



General Licence – Publication Notice

General licence - INT/2023/3179120

OFSI has the power to issue General Licences for country sanctions regimes under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (“the Sanctions Act”).

On 21 September 2023, OFSI issued General Licence INT/2023/3179120 under all UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations (see Annex 1 of the General Licence for the list of relevant Regulations) which allows for payment to water companies for water and sewage services by UK designated persons who own or rent properties in the UK. Any persons intending to use General Licence INT/2023/3179120 should consult the copy of the Licence on this webpage for full details of the permissions and usage requirements.

For the purposes of General Licence INT/2023/3179120:

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.
- **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.
- **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.

UK DPs means individuals or entities designated under the UK Sanctions Regimes only, but not those sanctioned by the United Nations.

Permitted Payments means utility payments for water and/or sewerage services to UK properties owned or rented by UK DPs.

Return Payments means payments 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:

- 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.

Person means a body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP.

Relevant UK Institution means:

- A person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activity).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Payment Services Regulations (SI 2017/752).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Electronic Money Regulations (SI 2011/99).
- 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.
- 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.

Under General Licence INT/2023/3179120, UK DPs may make the Permitted Payments to Water Companies from a frozen UK bank account; 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 Water Companies may receive the Permitted Payments. Water Companies may make Return Payments to frozen UK bank accounts and UK DPs may receive Return Payments from Water Companies into a frozen UK bank account.

The reporting and record-keeping requirements for UK DPs and Water Companies are set out in the General Licence.

On 1 October 2024, General Licence INT/2023/3179120 was updated:

1. The definition of UK DPs was amended to:
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.
2. The definition of Return Payments was amended to:
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:
 - 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.
3. The validity of the General Licence is now indefinite.

On 26 September 2025 this licence was amended such that:

- Reference to frozen UK bank accounts has been removed from Permissions 4.1 to make clear that payments by DPs are not restricted to those made from frozen funds;
- The definition of Person has been updated to: ‘An individual or a body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP’;
- Annex 1, Schedule of UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, now includes the Global Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Persons Sanctions Regulations 2025; and,

- The reporting conditions have been updated to be submitted: “Within 30 days of the end of a Yearly Quarter” (refer to paragraph 8 of the General Licence).

General

The permissions in General Licence INT/2023/3179120 do not authorise any act which the person carrying out the act knows, or has reasonable grounds for suspecting, will result in funds or economic resources being made available in breach of the Russia Regulations, save as permitted under licences granted under the Russia Regulations.

General Licence INT/2023/3179120 took effect on 21 September 2023.

Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

HM Treasury