Guidance note on the NSTA's fees and charges regime

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Introduction

The NSTA provides a range of services to specific licence holders. These services include issuing licences to search and bore for and get petroleum, as well as consents issued under the petroleum licences (both onshore and offshore), offshore gas storage licences and carbon dioxide storage licences and for pipeline works authorisations.

In accordance with Managing Public Money, our costs of these services are recovered via direct fees rather than via the levy to ensure that only those benefiting from a service will bear its costs.

The charges, introduced by the Gas and Petroleum (Consents) Charges Regulations 2013 and now enshrined in The Oil and Gas Authority (Fees) Regulations 2016 as amended.

These Regulations can be viewed here: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/904/contents/made

These Regulations have been amended by The Oil and Gas Authority (Fees and Petroleum Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 which can be viewed here: 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, which can be viewed here: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/208/contents/made, The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2021, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/206/contents/made, The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2022, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/204/contents/made and The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2023, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/228/contents/made and The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2024, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/228/contents/made and The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2024, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/228/contents/made and The Oil and Gas Authority (Levy and Fees) Regulations 2024, which can be viewed here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/228/contents/made

What services will we charge for?

Category A Services

- Approval of an onshore or offshore Field Development Plan (referred to in the Regulations as a development and production programme), including approval to revisions and addenda
- Approval of an offshore Gas Storage Development Plan (referred to in the Regulations as "a development plan") including approval to revisions and addenda
- Approval of an offshore carbon dioxide Storage Permit (referred to in the Regulations as "a carbon dioxide storage proposal") including approval revisions and addenda
- Amend a carbon dioxide storage permit
- Review and amend a carbon dioxide storage monitoring plan
- Amend a carbon dioxide storage work programme
- "Complex" Pipeline Works Authorisations (those the NSTA estimate will require more than four days for an officer to determine) and variations thereto
- "Complex" production and flaring and venting consents (those the NSTA estimate will require more than two days for an officer to determine)

The charge for the above services is determined by a formula set out in the Regulation which is £610 per day times the number of days; and the number of officers involved in the approval.

An invoice for payment will be issued by email/post after a calculation of the above has been made using time sheets that Consenting Teams will maintain whilst progressing such consents and authorisations.

For information on how the payment will be requested from you for Category A services please refer to **Annex A** of this Guidance.

Category B Services

This category of consents has pre-calculated "off the shelf" charges set in Regulations and is payable at the point of application via the Energy Portal using a credit card.

Drilling consents

The Wells Operations and Notifications System (WONS) allows petroleum licence operators to apply to NSTA for consent to drill both onshore and offshore wells and conduct nominated operations on these wells. The WONS system also allows the operator to notify the NSTA of various events during the drilling of the well.

Charges will be levied on the following applications:

- Full Initial Drilling (Exploration or Appraisal Well) (not provisional applications)
- Full Initial Drilling (Development Well) (not provisional applications)
- Geological Sidetrack
- Completion
- Re-Completion
- Suspend Well Long Term
- Continue Long Term Suspensions
- Re-Enter Long Term Suspended Well
- Abandonments

WONS Fees

Consent type	One off fee
To drill a new well	£930
To drill a sidetrack	£840
To complete a well / fit or refit equipment in a well	£370
To suspend a well	£780
To re-enter a well subject to a well suspension	£350
To abandon a well	£1,080

Licence changes

Each category of change attracts a specified charge rate and each instance of the change included in an application will attract the nominated charge. The changes and the related fees are:

Consent type	One off fee
Change of licensee	£1,450
Change of the beneficiary of a petroleum field or subarea	£1,450
Change of the operator of a petroleum field or subarea	£1,270

A straightforward application requiring minimal review and IT processing functions will attract a lower charge than a more complex application with a substantial number of changes that requires greater scrutiny and IT processing functions.

Certain changes are currently exempt from charges:

- relinquishments/surrenders
- licence ends
- sub area shape changes
- adding / removing a field
- licence administrator change
- data confirmations
- data corrections

A fixed charge will apply for a re-issue of consent regardless of the number of operations involved.

Charges for applications that are subsequently withdrawn will not be refunded as the NSTA will have already used staff time and IT costs involved in processing the original application.

