

Renewables Obligation (RO) Guidance

Suppliers

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The document provides guidance on the Renewables Obligation (RO) for GB suppliers, detailing how Ofgem calculates supplier obligations and the compliance steps. It covers the RO Orders for England & Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Additional guidance will be published on Ofgem's website for scenarios not covered in the document.

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Introduction

Overview

The Renewables Obligation scheme closed to all new generating capacity 1 April 2017. More information on this can be found on the [closure page](#) and in the [guidance on closure](#).

The Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme was designed to encourage generation of electricity from eligible renewable sources in the UK. The RO scheme came into effect in 2002 in Great Britain, followed by Northern Ireland in 2005.

The scheme places an annual obligation on electricity suppliers to present to Ofgem a specified number of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) per megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity supplied to their customers during each obligation period (1 April – 31 March). Suppliers can meet their annual obligation by presenting ROCs, making a payment into a buy-out fund or a combination of the two.

ROCs are issued to operators of accredited renewable generating stations for the eligible renewable electricity they generate. Operators can trade ROCs with other parties or sell them directly to a supplier.

The administration cost of the scheme is recovered from the [buy-out fund](#) and the rest is distributed back to suppliers in proportion to the number of ROCs they presented to meet their individual obligation.

For more information about the scheme, [visit our website](#).

Updates to this document

Chapter 2 has been updated to reflect legislative changes affecting the proportion of electricity supplied to EII that is excluded from an obligation under the RO. This increased from 85% to 100% for the 2024/25 compliance year.

Chapter 3 has been updated to reflect that Ofgem has ceased the practice of sending reports to licensed electricity suppliers detailing their indicative supply volumes.

Relevant guidance & reports

All documents are available at www.ofgem.gov.uk

- [Renewable Obligation Annual Reports](#)

Contacts

If you would like to contact us, [visit the schemes contact page](#).

Please note that we can only provide guidance on the legislation that is currently in place. Any queries about changes to the ROO for England and Wales, and wider policy should be directed to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Contact details are at www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-desnz. For the ROS and NIRO Orders, contact details are available at www.scotland.gov.uk and www.economy-ni.gov.uk.

For queries related to the Quality Assurance for Combined Heat and Power (CHPQA) programme, please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/combined-heat-power-quality-assurance for contact details.

Relevant legislation

All legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk:

- [The Renewables Obligation Order 2015](#)
- [The Renewables Obligation \(Scotland\) Order 2009](#)
- [The Renewables Obligation Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#)
- Their respective amendment Orders

Executive Summary

This document provides guidance on the Renewables Obligation (RO) for all suppliers in the UK. The pieces of legislation that underpin the RO are known as the RO Orders (ROO). These include the Renewables Obligation Order 2015 (England and Wales) (as amended), the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2009 (as amended) and the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended). The term 'Amendment Orders' describes the amendments made to the RO Orders. There have been several amendments to each Order.

This document describes how Ofgem¹ calculates each supplier's obligation and what suppliers must do to comply with their obligations. It also contains a step-by-step guide to the compliance process, how we set our budget for recovering our administration costs, and information on the buy-out price and mutualisation ceiling.

This document cannot and does not anticipate every possible scenario. Where a scenario arises which is not addressed in these procedures, we will adopt an approach consistent with the relevant legislation. We will publish any separate guidance in addition to this document on our website.

Terminology

Unless apparent from the context, where we use 'RO' this means the RO (England and Wales), RO Scotland (ROS) and Northern Ireland RO (NIRO) collectively. Where we use 'ROC', this means ROCs, SROCs and NIROCs. We use 'Ofgem', 'us', 'our' and 'we' interchangeably when referring to our powers and functions under the RO.

¹ Ofgem is the office of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.

1. Calculating the Renewables Obligation

Chapter Summary

Obligation periods run from 1 April to 31 March every year. Each supplier's obligation is based on its total supply of electricity to customers in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland during the obligation period. This chapter explains how we calculate each supplier's obligation.

Calculating each supplier's obligation

- 1.2. A supplier's obligation is based on the amount of electricity it has supplied to customers in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland during the preceding obligation period. Table 1.1 shows the obligation level and buy-out price in recent years.

Table 1.1 Obligation level and buy-out price

Obligation period 1st April - 31st March	Buy-out price	Obligation for England and Wales and Scotland (ROCs/MWh)	Obligation for Northern Ireland (ROCs/MWh)
2009-2010	£37.19	0.097	0.035
2010-2011	£36.99	0.111	0.043
2011-2012	£38.69	0.124	0.055
2012-2013	£40.71	0.158	0.081
2013-2014	£42.02	0.206	0.097
2014-2015	£43.30	0.244	0.107
2015-2016	£44.33	0.290	0.119
2016-2017	£44.77	0.348	0.142
2017-2018	£45.58	0.409	0.167

Obligation period 1st April - 31st March	Buy-out price	Obligation for England and Wales and Scotland (ROCs/MWh)	Obligation for Northern Ireland (ROCs/MWh)
2018-2019	£47.22	0.468	0.185
2019-2020	£48.78	0.484	0.190
2020-2021	£50.05	0.471	0.185
2021-2022	£50.80	0.492	0.194
2022-2023	£52.88	0.491	0.193
2023-2024	£59.01	0.469	0.184
2024-2025	64.73	0.491	0.192
2025-2026	£67.06	0.493	0.193

- 1.3. The obligation levels are set by the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Scottish Ministers and DfE. They publish these on their websites by 1 October each year for the following obligation period.
- 1.4. The GB Obligation level originally set by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Scottish Government for 2024-25 RO year was 0.487 ROCs per MWh. On 26th March 2024, they announced that it has been revised to 0.491 ROCs per MWh. This was to take into account the recent amendment to the legislation that permits the change in the exemption for EIIs in Great Britain from the indirect costs of the RO – details of which are set out in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero’s updated webpage.

EII Excluded Electricity

- 1.5. A prospective EII must apply to the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), who are responsible for assessing applications for EII certificates. If appropriate, DBT will issue an EII certificate stating the percentage of electricity that is EII

excluded electricity. To calculate the level of the exemption, DBT multiply the proportion of electricity consumed from the meter by the eligible business to make eligible products by 100%. The EII should provide this certificate to their supplier to get a reduction in energy costs. More information on EII eligibility and certificates can be found in DBT's Guidance².

- 1.6. For RO compliance purposes, there is a requirement for suppliers to provide information on the amount of eligible EII excluded electricity supplied.
- 1.7. We also request that suppliers provide the total amount of electricity supplied to eligible EIIs for validation purposes only, which will not be used as part of the calculation to identify a supplier's renewables obligation.
- 1.8. The total supply to EIIs and EII excluded electricity figures should be provided by suppliers at the same time as the total supply volumes for each obligation period. The register has fields where this data should be entered.

Obligation Level in Great Britain

- 1.9. From 1st April 2018 onwards, a supplier's obligation is set using the formula below:

$$\text{Supplier Obligation(ROCs)} = \text{Total relevant electricity supplied(MWh)(G)} \times \text{Obligation level (ROCs/MWh)}$$

- 1.10. We will round a supplier's obligation to the nearest whole ROC, with any half ROC rounded upwards.
- 1.11. "Relevant electricity" is a term introduced by the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) (Energy Intensive Industries) Order 2017, and generally a supplier's relevant supply volume under the RO (G) will be:

$$G = (B + C + D) - F$$

Where:

B = supply to customers connected directly to a licensed distribution network

C = supply to customers connected to a licence-exempt distribution network

D = supply to customers connected directly to the transmission system

² [Energy Intensive Industries \(EIIs\): Guidance for applicants seeking a certificate for an exemption](#)

and

F = supply to Energy Intensive Industries (EIIs) which is exempt from RO costs (referred to as 'EII Excluded Electricity').

Please refer to Appendix 4 for further details on each of these categories.

Obligation level in Northern Ireland

1.12. The exemption for EIIs from the costs of the RO has not been introduced in Northern Ireland. This means that the calculation and scope of the obligation level in Northern Ireland will remain as before.

1.13. Therefore, in Northern Ireland until further notice, a supplier's obligation is set using the formula below:

$$\text{Supplier obligation (ROCs)} = \text{total electricity supplied (MWh)} \times \text{obligation level (ROCs/MWh)}$$

1.14. A supplier's supply volume under the NIRO, (G^{NIRO}), will be:

$$G^{\text{NIRO}} = B + C + D$$

Where:

B = supply to customers connected directly to a licensed distribution network

C = supply to customers connected to a licence-exempt distribution network,

and

D = supply to customers connected directly to the transmission system.

1.15. Exceptions to the relevant Commencement Order no longer apply on or after 1st April 2010, with regard to supply to transmission-connected customers.

2. Submission of supply volumes

Chapter Summary

Suppliers must provide supply volumes to us each year for the preceding obligation period. This chapter explains the information required, how to provide it and the deadlines involved.

Information required

- 2.1. We will contact every supplier each year in April or May to remind them of what they need to provide to comply with their obligations and by when.
- 2.2. Suppliers should set up an account on the register to submit compliance information. There is guidance on setting up a supplier account in the register user guide on our website. We expect each holder of a supplier account to comply with the guidelines in the user guide.
- 2.3. Appendix 2 includes a one-page RO compliance process map. This shows the key dates, steps and information required for RO compliance. We recommend that all suppliers refer to this for quick reference.

