

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 3(3)

Procedure for appeals under Article 14B of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

“SCHEDULE 3A

Article 14C

Procedure for appeals under Article 14B

*Application for permission to bring appeal*

1.—(1) An application for permission to bring an appeal may be made only by sending a notice to the CMA requesting the permission.

(2) Only a person entitled under Article 14B to bring the appeal if permission is granted may apply for permission.

(3) Where the Authority publishes a decision to modify the conditions of any licence under Article 14(8), any application for permission to appeal is not to be made after the end of 20 working days after the day on which the decision is published.

(4) An application for permission to appeal must be accompanied by all such information as may be required by appeal rules.

(5) Appeal rules may require information contained in an application for permission to appeal to be verified by a statement of truth.

(6) A person who applies for permission to bring an appeal in accordance with this paragraph is referred to in this Schedule as the appellant.

(7) The appellant must send the Authority—

- (a) a copy of the application for permission to appeal at the same time as it is sent to the CMA; and
- (b) such other information as may be required by appeal rules.

(8) The CMA’s decision whether to grant permission to appeal is to be taken by an authorised member of the CMA.

(9) Before the authorised member decides whether to grant permission under this paragraph, the Authority must be given an opportunity of making representations or observations, in accordance with paragraph 3(2).

(10) The CMA’s decision on an application for permission must be made—

- (a) where the Authority makes representations or observations in accordance with paragraph 3(2), before the end of 10 working days after the day on which those representations or observations are received;
- (b) in any other case, before the end of 14 working days after the day on which the application for permission is received.

(11) The grant of permission may be made subject to conditions, which may include—

- (a) conditions which limit the matters that are to be considered on the appeal in question;
- (b) conditions for the purpose of expediting the determination of the appeal; and
- (c) conditions requiring that appeal to be considered together with other appeals (including appeals relating to different matters or decisions and appeals brought by different persons).

(12) Where a decision is made to grant or to refuse an application for permission, an authorised member of the CMA must notify the decision, giving reasons—

- (a) to the appellant; and

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(b) to the Authority.

(13) A decision of the CMA under this paragraph must be published, in such manner as an authorised member of the CMA considers appropriate, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is made.

(14) Article 14G(2) applies to the publication of a decision under sub-paragraph (13) as it does to the publication of a decision under Article 14G.

#### *Suspension of decision*

2.—(1) The CMA may direct that, pending the determination of an appeal against a decision of the Authority—

- (a) the decision is not to have effect; or
- (b) the decision is not to have effect to such extent as may be specified in the direction.

(2) The power to give a direction under this paragraph is exercisable only where—

- (a) an application for its exercise has been made by the appellant at the same time that the appellant made an application in accordance with paragraph 1(3) for permission to bring an appeal against a decision of the Authority;
- (b) the Authority has been given an opportunity of making representations or observations, in accordance with paragraph 3(2);
- (c) the relevant licence holder, the licence holder or consumers whose interests are materially affected mentioned in Article 14B(2) (as the case may be) would incur significant costs if the decision were to have effect before the determination of the appeal; and
- (d) the balance of convenience does not otherwise require effect to be given to the decision pending that determination.

(3) The CMA's decision on an application for a direction under this paragraph must be made—

- (a) where the Authority makes representations or observations in accordance with paragraph 3(2), before the end of 10 working days after the day on which those representations or observations are received;
- (b) in any other case, before the end of 14 working days following the day on which the application under sub-paragraph (2)(a) is received.

(4) The appellant must send the Authority a copy of the application for a direction under this paragraph at the same time as it is sent to the CMA.

(5) The CMA's decision whether to give a direction is to be taken by an authorised member of the CMA.

(6) A direction under this paragraph must be—

- (a) given by an authorised member of the CMA; and
- (b) published, in such manner as an authorised member of the CMA considers appropriate, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is given.

(7) Article 14G(2) applies to the publication of a direction under sub-paragraph (6) as it does to the publication of a decision under Article 14G.

#### *Time limit for representations and observations by the Authority*

3.—(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the Authority wishes to make representations or observations to the CMA in relation to—

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- (a) an application for permission to bring an appeal under paragraph 1;
  - (b) an application for a direction under paragraph 2.
- (2) The Authority must make the representations or observations in writing before the end of 10 working days after the day on which it received a copy of the application under paragraph 1(7) or 2(4) as the case may be.
- (3) Sub-paragraph (4) applies where an application for permission to bring an appeal has been granted and the Authority wishes to make representations or observations to the CMA in relation to—
- (a) the Authority’s reasons for the decision in relation to which the appeal is being brought;
  - (b) any grounds on which that appeal is being brought against that decision.
- (4) The Authority must make the representations or observations in writing before the end of 15 working days after the day on which permission to bring the appeal was granted.
- (5) The Authority must send a copy of the representations and observations it makes under this paragraph to the appellant.

