

FCERM news and updates December 2016

Welcome to the December FCERM Stakeholder Forum update

1. [General news](#)
2. [Legislation](#)
3. [Funding and Investment](#)
4. [Incident Management and Resilience](#)
5. [Working with others](#)
6. [Forward Look](#)

1. [General news](#)

Environment Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee Report on flooding

The House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee published its [report](#) on future flood prevention on 2 November 2016.

The first half of the report deals with specific issues around expanding the catchment approach, communicating flood risk and improving resilience in spatial planning, building regulations and emergency response, which we are supportive of. The Committee then moves on, following reference to their visit to the Netherlands, to highlight strategic, governance and resource issues in the administration and delivery of flood risk management.

Defra Ministers and the Environment Agency have made it clear that current arrangements work well, and the priority is to prepare for this winter and deliver the £2.5bn flood defence investment programme. Responses from stakeholders to the report were balanced overall.

We are working closely with Defra to inform the government's response. The government's formal response to the report's recommendations is due on 1 January 2017.

2. [Legislation](#)

Permits for Flood Risk Activities

Flood Defence Consents were incorporated into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) as Flood Risk Activities on 6 April 2016. The new charging scheme for Permits for Flood Risk Activities (PfFRAs) has been developed and was [publically consulted on](#) in early 2016.

We have now received government approval for our proposals.

From the 4 January 2017 the following charges will apply

1. Exemptions are [free to register](#)
2. Bespoke or Standard Rule Applications
 - a) First Activity - £170
 - b) Subsequent Flood Risk Activities - £40 per activity
 - c) Variations to existing permits (or previously existing consents) will be free of charge unless an additional activity is being added to a permit and then a £40 charge per activity applies
 - d) Transfer of permits to another operator and Surrender of completed permits are free of charge

All activities, including those previously covered by the Regional Land Drainage Byelaws, now attract a fee.

No permit is needed if the activities fall under an [exclusion](#).

From the 1 April 2017 the following charges will apply:

Compliance checks are subject to a charge of £70. This will be billed in the same financial year the compliance check is carried out. The compliance charges are being introduced at a later date than the application fees to allow for an update in the compliance process. This is to ensure that the requirements placed on the applicant is clear.

Please note these changes to charges only apply to permits issued by the Environment Agency. Local authority and IDB consents will continue to be issued under the Land Drainage Act 1991. Guidance on whether you need permission, what type, and how to apply can be found on gov.uk.

Review of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009

Flood Risk Regulations 2009 implement the EU Floods Directive in England and follow a 4 stage process:

- Prepare preliminary flood risk assessments (PFRAs).
- Identify areas of significant risk – Flood Risk Areas.
- Draw-up flood hazard and flood risk maps.
- Agree measures to manage flood risk through flood risk management plans (FRMPs).

The first planning cycle ended in December 2015, with publication of FRMPs for the 10 river basin districts in England in March 2016. The second cycle runs from January 2016 to December 2021.

The first step is to review, and where necessary revise the PFRAs including the risk assessments, maps and plans. We are working with lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) to set out an approach for LLFAs in England to use so they can review PFRAs and Flood Risk Areas by the end of June 2017. We expect proposals to be finalised and guidance to be issued by the end of December 2016.

Managing flood and coastal risks in England: 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 Report

We published our annual [report on flood and coastal erosion risk management \(FCERM\)](#) on Monday 12 December. The national FCERM report for England is a high-level report. It provides a picture of flood and coastal erosion risk management for the 2015 to 2016 financial year, covering all sources of flood and coastal erosion risk, and reflecting on how risk management authorities and other partners are working together to deliver the National FCERM Strategy, published in 2011.

This report fulfils our duty to report on flood and coastal erosion risk management under section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) and the National FCERM Strategy. We have gathered information from lead local flood authorities on their progress in completing local flood risk strategies, asset registers and section 19 investigations. We also received contributions from the Association of Drainage Authorities on behalf of internal drainage boards, Highways England and water and sewerage companies in England.

