



North Sea
Transition
Authority

Guidance on NSTA fees and charges

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Scope and purpose of this guidance

This document provides guidance on the fees that the NSTA charges users of its services and outlines how to pay those fees. It does not have binding legal effect. If the NSTA departs from this guidance, it will explain why.

This guidance is not a substitute for any regulation or law and is not legal advice.

The guidance will be kept under review and amended as appropriate as the fees and their rates are regularly reviewed by the NSTA.

Introduction

The NSTA regulates and influences the oil and gas, offshore hydrogen, and carbon storage industries. We help drive North Sea energy transition, realising the significant potential of the UK Continental Shelf as a critical energy and carbon abatement resource, and hold industry to account on reducing emissions.

The NSTA provides a range of services, including but not limited to issuing petroleum licences, offshore gas storage licences and carbon dioxide storage licences, as well as consents issued under these licences and pipeline works authorisations.

In accordance with HM Treasury's [Managing Public Money](#), the costs of these services are recovered via direct fees rather than via the levy paid by offshore petroleum licensees to ensure that only those benefiting from a service bear its costs (see Appendix 1 for a list of the fee regulations).

This guidance sets out the services for which the NSTA charges fees, and the different ways in which service users can pay those fees.

NSTA services subject to fees

Most of the NSTA's fees are for a fixed amount and are paid on submission of an application to the NSTA. Many of these applications are made through the various services hosted on the NSTA's UK Energy Portal, with the payment method depending on the category of service.

The services are:

- Petroleum E-business Assignments and Relinquishment System (PEARS)
- Wells Operations and Notifications System (WONS)
- Petroleum Licence Applications Repository (LARRY)
- Pipeline Works Authorisations (PWA)
- Field Consents System

Additionally, some approval fees are timesheet-based, calculated by multiplying a day rate by the number of days and the number of staff involved in the approval. An invoice for payment of these fees will be issued by email after a calculation of the amount due has been made. Some fixed fees must also be paid through manual invoice.

The services, fees and payment methods for them are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of applications, fees and payment methods

Application type	Fee type	Fee rate	Application method	Payment method
Development and production consent (Field Development Plan)	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Gas storage field development plan approval	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Consent to a complex ¹ pipeline deposit proposal	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Complex ¹ pipeline works authorisation	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice

¹ "Complex" here means those applications the NSTA estimates will require more than four days for an officer to determine.

Complex ² production and flaring and venting consents	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Carbon dioxide storage proposal approval (carbon storage permit)	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Amend a carbon dioxide storage permit	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Review and amend a carbon dioxide storage monitoring plan	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Amend a carbon dioxide storage work programme	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Consent to a change in control of a petroleum or carbon storage licensee	Timesheet-based fee	£610 per staff day	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Approving methodology for the measurement of petroleum (PON6 approval)	Fixed fee	£1,330	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Consent to drill a primary well	Fixed fee	£930	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to drill a sidetrack well	Fixed fee	£840	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to fit or refit equipment in a well	Fixed fee	£370	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to a well suspension	Fixed fee	£780	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay

² "Complex" here means those applications the NSTA estimates will require more than two days for an officer to determine.

Consent to put back into use a suspended well	Fixed fee	£350	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to abandon a well permanently	Fixed fee	£1,080	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Drill stem test	Fixed fee	£280	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Extended well test	Fixed fee	£930	Via UK Energy Portal (WONS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to get petroleum from a licensed area (Production consent)	Fixed fee	£1,200	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Variation of a consent to get petroleum from a licensed area (Production consent variation)	Fixed fee	£1,200	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Consent to flare or vent petroleum from a well	Fixed fee	£940	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Variation of a consent to flare or vent petroleum from a well	Fixed fee	£940	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Consent to flare or vent natural gas from a relevant oil processing facility or a relevant gas processing facility	Fixed fee	£350	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Variation of a consent to flare or vent natural gas from a relevant oil processing facility or a relevant gas processing facility	Fixed fee	£0	Via Field Consents System	GovPay
Pipeline Works Authorisation	Fixed fee	£3,330	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Category 1 Pipeline Works Authorisation variation	Fixed fee	£3,330	Via PWA Portal	GovPay