If an application is returned to industry by the NSTA for amendment, the following charges will apply:

- any new added operations will be charged for
- any deleted operations will not be refunded

Production/Flaring/Venting consents

Charges will be made for the following submissions to obtain a new consent (i.e. attracting a new consent reference number):

- Production consents (including well tests)
- Flare consents
- Vent consents

In addition a charge will be made for an application by the operator to vary/revise a consent already issued.

A consent re-issue initiated by the NSTA will not incur a charge, even if the application is subsequently passed to industry for modification.

Consent type	One off fee
Get petroleum from a licensed area	£1,200
(Production consent)	
Variation of a consent to get petroleum	£1,200
from a licensed area	
Drill stem test	£280
Extended well test	£930
Flare or vent petroleum	£940

Variation of a consent to flare or vent petroleum	£940
Flare or vent natural gas from a relevant oil or gas processing facility	£350

If the NSTA estimates an application for a flare or vent consent or a production consent will require more than two days for an officer to determine, the fee will be classed as "complex" and treated as a Category A fee.

Pipeline Works Authorisations and Deposit Consents

Charges will be made for the following:

- A Pipeline Works Authorisation and variations thereto (including Holder, User, Operator or Owner)
- A deposit consent (referred to in the Regulations as "a pipeline deposit proposal")

Application for consent to or authorisation for activity or matter	Fee Payable
Pipeline works authorisation	£3,330
Category 1 pipeline works authorisation variation	£3,330
Category 2 pipeline works authorisation variation	£2,030
Variation of holder, user, owner or Operator of a pipeline under a pipeline works authorisation	£2,030
Consent to a pipeline deposit proposal	£1,730
Category 2 pipeline works authorisation options variation	£2,030
Pipeline works authorisation and deposit consents granted following cessation of production from a petroleum field	£2,030

If the NSTA estimates an application will require more than four days for an officer to determine, the fee will be classed as "complex" and treated as a Category A fee.

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

If an application is fast tracked, it will be processed within the time shown below:

Application type	Processing time
Pipeline works authorisation	4 months
Category 1 pipeline works authorisation	4 months
Category 2 pipeline works authorisation	6 weeks
Variation of holder, user, owner or Operator of a pipeline under a pipeline works authorisation	6 weeks

Consent to a pipeline deposit proposal	6 weeks
Category 2 pipeline works authorisation variation with the option for applicant to undertake a number of possible future actions	6 weeks
Pipeline works authorisation and deposit consents granted following cessation of production from a petroleum field	6 months

For information on the screen shots that you will be taken through when being requested to pay please refer to **Annex B** of this Guidance.

Category C Service

Consent type	One off fee
Methodology proposed for the	£1,330
measurement of petroleum (PON6	
approval)	
Extended Well Tests (These are not	£930
applied for though the Energy Portal)	
Extension of the initial, second or final	£5,660
term of a petroleum licence	
Extension of the final phase of the initial	£5,660
term of a petroleum licence	
Amendment of a work programme	£5,660
Consent to retention or development	£1,250
area proposals	
Determination of an oil field under	£5,340
Schedule 1 to the Oil Taxation Act 1975	
Metering examination under a seaward	£3,080
area production licence	,
Metering examination under a petroleum	£3,740
exploration and development licence	
Attendance at a meter flow calibration	£2,030
Consent to flare or vent natural gas from	£350
a relevant oil processing facility or a	
relevant gas processing facility	
Change of licensee of a carbon dioxide	£1,400
appraisal and storage licence	
Change of the beneficiary of rights	£1,400
granted by a carbon dioxide appraisal and	
storage licence	
Appointment of an exploration operator	£1,210
under a carbon dioxide appraisal and	
storage licence	
Appointment of a storage operator under	£1,210
a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage	
licence appointment of storage operator	
in a CS licence	
Extension of the initial or appraisal term	£5,670
of a carbon dioxide appraisal and storage	
licence	
Measurement of carbon dioxide injection	£3,740
flow rate	
Approval of well or installation operators	The sum of the fees charged by the
	competent authority. "Competent
	authority" being the Health and Safety
	Executive and the Secretary of State for
	DESNZ, acting jointly.
Application for landward petroleum	£2,460
exploration licence	

Application for seaward petroleum exploration licence	£2,460
Application for methane drainage licence	£200
Application for petroleum exploration and development licence	£6,570
Application for seaward area production licence	£10,030
Application for gas storage licence	£9,860
Application for carbon dioxide storage licence	£19,710

These approvals have a pre calculated "off the shelf" charge set in the Regulations and are charged for by an invoice issued in the post or by email.