Providing estimated supply figures to Ofgem by 1 June

- 2.4. The RO, ROS and NIRO require each supplier to give us estimates of its total supply of electricity during the preceding obligation period on or before 1st June. Each supplier must provide separate information on electricity supplied to customers in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- 2.5. In calculating the estimated supply data for the 1st June submission, electricity suppliers should refer to our recommended methodology in Appendix 4.
- 2.6. For suppliers in Great Britain, Ofgem will obtain reports from Elexon that record each licensee's supply volumes during the preceding obligation period. These figures will correspond to the supplier's estimated supply volume, following the methodology described in Appendix 4. Suppliers should use the supply volumes available via Elexon to validate their own supply figures and investigate any variances from Elexon's figures.
- 2.7. For suppliers in Northern Ireland, Ofgem will obtain reports from Northern Ireland Electricity Transmission & Distribution (NIE). These reports will again

represent the supply, according to the methodology detailed in Appendix 4 (A4.27–A4.42). We will expect suppliers to follow the same process as that stated in 2.6.

- 2.8. Suppliers in Great Britain must also provide Ofgem with the amount of EII excluded electricity (and the total supply to EIIs) they have supplied in an obligation period. This should be calculated using the same methodology as that used by EMR Settlement Ltd (EMRS, a subsidiary of Elexon), in its calculation of supplier market shares for the Contracts for Difference (CFD) scheme.³ These volumes should be provided in draft form by 1 June.
- 2.9. For suppliers in Great Britain, Ofgem will obtain reports from EMRS. These reports will represent the EII exempt supply volume, according to the methodology described in Appendix 4 – EMRS will report on the figures that correspond to the supplier’s estimated EII excluded electricity supply volume, in mid-May. We will follow the same process as that detailed in Appendix 4, to validate the amount of EII excluded electricity supplied.
- 2.10. The Elexon, EMRS and NIE reports we obtain to validate supply volumes are purely indicative and not guaranteed to be 100% accurate. The supplier still retains the statutory responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of their own submissions, and its timeliness. Any variances between the figures in the Elexon/EMRS/NIE reports, and the supplier’s submission, should be clearly explained to us when the figures are submitted to Ofgem.
- 2.11. The supplier must then submit its estimated supply volumes (including total supply to EIIs and EII excluded electricity supplied, if appropriate) via their account on the register. Email submissions will no longer be accepted.

Providing final supply figures to Ofgem by 1 July

- 2.12. Suppliers must provide us with final details of the amount of electricity they have supplied during the preceding obligation period on or before 1 July. Suppliers should again follow the methodology outlined in Appendix 4 for calculating their supply volumes for the 1st July submission.

³ EMRS perform this function on behalf of LCCC.

See: <https://lowcarboncontracts.uk/sites/default/files/publications/LCCC%20Guidance%20on%20EII%20Excluded%20Electricity%20-%20Relevant%20Arrangements.pdf>

- 2.13. Suppliers in Great Britain are expected to independently obtain the necessary reports from Elexon and EMRS. These reports should be used for the same purpose as previously detailed in 2.6-2.10. However, the figures included on this occasion will correspond to the supplier's final supply volumes. Suppliers should access these reports around mid-June for validating their supply figures for the 1st July submission.
- 2.14. For suppliers in Northern Ireland, the same process applies where suppliers are responsible for obtaining and validating the necessary reports from NIE.
- 2.15. Every supplier should use their account on the register to submit its final supply figures. The register user guide describes how to do this.

Changes to supply figures provided to Ofgem

- 2.16. Please refer to the register user guide for information on how to make changes to the supply figures you have submitted via the register.

Confirmation of supplier's obligation

- 2.17. We will email each supplier to confirm its obligations after we have received the final relevant supply figures; and, if appropriate, after we have resolved any queries about them.
- 2.18. After we have confirmed all suppliers' individual obligations, we will publish the total UK obligation on our website.⁴

Licences granted and revoked during the obligation period

- 2.19. If a supplier's electricity supply licence was granted after 1 April in the relevant obligation period, supply figures should relate to the period from the date the licence was granted until the end of the obligation period (i.e. 31 March). For example, if the licence was granted on 1 July, the supplier should submit supply figures for the period from 1 July to 31 March. The same principle applies for licences revoked during an obligation period.

⁴ The publications can be found here: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro/about-ro>. The title names of the publications are **Renewables Obligation: Total obligation for xx/xx**(where xx/xx represent the specific RO year).

Zero supply and licence not used

- 2.20. If you have not supplied any electricity during the obligation period, you should submit a zero-supply declaration using your account on the register. The steps required to do this are in the register user guide.
- 2.21. If you are no longer using your electricity supply licence and you wish for it to be revoked, you should contact:
- In Great Britain - the Ofgem Licensing team at licensing@ofgem.gov.uk or in writing to 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf London, E14 4PU marked for the attention of Industry Codes and Licensing,
 - In Northern Ireland - the UR Licensing team at info@uregni.gov.uk or in writing to UR, Queens House, 14 Queen Street, Belfast BT1 6ED.

3. Compliance with the RO

Chapter Summary

Suppliers must comply with certain obligations on the RO scheme, and this chapter explains how suppliers can comply with those obligations once we have confirmed them.

Procedure for supplier compliance

- 3.1. Suppliers can comply with their obligations by presenting ROCs, making a buy-out payment, or through a combination of both.

Presenting ROCs - the compliance report

- 3.2. If suppliers want to present ROCs towards their obligations, they must do this on or before 1 September following the obligation period.⁵ Suppliers can present ROCs by submitting a compliance report using the register.
- 3.3. Suppliers must submit separate compliance reports for each obligation they have incurred (i.e. in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). However, you may use ROCs we have issued under any of the Orders to meet any of your obligations. For example, you can use ROCs we have issued for generation in Northern Ireland towards an obligation in England and Wales.
- 3.4. Suppliers can meet up to 25% of a given obligation using ROCs from generation in the previous obligation period.⁶ We refer to these as banked ROCs.
- 3.5. Suppliers can meet up to 4% of an obligation by presenting ROCs issued for electricity generated from bioliquids.⁷ We refer to these as the *bioliquid cap* and *bioliquid ROCs*. However, there are a number of exceptions. Bioliquid ROCs from the following sources are exempt from the 4% cap:
- Energy from waste with combined heat and power (CHP).
 - Advanced fuels (i.e. pyrolysis, gasification, and anaerobic digestion).

⁵ Article 7(2) of the ROO 2015 (as amended), where 'specified day' is defined in Article 2 of the Order, Article 5(2) of the ROS 2009 (as amended) where 'specified day' is defined in Article 2 of the Order and Article 5(2) of the NIRO 2009 (as amended) where 'specified day' is defined in Article 2 of the Order.

⁶ Article 14(2) of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 13(2) of the ROS 2015 (as amended), and Article 13(2) of the NIRO 2009 (as amended).

⁷ Article 14(3) of the ROO 2015 (as amended), 13 of the NIRO 2009 (as amended), and Article 13 of the ROS 2009 (as amended).

- Microgenerators (below 50 kW).
- Qualifying CHP generating stations⁸ below 1 MWe.

3.6. The register will clearly identify which ROCs the 4% bioliquid cap applies to and which are exempt. The majority will have a generation type with suffix 'BL'; as shown in Table 3.1:

Table 3.1 ROC generation type qualifier codes

Generation types	ROC generation type qualifier code ⁹
Co-firing of regular bioliquid	CQ
Co-firing of regular bioliquid with CHP	QC
Dedicated biomass – BL	DQ
Dedicated biomass with CHP – BL (excluding CHP generating stations below 1 MWe)	QD
Station conversion – BL	SQ
Station conversion with CHP - BL	QS
Unit conversion – BL	UQ
Unit conversion with CHP - BL	QU

3.7. steps to submit your compliance report can be found in the register user guide. Contact us immediately if you have any problems submitting your compliance

⁸ 'Qualifying CHP station' is defined in Article 2 of the 2015 Order (as amended).

⁹ The generation type qualifier code is included in the ROC identifier. Details are in sections 5.14 to 5.18 of our generator guidance document, at <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2>

report. We also recommend you log on to your register account to check the status of your compliance report after submission.

- 3.8. supply volume figure you submitted previously will be used by the register to calculate your obligation in ROCs and displayed onscreen (we will have already confirmed this by email). The limits on banked and bioliquid ROCs, as described in 3.4 and 3.5, will also be calculated and displayed.
- 3.9. The register will not allow you to present ROCs exceeding any of these limits and a notification will appear onscreen if you try to do this. You will need to go back and adjust the ROCs you have selected to submit with your compliance report (the overall total selected, number of banked ROCs, or number of qualifying bioliquid ROCs, as applicable).
- 3.10. The onus is on the supplier to ensure that ROCs are presented correctly. You should ensure that you are familiar with the limits on banked and bioliquid ROCs. When suppliers present ROCs to us, they change status from "Issued" to "Pending Redeem" on the register. While they are Pending Redeem, they are shown as 'issued' on the public reports section of the register. During September, we carry out checks on the number and type of ROCs presented in each compliance report and, if there are any problems, contact the supplier as soon as possible. Once we have completed these checks and redistributed the buy-out fund (see chapter 4), we will change the status of the presented ROCs to "Redeemed".