3. Funding and Investment

Autumn Statement

In the Autumn Statement the government announced investment of £170m in flood risk management and resilience measures. Of this, £20m will be for 3 new flood defence schemes, £50m for rail resilience projects and £100m to improve the resilience of roads to flooding.

The successful schemes include: Stainforth Dunston Hill Bridge Bank Flood Alleviation Works, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire; Otley Flood Alleviation Scheme, West Yorkshire; Burton Upon Trent Flood Alleviation Scheme, Staffordshire

Funding for Natural Flood Management (NFM)

The Secretary of State announced the £15m fund for NFM on 24 November having had agreement from HMT to use funds in this way on the basis of our indicative programme.

The Defra criteria aims for the funding to achieve 3 things:

- Flood risk reduction for the communities
- Environmental improvements – developing habitats and increasing biodiversity.
- Contribute to filling evidence gaps to enable NFM to be better understood fully integrated in our work



We expect to be working with Natural England, Forestry Commission and other local partners to develop and deliver this programme.

Future Local Authority Funding

Local authority flood funding has changed over recent years, and is due to change again. Funding is currently made up of: council tax collected locally; 50% of the business rates collected locally; and a grant from central government called the revenue support grant. This is financed by Exchequer funding and the 50% of local authorities business rates that they pay in to central government. As different geographical areas have different abilities to collect council tax and business rates, there is a system of redistribution through “tariffs” which takes money from those authorities who can raise more and gives “top ups” to those who can raise less.

The Autumn Statement 2015 announced that the revenue support grant will be phased out and instead 100% of business rates will remain within the local government sector. There has been a consultation on this. As well as being part of the localism agenda, part of the aim is to incentivise local authorities to generate economic activity to raise more business rates, and to build houses to raise council tax. It could come in from financial year 2019/20.

DCLG and the LGA are carrying out a Fair Funding Review to develop a new redistribution system under 100% business rate retention (i.e. a new version of the tariff and top up arrangements). They have asked Defra to suggest the basis on which flood related needs should be represented in a new distribution formula i.e. the factors which determine a local authorities’ level of need. DCLG is planning a consultation on these cost drivers (as a whole) in the New Year.

Partnership funding: unlocking collaborative opportunities between water companies and partners

Water companies are responsible for ensuring their services are resilient to flooding whilst also managing sewer flooding.

We have collaborated with UK Water Industry Research on their research – *How best to align the funding processes with the various bodies involved in resolving flooding: Unlocking collaborative opportunities between water companies and partners*. The aim of the research is to help facilitate more co-funded schemes between water companies and other risk management authorities (RMAs). This will help strengthen their capital programmes and reduce risk of flooding to communities.

The report includes case studies to celebrate good practice, support partnership working and bring the guiding principles for collaboration to life. Read the [technical report and an easy to use summary slideshow](#).

Partnership solutions are often cheaper than traditional sewer flooding solutions and provide wider benefits to the environment. For example, slowing the flow in upper catchments has biodiversity, water resources and water quality benefits. This work will be beneficial for RMAs developing investment programmes and water companies preparing their Price Review 2019 business plans.

For more information, please contact [Jonathan Hunter](#)

4. Incident Management and Resilience

Flood emergency preparedness and response – improvements in place for this winter

Since last December, we have worked closely with local communities, government departments and partners and taken action to ensure that those affected, as well as the wider public, are better protected against future flood events. We have:

- continued to better protect more communities through record levels of investment, spending £2.5 billion on new flood defence schemes
- completed over 130 schemes between January and September 2016, as part of the 6 year capital investment programme, better protecting over 55,000 homes from flooding
- spent around £65 million repairing flood risk management assets damaged by Storms Desmond, Eva and Frank last winter so that all communities have at least the same standard of protection as they did before last winter.

To help us prepare for the winter, we are

- increasing the number of trained staff we have available to help in flood emergencies
- extending our arrangements with contractors and the military to respond and recover from flood emergencies faster
- establishing better ways of gathering live information from our Incident Command Vehicles, CCTV, satellites, drones and our staff to make quicker decisions on incident response actions with the emergency services
- developing a 'property flooded' reporting app with Resilience Direct so that emergency and public services can record and share real-time information. This will go live towards the end of 2016.

