

4.7 Subsistence charges for multi-activity operations.

We have set out proposed charges for permitted activities, having considered these from a regime and sector perspective. For most permits the activities will fall within a single charge category and only that charge will be due, though supplementary charges may also be necessary for any first year charge, or any unplanned, unusual and exceptional work. The 'most apt' charge is levied for any single activity where there is any doubt as to the appropriate category.

However, some operations and permits cover more than one type of activity described in the charging scheme table. In these cases the subsistence charge to pay is usually the sum of the charges for the different activities (the 'sum of all charges rule'). For example a landfill site with a permitted discharge to watercourse would pay the charge for both the regulation of the landfill and the charge for the regulation of the discharge.

We have some sectors where activities are diverse and often involve a number of complementary or ancillary activities, which could each merit a separate charge. We have sought to keep things simple for the customers affected by creating charge categories that include the most common ancillary activities – usually through a 'component' approach. Hence, for the Food & Drink, Paper Pulp & Textiles and Chemicals sector we have dis-applied the 'sum of all charges rule'. This is referenced further in the section of this consultation document relating to each sector

Within the waste transfer and treatment sector the permit categories have been specifically designed such that our regulatory costs are recovered by levying the charge for the highest cost waste installation and / or the highest cost waste operation occurring under any permit. This arrangement replaces a number of rules under our previous charging scheme, dealing with activities that might fall within a number of different charge categories, or may be charged differently if they were on adjacent land.

We have also made provision for water discharge activities to face only one charge, as they do currently, where effluents are combined into one discharge. As effluent monitoring is already addressed in the regulation of most installation facilities, we will not levy a separate water discharge charge for these cases. The exceptions are for some aspects of Onshore Oil & Gas, Mining Waste, Waste Transfer and Treatment and Landfill sectors, where we have ensured that the charges are complementary.