

DISCONNECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CANNABIS CULTIVATION

Disconnection

The discovery of cannabis cultivation is often associated with interference with the electricity supply to a property, including meter tampering. This can mean that it is potentially unsafe to use the electricity at the property.

WPD is often called out to attend by the landlord of a property, the Police, Fire Brigade or an Energy Supplier to make a property safe. WPD operatives will carry out an inspection of its and the Energy Supplier's electrical equipment at the property, including the meter, lines and cables.

If WPD operatives find evidence that the equipment has been altered, tampered with, damaged or bypassed in any way, either WPD or the Energy Supplier may disconnect the electricity supply to the property, without providing notice, in accordance with our statutory powers. Often this involves the complete removal of the electrical service to the property and the disconnection of the electricity supply in the public highway to prevent danger to anyone living at the property and the wider public. The Energy Supplier is responsible for the removal of meters where meter interference is suspected. The owner or occupier of the property may also be liable to pay for the costs of disconnection.

Reconnection

If, following the disconnection of an electricity supply (whether this is with or without notice), the owner or occupier of a property requests that we reconnect the electricity service to the property, the person seeking the reconnection will be charged. In line with our Electricity Distribution Licence, the charges will cover all expenses incurred in providing the reconnection of the supply, calculated under our published connections charging methodology which is approved by the energy regulator Ofgem.

Depending on the location of the property the charge for reconnection may include the costs of excavation in the pavement and highway, which may require road closures and out of hours working in order to undertake this work.

Prior to undertaking any work, we will issue a letter setting out the reconnection charges which includes VAT and any out-of-hours fee. The charges must be paid in full before we will complete the reconnection work at the property.

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