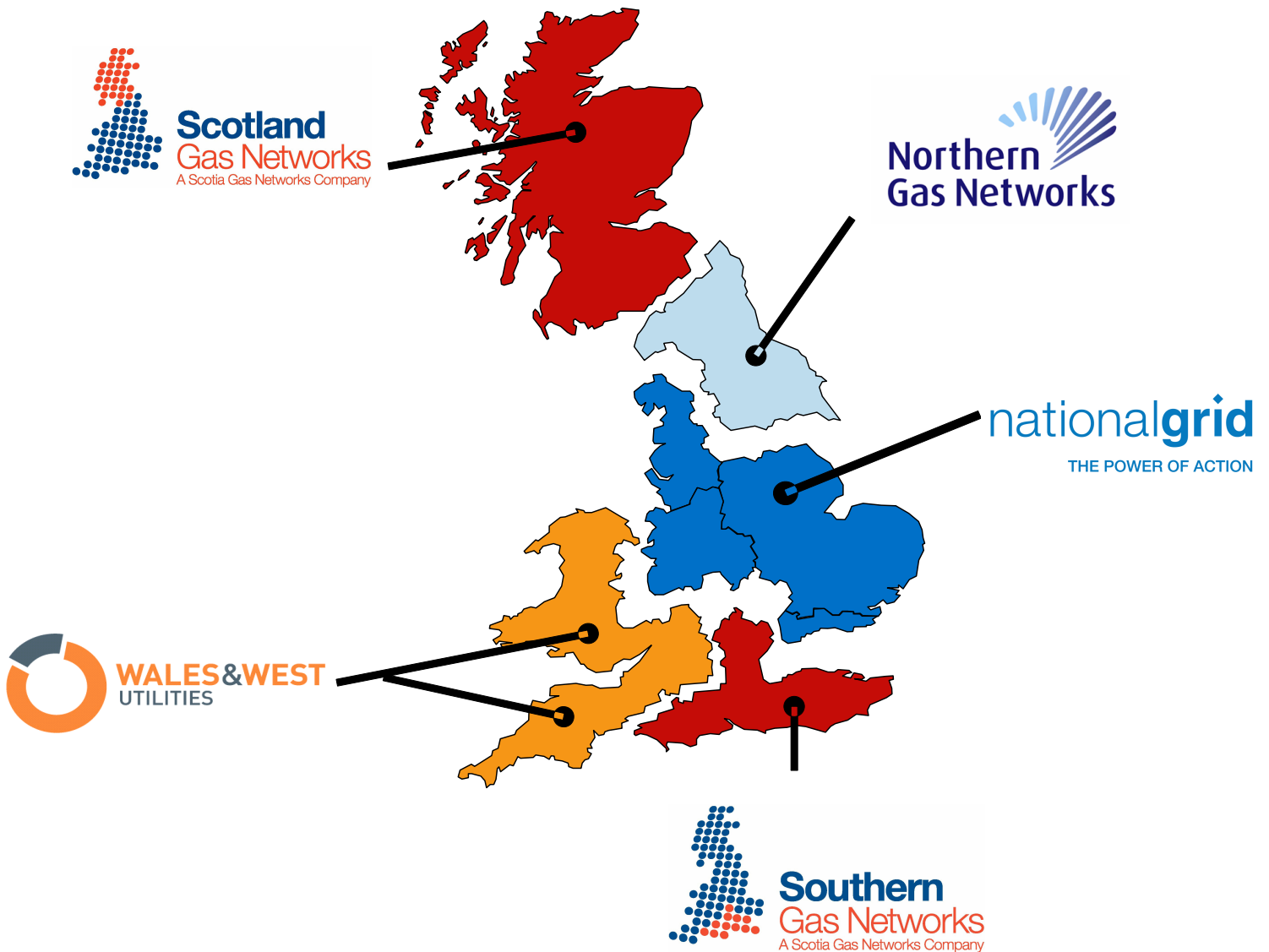


GAS TRANSPORTATION

CUSTOMER STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE



INTRODUCTION

The industry regulator **Ofgem (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets)** sets guaranteed standards of performance for all Gas Transporters (GT).¹ These standards are set ensure GTs provide a required level of service and cover supply restoration; reinstatement following work at your premises; provision of alternative heating and cooking facilities for priority domestic customers; responding to complaints; notification of planned work where we need to interrupt your gas supply; the provision of various services associated with providing a gas connection to your property. If we fail to meet these standards you are entitled to receive a compensation payment.