Category 2 Pipeline Works Authorisation variation	Fixed fee	£2,030	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Variation of holder, user, owner or Operator of a pipeline under a Pipeline Works Authorisation	Fixed fee	£2,030	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Consent to a pipeline deposit proposal	Fixed fee	£1,730	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Category 2 Pipeline Works Authorisation options variation	Fixed fee	£2,030	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Pipeline Works Authorisation and deposit consents granted following cessation of production from a petroleum field	Fixed fee	£2,030	Via PWA Portal	GovPay
Consent to change of licensee	Fixed fee	£1,450	Via UK Energy Portal (PEARS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to change of a beneficiary of rights under a licence	Fixed fee	£1,450	Via UK Energy Portal (PEARS Service)	WorldPay
Appointment of an operator under a petroleum licence	Fixed fee	£1,270	Via UK Energy Portal (PEARS Service)	WorldPay
Consent to extension of a petroleum licence	Fixed fee	£5,660	Non- Portal	Manual invoice
Amendment of a work programme	Fixed fee	£5,660	Non-Portal	Manual invoice
Consent to onshore retention or development area proposals	Fixed fee	£1,250	Via UK Energy Portal (PEARS Service)	WorldPay
Determination of oil fields	Fixed fee	£5,340	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Offshore metering examination	Fixed fee	£3,080	Non-portal	Manual invoice

Onshore metering examination	Fixed fee	£3,740	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Meter flow calibration	Fixed fee	£2,030	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Change of licensee of a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£1,400	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Change of the beneficiary of rights granted by a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£1,400	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Appointment of an exploration operator under a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£1,210	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Appointment of a storage operator under a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence appointment of storage operator in a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£1,210	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Extension of the initial or appraisal term of a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£5,670	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Measurement of carbon dioxide injection flow rate	Fixed fee	£3,740	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Application for exploration licence	Fixed fee	£2,460	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Application for methane drainage licence	Fixed fee	£200	Non-portal	Manual invoice
Application for onshore production licence	Fixed fee	£6,570	Via LARRY	WorldPay
Application for offshore production licence	Fixed fee	£10,030	Via LARRY	WorldPay
Application for gas storage licence	Fixed fee	£9,860	Non-portal	Manual invoice

Application for carbon dioxide appraisal and storage licence	Fixed fee	£19,710	Non-portal	Manual invoice
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The NSTA reviews and updates its fee rates on a regular basis. The fee rates were last updated in April 2024.

The different payment methods are outlined in the sections below.

Manual invoice payments

When the NSTA is ready to issue a consent or authorisation involving a manual invoice, the NSTA will ask the service user to request via email that the NSTA calculates the final fee. The same process will be followed if a Field Development Plan is withdrawn or if the consent process takes more than six months.

The NSTA will then calculate the fee and issue, by email, an invoice for settlement.

The invoice will contain:

- Amount of the charge, in pounds sterling
- Basic description of the purpose of the payment, e.g. “FDP approval of the xxx Field”
- Bank details for the NSTA, where settlement can be made
- An invoice reference number to quote when making the payment, which will be essential for the NSTA matching against the relevant consent/authorisation

Repayments

If, for any reason, the NSTA decides to make a refund in part or in full, then the following will apply:

- If the invoice is not already paid, a credit note will be issued to offset against the invoice.
- If the invoice is already paid, the NSTA will ask for a supplier form to be completed and details of the bank account to which the payment should be made to be provided, as follows:

- Name of bank
- Sort code
- Branch of bank
- Account name
- Account number
- IBAN (for non- UK payments only)

It is important that these bank details are provided on company letter headed paper as the NSTA will not make payment otherwise. **For questions on an invoice, or credit note, please email: accountsreceivable@nstauthority.co.uk**

WorldPay payments

For fees under the WorldPay system, payment will be requested when an application is made. Payment is made by credit card using the “WorldPay” system.

Once the application is made, this payment screen will appear:

Figure 1: WorldPay payment screen

Payment

This section holds payment details for your application. Once payment has been completed, a unique reference will be assigned. Please note this is for future reference and any communication with the HSTA.

Industry Ref Test
Application Ref Not Yet Assigned

Invoice Summary

Invoice Ref EDU/OGA/PEARS/780
Description PEARS Application Fee

Item Ref	Description	Quantity	Subtotal
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	1	GBP 1450.00
2	Licensee Change	1	GBP 1450.00
	Total		GBP 2900.00

[Display Invoice](#)

Card Billing Details

Please provide billing details relating to your payment card.

