

GENERAL LICENCE: Payment to Water Companies for Water & Sewage
INT/2023/3179120

1. This licence is granted under all UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations listed in Annex 1 of this licence.
2. Any act which would otherwise breach the prohibitions in the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, as listed in Annex 1 of this licence, is exempt from those prohibitions to the extent required to give effect to the permissions in this licence.
3. In this licence:

"UK DPs" means	Those individuals or entities designated (or owned or controlled by an individual or an entity designated) for the purposes of an asset freeze by the UK under the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, excluding those designated for the purpose of compliance with United Nations obligations. Those individuals or entities designated by the UK under the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regimes only, but not those sanctioned by the United Nations.
"the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations" means	Those sanctions regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (the Sanctions Act) and listed in the Annex 1 of this licence.
"Water Companies" or "the Water Company" means	In respect of England and Wales: Any company holding an appointment or licence under Part II of the Water Industry Act 1991. Or, In respect of Scotland: Scottish Water , a body corporate established under section 20 of the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 and having its head office at The Bridge, 6 Buchanan Gate, Stepps, Glasgow, G33 6FB; and Licensed Provider , a company granted a water services and/or sewerage services licence by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland under section 6(1) of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005. Or, In respect of Northern Ireland: Any company appointed as a water undertaker or sewerage undertaker under Part III of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.
"Permitted Payments" means	Utility payments for water and/or sewerage services to UK properties owned or rented by UK DPs.

<p>"Return Payments" means</p>	<p>A payment payable by a Water Company to a UK DP in connection with water and/or sewerage services to a UK property owned or rented by the DP and arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an overpayment by the DP, - a credit on the account of the DP, - a billing adjustment (whether or not as a result of error) by the Water Company, - termination of the services. <p>Payments due as a result of overpayments made by a UK DP pursuant to this licence.</p>
<p>"Person" means</p>	<p><u>An individual</u> or body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP.</p>
<p>a "Yearly Quarter" means</p>	<p>A yearly quarter refers to one of the four three-month periods that make up a full year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 1 – March 31 - April 1 – June 30 - July 1 – September 30 - October 1 – December 31
<p>a "Relevant UK Institution" means</p>	<p>A person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activity).</p> <p>A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Payment Services Regulations (SI 2017/752).</p> <p>A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Electronic Money Regulations (SI 2011/99).</p> <p>A person that is a "recognised clearing house", "third country central counterparty", "recognised CSD" or "third country CSD" for the purposes of s.285 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.</p> <p>A person that is an operator of a recognised payment system (or that is a service provider in relation to recognised payment systems) for the purposes of Part 5 of the Banking Act 2009.</p>

Permissions

4. Under this licence, subject to the conditions in Paragraphs 7-10 below:
 - 4.1. UK DPs may make the Permitted Payments to Water Companies ~~from a frozen UK bank account;~~
 - 4.2. Any person may make a Permitted Payment to a Water Company (directly or indirectly), for or on behalf of a DP or for the benefit of a DP; and
 - 4.3. Water Companies may receive Permitted Payments made under paragraphs 1 or 2.

5. Under this licence, subject to the conditions in Paragraphs 7-10 below:
 - 5.1. the Water Companies may make Return Payments to frozen UK bank accounts ~~due as a result of overpayment~~; and
 - 5.2. UK DPs may receive Return Payments from Water Companies into a frozen UK bank account.
6. A Relevant UK Institution may process payments made in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

Reporting Requirements

7. ~~On a quarterly basis~~ Within 30 days of the end of a Yearly Quarter, the UK DP must make a report to HM Treasury in respect of all Permitted Payments made during that Yearly Quarter, with details and supporting evidence of:
 - i) The name of the Water Company;
 - ii) The amount(s) paid;
 - iii) The payment route used; and
 - iv) The date on which the funds were paid.
8. Within 14 days of making a Return Payment under this licence, the Water Companies must report to HM Treasury, with details of:
 - i) The name of the UK DP;
 - ii) The amount(s) transferred;
 - iii) The payment route used;
 - iv) The date on which the funds were transferred; and
 - v) The reason for the Return Payment.

Record-keeping Requirements

9. The Water Companies and UK DPs must keep accurate, complete and readable records, on paper or electronically, of any activity purporting to have been permitted under this licence for a minimum of 6 years.

General

10. The permissions in this licence do not authorise any act which will result in funds or economic resources being made available in breach of the relevant UK autonomous sanctions Regulations, save as permitted under this licence or a specific licence granted under those Regulations.
11. Information provided to HM Treasury in connection with this licence shall be disclosed to third parties only in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the UK Data Protection Act 2018.
12. This licence takes effect from the 21 September 2023.
13. HM Treasury may vary, revoke or suspend this licence at any time.

Signed:



Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

HM Treasury

21 September 2023.

Amended 1 October 2024.

Amended 26 September 2025.

Annex 1– UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations Schedules

Regime	Relevant Regulations
The Republic of Belarus (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Bosnia & Herzegovina (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Central African Republic (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Chemical Weapons (Sanction) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Counter-Terrorism (International Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Counter-Terrorism (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Cyber (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 13 to 17
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 16
The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021	Regulations 11 to 15
The Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Global Irregular Migration and Smuggling in Persons (Sanctions) Regulations 2025	Regulations 14 to 18
The Guinea (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Republic of Guinea-Bissau (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Iran (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2023	Regulations 15 to 19
The Iran (Sanctions) (Nuclear) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 17
The Libya (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Mali (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Myanmar (Sanctions) Regulations 2021	Regulations 11 to 15
The Nicaragua (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 17A
The Somalia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The South Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 16
The Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Syria (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Venezuela (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Yemen (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Zimbabwe (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15