

2.8 Transition from existing scheme to proposed scheme

We propose to implement the proposed charges from 1 April 2018. The intent is that from that date the new charging provisions will apply to our future regulatory actions. However, 'fully paid for' regulatory activities that are in progress having been commenced before that date, will be completed under the remit of the existing charging scheme.

For example, this means that applications received before 1 April 2018 will pay application charges due under the existing scheme. There may be subsequent supplementary charges due where advertising is necessary, or where applications are subsequently amended by the applicant. These supplements would have been due under the existing scheme and will continue to be due under the proposed scheme at the same charge. No new supplements due under the new scheme will apply to such applications, so we would not, for example levy supplementary charges relating to extended consultation for sites of high public interest.

Annual subsistence charges for existing permits will be levied at the proposed rates set out in this consultation for 2018/19. These baseline charges do not cover any unusual or exceptional regulatory effort that may be required. Hence, any additional work that we undertake after 1 April (for example in responding to exceptional pollution events; in assessing submissions made to us in response to permit conditions, etc) will incur supplementary charges as set out in this consultation.

We have proposed a supplementary charge to provide additional early engagement with a new operator. We propose to have a first year charge to cover the costs of an additional site visit and advice, when these sites first commence operations. This would apply to activities that commence after 1 April 2018.