*Name [Use my details](#)
 Address [Search for address](#)
 *Postcode
 *Email Address
 Telephone No
 Remember Details

Cards accepted:

Contact us:
 NORTH SEA TRANSITION AUTHORITY
 Registered Companies House, 09665504
 Sanctuary Buildings
 20 Great Smith Street
 London
 SW1P 3BT
info@nsta.gov.uk

Submit for payment

Clicking "Pay Now" will transfer you to an external server for payment processing.

payments powered by

To view/print the Request for Payment (Invoice), click on the ‘Display Invoice’ link on the payment screen as highlighted in Figure 2. This will display the Request for Payment in a PDF format.

Figure 2: “Display Invoice” link

Invoice Summary

Invoice Ref EDU/OGA/PEARS/780
Description PEARS Application Fee

Item Ref	Description	Quantity	Subtotal
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	1	GBP 1450.00
2	Licensee Change	1	GBP 1450.00
	Total		GBP 2900.00

[Display Invoice](#)

Figure 3: Request for Payment pdf

Request for Payment



Request for Payment Number EDU/OGA/PEARS/781
Request for Payment Date 22nd March 2024
Payment Terms Immediate

For the attention of the Licensee:		From: (Charging Point)	
Company	DUMMY OIL COMPANY (U.K.) LIMITED	Contact	NORTH SEA TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Address	Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT	Address	Sanctuary Buildings London SW1P 3BT
Registered Number		Telephone	0300 067 1689
		Fax	
		Email	ukop@nstauthority.co.uk

Receiving credits in GBP in the UK	Receiving credits from Overseas
BACS & CHAPS (GBP 10,000+) Bank Address: RBS London Corporate Service, 2nd Floor Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4RB. Sort Code: Account No: Account Name: Oil and Gas Authority	Swift BIC: IBAN: Beneficiary Reference: Oil and Gas Authority

Please provide payment for the following items:

Item Ref.	Description	Unit Price	VAT Amount	Total Cost
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	GBP 1450.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 1450.00
2	Licensee Change	GBP 1450.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 1450.00
			TOTAL CHARGE:	GBP 2900.00

Vat registration no. N/A - Out of Scope

Enter the card billing details on the payment screen. Please note that the card must be registered in the UK. Clicking on 'Use my details' will import the details that are held against the service user Portal Account.

When searching for a company address, click on the 'Search for address' link, as highlighted in Figure 4.

Figure 4: “Search for address” link

Then enter the relevant post code and click on the ‘Search’ button, as highlighted in Figure 5.

Figure 5: “Post Code search”

Once the search results have returned, click on the relevant address link.

Figure 6: Post Code search results

Once all details have been entered, click on the ‘Pay Now’ button.

Figure 7: “Pay now” button

This will connect to the WorldPay system.