#### *Consideration and determination of appeal by group*

- 4.—(1) A group constituted by the chair of the CMA under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 for the purpose of carrying out functions of the CMA with respect to an appeal under Article 14B must consist of three members of the CMA panel.
- (2) A decision of the group is effective if, and only if—
- (a) all the members of the group are present when it is made; and
  - (b) at least two members of the group are in favour of the decision.

#### *Matters to be considered on appeal*

- 5.—(1) The CMA, if it thinks it necessary to do so for the purpose of securing the determination of an appeal within the period provided for by Article 14F, may disregard—
- (a) any or all matters raised by an appellant that were not raised by that appellant at the time of the relevant application; and
  - (b) any or all matters raised by the Authority that were not contained in representations or observations made for the purposes of the appeal in accordance with paragraph 3.
- (2) In this paragraph “relevant application” means an application under paragraph 1 or 2.

#### *Production of documents etc.*

- 6.—(1) For the purposes of this Schedule, the CMA may, by notice, require—
- (a) a person to produce to the CMA the documents specified or otherwise identified in the notice;
  - (b) any person who carries on a business to supply to the CMA such estimates, forecasts, returns or other information as may be specified or described in the notice in relation to that business.
- (2) The power to require the production of a document, or the supply of any estimate, forecast, return or other information, is a power to require its production or, as the case may be, supply—
- (a) at the time and place specified in the notice; and

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(b) in a legible form.

(3) No person is to be compelled under this paragraph to produce a document or supply an estimate, forecast, return or other information that the person could not be compelled to produce in civil proceedings in the High Court.

(4) An authorised member of the CMA may, for the purpose of the exercise of the functions of the CMA, make arrangements for copies to be taken of a document produced or an estimate, forecast, return or other information supplied under this paragraph.

(5) A notice for the purposes of this paragraph—

(a) may be issued on the CMA’s behalf by an authorised member of the CMA;

(b) must include information about the possible consequences of not complying with the notice (as set out in paragraph 10).

#### *Oral hearings*

7.—(1) For the purposes of this Schedule an oral hearing may be held, and evidence may be taken on oath—

(a) by a person considering an application for permission to bring an appeal under paragraph 1;

(b) by a person considering an application for a direction under paragraph 2; or

(c) by a group with the function of determining an appeal;

and, for that purpose, such a person or group may administer oaths.

(2) The CMA may, by notice, require a person—

(a) to attend at a time and place specified in the notice; and

(b) at that time and place, to give evidence to a person or group mentioned in sub-paragraph (1).

(3) At any oral hearing the person or group conducting the hearing may require—

(a) the appellant, or the Authority, if present at the hearing to give evidence or to make representations or observations; or

(b) a person attending the hearing as a representative of the appellant or of the Authority to make representations or observations.

(4) A person who gives oral evidence at the hearing may be cross-examined by or on behalf of any party to the appeal.

(5) If the appellant, the Authority, or the appellant’s or Authority’s representative is not present at a hearing—

(a) there is no requirement to give notice to that person under sub-paragraph (2); and

(b) the person or group conducting the hearing may determine the application or appeal without hearing that person’s evidence, representations or observations.

(6) No person is to be compelled under this paragraph to give evidence which that person could not be compelled to give in civil proceedings in the High Court.

(7) Where a person is required under this paragraph to attend at a place more than 10 miles from that person’s place of residence, an authorised member of the CMA must arrange for that person to be paid the necessary expenses of attendance.

(8) A notice for the purposes of this paragraph may be issued on the CMA’s behalf by an authorised member of the CMA.

#### *Written statements*

8.—(1) The CMA may, by notice, require a person to produce a written statement with respect to a matter specified in the notice to—

- (a) a person who is considering, or is to consider, an application for a direction under paragraph 2; or
- (b) a group with the function of determining an appeal.

(2) The power to require the production of a written statement includes power—

- (a) to specify the time and place at which it is to be produced; and
- (b) to require it to be verified by a statement of truth;

and a statement required to be so verified must be disregarded unless it is so verified.