Bank account details

- 3.11. If you have presented valid ROCs towards your obligations, you will receive payments from the redistribution of the buy-out fund. We need your bank account details to make this payment(s).
- 3.12. You should provide your bank details via the register after submitting your compliance report.
- 3.13. Every year, suppliers must provide proof of their bank account details. This proof must be dated within 3-months of the compliance report submission date and should show the company name, sort code and account number, as sent from your bank, e.g. a bank statement, letter, or screenshot from your online account. You should upload this document of proof onto the register, on the same screen that you enter your bank account details.

- 3.14. It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure their bank account details are up to date. If you are unable to upload bank details via the register, they should be sent via email to RECompliance@ofgem.gov.uk along with some form of proof (either a bank statement showing the company name or a letter on company headed paper signed by a director.)

Buy-out payments

- 3.15. Suppliers must make a buy-out payment for each ROC that they do not present for compliance towards an obligation.¹⁰
- 3.16. We adjust the buy-out price per ROC in January or February before each obligation period. We adjust it in line with changes in RPI over the previous calendar year, as described in chapter 8. Table 3.2 shows the buy-out price for recent obligation periods.¹¹

Table 3.2 Buy-out price

Obligation period	Buy-out price (per ROC)
2010-2011	£36.99
2011-2012	£38.69
2012-2013	£40.71
2013-2014	£42.02
2014-2015	£43.30
2015-2016	£44.33
2016-2017	£44.77

¹⁰ Article 67 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 42 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended) and Article 40 of the NIRO 2009 Order (as amended).

¹¹ This table is not updated annually. The latest information on the buy-out and mutualisation ceilings can be found: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro/about-ro>. The document is titled Renewables Obligation (RO) Buy-out Price and Mutualisation Ceilings for xxxx-xx (where xxxx-xx is the specific year).

Obligation period	Buy-out price (per ROC)
2017-2018	£45.58
2018-2019	£47.22
2019-2020	£48.78
2020-2021	£50.05
2021-2022	£50.80
2022-2023	£52.88
2023-2024	£59.01
2024-2025	£64.73
2025-2026	£67.06

- 3.17. You should make buy-out payments to us on or before 31 August following the obligation period. This means that the payments should be in our accounts by the end of 31st August. Any payments we receive after this deadline will be a late payment and subject to additional interest. If you make an overpayment, we will return this without interest.
- 3.18. You should make buy-out payments by electronic transfer to the dedicated Ofgem bank accounts for the RO, ROS, and NIRO. We will give you the details of these bank accounts when we write to confirm your obligations. You must ensure that you pay the correct buy-out amount for each obligation to the correct account and include a reference, so it is clear to us who the payment is from.
- 3.19. As it is the supplier's choice how they meet their obligations between presenting ROCs and making buy-out payments, we do not issue invoices for buy-out payments.

Late payments

- 3.20. Suppliers must make a late payment if they have not fully met their obligations by 1st September. We will write to any supplier who owes a late payment as soon as possible after this date. Again, we will include bank account details in this correspondence.
- 3.21. Late payments must be made during the late payment period, which runs from 1 September to 31st October. Suppliers cannot present ROCs during the late payment period.¹²
- 3.22. Late payments are subject to a daily interest penalty on top of the amount owed. The interest penalty is charged at an annualised rate of 5% plus the Bank of England base rate on the first day of the late payment period:

$$\text{Interest} = \text{Amount owed} \times \text{interest rate} \times \text{the number of days late}/365$$

- 3.23. You should make any late payments, including the applicable interest, by electronic transfer to the dedicated Ofgem late payment accounts for the RO, ROS, and NIRO respectively.

Non-compliance with the Renewables Obligation

- 3.24. The Supplier Performance Report (SPR),¹³ which was published for the first time in 2017, aims to increase transparency of the delivery and administration of government schemes to ensure they promote consumer interests. It logs all incidents of non-compliance, including minor or administrative issues. Scheme non-compliance might include not meeting a deadline in relevant legislation, or submitting inaccurate data to us, for example.
- 3.25. We will use the scores to work with suppliers to help them to improve their performance. Similarly, where appropriate, we will work with suppliers to improve our guidance to them.
- 3.26. Any obligation or requirement imposed on a supplier by the Orders is a relevant requirement under section 32 – 32M of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Act). If a licensee breaches this, it may receive an enforcement order or a financial penalty from the Authority. Breaching a requirement of an NI electricity supply licence

¹² Article 68 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 44 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended) and Article 41 of the NIRO 2009 Order (as amended).

¹³ [Supplier Performance Report \(SPR\) | Ofgem](#)

can attract enforcement action by UR, including imposing an enforcement order or a financial penalty.

- 3.27. Generally, the Authority has the discretion to impose a financial penalty where it is satisfied that a licensee has contravened or is contravening any condition of its licence.
- 3.28. Specifically for the RO and ROS, the Authority has the discretion to impose a financial penalty where it is satisfied that an electricity supplier has contravened or is contravening a relevant requirement, i.e. one that is set out in either of the Orders. Any decision to impose a penalty will take into account Ofgem's current enforcement powers, referenced on our website.¹⁴
- 3.29. UR has the discretion to impose a financial penalty where it is satisfied that a supplier has contravened or is contravening any duty or requirement imposed on it by the NIRO.
- 3.30. Suppliers will have breached the Orders if the following occurs (although this list is not exhaustive):
- Failing to provide relevant information to us by the dates specified in the Orders, or if requested to do so,
 - Making an error in calculating total electricity supply,
 - Failing to present ROCs or pay buy-out before the deadlines,
 - Failing to make the necessary late payment before the end of the late payment period,
 - Presenting ROCs incorrectly (including bioliquid and banked ROCs) in excess of the limits stipulated in the Orders.
 - Presenting revoked ROCs,
 - Presenting a ROC for which the presenting supplier is not the registered holder,
 - Presenting a ROC which is not on the Register, or
 - Failing to make the payment into the mutualisation fund by the dates specified in the Orders.

¹⁴ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/protecting-customers-ofgem%E2%80%99s-enforcement-powers-0>

Revoking ROCs that have already been redeemed

- 3.31. Where a supplier has redeemed ROCs against its obligation and it later transpires that the ROCs are inaccurate, i.e. they do not represent eligible renewable electricity, we will not revoke these ROCs.
- 3.32. We have power to withhold the issue of ROCs in situations where ROCs already used for compliance are later found to be inaccurate or have been issued on the basis of fraudulent or false information.¹⁵ Ofgem can refuse to issue future ROCs to the generating station that received the invalid ROCs. This is subject to the original ROC not being more than six years old¹⁶ and not being issued under a Non-Fossil Fuel Order (NFFO) contract.¹⁷

¹⁵ Article 24 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 41 of the ROS 2009 (as amended), and Article 37 of the NIRO 2009 (as amended).

¹⁶ Article 25 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 41A of the ROS 2009 (as amended), and Article 37A of the NIRO 2009 (as amended).

¹⁷For further information on the NFFO and SRO, please refer to: [Non Fossil Fuel Obligation \(NFFO\) / Scottish Renewable Obligation \(SRO\) | Ofgem](#)

4. Setting Ofgem's administration costs for the RO

Chapter Summary

The information in this chapter describes the process we go through to establish our costs for administering the RO each year.

Overview

- 4.1. Each year Ofgem sets its budget for the following year as part of its corporate planning. This includes setting the budget for the administration of the RO. The spending review, which includes our budget, is drafted in November/December.
- 4.2. All sections of the proposed plan undergo an internal scrutiny session before the draft is approved for consultation. The spending review also projects the expected costs for the following year. As part of our scrutiny session, we must justify any significant changes from the previous year's plan for the upcoming year, and we must also justify any major changes from the previous year's budget.
- 4.3. We publish our draft plan on our website in January. All stakeholders can comment on our proposed activities and expenditure.
- 4.4. Since 2011-12, we have published separate cost projections for the RO to make these costs more transparent. We publish our budget for the coming year to allow stakeholders to comment.¹⁸
- 4.5. Stakeholders can give us feedback on the proposed budget plan within a specified period, normally four weeks from the date of publication.
- 4.6. Ofgem's budget for the year must also be approved by HM Treasury. It is laid in parliament around April or May of each year.
- 4.7. The budget for the RO is based on a projection of the resources we need to administer the RO in the coming year. We take into account the change in the size and complexity of the RO, any major changes we need to make to our work

¹⁸ These can be found on the ofgem webpage: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro/about-ro>. The document is titled **Ofgem Annual Report and Accounts xxxx-xx**(where xxxx-xx is the specific year).

processes, and any efficiency improvements we can make. The costs of administering the RO include staff costs (administrative, IT and legal) and overheads. There are also some costs associated with obtaining external advice, including technical advice for informing decisions on accrediting stations and for fraud prevention (including audit costs).