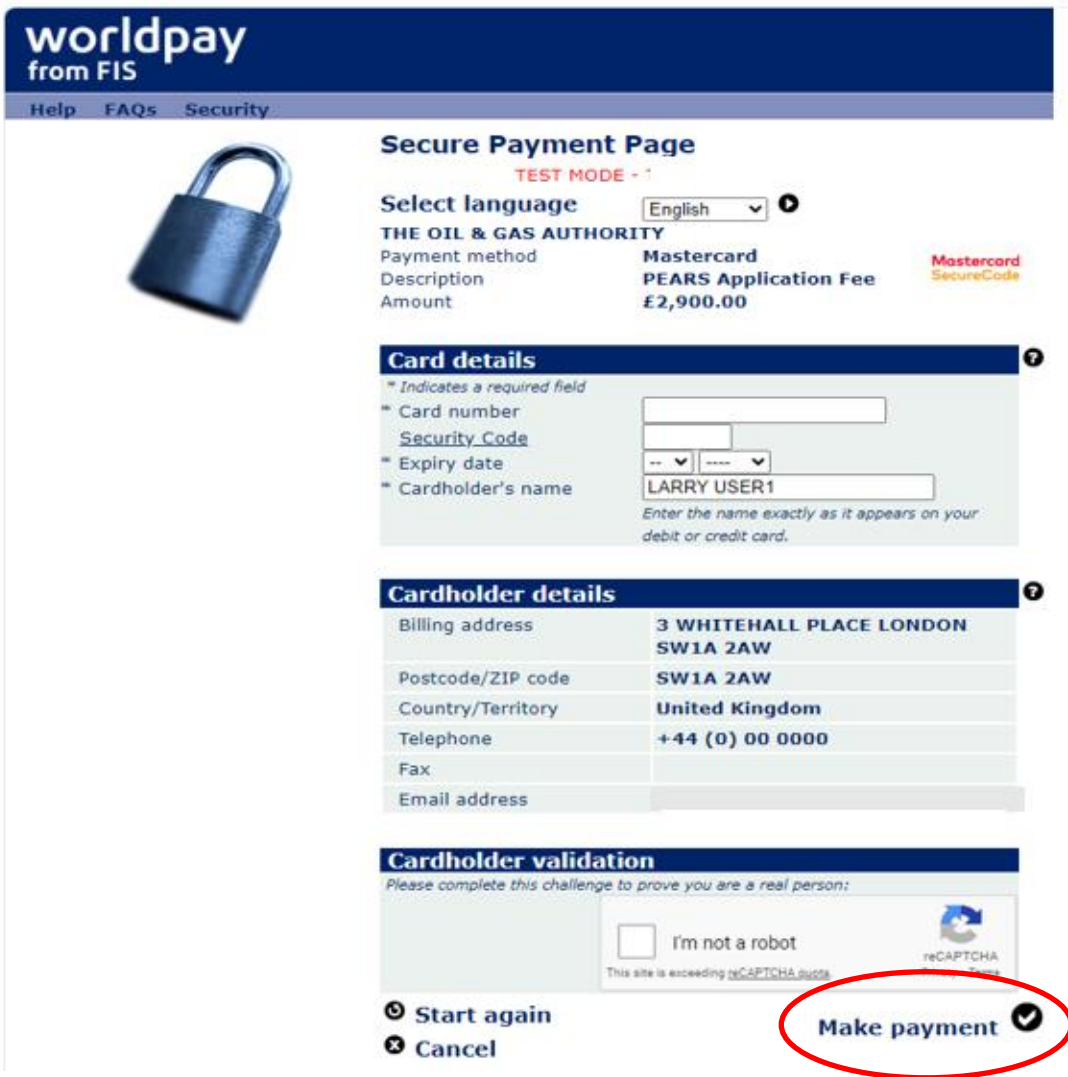
Select Card Type by clicking on the relevant card icon.

Figure 8: WorldPay payment page



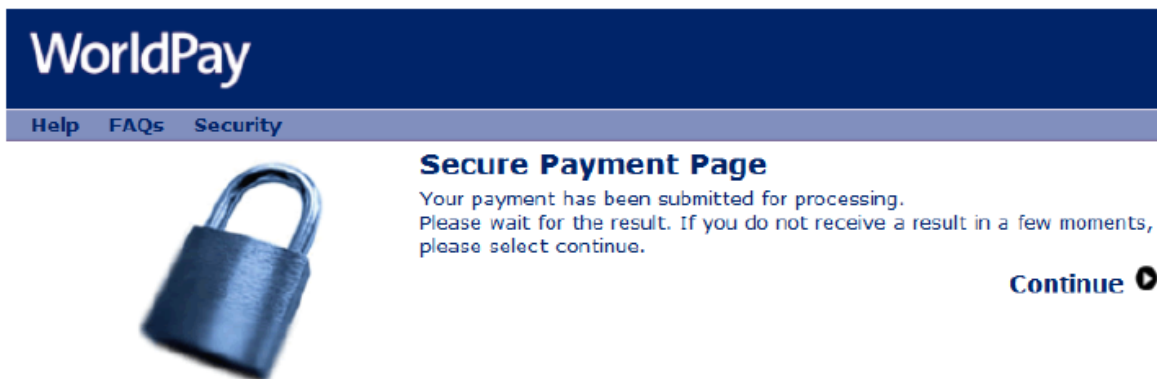
Enter the card details and click on the 'Make Payment' tick icon

Figure 9: "Make payment" icon



A message will appear, stating that the payment has been submitted for processing.