The regulator also sets Licence Conditions where we are required to meet a minimum percentage against service levels which is measured on an annual basis. Licence Conditions cover response to telephone calls made to the National Gas Emergency Service and responding to your gas emergency.

This document provides information on the standards of performance that Ofgem requires the GTs to provide and compensation payments that you are entitled to receive where we fail to meet these standards.

Your Gas Transporter (GT) owns the network of gas pipes which supply gas to your premises. GTs do not provide meter readings or your gas supply bill. For any queries in relation to these two services you should contact your gas supplier.

¹ These Guaranteed Standards also apply to all other licensed GTs.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE THAT APPLY FROM 1ST APRIL 2008

On 1st April 2008 Ofgem introduced new and revised Standards of Performance. These were revised by Ofgem following feedback from Gas Consumers as part of a process called the Gas Distribution Price Control.

There are two forms of standard that now apply:

- Guaranteed Standards of Performance (GSOP) which, if the GT fails to meet, you are entitled to receive a compensation payment; and
- Licence Conditions (LC) which establish minimum service levels in key areas including some Guaranteed Standards

GUARANTEED STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE (GSOP)

Most compensation payments for failure to meet Guaranteed Standards are paid automatically when the GT fails the standard. However, for some standards customers must make a claim from the GT using the contact details at the end of this document. The table below indicates which standards must be claimed by customers.

NON-CONNECTIONS GUARANTEED STANDARDS

Guaranteed Standard	Standard Description	Compensation for failure
GS1. Supply restoration	If you are a domestic customer and your gas supply is interrupted as a result of a failure, fault or damage to your GTs pipeline system you will be reconnected/gas will be available at your property within 24 hours.	<p>If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £30 if you are a domestic customer, and £30 for each additional complete 24 hours you are without gas up to a maximum of £1000.</p> <p>If you are a non-domestic customer, (and your annual gas consumption does not exceed 73,200kWh) the payment will be £50 for the failure and £50 for each additional complete 24 hours you are without gas up to a maximum of £1000.</p>
	Note for GS1: If you are a non-domestic customer and your annual gas consumption exceeds the 73,200kWh threshold, you are entitled to similar payments to GS1 but under alternative arrangements.	

<p>GS2. Reinstatement of customer's premises</p>	<p>If the GT initiates work on your premises, your premises will be permanently re-instated within 5 working days of the completion of the engineering work.</p>	<p>If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £50 if you are a domestic customer, and £50 for each succeeding period of 5 working days thereafter. If you are a non-domestic customer the payment will be £100 for the failure and £100 for each succeeding period of 5 working days thereafter.</p>
<p>GS3. Heating and cooking facilities for priority domestic customers</p>	<p>If you are registered on your supplier's Priority Service Register and your gas supply is interrupted, you will be provided with alternative heating and cooking facilities within 4 hours, or if more than 250 customers are affected, within 8 hours. (8pm-8am excluded).</p> <p>NOTE – this must be claimed within 3 months of failure</p>	<p>If the GT fails and you inform them of their failure within 3 months of the interruption you will receive a payment of £24.</p>
<p>GS13. Notification in advance of planned supply interruptions</p>	<p>When the GT carries out planned work to replace pipes or maintain the integrity of the gas system, they may need to interrupt your gas supply, If so, your GT will inform you of the date they expect to interrupt you and the reason why your supply needs to be interrupted, at least 5 working days before the interruption occurs.</p> <p>NOTE – this must be claimed within 3 months of failure</p>	<p>If the GT fails and you inform them of their failure within 3 months of the interruption you will receive a payment of £20 if you are a domestic customer and £50 if you are a non-domestic customer.</p>
<p>GS14. Responding to Complaints</p>	<p>If you complain to a GT in writing or over the telephone, the GT will respond substantively to your complaint within 10 working days of receiving your complaint.</p> <p>However if a visit to your premises or additional information from a 3rd party is required to enable resolution of the complaint, the GT will issue an initial written response within 10 working days of receiving your complaint to explain this situation and will then respond substantively within 20 working days from receipt of the complaint.</p>	<p>If the GT fails to meet this standard you will receive a payment of £20 and £20 for each succeeding period of 5 working days thereafter, up to a maximum of £100.</p> <p>If the 20 day extension has been applied and the GT fails to meet this standard you will receive the compensation amounts set out above.</p>

CONNECTIONS GUARANTEED STANDARDS

If you request a new connection or service alteration the following standards apply. In addition to these Guaranteed Standards, the GTs listed in this document are also required to meet Licence Conditions (under Standard Special Condition D10 of their Licence) and should achieve these standards in 90% of cases.

