

Transmission Exit Capacity Charge for the 10 Towns Area 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

1. Transmission Exit Capacity Charges

In respect of the period from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, the Transmission Exit Capacity Charge payable by gas suppliers operating in the 10 Towns licence area is as follows:

	Pence per kWh	Pence per therm
Transmission Exit Capacity Charge	0.2679	7.851
Commoditised Charge for Credit Support:	0.0030	0.088
Postalised Exit Capacity Charge (Exit Capacity + Credit Support):	0.2709	7.939

Any gas supplier delivering gas via firmus energy (Distribution) Limited's (feDL's) distribution pipeline system will utilise capacity in the Northern Ireland (NI) transmission pipeline system. Gas suppliers are responsible for booking and paying for capacity at the NI transmission pipeline system Entry Point, however, feDL has an obligation to book and hold capacity at the transmission pipeline system Exit Point on behalf of gas suppliers operating on the feDL distribution pipeline. feDL is also responsible for the payment of the Exit Capacity to the Gas Market Operator Northern Ireland (GMO NI) for the use of these pipelines, in accordance with the terms of the Northern Ireland Network Gas Transmission Code (NINGTC).

In order to recover the Exit Capacity charge from gas suppliers, feDL levies a commodity charge on gas suppliers on a monthly basis. feDL forecasts this charge at the start of the gas year using volume forecasts for the feDL licence area. This is then charged to gas suppliers on the basis of their monthly distribution commodity volume and is subject to an annual reconciliation using actual distribution volumes.

2. Credit Support Arrangements

feDL is required to provide the Gas Market Operator for Northern Ireland (GMO NI) with credit support for the Postalised Exit Capacity it holds on behalf of gas suppliers operating in the feDL Licence area. Where feDL's Required Level of Credit Support (RLCS) exceeds their current Maximum Allowed Unsecured Credit (MAUC) feDL will be required to provide additional credit support using an alternative permitted method. Where this additional credit support requirement involves the payment by feDL of a financial cost, including any transaction costs, these costs are recoverable from gas suppliers operating in the feDL Licence area, as permitted by paragraph B-7.4 of the feDL Distribution Network Code.

The actual credit support costs incurred by feDL will also be included as part of the annual reconciliation process to incorporate any additional costs incurred by feDL throughout the gas year, e.g. increased credit support costs required as a result of a Transmission Exit Ratchet.

3. Transmission Exit Capacity Ratchet Charges

If it is determined that the sum of the allocations for gas suppliers exiting the transmission system into the feDL distribution network exceeds the capacity held by feDL, then the feDL capacity booking will be increased by the largest capacity overrun determined for any day in that month. feDL will also be expected to pay GMO NI the associated ratchet charge for that month.

As permitted under Section B7.4 of the feDL Distribution Network Code, feDL will recover the associated ratchet charges from gas suppliers. The charges will be passed on to gas suppliers in the invoices issued for the month in which it is incurred. The amount owing by each gas supplier will be determined based on their percentage of throughput for the number of months for which the penalty associated with the ratchet amount applies.

Following any month in which an Exit Capacity Ratchet has occurred, feDL will continue to pay GMO NI for the Exit Capacity booking (including the additional ratchet amount) for the remainder of the gas year. Gas suppliers will continue to pay feDL for transmission Exit Capacity using the Transmission Exit Capacity charge published at the start of the gas year. The increased charge for Exit Capacity levied to feDL by GMO NI will be recovered from gas suppliers as part of the normal year end reconciliation process. However, should it be determined that the costs associated with an increase in the Exit Capacity booking following a ratchet occurring results in a negative impact on its cashflow of greater than £80k, then feDL reserves the right at the mid-year point to adjust and re-publish the Exit Capacity charge it uses to recover costs from gas suppliers. feDL will only undertake such a review of the Exit Capacity charge following consultation with the Utility Regulator.