Figure 10: WorldPay Payment Processing page



This will be followed by a payment status confirming if payment has been successful.

Figure 11: WorldPay Payment status page

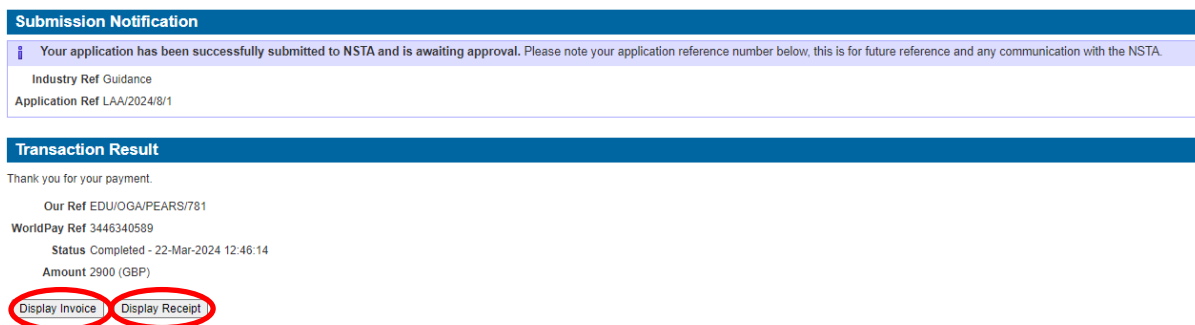
Payment received, thank you

This was not a live transaction. No money has changed hands.
Thank you, your payment was successful.
Merchant's reference: **EDU/OGA/PEARS/781/1**
WorldPay Transaction ID: **3446340589**

[Return to the portal](#)

Clicking on the 'Return to the portal' button will show the payment details as well as the 'Payment Request (Invoice)' and 'Receipt' by clicking on the relevant button.

Figure 12: "Display Invoice" and "Display Receipt" buttons



An example of a receipt is shown below.

Figure 13: Payment Receipt

Payment Receipt



Request for Payment Number EDU/OGA/PEARS/781
Request for Payment Date 22nd March 2024
Paid/Received Date 22nd March 2024

For the attention of the Licensee:		From: (Charging Point)	
Company	DUMMY OIL COMPANY (U.K.) LIMITED	Contact	NORTH SEA TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Address	Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT	Address	Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT
Registered Number		Telephone	0300 067 1689
		Fax	
		Email	ukop@nstauthority.co.uk

Payment has been provided for the following items:

Item Ref.	Description	Unit Price	VAT Amount	Total Cost
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	GBP 1450.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 1450.00
2	Licensee Change	GBP 1450.00	GBP 0.00	GBP 1450.00
			TOTAL CHARGE:	GBP 2900.00

Vat registration no. N/A - Out of Scope

Payment Details

Payment Method(s):	Electronic payment via WorldPay
Payment Reference:	3446340589
Amount Received:	GBP 2900.00
Date Paid/Received:	22nd March 2024

Payment received, with thanks

If, for any reason, the NSTA decides to make a refund in part or in full, the procedure will follow that for manual invoice payments.

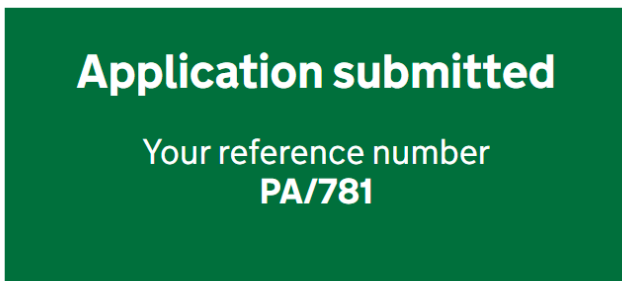
GovPay payments

Fees on the PWA Portal System and the Field Consents System are both paid using GovPay. There are some differences in the initial steps in the two systems.

PWA Portal System

When an application has been submitted on the PWA Portal System, the below acknowledgement screen will come up. The application is then sent to the NSTA Consents & Authorisations Manager for review.

Figure 14: PWA application acknowledgement screen



Submitted date and time: 21/03/2024 15:39:34

Submitted by Shell Industry

We have sent you a confirmation email.

