1973. No. 158

WATER CHARGES

Water Charges Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973

Made . . . . . *29th May* 1973

Coming into operation . . . *1st October* 1973

To be laid before the Parliament of the United Kingdom under paragraph 4(5)(*b*) *of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland* (*Temporary Provisions*) *Act* 1972

The Ministry of Development, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Secretary of State and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 53 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1973(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:—

Title and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Water Charges Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 1st October 1973.

Water Charges

2. The Ministry shall publish notice of the charges to be paid by the owners or occupiers of premises for the supply of water.

Measurement of consumption

3.—(1) Where a charge for the supply of water is payable by reference to the quantity of water consumed on any premises, the Ministry may attach to the pipe supplying those premises a meter for measuring that quantity and the register of the meter shall be prima facie evidence of that quantity.

(2) Any question arising between the Ministry and an owner or occupier of premises with respect to the quantity of water consumed may, on the application of either party, be determined by a court of summary jurisdiction and such court may order by which of the parties the cost of the proceedings shall be paid.

(3) If a meter on being tested is proved to register incorrectly to any degree exceeding five per cent, the meter shall be deemed to have registered incorrectly to that degree since the last occasion but one before the date of the test on which a reading of the index of the meter was taken by the Ministry, unless it is proved to have begun to register incorrectly on some later date.

(4) Where a charge for the supply of water is revised, the revised charge shall not apply to any water consumed by any owner or occupier of premises before the first inspection of the meter for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of water consumed by that owner or occupier which is made after the introduction of the revised charge.

(a) S.I. 1973, No. 70 (N.I. 2).