

To: National Grid Gas Plc

**Gas Act 1986
Section 23**

Notice of statutory consultation on a proposal to modify the GT1 Price Control Financial Handbook held by the above licensees

1. The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ('the Authority')¹ proposes to modify the GT1 Price Control Financial Handbook ('the Handbook') held by National Grid Plc and granted or treated as granted under section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 ('the Act') by replacing Chapter 3 of the Handbook.
2. By virtue of paragraph 2 of Special Condition 4A (Governance of GT1 Price Control Financial Instruments) of their Gas Transporter Licence the Handbook forms part of that licence condition and as such can be modified by the Authority under section 23 of the Act.
3. In accordance with section 23(2) of the Act the Authority hereby gives notice to National Grid Gas Plc that it proposes to modify the Handbook in the manner indicated in Schedules 1 and 3 to this Notice.
4. The Authority considers that it is necessary to modify the Handbook in the manner indicated in order to reflect the decision it made on Ofgem's policy for funding Pension Scheme Established Deficits (PSEDs)² where we said we would modify the relevant financial handbook chapter for all sectors. This will allow the licensees to report this year the information required to enable the Authority to make its decision following the triennial reasonableness review in accordance with the recent PSED policy decision.
5. As part of the modified Handbook Chapter 3, Table 3.1 and 3.2 set out the timetable and process for the triennial reasonableness reviews. Due to this being the first year of reporting based on the recent PSED policy decision we consider it appropriate to delay some of the timetable and process, these changes are set out in Schedule 2 to this Notice. We do not consider this delay will have an impact on the overall delivery of the review.
6. Schedule 3 sets out the proposed consequential changes to the glossary to the Handbook.
7. Any representations on the proposed modifications may be made in writing on or before 15 June 2017 to Mick Watson at Ofgem, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE, or by email to mick.watson@ofgem.gov.uk.
8. All representations will normally be published on Ofgem's website. However, if respondents do not wish their response to be made public then they should clearly mark their response as not for publication, indicating why it should be kept confidential.³ We prefer to receive responses in an electronic form so that they can be published easily on our website.

¹ The "Authority", "Ofgem", "we" and "our" are used interchangeably in this document. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports GEMA in its day to day work.

² [Decision on Ofgem's policy for funding Pension Scheme Established Deficits](#)

³ Ofgem may still have a duty to disclose if a request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

9. If we decide to make the proposed modification, it will take effect not less than 56 days after the decision is published.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Rowson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

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Ian Rowson
Associate Partner, RIIO Finance
Duly Authorised on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority
18 May 2017

Schedule 1: Modifications to Chapter 3 of the GT1 Price Control Financial Handbook

Delete current Chapter 3 - Pension Scheme Established Deficit revenue allowances - financial adjustment methodologies of the GT1 Price Control Financial Handbook.

Insert proposed modified Chapter 3 - Pension Scheme Established Deficit revenue allowances - financial adjustment methodologies of the GT1 Price Control Financial Handbook, which can be found [here](#) on our website.

Schedule 2: Proposed revision for 2017 reasonableness review timetable and process – Tables 3.1 and 3.2

Table 3.1 - Expected timetable for Pensions Allowance value revisions - proposed revision for 2017 reasonableness review

	Pension scheme valuation date	Submission of Scheme Valuation Data Set	Pension Deficit Allocation Methodology information provided	Completion of Reasonableness Review	Direction of revised Pensions Allowance values see note
Due by, per Handbook	31 March 2016	7 July 2017	31 August 2017	31 October 2017 (rr = 2017/18)	30 November 2017
Revision: 2017 review, due by	31 March 2016	11 August 2017 (Provisional*)	31 August 2017**	10 November 2017 (rr = 2017/18)	30 November 2017

* Not before licence modification takes effect.

** See row 4(a) and 4(b) in Table 3.2 below

Table 3.2 - Process for revising Pensions Allowance values and for a reasonableness review – proposed revision for 2017 reasonableness review

Row	Due by	2017 review, due by	Event
1	7 July*	11 August 2017* (Provisional **)	The Authority will obtain the licensee's Scheme Valuation Data Set, where relevant separately for its TO and SO activities, for the relevant valuation of the licensee's defined benefit pension schemes as at the date indicated in Table 3.1 and commence a Reasonableness Review.
2	31 July*	31 July 2017*	The Authority will be in receipt of price control review information from the licensee for Regulatory Years up to and including the last complete Regulatory Year.
3	31 July*	31 July 2017*	The licensee will submit:

<u>Row</u>	<u>Due by</u>	<u>2017 review, due by</u>	<u>Event</u>
4(a)	31 August*	31 August 2017*	The licensee will submit, where relevant separately for its TO and SO activities: (a) Pension Deficit Allocation Methodology information and its PSED figure as at the relevant valuation date indicated in Table 3.1 showing the movements from the previous valuation date
4(b)	31 August*	29 September 2017*	(b) Its proposals where applicable under paragraphs 3.35 and 3.41 together with supporting explanation framed in light of paragraph 3.42 for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Annual PSED Allowances, PBAP_y, • payment history allowances, PPH_y, • any proposed prospective discounting basis for payment history variances, reflected in PhDR_y
5	30 September *	13 October 2017*	The Authority will provisionally decide, where relevant separately for the licensee's TO and SO activities, whether: (a) Any change should be made to the licensee's proposals for Base Annual PSED Allowances and payment history allowances for reasons anticipated in paragraph Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. (b) To apply an existing adjustment factor, introduce a new adjustment factor or extend the scope or effect of an existing adjustment factor for reasons anticipated in Error! Reference source not found. (c) To set out any recommendation to the licensee to adopt good practice before the next reasonableness review under paragraph Error! Reference source not found. The Authority will give notice of any such provisional decisions to the licensee, allowing 14 days for representations to be made.
6	31 October	10 November 2017	The Authority will complete its Reasonableness Review, where relevant separately for the licensee's TO and SO activities: (a) Determine the values BAP _{Ay} , representing the Base Annual PSED Allowances, for each of the

<u>Row</u>	<u>Due by</u>	<u>2017 review, due by</u>	<u>Event</u>
			<p>three years following the reasonableness review, giving reasons for any departure from those proposed in paragraph Error! Reference source not found.</p> <p>(b) Determine the values PH_y, representing the payment history allowances, for each of the three years following the reasonableness review, giving reasons for any departure from those proposed in paragraph Error! Reference source not found.</p> <p>(c) Determine the values AF_y, representing any adjustment factors, for each of the three years following the reasonableness review</p> <p>(d) Compute and determine the Pensions Allowance values for each of the three years following the reasonableness review, such that: $EDE_y \text{ or } SOEDE_y = BAPA_y + PH_y + AF_y$</p> <p>(e) Where relevant, determine APFE and SOAPFE values in accordance with the steps set out in Section 4</p> <p>(f) Set out any recommendation to the licensee to adopt good practice before the next reasonableness review</p> <p>(f) Determine the discount rates for payment history allowances, hDR_y, or an unambiguous basis for determining them, for each of the three years following the reasonableness review, giving reasons for any departure from those proposed in paragraph Error! Reference source not found.</p>
7	30 November	30 November 2017	The Authority will direct revised Pensions Allowance values and will publish a report on the reasonableness review.

* Or such later date that may be notified to the licensee by the Authority in writing.

** Not before licence modification takes effect.

Schedule 3: Proposed changes to the glossary to the Handbook

Glossary	Current Definition	Revised Definition
Base Annual PSED Allowance	No current glossary term	See Chapter 3, para 3.29-3.30
Cut-off Date	No current glossary term	Means 31 March 2010 for DNOs, 31 March 2013 for GDNs and 31 March 2012 for TOs and SOs, see Chapter 3, para 3.6.
Pensions Allowance	No current glossary term	See Chapter 3, para 3.2.
Pension Scheme Administration	The range of activities that pension scheme trustees are required by legislation to undertake or commission in running the pension scheme. It includes, without limitation, the keeping of scheme records, scheme management and administration, scheme policy and strategy, the provision of information to scheme members, the calculation and payment of benefits and liaison with tax and regulatory authorities, and the preparation of valuations. It does not include investment management fees which are remunerated by deduction from investment returns; or any activities which are the responsibility of the licensee, such as advisors to the licensee on managing or advising it on any and all aspects of its relationship with the trustees including recovery plans.	Amend glossary term to read 'Pension Scheme Administration and PPF levy' and amend current definition to: See Chapter 3, para 3.15
Qualifying Workplace Pension Schemes	No current glossary term	See Qualifying Schemes in the Pension Act 2008 ⁴

⁴ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/30/pdfs/ukpga_20080030_en.pdf

Reasonableness Review	No current glossary term	See Chapter 3, para 3.47-3.54
Scheme Administration Costs	No current glossary term	Costs associated with Pension Scheme Administration and PPF levy which are attributable to the licensee's regulated business. See Chapter 3, para 3.15-3.16.
Scheme Dataset	Pension scheme valuation datasets specified to be provided to Ofgem in the Energy Network Operators' Price Control Pension Costs – Regulatory Instructions and Guidance: Triennial Pension Reporting Pack including pension deficit allocation methodology.	Amend glossary term to read ' Scheme Valuation Dataset ' and amend current definition to: Data relating to each defined benefit scheme for the purpose of the triennial reasonableness review and the resetting and true up of allowances.
Triennial (pension scheme) valuation	No current glossary term	An actuarial valuation of a pension scheme which has been carried out to meet the requirements of Section 224(2)(a) of the Pensions Act 2004 and which results in a written report on scheme assets and liabilities by the scheme actuary. Interim updates to triennial valuations may also be produced.
Updated valuation	No current glossary term	A report, prepared and signed by the Scheme Actuary, which updates a Triennial Valuation to a later date. This is further defined in the Energy Network Operators' Price Control Pension Costs - Regulatory Instructions and Guidance: Triennial Pension Reporting Pack supplement including pension deficit allocation methodology.