

Temporary Time- Limited Refund of Standard Connection Charges

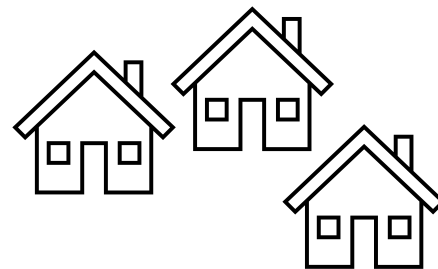
CIF Webinar

26th September 2023



Scheme Background

- DHLGH Scheme - incentivise the commencement of housing developments and help reduce housing construction costs;
 - Temporary Waiver in respect of Development Contributions
- DHLGH Scheme Criteria, this temporary Scheme applies to permitted **new** residential developments that:
 - commence on site between **25 April 2023** and **24 April 2024**; and
 - are completed **not later than 31 December 2025** - Clawback arrangements as per the circular.
 - Full details of Scheme are set out in Circulars Ref PL 04/2023 and PL 08/2023
- The DHLGH Scheme also includes the introduction of temporary refund of Uisce Éireann (UÉ) Standard Connection Charges.
 - **UÉ Standard Connection Charge Refund Scheme - In scope:**
 - Refund of Standard Connection Charges – payment required upfront.
 - New residential developments including new one-off houses.
 - **UÉ Standard Connection Charge Refund Scheme - Out of scope:**
 - Non-domestic development.
 - Quotable charges must be paid in full and will not be subject to a refund.



Waiver Scheme – Key Information

PL 08/2023 – DHLGH Temporary Waiver in respect of Development Contributions

- Meet Commencement Criteria
- Meet DHLGH Scheme Criteria for the DC Waiver
 - The Scheme is time limited as set out within Circulars PL04/2023 and PL08/2023. The developer is to meet the scheme criteria for Completion by December 2025
 - Commencement and Completion timelines – Clawback
- **UÉ Criteria – Ensure Timely Refund of Standard Connection Charges**
 - Publicly funded money, subject to PSC rules and C&AG.
 - Subject to same time limits as DHLGH DC Waiver Scheme
 - Waiver or Refund to DHLGH / UÉ will have to be returned – if scheme criteria not met.



Uisce Éireann – Temporary Refund Scheme Conditions

- **Connection Offer** - Customer must enter a Connection Agreement with UÉ and have met all the acceptance criteria:
 - payment of the full Connection Charge (Standard & Quotable);
 - return of Letter of Acceptance;
 - payment of any required surety/security; and
 - any other conditions as set out within the Connection Offer letter.

- **Refund Application Documentation** - Customer/Applicant to provide the following as part of their application submission:
 1. **Appendix 6 - Local Authority Letter of Approval (LOA) (both pages Signed and Stamped);**
 - UÉ can only refund the units waived by the LA – the LOA is the key control document to allow UÉ to process a refund.
 2. Completed UÉ Refund Application Form;
 3. Signed UÉ Refund Scheme Letter of Undertaking;
 4. A site lay-out plan (support assessment of phased development refund applications);
 5. Valid Commencement Notice;
 6. **Social Housing Managers Order – Additional information required for social housing**
 7. Refund Payment's - Cheque or EFT up to 10 units, >10 units by EFT. Compliance check for organisations seeking a refund.



Uisce Éireann – Processing Temporary Refund Scheme

Key Controls & Validation to enable end to end processing

- The Local Authority Letter of Approval (LOA) is a key control document.
 - UÉ can only process refunds for residential units that meet the Scheme criteria as evidenced through the Letter of Approval (LOA) from the Local Authority.

The validation for a refund application will include:

1. Review of the original connection application and the following details must align with the refund application:
 - Applicant Name / Organisation Name as refund applicant.
 - Applicant / Organisation Address as refund applicant.
 - Payee of the Connection Charge must be the same as refund applicant
 - Site Address Details for connection offer to align with the LOA details.
2. Refund Assessment - UÉ can only refund the units that have been paid for, it may differ from the number of units waived by the LA
3. For larger developments where a phasing approach applies UÉ will assess each refund application in accordance with the LA waiver and LOA. This is the reason we request a Site Layout Plan.



UÉ Refund Application – Key Supporting Documentation

Appendix 6 - Letter of Approval:

- Submit a signed and stamped **Local Authority Letter of Approval (LOA)** as part of the refund application in accordance with the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver. The Local Authority Letter of Approval shall be for the same development details as contained within the Refund Application and will determine the level of refund to be processed by UÉ.
- Both pages of the LOA are to be provided by the Local Authority on their letter head to you.
- Both pages to be Signed and Stamped by the Local Authority when provided to you.
- Page 2 of the LOA table to be completed by the Local Authority digitally – Not by hand and not by the developer.
- Page 2 of the LOA which contains the specific site information and number of units that have been waived by the Local Authority Planning Department. UÉ can only refund the standard connection charge associated with the units that have been waived by the Local Authority and only on the basis of the detail included in the LOA.