5. Redistribution of funds and recovery of administration costs

Chapter Summary

We redistribute the buy-out and late payment funds to all suppliers who have presented ROCs towards their obligations. Ofgem recovers its costs for administering the RO from these funds before redistributing them. This chapter describes how this process works.

Recovering administration costs for the RO

- 5.1. All payments we receive from suppliers before 1 September form the buy-out fund for the obligation period. There are three separate buy-out funds for the RO, ROS and NIRO respectively.
- 5.2. In September or October each year, we recover our costs for administering the RO and ROS (as described in chapter 4) from these buy-out funds. We also recover the costs we incur in administering the NIRO on behalf of UR, as well as UR's own administration costs.
- 5.3. We will recover these administration costs proportionally from each buy-out fund. For example, if the buy-out funds amounted to £30m for NI, £60m for Scotland and £210m for England and Wales, and the total cost of administering the RO scheme was £4m, we would recover £400,000 from the NI buy-out fund, £800,000 from the Scotland buy-out fund and £2.8m from the England and Wales buy-out fund.
- 5.4. If there is not enough money in all three buy-out funds combined to cover our costs, then we will take the full amount of the buy-out funds and the remaining costs from the late payment funds. If there is still not enough money to cover our costs across all buy-out and late payment funds, then we will seek alternative funding from DESNZ, the Scottish government and DfE.

Buy-out fund redistribution

- 5.5. We redistribute the RO, ROS and NIRO buy-out funds, including any interest accrued, through the single recycling mechanism¹⁹. We do this after recovering the RO administration costs from the funds, as described above.
- 5.6. We will redistribute the buy-out funds to eligible suppliers in proportion to the total number of ROCs that each has presented across the three obligations. For example, a supplier that presented three percent of the total number of ROCs across the three obligations would get back three percent of the total buy-out funds.
- 5.7. We round down each redistribution payment from the buy-out funds to the nearest pound. Any money that remains in the buy-out funds is carried over for redistribution in the following obligation period.
- 5.8. We redistribute the buy-out funds as soon as possible after the 1 September deadline and certainly by 1 November, which is the legislative deadline. The buy-out funds are redistributed to trading suppliers (irrespective of whether the supplier has complied in full or not).
- 5.9. Suppliers who have ceased trading will not be eligible to receive payments from the buy-out fund.
- 5.10. We make the payments by electronic transfer to the bank account specified by each supplier.

Late payment fund redistribution

- 5.11. Any payments received after 31st August form the late payment fund for the obligation period. Again, there are separate late payment funds for the RO, ROS and NIRO.
- 5.12. We redistribute the late payment funds, including any interest accrued, in the same way as the buy-out fund.
- 5.13. We redistribute the late payments as soon as possible after the 31 October payment deadline for suppliers and certainly by 1st January, which is the legislative deadline. The late payment funds are redistributed to suppliers who

¹⁹ Article 71 ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 47 ROS 2009 Order (as amended) and Article 44 of the NIRO 2009 Order (as amended).

presented ROCs towards their obligation, in proportion to the number of ROCs they presented. Payments to these suppliers will be made irrespective of whether the supplier discharged their obligation in full or in part, by the late payment deadline.

- 5.14. Suppliers which have ceased trading and/or had their licence revoked will not receive a share of the late payment fund. Any sum that would have been due to these suppliers will be redistributed to suppliers who presented ROCs by the 1st September deadline, in proportion to the number of ROCs they presented.
- 5.15. We will not redistribute the late payment funds if they total less than £50,000. Instead, these funds will roll over into the following year and we will redistribute them as part of the buy-out funds in the following obligation period.²⁰

Payments received after the late payment deadline

- 5.16. When a supplier fails to discharge their obligation(s) in full by the late payment deadline of 31st October but Ofgem receives a payment from the supplier after this deadline, these payments do not form part of the late payment fund and are not redistributed with that fund. This section outlines how Ofgem will treat such payments.
- 5.17. In an obligation year where mutualisation is **not** triggered, late payments received after the 31st October deadline late payment deadline will be redistributed to UK suppliers who have presented ROCs in proportion to the **number of ROCs** they presented by the 1st September deadline.
- 5.18. In the compliance years when mutualisation **is** triggered, late payments received after the 31st October late payment deadline will be redistributed to all UK suppliers in proportion to the **total mutualisation payments** they are responsible for making in respect of that relevant period.
- 5.19. Payments to these UK suppliers are irrespective of whether the supplier discharged their obligation in full or in part by the late payment deadline. Suppliers that have ceased trading and/or had their licence revoked will not receive a share of the payments. Any sum that would have been due to suppliers that have ceased trading and/or had their licence revoked will be redistributed as follows:

²⁰ Article 70 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 46 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended) and Article 43 of the NIRO 2009 Order (as amended).

- If mutualisation is not triggered, to suppliers who presented ROCs by the 1st September deadline, in proportion to the number of ROCs they presented.
- If mutualisation is triggered, to suppliers who have an obligation to make mutualisation payments in respect of the relevant period for which mutualisation was triggered.

5.20. Rationale on our approach to payments received after the late payment deadline is available in open letters published on our website²¹.

²¹ [Open Letter - Payments received after Renewables Obligation \(RO\) late payment deadline | Ofgem](#)

6. Mutualisation

Chapter Summary

Mutualisation is the process by which all suppliers with an obligation under the RO and/or ROS must make additional payments to make up a relevant shortfall in the buy-out fund. This chapter explains how this process is triggered and, if so, how it will work in practice.

Mutualisation and relevant shortfall

- 6.1. If a supplier is unable to meet its obligation under the RO or ROS, for example because it has entered administration/insolvency or has had its supply licence revoked during the obligation period, there may be a shortfall in the buy-out fund. This means that the buy-out fund will be smaller than it would have been if all suppliers had met their obligations. Where this shortfall is of a certain size, a 'relevant shortfall', it will trigger the mutualisation process. Mutualisation does not apply to the NIRO buy-out fund, although Northern Ireland suppliers will receive a share of the mutualisation funds if it does occur.
- 6.2. Table 6.1 shows the 'relevant shortfall' level for each obligation period for the RO and ROS. This is taken from Article 72 of the ROO 2015 (as amended) and Article 48 of the ROS Order 2009 (as amended).

Table 6.1 Mutualisation and relevant shortfall amount

England and Wales – Obligation period	Relevant shortfall amount
From 1 st April 2015, and each period of 12 months up to and including the period of twelve months ending on 31 st March 2021	£15,400,000

Each subsequent period of 12 months up to and including the period of twelve months ending on 31 st March 2037	<p>1% of A x B, rounded to the nearest £100,000 with £50,000 being rounded upwards, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A is the total obligation in ROCs, for the relevant period determined under Article 12 of the RO Order; ii. B is the buy-out price for the relevant period referred to in Article 67(4) of the RO Order.
From 1 st April 2015, and each subsequent period of 12 months up to and including the period of twelve months ending on 31 st March 2023	£1,540,000
Each subsequent period of 12 months up to and including the period of twelve months ending on 31 st March 2037	<p>0.1% of A x B, rounded to the nearest £100,000 with £50,000 being rounded upwards, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A is the total obligation in ROCs for the relevant period determined under Article 11 of the RO (Scotland) Order; ii. B is the buy-out price for the relevant period referred to in Article 43(4) of the RO (Scotland) Order.

- 6.3. Ofgem will calculate and publish on our website the relevant shortfall amount for each obligation period for England and Wales and Scotland before the start of that obligation period.

- 6.4. When mutualisation is triggered, all suppliers who have discharged their RO and/or ROS obligation in full or in part will be required to make additional payments to make up the shortfall.²²
- 6.5. If mutualisation is triggered, we will notify each relevant supplier of the size of the shortfall and the amount of additional payment that it must make. We will do this as soon as possible after the end of the late payment period, or earlier if we have access to the information and it has been verified.
- 6.6. Any shortfall in the RO will be met by suppliers with an obligation under the RO. Any shortfall in the ROS will be met by suppliers with an obligation under the ROS. In other words, a shortfall in the RO will not be met by suppliers who only have an obligation under the ROS, and vice-versa.

Calculation of mutualisation payments

- 6.7. Each supplier that has met all, or part, of its obligation in the shortfall period, has to pay a proportion of the total relevant shortfall to be recovered. We will calculate this proportion by assessing that supplier's obligation as a proportion of the total obligation for the shortfall period, taking into account the fact that the failed supplier(s) cannot make any payment. We will recover the whole shortfall up to the level of the mutualisation ceiling we published for each obligation period (at the same time we update the buy-out price). Table 6.2 shows this ceiling amount for recent obligation periods²³:

Table 6.2 Mutualisation payments

Obligation period (1st April – 31st March)	Mutualisation ceiling England and Wales	Mutualisation ceiling Scotland
2010-2011	£222,805,333.33	£22,280,533.33
2011-2012	£233,072,945.77	£23,307,294.57
2012-2013	£245,212,161.70	£24,521,216.16

²² Article 74 of the ROO 2015 (as amended) and Article 49 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended).

