

Chapter 6 Key outputs Customer service standards

Covering:

Statutory Guaranteed Standards Scheme Enhanced Guaranteed Standards Scheme Companies' Customer Charters



Chapter 6 Key outputs Customer service standards

Note: This table and the following guidance are issued in AIR08 for information only and as a guide to potential future reporting requirements when reporting on guaranteed standards becomes relevant. This guidance mirrors what Ofwat currently request. No company return or reporter commentary is required for AIR08.

Aim

To report non-compliance with the minimum standards set out in Guaranteed Standards Scheme (GSS) Regulations and companies own enhancements to these standards or other service areas.

To report payments made to customers for failure to meet GSS standard, enhanced GSS or company charters.

Common definitions

GSS Event: failure to meet the standards as set out in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI 1989:1159), as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500, SI 1996:3065 and S1 2000: 2301. NB: These standards are not the same as the levels of service performance criteria.

GSS Payment: payments made following a GSS Event including where company enhances payment level.

Enhanced Guaranteed Standards Scheme (EGSS) Event: failure to meet standards set by the company that, whilst based on the statutory GSS, go beyond the provisions of that scheme; for example,

- a reduction in the qualifying period triggering a payment; or
- automatic payment made where the GSS requires the customer to make a claim for a penalty payment.

Company Customer Service Standards/Charters: failure to meet company standards that fall outside of the provisions of the statutory GSS or go beyond an enhanced GSS. Also includes ex gratia payments.

Payments: these include the following:

- any cheques made payable to the customer and sent directly to him/her, or to a third party acting on behalf of the customer; and
- any credits made to customers' accounts.

Penalty payments: If the company fails to pay the required statutory GSS payment within timescale specified, the customer is entitled to a further payment except for regulation 7AA Pressure standard.

Guidance

Table 6 records GSS Events due to failures against the GSS Regulations. Each Regulation is included in the table along with the breakdown of the different elements of the Regulations.



The aim of the table is to show non-compliance with the GSS Regulations, plus where companies have elected to enhance GSS criteria, EGSS Events and the number of value of payments made by companies. Companies should record in their commentaries any differences between the number of GSS Events and the number of payments made.

As noted above levels of service performance criteria does not match the GSS criteria and should not be relied on in the completion of GSS lines. Nevertheless companies should reconcile all numbers where possible to those in previous tables. However where there is a large discrepancy between related service areas please provide a brief commentary by way of explanation.

For companies operating wholly or mainly in Wales, GSS Events where the Regulations differ should be recorded in the most appropriate line.

GSS Events: Companies should record all GSS Events of failures of the GSS standards in the appropriate lines. Events triggered by Statutory GSS should be recorded in the GSS line. Events triggered by companies EGSS criteria e.g. warning for a period more than 1 hour but less than 4 hours should be recorded in the EGSS line...

Section I Lines 22-24

Penalty payments: Events relating to-penalty payments should be recorded in lines 22, 23 or 24. Events relating to automatic penalty payments for regulations 6 – Notice of interruption of supply, 7 – Supply not restored and 7b – Flooding from sewers should be recorded in line 22. Events relating to claimed penalty payments for regulations 3 – Keeping appointments, 4 – Account queries and requests about payment arrangements and 5 - Complaints about water or sewerage service should be recorded in line 23. Where companies offer enhanced criteria e.g. claimed penalty payments are made automatically, these should be recorded in line 24.

Section J Lines 25-32

Payments: Companies should record payments made under the statutory GSS, enhanced GSS or their own customer service standards schemes/charters in the appropriate lines in section J. These headings are mutually exclusive; companies are not required to apportion costs except where a joint payment is made in respect of distinct service standards.

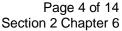
Guaranteed Standards Scheme

- This should include only payments made in compliance with the GSS Regulations.
- Where a standard GSS payment is made within a larger unrelated payment, only the GSS payment should be recorded in the GSS line. For example, a GSS payment may be included within a cheque for a rebate of charges;
- Where a standard GSS payment is made together with an amount related to a different service standard, the payments should be recorded separately in the appropriate GSS lines. For example, a customer may receive both a GSS payment for a failure to respond within ten working days to a complaint about a contractor's vehicles being parked across a customer's driveway, and an ex-gratia payment in recognition of the inconvenience caused by the contractor.

