

Chapter 7

Non financial measures

Water properties and population

Covering:
Properties
Population

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Guidance

This table has three blocks and a total of 17 lines. It covers:

- **Properties**

Reports properties connected during the year.

- **Billing**

Includes a breakdown of all measured and unmeasured household and non-household properties billed by the company. The property numbers should be the average for the report year.

- **Population**

This records the population within each of the measured and unmeasured household and non-household categories. The population numbers should be the average for the report year.

The company must include inset appointments, as they are part of the regulated business. Please provide details in your commentary of the amounts included for any inset appointments in the relevant lines.

Where properties are uneconomic to bill (e.g. lock-up garages that have very low consumption) they should not be included in this table. Volumes associated with such properties should be included in 'water taken legally unbilled' in table 10. Please provide details in your commentary of the number of these properties.

The information in this table is used for the water delivered unit cost analysis, Principal Statement and associated additional information (for tariff and charging issues).

Water balance information submitted in the return is used in conjunction with the Principal Statement submission in the following January. In the Principal Statement this information is used to consider whether there may be any undue preference or undue discrimination in the tariffs companies are proposing for the new charging year.

Provision of water services to Billed Customers

Where reference is made in tables to 'billed household and billed non-household', this should be taken as the provision of water services to customers whether they are billed directly (non-domestic customers) or payment is made by DRD on their behalf as a third party consideration (domestic and non-domestic customers).

Water properties and population

Lines 1 – 17: Billed properties

To ensure consistency of information returns the following regularly used terms are defined below:

Households: These are properties used as single domestic dwellings (normally occupied), receiving water for domestic purposes which are not factories, offices or commercial premises. These include cases where a single aggregate bill is issued to cover separate dwellings having individual standing charges. (In some instances the standing charge may be zero). The number of dwellings attracting an individual standing charge and not the number of bills should be counted. Exclude mixed/commercial properties and multiple household properties, e.g. blocks of flats having only one standing charge. Where the company issues an assessed charge to a property because metering is not possible or is uneconomic then these properties should be classified as unmeasured.

Examples:

- typical family dwelling, i.e. terraced, semi-detached, detached house or flat having individual standing charges; or
- NIHE dwellings which each have individual standing charges but may be included in an aggregate water bill.

Non-households: These are properties receiving water for domestic purposes but which are not occupied as domestic premises, or where domestic dwellings are combined with other properties, or where properties are in multiple occupation but only have one standing charge. The number of bills should be counted in this case.

Examples:

- industrial/commercial properties (e.g. institutions, farms, public houses, offices);
- combined premises with a single standing charge, such as a flat above a shop; or
- block of flats, or caravan site (consisting of multiple dwellings) but only having one standing charge. These must be counted as one non-household property.

These definitions apply to both unmeasured and measured supplies.

The company will need to consider how 'fold' housing and 'traveller' caravan sites will be treated when charging is introduced in order to determine how they should be reported in Table 7. Fold housing complexes that will be subject to a single bill and one standing charge should be counted as one non-household. If each flat/house within the complex is to have an individual standing charge then these should be counted as individual households. The same principle applies to traveller caravan sites.

Properties: Building premises or structure or other permanently connected supply separately identified for billing purposes.

Domestic includes domestic supplies to factories, offices and commercial premises.

A void property is a property which is connected but does not receive a charge, as there are no occupants.

Population should include the population served by bulk supplies received and exclude bulk supplies exported. The population should be obtained from the most recent NISRA estimates or company's update of these estimates.

Company commentary

The company should comment on:

- the basis used to evaluate its population;
- when the data was last updated including the date of the estimate on which the data was based;

- The company should state the source of its property and population data e.g. Land and Property Services, NISRA etc and detail the calculations used to derive the reported figures from the base data.
- where the void property figure entered in line 12 differs from the number calculated through the formula, (line 11 – line 10) + (line 7 – line 6) = Void Properties, then the company should explain why;
- numbers of properties that are uneconomic to bill; and
- numbers of properties subject to an assessed charge (based on loading units and not NAV).
- The company should provide a year on year reconciliation for the 'billing' figures reported in Block B of the table. The information provided should fully explain the movement in the figures reported under each property category. It should cover, but not be limited to: the addition of new properties as reported in lines 1 and 2; the treatment of test meters and site meters including any change in treatment or data cleansing; and, any reclassification between categories.
- The company must provide a reconciliation of the property and population numbers in this table to the figures reported in Table 2 of the AIR.
- NI Water must use a consistent approach to reporting 'test meters' between customer groups e.g. between household and non household customer groups.
- NI Water must use a consistent approach to reporting 'test meters' across AIR tables e.g. Table 7 and Table 10.
- NI Water must in general adopt a consistent approach to the reporting of 'test meters' between years.

Additional information

In the supporting commentary to table 7, NIW should provide the following customer numbers for the respective groups detailing any assumptions made.