²³ This table is not updated annually. The latest information on the buy-out and mutualisation ceilings can be found under 'publications': <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro/about-ro>

Obligation period (1st April – 31st March)	Mutualisation ceiling England and Wales	Mutualisation ceiling Scotland
2013-2014	£253,099,819.57	£25,309,981.95
2014-2015	£260,819,364.07	£26,081,936.40
2015-2016	£267,035,558.91	£26,703,555.88
2016-2017	£269,705,914.50	£26,970,591.44
2017-2018	£274,560,620.96	£27,456,062.09
2018-2019	£284,444,803.31	£28,444,480.33
2019-2020	£293,831,481.82	£29,383,148.18
2020-2021	£301,471,100.35	£30,147,110.03
2021-2022	£305,993,166.86	£30,599,316.68
2022-2023	£318,538,886.70	£31,853,888.66
2023-2024	£355,489,397.56	£35,548,939.74
2024-2025	£389,971,869.12	£38,997,186.89

- 6.8. Suppliers will have to make mutualisation payments in four equal instalments, as shown in Table 6.3. They will make the first payment before September following the compliance period where the relevant shortfall occurred, and every three months thereafter.

Table 6.3 Redistribution deadline

Payment deadline	Proportion	Redistribution deadline
Before 1 September	25%	Before 1 November

Before 1 December	25%	Before 1 February
Before 1 March	25%	Before 1 May
Before 1 June	25%	Before 1 August

- 6.9. In situations where Ofgem has calculated licensed electricity supplier mutualisation obligations and a supplier subsequently becomes insolvent and exits the market still owing mutualisation payments, Ofgem will seek to claim for the outstanding mutualisation liability through the relevant supplier's administrators.

Mutualisation fund redistribution

- 6.10. Payments from suppliers during the mutualisation process go into the mutualisation fund for the obligation period when the shortfall occurred.
- 6.11. We will redistribute the mutualisation funds to all UK suppliers who complied with their obligations in full for the obligation period when the shortfall occurred.
- 6.12. We will redistribute mutualisation funds to compliant UK suppliers (suppliers which have presented ROCs and discharged all their RO obligations in full by the 31 October late payment deadline of the relevant year.), including any interest accrued, in the same way as the buy-out and late payment funds (i.e. in the same proportions).
- 6.13. We will redistribute the mutualisation funds within two months of each payment instalment deadline for suppliers, as in Table 6. We will make these to the same accounts the suppliers have specified for receiving their share of the buy-out and late payment funds.
- 6.14. Suppliers which have ceased trading and/or had their licence revoked will not receive a mutualisation payment. Any sum due to be made to these suppliers will instead be redistributed to compliant UK suppliers (as defined above).
- 6.15. Where Ofgem receives money from an insolvent supplier's administrators in respect of outstanding mutualisation payments, we will seek to redistribute this amount to suppliers originally entitled to it. We will do this as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Contingency arrangements

Chapter Summary

Suppliers are required to submit compliance reports under the RO, and this chapter explains what we will do if suppliers have difficulty or are unable to submit their compliance report using the Register.

Contingency if you are unable to submit a compliance report

- 7.1. Suppliers that experience difficulty submitting a compliance report via the Register during the period 1st July to 1st September should contact us in the first instance. We will try to resolve the problem where we can.
- 7.2. If we are unable to resolve it, we will ask suppliers to submit their compliance report(s) in a spreadsheet on or before 1st September. This should show which ROCs the supplier wants to present for compliance.
- 7.3. Each spreadsheet submission should be accompanied by a signed copy of the declaration attached in Appendix 3. We will confirm receipt of your submission.
- 7.4. Suppliers should calculate any buy-out that is due (for each of their separate obligations) if they are not submitting enough ROCs to meet their obligation(s) in full. This should be entered into the declaration in Appendix 3.
- 7.5. We recommend using the fields in the register certificate report in the spreadsheet copy of the compliance report. As a minimum it should include the following information:
 - generator name
 - accreditation ID
 - ROC start number
 - ROC end number
 - number of ROCs
 - output period.

Contingency if you are unable to view ROCs in your account

- 7.6. Suppliers are responsible for redeeming ROCs on the register. Suppliers who are unable to view the ROCs in their account should contact us immediately.

Confirming compliance

- 7.7. We will write to each supplier confirming compliance with its obligation(s) as soon as possible after 1st September.

8. Adjustment of the buy-out price, mutualisation ceiling and mutualisation threshold

Chapter Summary

We adjust the buy-out price and mutualisation ceiling before each obligation period to reflect any changes in the RPI. We also adjust the mutualisation threshold in line with the value of the scheme.

- 8.1. The buy-out price was £30 per ROC for the first obligation period (2002-03). In each subsequent obligation period, we have amended the buy-out price in line with changes in RPI.²⁴ We do this by taking the previous buy-out price and inflating (or deflating) it by the average percentage change in RPI during the previous calendar year. We round the buy-out price to the nearest penny, with anything greater than or equal to half of a penny rounded upwards.

Adjustment of mutualisation ceiling

- 8.2. As with the buy-out price, we are also required to adjust the mutualisation ceiling each year in line with changes in RPI.²⁵ We do this on the same basis as we adjust the buy-out price as described above and publish it on our website at the same time.

Adjustment of mutualisation threshold

- 8.3. The mutualisation threshold is the relevant shortfall amount. As set out in chapter 6, we will publish the England and Wales mutualisation threshold relevant to an obligation period by the preceding 31 March. For any subsequent obligation period, we will publish the Scotland mutualisation threshold for each obligation period by the preceding 31st March.

²⁴ Article 67 of the ROO 2015 (as amended), Article 43 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended) and Article 40 of the NIRO 2009 Order (as amended).

²⁵ Article 73 of the ROO 2015 (as amended) and Article 48 of the ROS 2009 Order (as amended).

Retail Prices Index

- 8.4. We calculate the revised buy-out price and mutualisation ceiling once the Office of National Statistics²⁶ publishes the previous year's RPI figures. We then publish the new values on our website shortly afterwards, usually in February.²⁷

²⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk>

²⁷ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/ro/contacts-publications-and-data/public-reports-and-data-ro>

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of key dates and legislation articles

The following is a summary of the key dates and articles for an obligation period from the RO Orders.

Table A1.1: Supply volumes, presenting ROCs and making buy-out payments

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS	Relevant Article NIRO
Suppliers required to provide Ofgem with estimated figures (in MWh) for their total supply of electricity to customers in each of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland during the relevant obligation period.	On or before 1 st June	79(2)	53(5)	45(5)
Suppliers required to provide Ofgem with estimated figures (in MWh) for their total supply of EII excluded electricity to customers in each of England and Wales, and Scotland during the relevant obligation period.	On or before 1 st June	79(2)	53(5)	n/a
Suppliers required to report final figures to Ofgem for the amount of electricity supplied (in MWh).	On or before 1 st July	79(2)	53(5)	45(5)

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS	Relevant Article NIRO
Suppliers required to report final figures to Ofgem for the amount of EII excluded electricity supplied (in MWh).	On or before 1 st July	79(2)	53(5)	n/a
Ofgem will confirm, in writing, each supplier's obligations.	As soon as possible after 1 st July	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ofgem will publish the total UK obligation for the obligation period.	As soon as possible after confirming each supplier's obligation	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suppliers to present ROCs towards their obligations.	On or before 1 st September ²⁸	7(2)	5(2)	5(2)
Suppliers to make buy-out payments towards their obligations (if they have not submitted the full number of ROCs).	Money must be in our accounts on or before 31 st August	67	43	40

²⁸ Suppliers can present ROCs up to midnight 1 September. They must make buy-out payments before 1 September, ie by midnight 31 August.²⁹ Banked ROCs are ROCs issued in the previous obligation period.

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS	Relevant Article NIRO
Ofgem will confirm compliance with each supplier that has met its obligation.	As soon as practicable after 1 st September	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ofgem will notify any supplier that has not fully discharged its obligation.	As soon as practicable after 1 st September	68(1)	44(1)	41(1)
Ofgem will redistribute the buy-out funds to suppliers who presented ROCs.	By 1 st November	71	47	44
Ofgem will publish the amount of the buy-out funds recycled and the proportions to each supplier.	As soon as possible after recycle of the buy-out fund	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table A1.2: Late payments

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS	Relevant Article NIRO
Suppliers to make late payments (including interest) to Ofgem if they have not met their obligations by 1 September.	1 st September to 31 st October	68(6)	44(6)	41(6)
Ofgem will redistribute the late payment funds to suppliers who presented ROCs.	By 1 st January	71	47	44
Ofgem will publish the amount of the late payment funds recycled and the proportions to each supplier.	As soon as possible after recycle of the late payment fund	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table A1.32: Mutualisation