Enhanced Guaranteed Standards Scheme

- This should include payments made which are based on the GSS criteria but enhance the standards stated in the regulations.
- Where a company makes a payment of a greater monetary value than required under the GSS, the whole of this payment should be recorded in lines 26 and 27.

Company Customer Charter





 Where a company makes a payment in respect of a standard that falls outside the scope of the GSS Regulations, this should be recorded in lines 31 and 32. For example, "failure to provide a receipt if requested by a customer" may be a standard that the company has added to its charter.

Details of the company's own standards should be recorded in the commentary.

Incidents: Companies should use the commentary to report where they have made a significant number of payments relating to a single incident (e.g. supply interruption, water quality incident, sewer flooding etc.)

Companies should explain all differences between numbers of failures and payments, for example, by describing where payments are for failures in the previous year, or are to be paid in the following year.

Company commentary

The company should:

- ensure that all Events are reported in the correct lines regardless of how they are paid;
- report where it has made a significant number of payments relating to a single incident;
- where possible, reconcile GSS Events to Events reported in tables 2-5 and provide an explanation where the number of failures differs to the number of payments;
- provide details of enhanced standards (EGSS) including details of payment level, and value of payments;
- provide details of company's own standards including a summary of payments made under company's own standards;
- state any assumptions made in reporting figures in the balance sheets;
- comment on significant year on year changes in reported figures;
- provide justification for the confidence grade assigned to each line including an explanation for any changes in confidence grades from previous years. Confidence grades should take account of any areas where the companies does not meet the reporting requirements;
- provide an update on any remaining actions identified in the MD220 review and at JR07;
 and
- confirm methodology statement for GSS compliance is up to date outlining any changes (Methodology statements are not required to be submitted with the June return, but should be made available to the reporter and Ofwat on request).

Guidance to Reporters

The Reporter should comment on:

- confirm or otherwise that all methods used by the company are as company has described:
- confirm company has disclosed all assumptions;
- confirm confidence grade assigned by company reflect the methods that they apply;
- comment on delivery of MD220 action plan or other actions identified at JR07; and
- describe in detail the checks that the reporter has carried out in order to be able to
 confirm and comment on each of the points set out above. Including for example how
 the reporter has selected any samples for audit from the full sample; quantity sampled;
 robustness of sample; materiality of assumptions and any weaknesses; discussions
 held with company staff.



Table 6 line definitions

A GSS - APPOINTMENTS

1	Failure to specify am/pm or provide 2 hour slot (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulations section 3. Total number of GSS Events where the company has specify to the customer when making an appointmen will be am/pm or failure to offer the customer a 2 hou when requested.	1989:1 000: 230 /e failed t whethe)1, Él to er it
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00001		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team	•	

2	Failure to keep appointment (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI 1989:1159) as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 2000: 2301, Regulations section 3. The total number of GSS Events where the company has failed to keep the appointment with the customer.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00002		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

3	Failure to correctly cancel an appointment (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI 1989:1159) as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 2000: 2301, Regulations section 3. The total number of GSS Events where the company have not given the customer 24 hours notice of cancelling the appointment.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ		
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00003		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

4	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed its enhanced standard for appointments. The relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payments offers a 2 hour slot automatically.	his line	only
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00004		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		



B GSS – WRITTEN ACCOUNT QUERIES

ACCOUNT QUERIES

Failure to despatch a substantive reply within 10 working days (Events)	nr	0dp
(Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 4. Number of GSS Events where a substantive reply was despatched to the customer within ten working days.	1989:1 000: 230 as not from the	o1, É
Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Input		
GSS00005		
Service and Performance Team		
	working days (Events) As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 4. Number of GSS Events where a substantive reply wadespatched to the customer within ten working days of receipt of a written account query regarding the cothe account. Checking compliance with statutory and Licence required Input GSS00005	working days (Events) As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI 1989:1 as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 2000: 230 Regulation 4. Number of GSS Events where a substantive reply was not despatched to the customer within ten working days from the of receipt of a written account query regarding the correctnes the account. Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirement Input GSS00005

