixed charges, where we incur unusual and less predictable costs dealing with specific customers. This approach will allow more targeted and timelier cost recovery for resource deployed over and above that planned and recovered via baseline charges.

This enables us to target the recovery of costs in-year from the responsible person for unusual activity and events that are not part of the usual planned regulatory activity at all sites. An example of this would be the follow-up work assessing reports or fresh proposals, related to 'improvement conditions' imposed in a permit variation. This work is independent of activity covered by our baseline charges and seeks only to recover additional costs we incur in year on a case by case basis.

The circumstances in which we'd apply fixed charges and time and material supplementary charges are specified in section 4. Further information is within the consultation and related guidance documents. In each circumstance the customer will have a clear indication of when supplementary charging will apply. In the case of time and material charging, this provision will only be used in specific, limited circumstances. We will notify operators when they are entering time and materials supplementary charging, and keep them informed of estimated costs of on-going supplementary work.