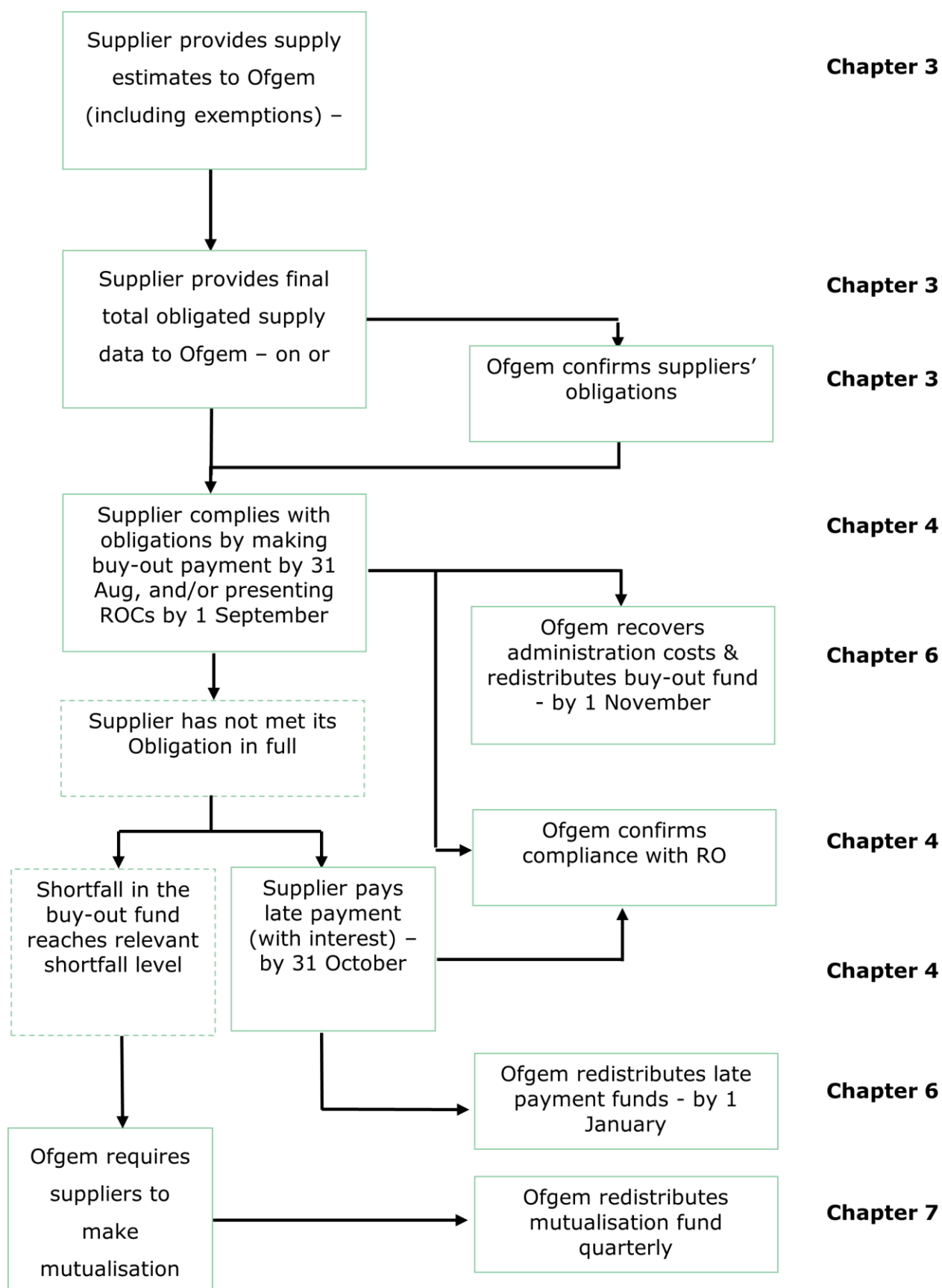
Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS
Ofgem will calculate and publish the mutualisation threshold for England & Wales and Scotland including the mutualisation ceilings.	Before the start of the obligation period	86(1)(da)	57(1)(da)

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS
Ofgem will notify relevant suppliers of any shortfall in the buy-out fund and the amount to be paid by each supplier into the mutualisation fund.	As soon as practicable after 31 st October	74(1)	49(1)
Suppliers required to make first 25% instalment into mutualisation fund in respect of any shortfall in the buy-out fund.	Before 1 st September	74(5)	49(5)
Ofgem will redistribute the first instalment of the mutualisation fund to relevant suppliers.	By 1 st November	77(2)	52(2)
Suppliers required to make second 25% instalment into mutualisation fund in respect of any shortfall in the buy-out fund.	Before 1 st December	74(5)	49(5)
Ofgem will redistribute the second instalment of the mutualisation fund to relevant suppliers.	By 1 st February	77(2)	52(2)
Suppliers required to make third 25% instalment into mutualisation fund in respect of any shortfall in the buy-out fund.	Before 1 st March	74(5)	49(5)

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS
Ofgem will redistribute the third instalment of the mutualisation fund to relevant suppliers.	By 1 st May	77(2)	52(2)
Suppliers required to make fourth 25% instalment into mutualisation fund in respect of any shortfall in the buy-out fund.	Before 1 st June	74(5)	49(5)
Ofgem will redistribute the fourth instalment of the mutualisation fund to relevant suppliers.	By 1 st August	77(2)	52(2)

Table A1.43: Annual report

Action required	Dates	Relevant Article RO	Relevant Article ROS	Relevant Article NIRO
Ofgem will publish the Renewables Obligation Annual Report.	By 1 st April	86(1)(f)	57(1)(f)	49(1)(e)

Appendix 2 – RO compliance process map

Appendix 3 – Contingency Declaration

Supplier compliance declaration

Compliance period 1st April 20[] - 31st March 20[]

Company details

Company name	
Licence name	
R & CHP register	
Registered Holder ID and Holder name	

Declaration

1. a) I declare that I wish to present [] ROCs listed in the attached supplier compliance template to Ofgem against our Renewables Obligation. This includes [] Qualifying BL ROCs and [] banked ROCs²⁹.

1. b) I declare that I wish to present [] ROCs listed in the attached supplier compliance template to Ofgem against our Renewables Obligation Scotland. This includes [] Qualifying BL ROCs and [] banked ROCs.

1. c) I declare that I wish to present [] ROCs listed in the attached supplier compliance template to Ofgem against our Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation. This includes [] Qualifying BL ROCs and [] banked ROCs.

2. I confirm that Ofgem will change the status of the ROCs listed against any of the 3 obligations from 'issued' to 'redeemed' in the Renewables & CHP Register, and that they will not be available to present against any future obligation.

3. a) I confirm that we have made a buy-out payment of £[] into the England and Wales bank account against our Renewables Obligation.

3. b) I confirm that we have made a buy-out payment of £[] into the Scotland bank account against our Renewables Obligation Scotland.

²⁹ Banked ROCs are ROCs issued in the previous obligation period.

3. c) I confirm that we have made a buy-out payment of £ into the Northern Ireland bank account against our Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation.

Signature

Signature (Compliance contact or designated authority):	
Name of signatory:	
Position within the company:	
Date:	

Note

Use of this declaration should be restricted to periods when the Renewables & CHP Register and the online Compliance Report are unavailable. You will be informed by Ofgem when the Register is unavailable and when this declaration and manual Compliance Report should be used.

This declaration should be completed by the compliance contact or a designated authority within the company (i.e. Director or Company Secretary).

This declaration should be returned along with your compliance report. Ofgem will not be able to confirm compliance without this declaration being completed.

Appendix 4 – Recommended methodology for calculating electricity supply data

A.4.1. Suppliers are required to calculate their supply data for the volumes which relate to their obligation for each compliance period. Article 79(2) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2015 (as amended) and Article 53(5) of the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2009 (as amended) require that an initial submission be provided by 1st June and a final submission by 1 July of each year³⁰. This appendix summarises the requirements for calculating the supply data to be reported for the Renewables Obligation each year. It contains guidance on the recommended approach including which data flows should be used and the timing of when each calculation should occur to enable consistency of the supply data used across all obligated suppliers.³¹

Great Britain

A.4.2. Suppliers are required to report an initial view of supply figures to Ofgem and DESNZ by 1 June and a final view of supply figures by 1 July for each compliance period. Supply in this context is as defined in section 4(4) of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended):

“supply’, in relation to electricity, means its supply to premises in cases where—

- it is conveyed to the premises wholly or partly by means of a distribution system, or

(without being so conveyed) it is supplied to the premises from a substation to which it has been conveyed by means of a transmission system, but does not include its supply to premises occupied by a licence holder for the purpose of carrying on activities which he is authorised by his licence to carry on”

Related definitions are as follows:

1. tA 'distribution system' is:“..a system which consists (wholly or mainly) of low voltage lines and electrical plant and is used for conveying electricity to any premises or any other distribution system.”³²

³⁰ Please note that the lettering to input supply value fields on the register may appear different from the letters in the formula in Chapter 2.

³¹ This final version of the methodology for calculating electricity supply data has been altered from the original that was released for consultation in March 2011 to encompass comments made as part of the response to consultation.

³² Section 4(4) of the Electricity Act 1989.

2. A “low voltage line” must be interpreted in accordance with the definition of “high voltage line”: and so is an electric line which has a nominal voltage of less than 132kV (Scotland) or 132kV or less (England and Wales).³³
3. A “licence” is defined as a licence that is granted under section 6,³⁴ a “licence holder” must be construed accordingly. Licences that may be granted under section 6 are licences authorising persons to:
 - generate electricity for the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given,
 - participate in the transmission of electricity for [the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given],
 - distribute electricity for [the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given],
 - supply electricity to premises, and
 - participate in the operation of an electricity interconnector.