6	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed its enhanced standard for written account of line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced participates are sponse within 5 works.	queries. ayments	This s e.g.
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00006		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team	-	

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

7	Failure to despatch a substantive reply within 5 working days where request cannot be met (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 4. Number of GSS Events where a substantive reply wadespatched to the customer within five working days of receipt of a request from the customer to change parrangements where the request for a payment arrangement.	1989:1 000: 230 as not from the	e date
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00007		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

8	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed its enhanced standard for payment arrange line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payment states it will provide a response in all cases	ements. ayments	This
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		·



Reference	GSS00008
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team

C GSS - WRITTEN COMPLAINTS

9	Failure to despatch a substantive reply within 10 working days (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 5. Number of GSS Events where a substantive reply wadespatched to the customer within ten working days of receipt of a written complaint.	1989:1 000: 230 as not)1, ^
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN207		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		_

10	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed its enhanced standard for payment arrange line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payment states it will provide a response in 5 days.	ements.	This
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00009		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

D GSS - NOTICE OF INTERRUPTIONS TO SUPPLY

11	Failure to warn for planned interruptions of more than 4 hours (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulations 6. The total number of GSS Events where the company warn customers of interruptions of more than 4 hours	1989:1 000: 230 has fai)1, [^]
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input	•	
Reference	GSS00010		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team	_	

12	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the company has failed its enhanced standard for notice of supply interruptions. This line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payments e.g. company states it will notify customer of interruptions of more than 1 hour.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00011		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		



E GSS – SUPPLY NOT DULY RESTORED

PLANNED INTERRUPTIONS

13	Failure to restore supply within period specified in notice (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulations 7 (Planned Interruptions): The total number of GSS Events where the company restore the supply within the period specified in the n	1989:1 000: 230 has fail)1,
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00012		·
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		_

UNPLANNED INTERRUPTIONS

14	Failure to restore supply within 48 hours for emergency works – strategic main (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servic (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 7 (Unplanned Interruptions): The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed to restore the supply within 48 hours for enworks when there is a leak or burst on a strategic ma	1989:1 000: 230 e compa	01, É
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ		ts
Processing rule	Input	<u> </u>	
Reference	GSS00013		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

15	Failure to restore supply within 12 hours for emergency works – non strategic main (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servic (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500 and SI 20 Regulation 7 (Unplanned Interruptions): The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed to restore the supply within 12 hours for enworks when there is a leak or burst which is not on a main.	1989:1 000: 230 e compa nergenc	any
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00014		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		



16	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the has failed its enhanced standard for notice of supply This line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhance. working to a 10 hour standard for all mains.	interrup	tions.
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00015		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

F GSS – PRESSURE STANDARD

17	Failure to maintain minimum pressure standard (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	(Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500, SI 1996: 2000: 2301, Regulation 7AA. The total number of GSS Events where the company maintain the minimum pressure standard of seven m	The total number of GSS Events where the company has failed to maintain the minimum pressure standard of seven meters static head on two occasions, each lasting not less than one hour, in any	
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input	•	·
Reference	GSS00016		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

18	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the company		any
	has failed its enhanced standard for pressure. This line only		
	relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payments e.g. company		
	states it will maintain pressure at 15 meters static head.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00017		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		



G GSS – SEWER FLOODING - Internal

40			
19	Flooding from sewers entering properties (Events) nr Odp		
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI 1989:1159) as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500, SI 1996:3065 and SI 2000: 2301, Regulation 7B.		
	The total number of GSS Events where flooding from sewer has entered a customer's property.		
	Where a company, under its own customer charter, makes exgratia payments, or payments for external flooding from sewers, the number of payments made and the value of such payments should be entered in lines 31 & 32 respectively.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.		
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00018		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

20	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	<mark>nr</mark>	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events where the company has failed its enhanced standard for sewer flooding. This line only relates to enhanced criteria not enhanced payments.		
	Where a company, under its own customer charter, makes exgratia payments, or payments for external flooding from sewers, the number of payments made and the value of such payments should be entered in lines 31 and 32 respectively.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	its.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00019		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

