

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme PSDS – Delayed Commissioning Guidance

Purpose

The delayed commissioning guidance is to be used when grant recipients have fully installed and completed works by the grant end date, but they are unable to be commissioned by this date because other factors, outside their control, will prevent them from doing so. For example, as a client you may find that you have completed all the project works by the grant end date, but for reasons outside the projects' control, e.g., you may be awaiting DNO works to complete or there are other works at the site that prevent the system being commissioned.

Please note: Separate guidance is available for the following:

- Standard Completion Process – for grant recipients who have completed their project to the agreed scope by the grant end date¹
- Partial Completion Process – where grant recipients are unable to complete their project to the agreed scope by the grant end date.
- Delayed Completion Process – for grant recipients completing their project after the grant end date.

The purpose of this guidance is to set out the steps to be followed by the grant recipient during the completion process, and to enable Salix Finance to make the final payment. All Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funded works are to be completed by the grant end date and final payment documents and evidence of need (i.e., invoices) submitted to Salix Finance by 20 April 2023.

Additionally, the scheme will continue to be monitored, and the grant recipient bound by the terms and conditions of the grant, until practical completion of the overall scheme.

The grant can only be used for project activities completing on or before the grant end date and the invoices submitted by contractors are dated within this grant period. For invoices dated after the grant end date, the description needs to explicitly state the works completed before the grant end date.

The only exceptions where the final grant payment may cover costs incurred after the grant end date relate to retention payments or commissioning costs.

Retention Payments

These are payments held back to ensure that the works undertaken by the contractor have been completed to the desired standard and/or to fix issues that arise after the project has been completed, including snagging and commissioning. Retention payments cannot be used for any procurement or purchasing, or the installation of any equipment. Typically, we expect Retention to be no more than 5% of the grant value.

To be eligible for retention payments, grant recipients must provide evidence in the form of contractual documents and/or invoices that clearly show the amount of the retention payment and under what conditions it will be paid. Retention payments will be made as part of the final payment upon completion and this will be followed up by Salix in post-completion activities to confirm any retention has been paid to third parties.

Evidence of retention can be provided to Salix in the following ways:

- If retentions appear on invoices provided as part of earlier submissions and the current claim to Salix – These amounts of retention will typically show as amounts deducted from the total. If grant recipients wish to reuse these invoices denoting retention as evidence for the final claim, these do not need to be resubmitted to Salix. Grant Recipients must ensure the amount of retention is displayed on a separate line on the Statement of Expenditure (SoE) e.g., 12 amounts of retention, 12 invoices (with the invoice number and date of issue), 12 separate lines on the SoE, clear for auditing.

¹ Grant End Date for single-year projects is 31st March 2023, and multi-year projects is 31st March 2024/25

- Retention which doesn't appear on previous invoices – Salix require a copy of the original contract showing the percentage of retention to be paid. Again, this needs to show as a separate line on the Statement of Expenditure.

Please note that for retention payments, you need to speak to your Salix Finance relationship manager and agree these before you commit to them. Salix Finance will ask to see the evidence to support your final payment before agreeing to any plans for these. Grant recipients should provide firm evidence of both before their final payment is issued.

Commissioning Costs

Where the commissioning of the project has been delayed beyond the grant end date, these may be claimed as eligible grant expenditure. To ensure these costs are eligible, these must relate to the commissioning of measures which completed within the scope of the PSDS programme and prior to the grant end date.

Commissioning costs cannot be used for any procurement or purchasing, or the installation of any equipment.

Evidence of these costs must be provided in the form of an invoice (with the commissioning costs clearly marked) or a copy of the contract where these costs are outlined.

It is important to note that any commissioning works related to PSDS elements that were completed after the grant end date are not eligible to be claimed.

For further information regarding the eligibility of commissioning costs, please speak to your relationship manager.

Key principles

As the PSDS will account for, and report on, all the carbon savings from the projects, the grant recipient will be bound by the terms and conditions of the grant until practical completion. This will include submission of monthly monitoring reports, schedule 4 of the Grant Offer Letter.

The grant recipient needs to inform Salix of the delayed commissioning works costs taking place after 31 March 2023. The commissioning costs will be treated as a retention payment and paid to the grant recipient as part of the final payment.

Salix requires the grant recipient to provide evidence of the following:

1. The commissioning cost relates to works completed by the grant end date
2. When these costs are expected to be paid
3. The conditions for paying your contractors, as this will form part of the retention payments

Required documents for completion of PSDS funded works

1. Final Monthly Monitoring Report (MMR) confirming practical completion date and status of the project as 'Completed on Site'.
2. Evidence to support the closure of all outstanding conditions from the Grant Offer Letter (GOL) or Grant Amendment Letter (GAL).
3. Revised support tool, where necessary, if project costs (whether funded by Salix or client) or minor scope changes have occurred to finalise the expected carbon savings on completion, and final grant value.
4. Invoices*
5. Year-end Statement of expenditure (SoE) - Costs should itemise the value and proportion of the retention costs against the total project value, including any costs associated with commissioning which will take place after 31 March 2023.
6. Schedule 5 Payment request
7. Photographic evidence of installation and completion of key measures (sufficient photographs of the installed kit).

***Invoices- These should either be dated on or before 31st March or, if dated after, clearly specify in the itemised breakdown on the invoice itself that the works were completed over a period within the grant end date.**

For Multi-year projects, invoices each year must be dated on or before 31st March or, if dated after, clearly specify in the itemised breakdown on the invoice itself that the works were completed in line with the allocation outlined in the Grant Offer Letter.

Required documents on practical completion

1. Completion certificate(s) from the contractor(s).
2. Boiler decommissioning certificates
3. Warranty certificates

Final Project Closure

Once the above steps have been completed and Salix Finance have carried out the necessary steps to review and make the final payment, you will receive remittance advice from Salix Finance along with the Post Completion Letter. This letter details the process for annual carbon reporting of your project. For more information on this process, please check the Salix website or contact your relationship manager.