Unmetered water household

- NIW to provide customer numbers for unmetered household connected properties for the water service as at 1st April 2012, 31st March 2013 and 1st December 2012.
- NIW to provide customer numbers for 'billable' unmetered household connected properties for water service as at 1st April 2012, 31st March 2013 and 1st December 2012 in the event of them differing from connected property numbers.
- Basis and rationale for calculating financial year customer numbers- i.e. average of year start and end values, midpoint, etc.

Unmetered water non household

- NIW to provide customer numbers for unmetered non household connected properties for the water service as at 1st April 2012, 31st March 2013 and 1st December 2012.
- NIW to provide customer numbers for 'billable' unmetered non household connected properties for water service as at 1st April 2012, 31st March 2013 and 1st December 2012 in the event of them differing from connected property numbers.
- Basis and rationale for calculating financial year customer numbers- i.e. average of year start and end values, midpoint, etc.

Metered non household water

- NIW to provide customer numbers for metered non household connected properties for the water service as at 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013.
- NIW to provide customer numbers for 'billable' metered non household connected properties for water service as at 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 in the event of them differing from connected property numbers.

- Basis and rationale for calculating financial year customer numbers- i.e. average of year start and end values, midpoint, etc.

Voids

- Voids for water service as at 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 and the basis and rationale for calculating customer numbers included in table 7- i.e. average of year start and end values, midpoint, etc.

Guidance to Reporter

The Reporter should comment on the basis of the company's property and population estimates and the methodology which the company has used to derive its' estimates.

Table 7 line definitions

A PROPERTIES

1	Household properties connected during the year	000	3dp
Definition	The number of new household properties added for each period within the company's area of supply during the report year, previously not connected for water supply. Exclude separation of common services, or other reconnections.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

2	Non-household properties connected during the year	000	3dp
Definition	The number of new non-household properties added for each period within the company's area of supply during the report year, previously not connected for water supply. Exclude separation of common services, or other reconnections.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

B BILLING

3	Households billed unmeasured water	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of households billed for unmeasured water within the supply area. Exclude void properties.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

4	Households billed measured water (external meter)	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of billed metered households with external meters. An external meter is one located underground on the customer's underground supply pipe. Closeness to the property boundary is not important. Exclude void properties.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

5	Households billed measured water (not external meter)	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of billed metered households (not externally metered). An internal meter is one located inside the customer's property or attached to the property at above ground level in a box or cabinet. All other meters should be classed as external. Exclude void properties.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

6	Households billed water	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of households billed for water within the water supply area.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Calculated: sum of lines 3, 4 and 5.		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

7	Household properties (water supply area)	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of connected household properties within the water supply area, including void properties.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

8	Non-households billed unmeasured water	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of non-households billed for unmeasured water within the supply area. Exclude miscellaneous users (table 10, lines 16-18).		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

9	Non-households billed measured water	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of non-households billed for measured water within the supply area. Exclude miscellaneous users (table 10, lines 16-18).		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

10	Non-households billed water	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of non-households billed for water within the supply area.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Calculated: sum of lines 8 and 9		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

11	Non-household properties (water supply area)	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of connected non-household properties within the water supply area, including void properties.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

12	Void Properties	000	3dp
Definition	Average number of properties, within the supply area, which are connected to the distribution system but do not receive a charge, as there are no occupants.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

C POPULATION

13	Population – households billed unmeasured water	000	2dp
Definition	Resident population in billed households supplied with unmeasured water. The population should be obtained from the most recent NISRA estimates or the company's update of these estimates.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

14	Population – households billed measured water	000	2dp
Definition	Resident population in billed households supplied with measured water. The population should be obtained from the most recent NISRA estimates or the company's update of these estimates.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

15	Population - non-households billed unmeasured water	000	2dp
Definition	Resident population in billed non-households supplied with unmeasured water. The population should be obtained from the most recent NISRA estimates or the company's update of these estimates.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

16	Population - non-households billed measured water	000	2dp
Definition	Resident population in billed non-households supplied with measured water. The population should be obtained from the most recent NISRA estimates, or the company's update of these estimates.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Input		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

17	Population – total	000	2dp
Definition	Total resident population. This should be consistent with table 10b (j) line 33.		
Primary Purpose	Informing relative performance and efficiency assessments.		
Processing rule	Calculated: sum of lines 13, 14, 15 and 16.		
Responsibility	Comparative Efficiency and Performance Team		

CHANGE CONTROL SHEET CHAPTER 7

2008/1.0	First issue of chapter for the SBP period.
2009/1.0	Second issue of chapter for the SBP period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - guidance added on how 'fold' housing and 'traveller' caravan sites should be reported - Company reporting requirements amended to reflect the need to report data sources - Deleted requirement for PPP data
2010/1.0	Third issue of chapter for SBP period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor revisions.
2011/1.0	First issue of chapter for the PC10 period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional guidance on customer numbers commentary.
2012/1.0	Second issue of chapter for the PC10 period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements for detailing property and population calculations and providing property and population reconciliations added. - References to interim principal statement removed.
2013/1.0	Third issue of chapter for the PC10 period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional requirements in relation to test meter reporting.