H ALL REGULATIONS

21	Number of Events where payment has not been made as allowed by exclusions in regulations e.g. severe weather or 3 rd party action	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servic (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 1989' (SI as amended by SI 1989:1383, SI 1993:500, SI 1996: 2000: 2301, Regulations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7AA and 7B. The total number of events as reported in rows 1, 2, 3 12, 14, 15, 17 & 19 where a payment has not been m company following a GSS Event as company have us exclusion as stated in the Regulation.	1989:1 3065 ar 3, 5, 7, 9 nade by	nd SÍ 9, 11,
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00020		



Responsibility	Service and Performance Team	

I GSS - PENALTY PAYMENTS MADE - ALL CATEGORIES

22	Penalty payments made under regulations 6, 7 & 7b (Automatic Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Service Standards) Regulations 1989' the total numb payments made for late payment of required GSS particles Regulations 6, 7 & 7B.	er of pe	nalty
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00021		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

23	Penalty payments made under regulations 3, 4 & 5 (Claimed Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	As defined in the 'Water Supply and Sewerage Servi Service Standards) Regulations 1989' the total numb payments made for late payment of required GSS pa Regulation 7C	er of pe	enalty
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00022		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team	•	•

24	Enhanced GSS criteria (Events)	nr	0dp
Definition	The total number of Enhanced GSS Events for penalty payments		ents
	e.g. automatic payment for claimed penalties.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.		
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00023		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

25	Total penalty payments made (value)	£	0dp
Definition	The total value of penalty payments made.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	iiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	GSS00024		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

J STATUTORY, ENHANCED GSS & COMPANY CUSTOMER CHARTERS

26	Statutory GSS – total events (number)	nr	0dp
Definition	The number of GSS Events for failure to meet statutory GSS		
	standards.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.		
Processing rule	Calculated: sum of lines 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17 & 19		
Reference	GSS00025		



Responsibility	Service and Performance Team

27	Statutory GSS – payments made (number)	nr	0dp
Definition	The number of payments made for failure to meet stated standards.	tutory (3SS
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN1156		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

28	Statutory GSS – payments made (value)	£	0dp
Definition	The value of payments made for failure to meet statu standards excluding penalty payments. This should in enhanced amounts.		S
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.		
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN1157		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

29	Enhanced GSS – total events (number)	nr	0dp
Definition	The number of enhanced GSS Events for failure to m companies enhanced GSS standards.	eet	
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.		
Processing rule	Calculated: sum of lines 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 & 20		
Reference	GSS00026		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

30	Enhanced GSS – payments made (number)	nr	0dp
Definition	The number of payments made for standards that, where the statutory GSS, go beyond the provisions of that sevents reported in row 28.	nilst bas cheme	sed on i.e.
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	iremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN1181		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

31	Enhanced GSS – payments made (value)	£	0dp
Definition	The value of payments made for standards that, while the statutory GSS, go beyond the provisions of that s reported in line 30.	st based cheme	d on i.e. as
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN1183		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		

32	Company Customer Charter - payments made	nr	0dp
	(number)		



	Ocolion 2 Onaptor
Definition	The number of payments made for a company's customer service standards that fall outside the provisions of the statutory GSS (lines 1 to 20) and are not enhanced GSS (lines 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20 and 28-30).
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requirements.
Processing rule	Input
Reference	BN1179
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team

33	Company Customer Charter - payments made	£	0dp
	(value)		
Definition	The value of payments made for a company's customer service		
	standards as reported in row 32.		
Primary Purpose	Checking compliance with statutory and Licence requ	uiremen	ts.
Processing rule	Input		
Reference	BN1177		
Responsibility	Service and Performance Team		



CHANGE CONTROL SHEET CHAPTER 6

2006/1.0	First issue of chapter for the AMP4 period
2006/1.1	No changes
2007/1.0	Amendments to guidance
2007/1.1	No changes
2008/1.0	New lines for GSS Events and revisions to guidance
2008/1.1	No changes as 2008/1.0
2008/1.2	References allocated to new lines
	Amended units for lines 20 and 21 to nr