A.4.3. Suppliers are obligated to report supply data based on the above definition. The examples and guidance in this appendix are intended to cover the vast majority of supply arrangements. However, there may be more complicated or legacy supply arrangements that are not captured by the approach and data flows recommended. Suppliers should ensure their approach for reporting supply data complies with the requirements of the Order, and should inform Ofgem well ahead of the deadline, if reporting through a means other than the approach and data flows recommended. Appropriate evidence will be required to support the calculations.

- A.4.4. Supply volumes reported should therefore include, among other things:
- Supply volumes to demand sites connected to the distribution network.
 - Supply volumes to demand sites connected to the transmission network.
 - Import to sites with on-site generation where this import does not relate to their activity as a licensed generator (for example, import to an industrial site with on-site generation that relates to the industrial activities should be included in reported supply volumes).
 - Total supply to EII-certified customers.

³³ Section 64(1) of the Electricity Act 1989.

³⁴ Section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended).

- Supply to EIIs which is exempt from RO costs.

For the avoidance of doubt, supply volumes³⁵ should therefore not include:

- losses in transmission of electricity across transmission / distribution systems,
- electricity imported by a licensed generator in relation to their operations as a generator, and
- any adjustment for exports (i.e. exports should not be netted off against imports).

A.4.5. Supply volumes reported should not include volumes arising from self-generation / embedded generation – i.e. supply from production of electricity as part of manufacturing or other commercial activities by companies whose main business is not electricity generation. This includes where this activity is performed by an energy services company. However, additional supply to such sites should be included, as noted in paragraph A4.4 above.

A.4.6. In order to maintain a consistent basis of measurement amongst suppliers, Elexon settlement data is considered the standard for settlements data across the industry, which provides a consistent basis on which all suppliers can report. We recommend that all submissions should be based on Elexon data, as detailed in this Appendix.

A.4.7. It is recognised that there is some variation in calculation methodologies used by suppliers to determine their obligation under the CfD and the RO schemes. Unlike the volumes used for the RO reporting, the electricity used to determine the supply volumes under the CfD scheme is metered at the point of generation and therefore may require adjusting to include transmission and distribution line losses. We recommend that suppliers should continue to calculate the volumes under the CfD scheme using the guidance produced by LCCC³⁶ and follow Ofgem's guidance for calculating their electricity supply data under the RO. Further information on recommended methodology for submissions of EII excluded electricity can be found in paragraph A4.13.

³⁵ This section refers to supply volumes not EII figures. For specific guidance on how to claim RO exemption for EIIs please refer to paragraph A4.13.

³⁶ [Revised Guidance on Green Excluded Electricity - Low Carbon Contracts](#)

- A.4.8. Most suppliers collate their energy supply volumes on a monthly basis and a similar approach has been adopted for Renewables Obligation reporting, with the same settlement run type being used for complete months.
- A.4.9. For all distribution connected non-half hourly customers, the Elexon dataflow D0030 Non Half Hourly DUoS Report (summation of Daily Profiled SPM Total Annualised Advance and Daily Profiled SPM Total EAC in Group TOT) should be used for reporting supply data. Alternatively, D0296 Supplier BM Unit Report (summation of Daily Aggregated BM Unit Energy in Group TL1 for Consumption Component Classes 17-19 in Group CCC, i.e. Active Import for Measurement Quantity id AI for Data Aggregation Type N) could be used. These flows contain the volumes which have been delivered to customers, and therefore no adjustments to line losses need to be made in respect to reporting supply for the RO.
- A.4.10. For all distribution connected half hourly customers, the Elexon dataflow D0296 Supplier BM Unit Report (summation of Daily Aggregated BM Unit Energy in Group TL1 for Consumption Component Classes 1, 2, 9, 10, 23, 28, 42, 45, 54 and 57 in Group CCC, i.e. Active Import for Measurement Quantity id AI for Data Aggregation Type H) should be used for reporting supply data. Alternatively, other data flows containing equivalent information (for example, D0040 and D0298 Aggregated Half Hour Data File³⁷ or D0036/D0275 Validated Half Hourly Advances, although these latter two contain data at MPAN level rather than summarised to Consumption Component Class) could be used. These flows contain the volumes which have been delivered to customers, and therefore no line loss factors need to be applied in respect of this supply data.
- A.4.11. For all embedded directly connected supply, the Elexon dataflow CDCA-i012 (also known as C0121) "Report Raw Meter Data" should be used for reporting supply data. Only embedded connected import should be included (i.e. all Main Active Import channels should be used) for BM Unit IDs prefixed with 'E' for those embedded units meeting the definition of supply in paragraph A4.2 above.
- A.4.12. For all transmission connected customers, the Elexon dataflow SAA-i014 (also known as S0141) "Settlement Reports" should be used for reporting supply data. Only transmission connected import should be included (i.e. BM Unit Metered

³⁷If using D0040 and D0298 dataflows then all D0040 and D0298 dataflows received should be used.

Volume (QM) for negative (off taking) for BM Unit IDs prefixed with 'T' and selected BM Unit IDs prefixed with 'M'.³⁸

- A.4.13. We recommend that all submissions of EII excluded electricity should be based on EMRS data which is the same methodology as for the CfD scheme and includes line losses. Adjustment to the EMRS data should be avoided unless absolutely necessary, to mitigate potential data discrepancies and to ensure consistency across suppliers. Suppliers will be required to provide Ofgem with clear justification and supporting evidence, if there is a discrepancy between the EMRS figures and their submitted data.
- A.4.14. For all suppliers who supply electricity to a certified EII with meters registered in the Supplier Meter Registration Service (SMRS), typically used for distribution-connected sites, the Elexon dataflow D0354 EMR Reporting Notification should be sent from the supplier to the Half Hourly Data Aggregator (HHDA). If the EMR Reporting Notification is valid, the HHDA will confirm to the supplier that it will submit metered data to EMRS via the D0355 dataflow. The supplier should then send the D0355 information in an email to contact@emrsettlement.co.uk.³⁹
- A.4.15. Suppliers who supply electricity to a certified EII with meters registered in the Central Meter Registration Service (CMRS), typically used for transmission-connected sites, do not need to notify EMRS that they have a customer with an EII certificate. However, they may be contacted by EMRS to discuss the metering set-up.
- A.4.16. The first view of supply data is due to Ofgem on 1 June and an updated final view is due 1 July and this is the view on which the final obligation will be settled. The timetable set out below should be used for extracting data on a month-by-month basis for reporting under the RO, along with the associated settlement runs which should be used.
- A.4.17. For the initial reporting by 1st June, suppliers should use extracts from Elexon/EMRS for complete months containing the following settlement runs:

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R2	R2	R2	R1	R1	SF

³⁸ M_ACTLLU_C, M_CAS-BEU01, M_CAS-CLU01, M_CAS-CON01, M_CAS-GAR01, M_CAS-KIL01, M_CAS-MOR01, M_GRTO, M_SLOY-1, M_SLOY-4, M_TEMP

³⁹ For further information, see [HHDA Metering Solution for EMR - FAQs - Elexon Digital BSC](#)

A.4.18. For the final reporting by 1 July, suppliers should use extracts from Elexon/EMRS for complete months containing the following settlement runs:

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R2	R2	R2	R1	R1

A.4.19. It is expected that the timetable for the extraction of data will allow sufficient time for any internal review and sign off procedures to be completed by suppliers prior to submission. Greater time has been allowed for checking of the initial reporting as it is anticipated that the bulk of checking will be performed at that stage, with only movements in excess of trivial amounts requiring to be checked for final reporting.

A.4.20. Under the terms of the RO, supply data for any customers located in the Isle of Man must be removed from supply figures reported to Ofgem. For those suppliers who have customers in the Isle of Man this is an acceptable adjustment to be made to supply figures. Such adjustments should be clearly documented as an exclusion from the supply totals.

A.4.21. It is recognised that there may be other adjustments or additions which suppliers feel are necessary to make to the supply volumes computed from Elexon data flows above in order to include all reportable supply volumes. These may relate to specific customer sites and Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC) which it is aware have been settled by Elexon using incorrect or unrealistic values. For suppliers with smart metered customers, it may be the case that the actual consumption, indicated by data received from smart meters, indicates consumption either higher or lower than Elexon data suggests, and any adjustment made in respect of this data should include supporting calculations. It may also be the case that certain complex arrangements cause in-scope supply not to be captured by the recommended data flows (e.g. import to a site which is normally supplied by on-site generation which flows through a supplier's production account). Any adjustments which are made should be transparent and substantiated in the reporting, with a clear reconciliation between supply volumes thus calculated and supply volumes reported on relevant settlement reports.

A.4.22. Suppliers who have customers on sale and buy back contracts must include supply under these contracts in the reporting figures provided to Ofgem in

respect of the Renewables Obligation. For those suppliers who have a White Label provider,⁴⁰ the supply made under the White Label agreement must be included in the supply figures reported for the supplier. Suppliers with a single on-site customer may continue to report supply volumes in an appropriate alternative manner agreed with Ofgem.