For information on how the payment will be requested from you for this category of services, please refer to **Annex C** of this Guidance.

ANNEX A

For Category A services, how is the payment requested and how will the company pay?

When the NSTA is ready to issue a consent or authorisation they will ask you to request (an email will suffice) that the NSTA determines the charge you will be required to pay. Additionally, the same process will be followed if a Field Development Plan is withdrawn or if the consent process takes more than 6 months.

The NSTA, from their time sheet records, will calculate that fee at £610 per day times the number of days; and the number of officers involved in the approval process.

Once this charge calculation has been made, the NSTA's Finance Unit will issue (by post or by email) an invoice for settlement.

The invoice will contain:

- Amount of the charge, in pounds sterling
- How the amount was calculated e.g. days spent and number of officers involved
- 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 for you to quote when making your payment which will be essential for the NSTA matching against the consent/authorisation you have requested

Repayments to you

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

- If you have not already paid the invoice, a credit note will be issued to your company against the invoice issued in error.
- If you have already paid the invoice. You will be asked by NSTA to provide details of the bank account into which the payment should be made, as follows:
- Name of bank
- Sort code
- Branch of bank
- Account name
- Account number

It is important that these bank details are provided on your company letter headed paper as our Finance Unit will not make payment otherwise. For questions on an invoice, or credit note you have received, please email: accountsreceivable@nstauthority.co.uk

ANNEX B

For Category B services, how is the payment requested and how will my company pay?

The charges for these services have been pre-calculated and are contained in the Regulations, and many have been incorporated in the Energy Portal payment facility. Payment will be requested when an application is made. You can elect to pay immediately by credit card using the "WorldPay" system.

Once application on the Energy Portal (including PEARS) is made the following payment screens will appear:

Payment			
This sect	ion holds payment details for your application. Once payment	nt has been completed, a unique reference w	will be assigned. Please note this is for future
Industry Re			
Application Re	Assigned		
Invoice Su	immary		
	J/OGA/PEARS/780 ARS Application Fee		
Item Ref	Description	Quantity	Subtotal
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	1	GBP 1450.00
2	Licensee Change	1 Total	GBP 1450.00 GBP 2900.00
Disatas Involas		10181	001 20000
Display Invoice			
Card Pay	ment Alternative Payment Method		
Card Billin	ng Details		
	iling details relating to your payment card.		
	*Name	Use my details	
	Address	Search for address	
		STOREST IN AN ADDRESS	
	*Postcode		
*En	mail Address		
	elephone No		
Reme	mber Details		
Submit for			

If you need to view/print the Payment Request (Invoice), you can click on the 'Display Invoice' link). This will display the Payment Request in a PDF format.

nvoice Ref EDU/0 Description PEAR				
rescriptionPEAR	э мүрловилттее			
Item Ref	Description	Quantity	Subtotal	
1	Subarea Beneficiary Change	1	GBP 1450.00	
2	Licensee Change	1	GBP 1450.00	
		Total	GBP 2900.00	

Request for Payment

1 North Sea Transition Authority

Request for Payment Number Request for Payment Date Payment Terms

EDU/OGA/PEARS/781 22nd March 2024 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	Address	Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street
	SW1P 3BT		SW1P 3BT
		Telephone Fax	0300 067 1689
Registered Num	ber	Email	ukop@nstauthority.co.uk

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

Please provide payment for the following items:

ltem 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

When you are ready to pay for your application you will need to select a Payment Method. You can choose 'Card Payment' which allows you to pay using a credit card through our 'WorldPay' system.

Card Payment

Alternative Payment Method

The alternative payment method will no longer be available from 1 October 2024, for applications that have not yet reached the payment stage by that date. Following this change payments will only be accepted via card. We recommend planning ahead to avoid issues such as exceeding credit limits.

1.1 WorldPay Payments

If you are using WorldPay as your payment method you will need to enter your card billing details. If you click on 'Use my details' it will import the details that are held against your Portal Account. When searching for your company address click on the 'Search for address' link.