Applicable Social Housing - Managers Order:

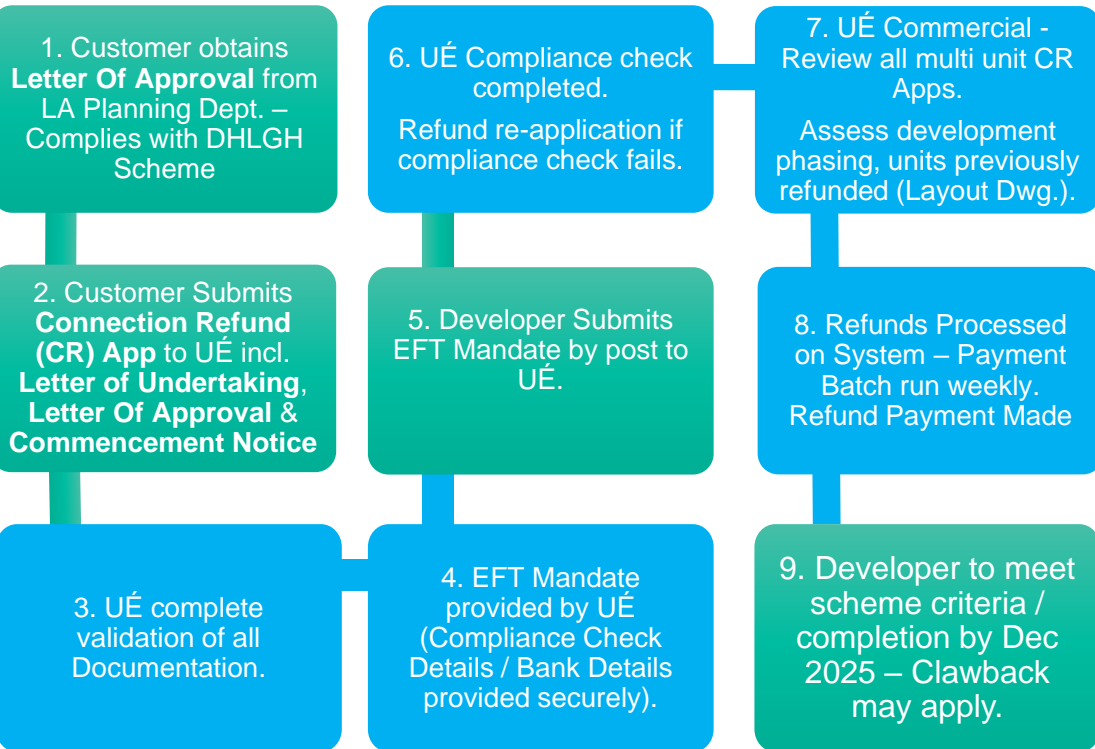
- For housing where no DC can be waived such as some social housing you will need to provide adequate documentation such as a managers order in lieu of a Letter of Approval.
 - Form of documentation to match LOA rules above – Signed and Stamped by the LA on their letterhead calling out the number of units being waived.

UÉ Refund Application - Forms

Customers seeking a Connection Refund from UÉ shall be required to submit the following via email along with the LOA or Managers Order:

- **Connection Refund Scheme Application Form** along with a **Site Layout drawing** (PDF format) indicating the residential unit(s) associated with this Refund Application.
- A signed copy of the **UÉ Letter of Undertaking for Connection Refund Scheme** committing to repay any monies refunded by UÉ if the Scheme criteria are not met (Section B of the Refund Application form).
- As noted previously details must match those between the relevant Connection Agreement and Refund Application before a refund can be made. Discrepancies in the information provided may lead to delays in processing and/or the rejection of the Refund Application.
- Submit a valid **Commencement Notice** for the development as part of the refund application, together with a printout of your Commencement Notice from the Building Control Management System.
- Compliance Check – Refund payments by EFT to an organisation will require a compliance check to be completed by UÉ.
 - UÉ will provide an EFT mandate form to be submitted by Post.
 - This form will provide detail to allow UÉ to complete the compliance checks.
 - UÉ will independently contact your organisation to verify your details – protect you, your company and reduce risk of fraud.
 - Failure to engage with the Compliance check process or failure to provide correct information will result in your refund application being cancelled and a re-application being required.

Connection Application & Connection Completion Process



Customer Responsibilities

1. **Meet DHLGH Scheme Criteria – Commencement Dates**
2. **Valid Letter of Approval (LOA) – Both Pages Signed and Stamped**
3. **Submit Connection Refund Application & UÉ Letter of Undertaking**
4. **Provide EFT Mandate – Support Compliance Check Process**
5. **Valid Connection Offer in place and offer criteria met – paid all charges, signed documentation and surety (90 Days).**

Questions?

Application forms and **further details** available at
<https://www.water.ie/connections/new-connections/refund-scheme/>