What happens next

Your application has been sent for review.

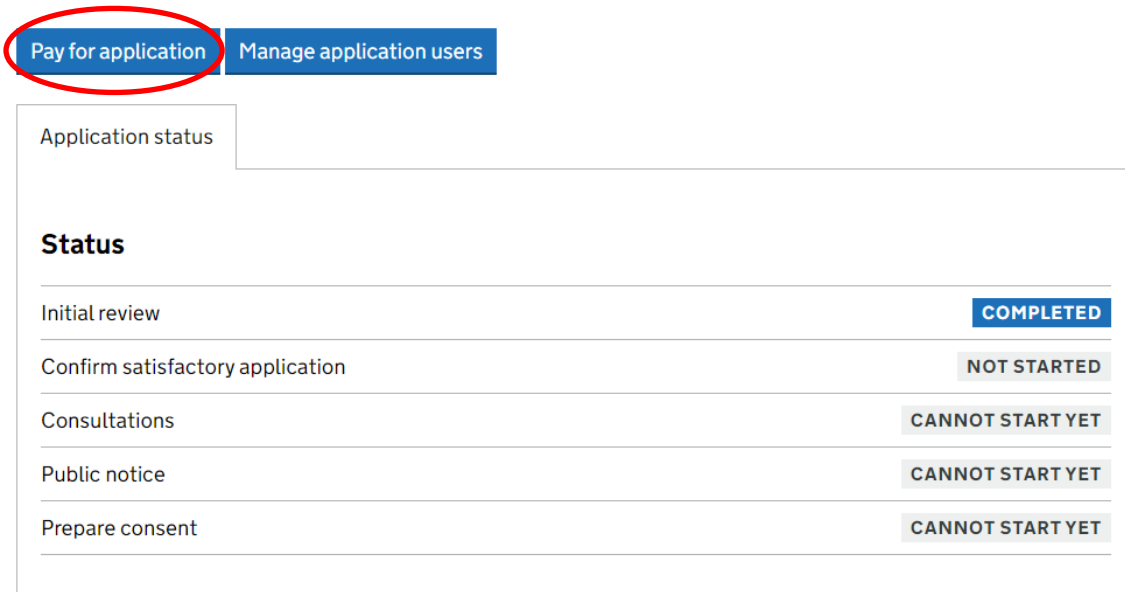
Any new pipelines with temporary references have been assigned pipeline numbers.

[What did you think of this service?](#) (takes 30 seconds)

[Go back to work area](#)

When the application has been accepted, there will be a notification that payment is required. When opening the relevant application in the work area, there will be a request that payment is made by clicking on the “Pay for application” tab.

Figure 15: PWA “Pay for application” button



Please read through the information to ensure that it is correct and then click on ‘Start Payment’. If payment is handled by another person, send the application to them by clicking on the ‘Share this page for someone else to pay’ link.

Figure 16: PWA “Share this page for someone else to pay” link

Pay for application

Please note that by starting the payment, any other person currently completing a payment for the application will have their attempt cancelled.

[Share this page for someone else to pay](#)

New PWA application PA/782 submission

Item	Cost
Charge for submitting an initial PWA application	£3330.00
Total charge	£3330.00

[Start payment](#)