Card Payment	Alternative Payment Method		
Card Billing Details			
Please provide billing details re	elating to your payment card.		
*Name Address	0	Lite my defails Search for address	Cards accepted: VISA VISA Monocom VISA INSE
*Postcode			Contact us: NORTH SEA TRANSITION AUTHORITY
*Email Address	0		Registered Companies House, 09665504 Sanctuary Buildings
Telephone No	0		San Cuarly cuilongs 20 Great Smith Street SW1P 38T Ukrobinstanhoftvoo uik

Once you have entered your post code click on the 'Search' button).

Address Search			
UK Postcode Search		Overseas or Manual Address	Entry
To search for a UK address enter the postcode and click	Search'.	Select a country from the dropdown below	to manually enter an address.
Post Code		Country	∽
Search Clear Cancel			

If you do not know the post code or the address does not have one, try using <u>Advanced Search</u>. If you cannot find the address, you may manually enter one by selecting a country from the above dropdown list.

Once your search results have returned, you need to click on the relevant address link.

Search Results
Addresses found (7):
Arts Council England 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Bellrock Group 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Cafcass 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Office Of The Immigration Services Commissioner 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Oil & Gas Authority 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Sport England 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Uk Sport 21 Bloomsbury Street London
Once all your details have been entered you need to click on the 'Pay Now' button.



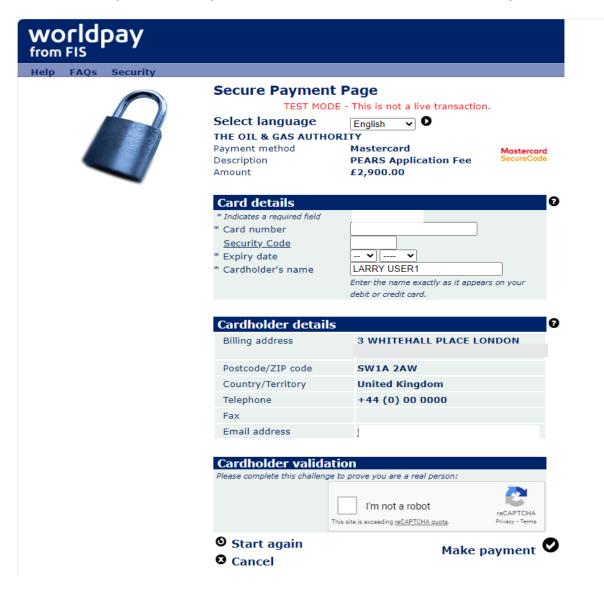
WorldPay

You will now be directed to the WorldPay system.

You will now need to select your Card Type by clicking on the relevant card icon.



You are now required to enter your card details and then click on the 'Make Payment' tick icon



You will now receive a message stating that your payment has been submitted for processing.



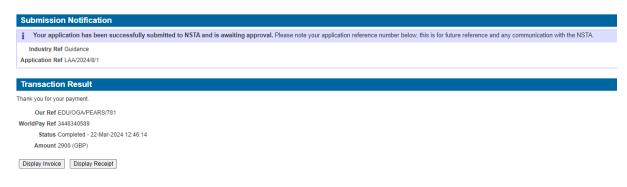
You will now receive a payment status informing you if your payment has been successful or not. You now need to click on the 'Return to the portal' button.

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

You can now see the payment details as well as being able to view both the 'Payment Request (Invoice)' and 'Receipt' by clicking on the relevant button.



An example of a receipt is shown below.

North Sea Transition Authority

Payment Receipt

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

For the attention of the Licensee:		From: (Charging	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 Num	ber	Telephone Fax Email	0300 067 1689 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

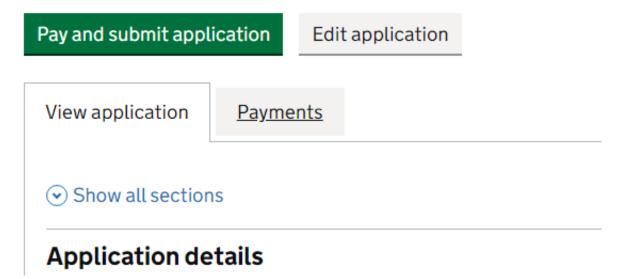
Payment Method(s):	Electronic payment via WorldPay
Payment Reference:	3446340589
Amount Received:	GBP 2900.00
Date Paid/Received:	22nd March 2024

Payment received, with thanks

Payment of Production/Flare/Vent Consent Applications

Once application on the Field Consents System via the Energy Portal is made the following payment button will be available. You are using GovPay as your payment method you will need to enter your card billing details.