(3) No person is to be compelled under this paragraph to produce a written statement with respect to any matter about which that person could not be compelled to give evidence in civil proceedings in the High Court.

(4) A notice for the purposes of this paragraph may be issued on the CMA's behalf by an authorised member of the CMA.

#### *Expert advice*

9. Where permission to bring an appeal is granted under paragraph 1 the CMA may commission expert advice with respect to any matter raised by a party to that appeal.

#### *Defaults in relation to evidence*

10.—(1) If a person (“the defaulter”)—

- (a) fails to comply with a notice issued or other requirement imposed under paragraph 6, 7 or 8;
- (b) in complying with a notice under paragraph 8, makes a statement that is false in any material particular; or
- (c) in providing information verified in accordance with a statement of truth required by appeal rules, provides information that is false in a material particular,

an authorised member of the CMA may certify the failure, or the fact that such a false statement has been made or such false information has been given, to the High Court.

(2) The High Court may inquire into a matter certified to it under this paragraph; and if, after having heard—

- (a) any witness against or on behalf of the defaulter; and
- (b) any statement in that defaulter's defence,

it is satisfied that the defaulter did, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the notice or other requirement, or made the false statement, or gave the false information, that court may punish that defaulter as if the person had been guilty of contempt of court.

(3) Where the High Court has power under this paragraph to punish a body corporate for contempt of court, it may so punish any director or other officer of that body (either instead of or as well as punishing the body).

(4) A person who wilfully alters, suppresses or destroys a document that that person has been required to produce under paragraph 6 is guilty of an offence and shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

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- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine, or to both.

#### *Appeal rules*

11.—(1) The CMA Board may make rules of procedure regulating the conduct and disposal of appeals under Article 14B.

(2) Those rules may include provision supplementing the provisions of this Schedule in relation to any application, notice, hearing, power or requirement for which this Schedule provides; and that provision may, in particular, impose time limits or other restrictions on—

- (a) the taking of evidence at an oral hearing; or
- (b) the making of representations or observations at such a hearing.

(3) The CMA Board must publish rules made under this paragraph in such manner as it considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing them to the attention of those likely to be affected by them.

(4) Before making rules under this paragraph, the CMA Board must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

(5) Rules under this paragraph may make different provision for different cases.

#### *Costs*

12.—(1) A group that determines an appeal must make an order requiring the payment to the CMA of the costs incurred by the CMA in connection with the appeal.

(2) An order under sub-paragraph (1) must require those costs to be paid—

- (a) where the appeal is allowed in full, by the Authority;
- (b) where the appeal is dismissed in full, by the appellant;
- (c) where the appeal is partially allowed, by one or more parties in such proportions as the CMA considers appropriate in all the circumstances.

(3) The group that determines an appeal may also make such order as it thinks fit for requiring a party to the appeal to make payments to another party in respect of costs reasonably incurred by that other party in connection with the appeal.

(4) A person who is required by an order under this paragraph to pay a sum to another person must comply with the order before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day after the making of the order.

(5) Sums required to be paid by an order under this paragraph but not paid within the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) shall bear interest at such rate as may be determined in accordance with provision contained in the order.

(6) Any costs payable by virtue of an order under this paragraph and any interest that has not been paid may be recovered as a civil debt by the person in whose favour that order is made.

#### *Interpretation of Schedule*

13.—(1) In this Schedule—

- “appeal” means an appeal under Article 14B;
- “appeal rules” means rules of procedure under paragraph 11;
- “authorised member of the CMA”—

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- (a) in relation to a power exercisable in connection with an appeal in respect of which a group has been constituted by the chair of the CMA under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, means a member of that group who has been authorised by the chair of the CMA to exercise that power;
- (b) in relation to a power exercisable in connection with an application for permission to bring an appeal, or otherwise in connection with an appeal in respect of which a group has not been so constituted by the chair of the CMA, means—
  - (i) any member of the CMA Board who is also a member of the CMA panel, or
  - (ii) any member of the CMA panel authorised by the Secretary of State (whether generally or specifically) to exercise the power in question;

“CMA Board” and “CMA panel” have the same meaning as in Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013;

“statement of truth”, in relation to the production of a statement or provision of information by a person, means a statement that the person believes the facts stated in the statement or information to be true;

- (2) References in this Schedule to a party to an appeal are references to—
  - (a) the appellant; or
  - (b) the Authority.”