Guaranteed Standard	Standard Description	Compensation for failure
GS4. Provision of standard quotations (up to 275kWh)	If you request a standard quotation from your GT for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection up to and including a rate of flow of 275kWh, the GT will issue it within 6 working days.	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £10 and an additional £10 for each succeeding working day up to the quotation sum or £250 whichever is lowest.
GS5. Provision of non standard quotations (up to 275kWh)	If you request a non-standard quotation from your GT for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection up to and including a rate of flow of 275kWh, the GT will issue it within 11 working days	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £10 and an additional £10 for each succeeding working day up to the quotation sum or £250 whichever is lowest.
GS6. Provision of non standard quotations (greater than 275kWh)	If you request a non-standard quotation from your GT for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection exceeding a rate of flow of 275kWh, the GT will issue it within 21 working days.	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £20 and an additional £20 for each succeeding working day up to the quotation sum or £500 whichever is lowest.
Note for GS4, GS5 & GS6: these standards do not apply where the information you provided to your GT was incorrect or incomplete or where consents are required from third parties.		
GS7. Accuracy of quotations	If the quotation is found to be inaccurate in accordance with the GTs published accuracy scheme, the GT will reissue you with a correct quotation and any overcharge paid will be refunded. You can contact your GT on the details provided for further information on their accuracy scheme.	If the quotation is found to be inaccurate in accordance with the GTs published accuracy scheme then you will be entitled to payment(s) under GS4, GS5 or GS6 until an accurate quote is issued.
GS8. Responses to land enquiries	If you ask for a Land Enquiry from your GT in relation to a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection the GT will issue a response within 5 working days.	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £40 and an additional £40 per working day thereafter up to a maximum of £250 for connections up to and including 275kWh and £500 for connections exceeding 275kWh.

Guaranteed Standard	Standard Description	Compensation for failure
GS9. Provision of commencement & substantial completion dates (up to 275kWh)	If the GT receives an accepted quotation for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection up to and including a rate of flow of 275kWh, it will offer a planned date within 20 working days for commencement and substantial completion of this work	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £20 and an additional £20 per working day thereafter up to the quotation sum or £250 whichever is lowest.
GS10. Provision of commencement & substantial completion dates (greater than 275kWh)	If the GT receives an accepted quotation for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection exceeding a rate of flow of 275kWh, it will offer a planned date within 20 working days for commencement and substantial completion of this work.	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £40 and an additional £40 per working day thereafter up to the quotation sum or £500 whichever is lowest.
GS11. Substantial completion by agreed date	Where the GT has agreed a substantial completion date for a new connection or an alteration to an existing connection it will meet that date. However, this does not necessarily mean that gas will be available for use inside the premises as the fitting of a meter, which will enable the flow of gas, must be arranged by you and your chosen gas supplier.	If the GT fails, you will receive a payment related to the value of the contract and a payment for each working day thereafter up to a maximum level. Your contract will be allocated to one category of the table below and payments will be made in line with that category up to the relevant cap.
Contract Value	Payment	Cap
Up to & incl. £1k	£20	The lesser of £200 or the contract sum
Up to & incl. £4k	Lesser of £100 or 2.5% of contract sum	25% of the contract sum
Up to & incl. £20k	£100	25% of the contract sum
Up to & incl. £50k	£100	£5k
Up to & incl. £100k	£150	£9k
Note: for GS9, GS10 & GS11 these standards do not apply where you have specifically asked your GT to delay the work.		

PAYMENTS

Guaranteed Standard	Standard Description	Compensation for failure
GS12. Notification and payments under the Guaranteed Standards.	Where a GT has failed any of the above Guaranteed Standards or the Connections Guaranteed Standards they will write to inform you (or your supplier) and make the payment within 20 working days of compensation becoming due.	If the GT fails you will receive a payment of £20 in addition to any payments made under the other Guaranteed Standards.
For failures under GS1, GS2, GS3, GS13, GS14 and GS12 payment(s) will be made either directly to you or via your gas supplier who is obliged to forward this payment to you. For failures under GS4-GS11 the payment(s) will be made directly to you.		

GUARANTEED STANDARD EXCLUSIONS






Ofgem has agreed a set of circumstances for when the Guaranteed Standards referred to above may not apply; these are known as exclusions. They include events beyond the GTs' control such as severe weather, industrial action, damage caused by customer, actions by third parties or not being able to gain access to premises as well as legislative constraints, labour disputes and reasons of safety. If any of these exclusions apply, the GT will need to demonstrate that all reasonable steps had been taken to meet the standard. Further information on exclusions is available on request.