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



You will be taken to the screen below which provides a payment summary information. Click the 'Start Payment' button to proceed.

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

Start payment Edit application

You will now be directed to enter payment card details, billing address and contact email address for the payment notification. Click the 'Continue' button once all sections have been completed.

Enter card details

Payment summary

New field annual consent application FCON/8035/0 (Version 1) submission

Total amount:



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
United Kingdom
·
Postcode

Contact details

We'll send your payment confirmation here Email

Continue

Cancel payment

You will now be presented with your final payment summary screen. Please check details are correct then 'Confirm Payment'. If you wish not to proceed with payment, then please select the 'Cancel Payment' option.

Confirm your payment

Payment summary

New field annual consent application FCON/8035/0 (Version 1) submission

Total amount: **£930.00**

Card number	••••••••••1111
Expiry date	08/26
Name on card	Joe Bloggs
Billing address	test, Aberdeen, XX13 3XX, United Kingdom
Confirmation email	joe.bloggs@gmail.com

Confirm payment

Cancel payment

Once you have confirmed the payment details are correct you will be presented with the following screen to confirm payment for the application has been made and submitted to the NSTA.

Application paid and submitted

Your reference number FCON/8035/0 (Version 1)

Back to work area

An email notification will now be sent to the email address provided during the payment details screen confirming successful payment as seen in the example below.

GOV.UK

Your payment of £930.00 to Field Consents was successful

Payment for: New field annual consent application FCON/8035/0 (Version 1) submission Reference: 13333 Date of payment: 6 June 2024 – 12:39:16

This email address is not monitored. If you have any questions about your payment, contact the service you made the payment to directly.

Payment on the 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 Consents & Authorisations Manager for review.

Application submitted Your reference number PA/781
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, you will receive notification that payment is required. When opening your application in your work area, there will be a request that payment is made by clicking on the Pay for application tab.

Pay for application	Manage application users
	7
Application status	
Status	
Initial review	
Confirm satisfactory	y application
Consultations	
Public notice	
Prepare consent	

Please read through the information to ensure that it is correct and then click on 'Start Payment'. If a colleague in the organisation and/or a Finance Team handle payments on your behalf, please send the application to them by clicking on the '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

Please include card details in the following screen.

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
United Kingdom
Postcode
Contact details
Contact details We'll send your payment confirmation here
We'll send your payment confirmation here

Cancel payment

Please double check details before confirming payment.

Confirm your payment

Payment summary

New PWA application PA/782 submission

Total amount:

£3330.00

Card number	•••••••••4444	
Expiry date	07/28	
Name on card	A N Other	
Billing address	A Street, A Town, AZ19 0BU, United Kingdom	
Confirmation email		

Confirm payment

Cancel payment

When you have confirmed payment, an acknowledgement for the payment of your application will appear.

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.

ANNEX C

For Category C services, how is the payment requested and how will my company pay? The relevant Team will ask for the NSTA's Finance Unit to arrange for our finance service provider to issue you with an invoice (by post or email) for settlement. The invoice will contain:

- Amount of the charge, in pounds sterling
- Basic description of the purpose of the payment, e.g. "PON 6 approval for the xxx field
- Bank details for the NSTA where settlement can be made
- An invoice reference number for you to quote when making your payment which will be essential for the NSTA matching against the consent/authorisation you have requested

Repayments to you

If for some reason it is decided to make a refund to you the following will apply:

- If you have not already paid the invoice, a credit note will be issued to your company against the invoice issued in error
- If you have already paid the invoice, you will be asked by the NSTA to provide the bank account into which the payment should be made, as follows:

-Name of bank

- -Sort code
- -Branch of bank
- -Account name
- -Account number

It is important that these bank details are provided on your company letter headed paper as our finance service provider will not make payment otherwise. **For questions on an invoice, or credit note you have received, please email:** accountsreceivable@nstauthority.co.uk