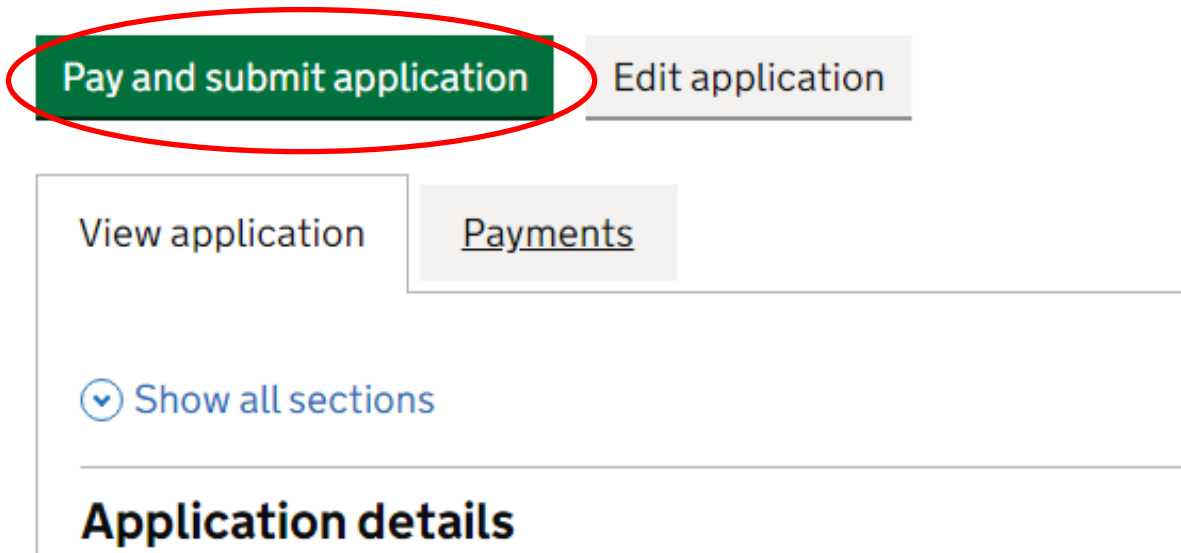
[Back](#)

Field Consents System

In the Field Consents System, the payment button will appear once the application is completed.

Select the 'Pay and Submit application' button to proceed with application payment.

Figure 17: Field Consents “Pay and submit application” button



The screen shown in Figure 18 provides payment summary information. Click the 'Start Payment' button to proceed.

Figure 18: Field Consents “Pay and submit application” page

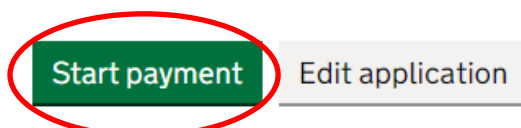
Pay and submit application

Please note that by starting the payment, any other person currently completing a payment for the application will have their attempt cancelled.

► [Share this page for someone else to pay.](#)

Payment summary

Item	Cost
New field annual consent application FCON/8035/0 (Version 1) submission	£930.00
Total charge	£930.00



All GovPay systems

In both systems, once the 'Start Payment' button has been selected, enter payment card details, billing address and contact email address for the payment notification. Click the 'Continue' button once all sections have been completed.

Please include card details in the following screen.

Figure 19: GovPay payment page

Enter card details


Payment summary

New PWA application PA/782 submission

Total amount:
£3330.00

Card number

Accepted credit and debit card types



Expiry date

For example, 10/26


Month Year

 /

Name on card

Card security code

The last 3 digits on the back of the card

Billing address

This is the address associated with the card

Address line 1

Address line 2 (optional)

Town or city

Country or territory

Postcode

Contact details

We'll send your payment confirmation here

Email

[Continue](#)

[Cancel payment](#)

Please double check details before confirming payment.

Figure 20: GovPay payment confirmation page

Confirm your payment

Payment summary	
New PWA application PA/782 submission	
Total amount:	£3330.00
Card number4444
Expiry date	07/28
Name on card	
Billing address	ed Kingdom
Confirmation email	terri.kelbie@nstauthority.co.uk

[Confirm payment](#)

[Cancel payment](#)

When payment is confirmed, an acknowledgement for the payment for the application will appear.

Figure 20: GovPay payment acknowledgement page

Application PA/782 payment completed

What happens next

Your application will be processed by the assigned case officer.

- You can [view your application](#)
- You can [work on another application](#) from the work area

An email acknowledgement will also be sent to the Inbox of whoever made the payment.

Applicants can ask for their applications to be fast tracked. If this is requested and agreed, the fee payable is doubled.

If, for any reason, the NSTA decides to make a refund in part or in full, the refund will be paid to the card used to make the initial payment.

Appendix 1 – Fees Regulations

The fees are enshrined in The Oil and Gas Authority (Fees) Regulations 2016 [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/904/contents/made>] as amended.

The amendments can be found in:

- The Oil and Gas Authority (Fees and Petroleum Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/426/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) and Pollution Prevention and Control (Fees) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2020 [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/208/contents/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2021 [<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/206/contents/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2022 [<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/204/contents/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2023 [<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/228/contents/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2024 [<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/241/contents/made>]
- The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2025 [<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/239/contents/made>]



North Sea Transition Authority

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