LICENCE CONDITIONS (LC)

The GTs listed in this document are required to meet standards set out in Licence Conditions on an annual basis. In addition to the 90% standard for connections work mentioned above, GTs are also required to meet the Licence Conditions set out in the table below:

Licence Condition	Definition	Annual Target
Standard Special Condition D10 – Quality of service standards. Paragraph 2(f) – Responding to telephone calls	Telephone calls to the National Gas Emergency Service (which operates 24 hours a day), the general enquiry line and the meter point reference number helpline (during the hours which they operate) shall be answered within 30 seconds of the call being connected.	90%
Standard Special Condition D10 – Quality of service standards Paragraph 2(g) – Responding to gas emergencies	Where a GT receives a report of a gas escape or other gas emergency, including a significant escape of carbon monoxide or other hazardous situations, it shall attend as quickly as possible within the following timescales: (a) All uncontrolled escapes/gas emergencies within 1 hour. (b) All controlled escapes/gas emergencies within 2 hours.	97% 97%

The performance actually achieved by each GT for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 is shown in the table on the next page.

Gas Transporter Owner	Network area owned by Gas Transporter	% Performance achieved against Licence Standards in 2010/11		
		2(f) Telephone response times	2(g) Response to uncontrolled escapes	2(g) Response to controlled escapes
 THE POWER OF ACTION	East of England	90.52%	95.16%	96.82%
	London	90.52%	96.13%	97.87%
	North West	90.52%	92.14%	95.11%
	West Midlands	90.52%	95.32%	97.73%
 Scotland Gas Networks <small>A Scotia Gas Networks Company</small>	Scotland	90.52%	97.31%	98.62%
 Southern Gas Networks <small>A Scotia Gas Networks Company</small>	Southern	90.52%	97.08%	98.72%
 WALES & WEST UTILITIES	Wales & West	90.52%	98.45%	99.39%
 Northern Gas Networks	Northern	90.52%	91.57%	94.32%



SOME TERMS EXPLAINED

Domestic customer	A customer whose gas supply is taken wholly or mainly for domestic purposes.
Non-Domestic customer	A customer whose gas supply is taken wholly or mainly for non-domestic purposes.
Priority customer	A domestic customer who has been identified to us by a registered gas supplier in accordance with their licence conditions, as having special needs. If you think you should be on this list please contact your gas supplier.
Controlled gas escape	Where the person reporting the escape, or someone on their behalf, has taken all the actions recommended by the call centre agent and can no longer smell gas.
Uncontrolled gas escape	Where the person reporting the escape, or someone on their behalf, has taken all the actions recommended by the call centre agent and can still smell gas.

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED FOR GAS CUSTOMERS

Each GT provides various services for vulnerable customers; must comply with certain requirements when visiting customer premises; and must have in place a procedure for dealing with any complaints made by customers. These services are described in a statement(s) produced by each company. These statements are available free of charge and can be downloaded from the GTs' websites. Contact details for each company are shown in the table on the next page.

For all enquiries please contact your GT at the following address:

 <p>nationalgrid THE POWER OF ACTION</p>	<p>Customer Centre – Enquiries team National Grid Brick Kiln Street Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0NA Tel: 0845 070 0203</p> <p>email: customersupport@uk.ngrid.com</p> <p>www.nationalgrid.com</p>	 <p>Northern Gas Networks</p>	<p>Northern Gas Networks 1100 Century Way Thorpe Park Business Park Colton Leeds, LS15 8TU Tel: 0191 501 4360</p> <p>email: info@northerngas.co.uk</p> <p>www.northerngas.co.uk</p>
 <p>Scotland Gas Networks A Scotia Gas Networks Company</p>  <p>Southern Gas Networks A Scotia Gas Networks Company</p>	<p>Scotland Gas Networks plc 2nd Floor Inveralmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ Tel: 0845 070 1432</p> <p>email: customerserviceScotland@sgn.co.uk</p> <p>Southern Gas Networks plc 2nd Floor Inveralmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ Tel: 0845 070 1431</p> <p>email: customerserviceSouthern@sgn.co.uk</p> <p>www.sgn.co.uk</p>	 <p>WALES&WEST UTILITIES</p>	<p>Customer Services Wales & West Utilities Wales & West House Spooner Close Celtic Springs Coedkernew Newport NP10 8FZ Tel: 0870 165 0597</p> <p>email: enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk</p> <p>www.wwutilities.co.uk</p>

The National Gas Emergency Service operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

Smell Gas? Call free on **0800 111 999***
(MINICOM 0800 371787)

*All calls are recorded and may be monitored for training purposes