- A.4.23. Where suppliers seeking to exclude electricity imported by a licensed generator in relation to their operations as a generator within their notified supply volumes, we expect them to keep a record of these exemptions and note them within their submission.
- A.4.24. Suppliers should provide an overall reconciliation of supply volumes reported as at 1st July to those previously reported as at 1st June, with an explanation of any significant movements. It is recognised that there are likely to be movements in respect of consumption reported for the months of October, January and March where data from later settlement runs should have been used for the supply volumes reported as of 1st July.
- A.4.25. Suppliers should provide a reconciliation of supply volumes reported as at 1st June to those previously reported each month to DESNZ, with an explanation of any significant movements.
- A.4.26. Any deviations from the requirements set out above should be confirmed with Ofgem, prior to submission of supply volumes. Suppliers should be aware that if they opt to calculate their volumes on an alternative basis, Ofgem may recalculate their volumes on the basis set out above and they will be required to account for any material differences. An exemption to this being for suppliers with a single on-site customer that have agreed in advance an alternative method of calculation with Ofgem.

Northern Ireland

- A.4.27. Suppliers are required to report an initial view of supply figures to Ofgem and DfE by 1st June and a final view of supply figures by 1st July in each compliance period. Supply in this context is as defined in the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992:

⁴⁰ A "White Label" supply provider is an existing company (usually with an established brand name) that markets electricity through and on behalf of a licensed supplier.

- “supply’, in relation to electricity, means supply through electric lines otherwise than to premises occupied by a licence holder for the purpose of carrying on the activities which he is authorised by his licence to carry on.”

Related definitions are as follows:

- an “electric line”, in relation to electricity, is defined as:
“....any line which is used for carrying electricity for any purpose and includes—
 - any support for any such line, that is to say, any structure, pole or other thing in, on, by or from which any such line is or may be supported, carried or suspended,
 - any apparatus connected to any such line for the purpose of carrying electricity, and
 - any wire, cable, tube, pipe or other similar thing (including its casing or coating) which surrounds or supports, or is surrounded or supported by, or is installed in close proximity to, or is supported, carried or suspended in association with, any such line.”⁴¹

A “licence” is a licence granted under Article 10⁴²; and a “licence holder” is the holder of such a licence.

Licences that may be granted under Article 10⁴³ are licences authorising persons to:

- generate electricity for the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given,
- participate in the transmission of electricity for [the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given],
- distribute electricity for [the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or to enable a supply to be so given],
- supply electricity to premises, and
- act as SEM operator.

A.4.28. Suppliers are obligated to report supply data based on the above definition. The examples and guidance in this appendix are intended to cover the vast majority of supply arrangements; however, there may be specific complex or legacy

⁴¹ Article 3 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

⁴² Article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

⁴³ Article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

supply arrangements that may not be captured by the approach and data flows recommended. Suppliers should ensure their approach for reporting supply data complies with the requirements of the Order and should inform Ofgem well ahead of the deadline, if reporting through a means other than the approach and data flows recommended. Appropriate evidence will be required to support the calculations.

A.4.29. Supply volumes reported should therefore include, among other things:

- Supply volumes to demand sites connected to the distribution network.
- Supply volumes to demand sites connected to the transmission network.
- Supply volumes via the distribution / transmission network to sites with non-participating generation. This should include gross import to the site (i.e. any export should not be netted off) but should not include volumes supplied from the non-participating generation.

For the avoidance of doubt supply volumes should therefore not include:

- Losses in transmission of electricity across transmission / distribution systems.
- Electricity imported by a generator in relation to their operations as a generator.
- Any adjustment for exports (i.e. exports should not be netted off imports).
- Import of electricity via an interconnector that is to be traded in the Single Electricity Market (SEM) pool.

A.4.30. In order to maintain a consistent basis of measurement amongst suppliers, Northern Ireland Electricity Transmission & Distribution (NIE T&D) provided import data is considered the standard source for data across the industry which provides a consistent basis on which all suppliers can report. We recommend that all submissions should be based on NIE T&D data, as detailed in this Appendix.

A.4.31. Most suppliers collate their energy supply volumes on a monthly basis and a similar approach has been adopted for RO reporting, with the same settlement run type being used for complete months.

A.4.32. For all non-interval customers, the NIE T&D message 591 Aggregated Non-Interval Import Data should be used for reporting supply data. The field 'Aggregated Consumption' should be used – i.e. volumes should be reported prior to loss adjustment. These flows contain the volumes which have been

delivered to customers and therefore no adjustments to line losses need to be made in respect of reporting supply for the RO.

A.4.33. For all interval metered customers, the NIE T&D message 595 Aggregated Interval Import Data should be used for reporting supply data. The field 'Aggregated Consumption' should be used – i.e. volumes should be reported prior to loss adjustment. These flows contain the volumes which have been delivered to customers and therefore no line loss factors need to be applied in respect of this supply data.

A.4.34. The first view of supply data is due to Ofgem for 1st June and an updated final view is due for 1st July, and this is the view on which the final obligation will be settled. The timetable set out below should be used for extracting data on a month-by-month basis for reporting under the RO, along with the associated settlement runs which should be utilised.

A.4.35. For the initial reporting by 1st June, suppliers should use the following settlement runs from NIE T&D, unless there have been subsequent ad-hoc runs for particular dates within the period which should be used instead (NB: ad-hoc runs have a settlement run indicator of 50)

	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Settlement run ⁴⁴	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	D+4	D+4	D+4
Settlement run Indicator ⁴⁵	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	20

A.4.36. For the final reporting by 1 July, suppliers should use the following settlement runs from NIE T&D, unless there have been subsequent ad-hoc runs for particular dates within the period which should be used instead (NB: ad-hoc runs have a settlement run indicator of 50):

⁴⁴ SEM naming convention

⁴⁵ Per 591 / 595 message

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Settlement run ⁴⁶	M+13	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	M+4	D+4
Settlement run Indicator ⁴⁷	40	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	20

A.4.37. It is expected that the timetable for the extraction of data will allow sufficient time for any internal review and sign off procedures to be completed prior to submission.

A.4.38. It is expected that with the use of the above NIE T&D data flows, it will not be necessary to make adjustments to volumes for any line losses. It is expected that any other adjustments to data will be limited and should be reported under the following guidance.

A.4.39. It is recognised that there may be other adjustments which suppliers feel are necessary to make to the supply volumes computed from NIE T&D Supplier Aggregated Import Data Reports as set out above. These may relate to specific customer sites and meter advances or Estimated Usage Factors (EUFs), which the supplier is aware have been settled in the SEM using incorrect or unrealistic values, particularly for D+4 data. For suppliers with smart metered customers, it may be the case that the actual consumption indicated by data received from smart meters indicates consumption either higher or lower than NIE T&D data suggests, and any adjustment made in respect of this data should include supporting calculations. Any other adjustments which are made to data should be transparent and substantiated in the reporting, with a clear reconciliation between supply volumes thus calculated and supply volumes reported on relevant NIE T&D settlement reports.

A.4.40. Suppliers which have customers on sale and buy back contracts must include supply under these contracts in the reporting figures provided to Ofgem in respect of the Renewables Obligation. For those suppliers who have a White Label provider, the supply made under the White Label agreement must be

⁴⁶ SEM naming convention

⁴⁷ Per 591 / 595 message

included in the supply figures reported for the supplier. Suppliers with a single on-site customer may continue to report supply volumes in an appropriate alternative manner agreed with Ofgem.

- A.4.41. Suppliers should provide an overall reconciliation of supply volumes reported as at 1st July to those previously reported as at 1st June, with an explanation of any significant movements. It is recognised that there are likely to be movements in respect of consumption reported for the months of April, January and February, where data from later settlement runs should have been used for the supply volumes reported as at 1st July.
- A.4.42. Any deviations from the requirements set out above should be confirmed with Ofgem prior to submission of supply volumes. Suppliers should be aware that if they opt to calculate their volumes on an alternative basis, Ofgem may recalculate their volumes on the basis set out above and they will be required to account for any material differences. An exemption to this being for suppliers with a single on-site customer that have agreed in advance an alternative method of calculation with Ofgem.

Appendix 5 – Glossary

A

Act	Electricity Act 1989
Authority	Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

B

C

CMRS	Central Meter Registration Service
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D

DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net zero
DBT	Department for Business and Trade
DfE	Department for the Economy

E

EII	Energy Intensive Industry
EMRS	EMR Settlement Ltd

G

GB	Great Britain
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H

HHDA	Half Hourly Data Aggregator
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K

kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt hour

L

LCCC	Low Carbon Contracts Company
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M

MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour

N

NI	Northern Ireland
UR	Utility regulator of Northern Ireland
NIE T&D	Northern Ireland Electricity Transmission and Distribution
NIRO	Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation
NIROC	Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation Certificates
NFFO	Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation

O

Ofgem	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
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R

RO	Renewables Obligation
ROC	Renewables Obligation Certificate
ROS	Renewables Obligation (Scotland)
RPI	Retail Prices Index

S

SMRS	Supplier Meter Registration Service
SROC	Scottish Renewables Obligation Certificate

U

UK	United Kingdom
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