# I Want Other MEAS Technical Advisory Services

This could include all other discretionary and technical advisory services provided by MEAS and that are within the technical scope of MEAS. The key part of the process is agreement of scope of the advice. MEAS will use its best endeavours to provide the advisory services through a swift and efficient process and according to the timescales of the applicant / requester.

MEAS receives a request or contact via phone, email or letter for other discretionary / technical advisory services

MEAS discusses with requester scope of advisory service and provides quotation / fee estimate / hourly rates and confirms deadline.

Applicant / requester provides written agreement (usually by email) and details for invoicing.

MEAS completes work and sends to applicant / requester - on a case by case basis there may be a requirement for follow-up advice that will be agreed in writing.

MEAS issues invoice, payment due within 14 working days.

Note: An applicant can also request MEAS input through the formal pre-application process and other MEAS data products.

# Other Data Products and Services Charging Policy

### **Commercial users**

We define commercial users thus: commercial bodies, consultants, non-supporting bodies, those undertaking sponsored research and any other user that does not qualify as a non-commercial user (see below).

MEAS comprises a team of environmental technical specialists covering a wide range of <u>expertise</u>. Requesters should seek a quotation for technical services which are not covered within the scope of the other Sections of the <u>Charging Policy</u> or those set out in **Appendices 2.1** to **2.3**. The procedure that we follow in agreeing to provide Other Technical Services is set out at Appendix 1.3 of the MEAS <u>Charging Policy</u>.

The scope and delivery targets of works, products and services will be agreed with the individual requester but will be dependent on available capacity within MEAS.

A written estimate will be provided inclusive of a ceiling figure to complete the task. The actual charge will be on the basis of time taken and evidenced by time recording to 15-minute periods.

In accordance with the Other Data Products and Services Charging Policy (<u>Appendix 2.4</u>), the minimum charge applicable for Other Data Products and Services is £140.00 (excl.VAT).

Core principles underlying the applicable charges, which apply to our discretionary services, pre-application advice services, data products and other technical services as set out in this policy document, are:

- (i) Urgency;
- (ii) Staff level necessary to undertake the work;
- (iii) Nature of the work, for example public, private, not-for-profit; and
- (iv) Chargeable time.

MEAS Fee Rates (provided within a quotation) are effective from 01 April 2025, reviewed annually.

MEAS fee rates may be amended at any time during the financial year at the discretion of MEAS and shall normally be reviewed annually. Should any fee rate change during the year, fee rates for existing contracts and Discretionary Services will be honoured unless a variation is agreed otherwise in writing. MEAS will also publish charging policy changes on its <a href="website">website</a>. MEAS also reserves the right to vary the fee rates from those in the published charging policy based on the technical demands, capacity and timescale pressure but only with prior the written agreement of the requester.

#### **Non-Commercial Users**

We define non-commercial users thus: non-sponsored researchers, teachers, students; members of the public; charitable or voluntary organisations and societies

and other organisations, who have either service level agreements or data exchange agreements with Merseyside EAS. Enquirers may be asked to provide credentials.

We may waive charges for information to *bona fide* inquirers, who will use the data for non-commercial purposes except where a significant amount of staff time and/or resources are required for an enquiry. In such cases a handling charge may be necessary but will be kept to a minimum. This will be specific to the nature of the enquiry.

### **Payment of Fees**

The requester will, in the exchange of correspondence, be required to provide necessary financial information to enable payment to be made. This will usually be through provision of a Purchase Order Number or Purchase Requisition to enable MEAS to invoice. VAT will be chargeable on all discretionary advice; pre-application advice and data services provided and for more complex requests an invoicing schedule will be agreed with the requester. Payment of invoices will be required within 14 working days unless otherwise agreed between MEAS and the requester.

## **Changes to the Policy**

MEAS reserves the right to amend or update this policy at any time in a year and shall normally review the policy annually. Fees for data products may change when a significant enhancement to that product has been implemented and incorporated into the products available.