

South Staffordshire Water PLC

Board Approval of Draft Wholesale Charges for 2024-25

Assurance Statement

In approving the indicative charges for 2024-25, the Directors confirm that they comply with the following provisions. This statement also sets out how the Board has assured itself of each provision.

1. The Company complies with its legal obligations (including competition law) relating to the wholesale charges published.

The water industry is subject to UK and EU competition law.

In order to ensure compliance, the Company has adhered to the Wholesale charging rules as set out by Ofwat in its Instrument of Appointment so that no undue preference or discrimination has been shown to any class of customer. Clear principles have been applied in setting tariffs such that customers pay the same amount for the same service, resulting in household and non-household tariffs being the same, except for any large user discount that could be justified, measured and unmeasured differentials represented by additional metering costs, and the historic differential between South Staffs and Cambridge regions being broadly maintained.

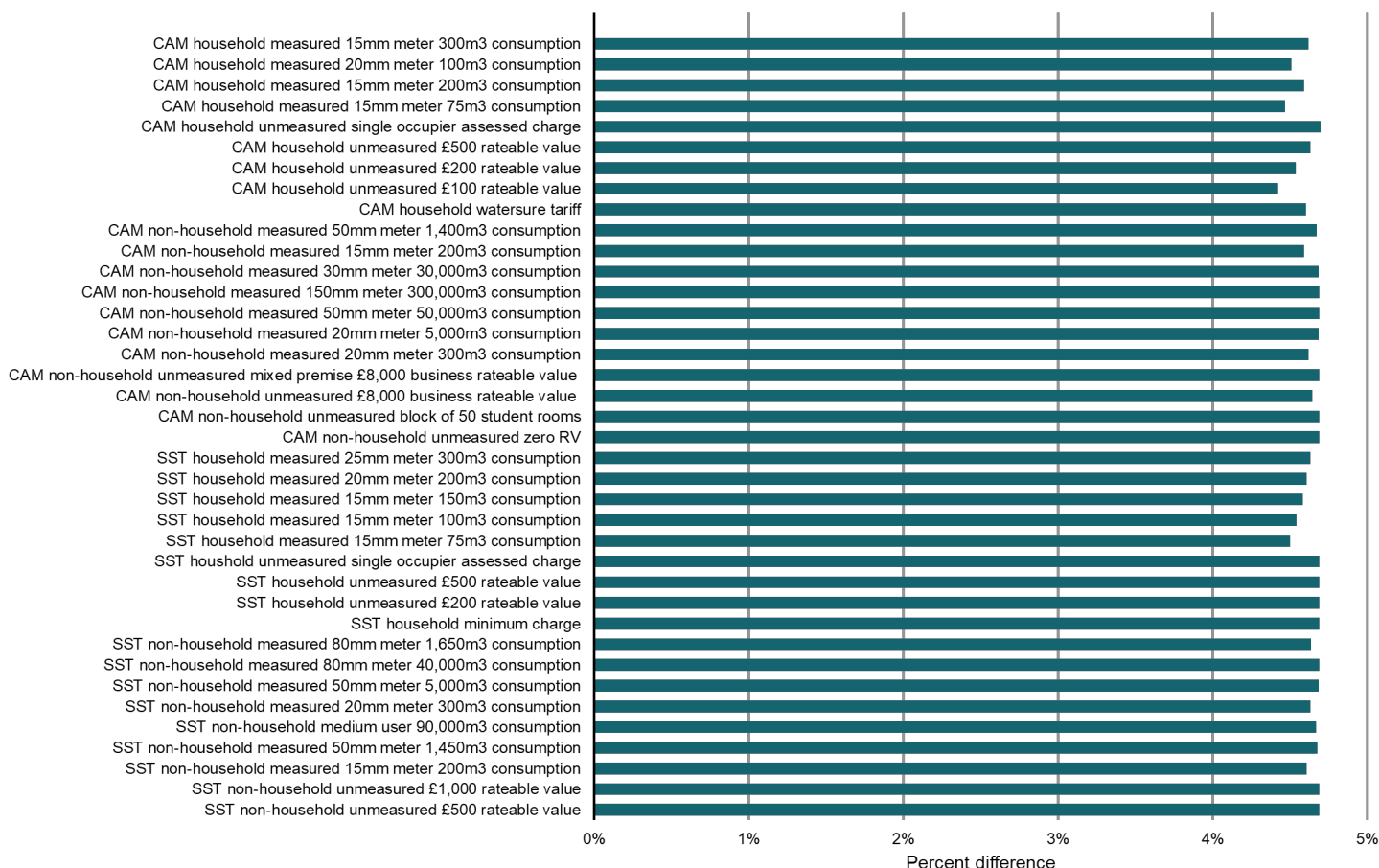
The Company's charges fully comply with these principles.

2. The Board has assessed the effects of the new charges on water supply licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) and approves the impact assessments and handling strategies developed in instances where bill increases for licensees (as a whole or in groups) who are retailing wholesale services and on customers occupying Eligible Premises (as a whole or in groups) exceed 5%.

We have assumed that the November CPIH inflation rate will be 5.2%. As a result, draft wholesale charges will increase by around 4.7%.

A sample of customers on different tariffs has been chosen to demonstrate the impact and is set out graphically below:

Incidence effects on selected customers - Wholesale bill



3. The Company has appropriate systems and processes in place (including up-to-date models and data) to make sure that the information published about its wholesale charges is accurate.

The individuals involved at both Echo and the Water Company have been with the Company for a number of years and are familiar with the processes and information sources. In addition, although external assurance is not required, the Company's internal audit function has been used to give independent assurance on the data used. This approach is reviewed annually.

Finally, the Company along with one other water only company has continued to use an externally developed tariffs model to aid the setting of compliant charges.

4. The Company has consulted with relevant stakeholders in a timely and effective manner on its wholesale charges schemes.

The Company has consulted with CCWater in the setting of charges and we shared a draft of our likely increase in customer charges in early October.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 28 September 2023 and signed on its behalf.

Andy Willicott
Managing Director
South Staffordshire Water PLC