

Environment Agency charge proposal:

fluorinated greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances **consultation response form**

December 2024

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We cannot do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

Published by:

Environment Agency
Horizon House, Deanery Road,
Bristol BS1 5AH

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

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Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

## Introduction

The Environment Agency administers the fluorinated greenhouse gases (F Gas) and ozone depleting substances (ODS) online services on behalf of England, Scotland and Wales. We use an annual quota and licensing system to make sure national and international obligations are met for the levels of controlled substances being imported and exported.

Our role is to manage businesses registering on these services. This involves:

* calculating quota and managing quota transactions
* determining licence applications
* reviewing annual reports
* working with businesses and HM Revenue & Customs to ensure ongoing compliance with the scheme
* providing guidance and a helpdesk

‘Quota’ is the amount of controlled substances that can be imported or produced in England, Scotland and Wales. This is described as equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide for F Gas, and mass for ODS.

These activities, including the information technology developed to replace the EU services, have been government funded and are free for businesses to use.

The number of businesses using the F Gas and ODS services has increased, and the government funding we receive to manage these services is no longer sufficient. We will not be able to continue providing the same level of service without introducing charges to fully recover our costs.

This consultation sets out our new charging proposals for F Gas and ODS and we invite you to share your views.

We are seeking to recover the full cost of our services through charges. We have reviewed our activities to assess the cost of delivering our services, inflationary pressures and incorporating the cost of new services that will allow us to continue to effectively regulate.

For F Gas we propose to introduce charges for:

* new registration from April 2025
* annual subsistence

For ODS we propose to introduce charges for:

* new registrations from April 2025
* new applications for import export licences and quota
* laboratory ODS service declaration (LabODS)
* annual subsistence

We would like you to share your views so that we can understand the impacts and benefits, as you consider them, of the proposals outlined in this consultation. We would also like to hear any suggestions on how we can improve these proposals.

### How to respond to this consultation

This consultation will run for 8 weeks from 19 December 2024 until midnight on 13 February 2025. You can view the consultation document, questions and supporting documents using the Citizen Space online consultation tool <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/f-gas-ods>.

**Please use this form if you are responding by email or post rather than online,** referring to the consultation document for the full details of our proposed charges. Specific pages are indicated to provide the background needed for each question. Please complete the questions and where there are free text boxes, give as much information as possible to support your answers.

To return this response form, or to request a hard copy of the consultation document and or response form, please contact us by email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or by post:

Environment Agency

Charge consultation: F Gas and ODS

Richard Fairclough House,

Knutsford Road,

Warrington,

WA4 1HT

### Consultation principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the guidance set out in the government's [consultation principles](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance). If you believe the consultation has not been run in accordance with these principles, please email consultation.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Otherwise, for all other queries or complaints relating to this consultation please email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

### How we will use your information

We will publish our response on both GOV.UK and Citizen Space within 12 weeks of this consultation closing and before we implement any changes. It will include a summary of the comments and queries we received.

We will include a list of organisations that responded but will not include individual comments. We will outline our recommendations which take these into account.

We will circulate a link to our response to all consultees and other interested parties who have asked to be kept informed. We will not respond individually to consultees.

**Privacy Notice**

We would like to keep you informed about the outcomes of this consultation. If you would like to receive emails acknowledging your response and or telling you when we have published the summary of responses, please tick the relevant boxes below:

[ ]  receive an email acknowledging my response

[ ]  receive an email to let me know the consultation response document is published

If you have ticked any of the boxes above, please tell us your email address:

Email:

By giving us your email address, you consent for us to email you about the consultation. We will keep your details until we have notified you of the response document publication.

We will not share your details with any other third party without your explicit consent unless required to by law.

You can withdraw your consent to receive these email as at any time by contacting us at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

#### Can we publish your response?

In line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation but will not include any personal information. If you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, please tell us what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

The Environment Agency is the data controller for the personal data you provide. For more information on how we deal with your personal data please see our [personal information charter on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter).

You can email our Data Protection team: dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Please tick one of the following:

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

If you answered no, please tell us why below as we will need to understand this when responding to any Freedom of Information requests.

To help us when we come to analyse the consultation responses, we would like you to answer a few questions about you or about your organisation if you are responding on their behalf.

#### Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group.

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  a) responding as an individual

[ ]  b) responding on behalf of an organisation or group

[ ]  c) other

If you selected (b) ‘responding on behalf of an organisation or group’, please tell us the name of your organisation or group:

If you selected (c) 'other' please specify:

**Please tell us if you are responding to**

[ ]  F Gas only

[ ]  ODS only

[ ]  both F Gas and ODS

#### Please tell us how you found out about this consultation:

[ ]  from Environment Agency

[ ]  from another organisation

[ ]  through an organisation, group, or trade association you are a member of

[ ]  press article

[ ]  social media, for example, Facebook

[ ]  through a meeting you attended

[ ]  other (please specify)

If you selected *other* please tell us how you found out about the consultation

## F Gas charging proposals

*Please refer to pages 7 to 8 and page 13 of the consultation document (F Gas charging proposals)*

### F Gas charging proposals: registration charge

#### Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed F Gas registration charge?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### F Gas charging proposals: annual subsistence charge

#### Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed F Gas annual subsistence charge?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

## ODS charging proposals

*Please refer to pages 9 to 13 of the consultation document (ODS charging proposals:)*

### ODS charging proposals: registration charge

#### Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed charge for registering on the ODS service?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### Import or export licence application charges

#### Standard import or export licence application charge

#### Question 4: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed ODS standard import or export licence application charge?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

#### Multi-shipment import or export licence application charge

#### Question 5: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed ODS multi-shipment import or export licence application charge?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### ODS charging proposals: LabODS declaration charge

*Please refer to pages 14 to 17 of the consultation document (**UK ETS charge proposals: waste installations charges)*

#### Question 6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed LabODS declaration charge?

Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### ODS charging proposals: quota application charge

#### Question 7: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed ODS quota applications charge?

#### Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### ODS charging proposals: annual subsistence charge

#### Question 8: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed ODS annual subsistence charge?

#### Please choose one of the following:

[ ]  strongly agree

[ ]  agree

[ ]  neither agree nor disagree

[ ]  disagree

[ ]  strongly disagree

[ ]  do not know

[ ]  not applicable

Why do you think this?

### Additional comments about the F Gas and ODS charging proposals

Question 9: Please share any additional comments or suggestions you may have about our F Gas and ODS charging proposals.

Your response

END of CONSULTATION

### Publishing our consultation response

We will publish our response on both GOV.UK and Citizen Space within 12 weeks of this consultation closing and before we implement any changes. It will include a summary of the comments and queries we received.

We will include a list of organisations that responded but will not include individual comments. We will outline our recommendations which take these into account.

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# **Would you like to find out more about us or your environment?**

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or visit our website

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](https://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

## **incident hotline**

0800 807060 **(24 hours)**

## **floodline**

0345 988 1188 **(24 hours)**

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

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