We are also helping communities be better prepared for flooding by providing additional flood protection equipment where needed, and helping them make community flood plans. We have:

- identified what additional temporary assets, such as pumps, are needed to increase resilience, and purchased or hired these assets for winter 2016/17
- received 32km of new temporary defence barriers (in addition to the existing 8km), which will be sent to communities when needed during a flood
- put in place 100 deployment plans in place for the use of temporary barriers and pumps.
- positioned 7 strategic hubs across England from which we can deploy our kit. We have a strategic partnership with Stobarts Group to use their private sector logistics expertise to aid deployment.

We have also made excellent progress in developing the MoU between ourselves and the Ministry of Defence in relation to flood response.



Exercise Certus

In October we held a major flood response exercise involving 1,000 staff training with our new barriers, pumps, vehicles, and drones. This allowed staff to practice new roles and test many of our tools and processes, in a safe learning environment. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback of the new working approach.

In November we trained with the army so that soldiers can rapidly erect our temporary flood defences where they can protect communities. 1,200 troops are on standby to help us this winter.

Flood campaign 2016

We ran our flood action campaign in November to help people know what to do before, during and after a flood. The winter 2015/16 floods caused significant disruption and cost to the country. We ran our campaign to change people's mind-sets and get them to believe that flooding is an ever present risk that they need to take seriously.


This year's campaign included activity focused at people aged between 18 and 34 to get them to accept where they live is at risk of flooding and to know what they can do to prepare for flooding.

Initial results (see infographic on the following page) from the flood campaign show that over 30,000 people visited the campaign website, 12,000 checked their flood risk, and there were over 78,000 new flood warning registrations. On social media, our campaign Twitter messages had a potential reach of over 36 million and our Facebook posts reached over 160,000. A full evaluation is currently being produced.

It is extremely important that people understand their flood risk and the actions they can take to be better prepared for flooding. This will only be achieved through a multi-channel, multi-initiative approach over several years, requiring on-going resource commitment and investment.




 <p>30,794 visits to campaign website</p>	 <p>11,968 visits to check flood risk</p>	 <p>27,792 visits to sign up for warnings</p>
<p>24,535 visits to campaign materials</p>	<p>10,749 checked risk 90% completion rate</p>	<p>78,858 new registrations 655 active registrations 78,203 automatic registrations</p>



600 Thunderclap supporters

4.49m estimated social media reach



7,214 uses of #floodaware

Over 36m potential reach of our tweets

11,712 average num that saw each of our tweets

160,000 reach of our Facebook posts

18 to 34 panel
Early indications that awareness, recall and action has increased during the campaign.

Support from internal colleagues, government departments, local councils, emergency services and external partners.



Storm Angus

Storm Angus (20 – 23 November) and its aftermath tested our incident readiness for the first time this winter. Heavy rainfall caused flooding, predominantly from surface water, and disruption across the country. In total 160 properties were flooded and over 5,000 properties were protected. All the training, exercising, preparation and asset repair work over the last few months meant we were able to put our plans swiftly into action. Our Area Incident Rooms and national teams were up and running before the rain began to fall and our teams were out on the ground early, clearing trash screens and helping reassure local communities. We got our flood warnings out quickly and effectively and we were active across national and local media. We issued 291 Flood Alerts, 139 Flood Warnings and 1 Severe Flood Warning.

80m of temporary flood defences were deployed in Bradford-on-Avon and temporary defences were also deployed in the North East at Stockton and Skinningrove. The Foss Barrier was operated in York.

Update on the National Flood Resilience Review (NFRR) recommendations

The National Flood Resilience Review (NFRR) report was published on 8 September 2016. The review was led by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and good progress has been made on the reviews recommendations.

- An inter-Ministerial group has also been established to oversee flooding policy, including the implementation of the NFRR. This group will consider and monitor the progress of the implementation of the actions identified in the review.
- All infrastructure companies have completed their initial assessments of their vulnerable sites for suitability for temporary flood defences, and as a result companies are investing in resilience measures to ensure continuity of supply this winter.
- A draft framework for the standard operating model for the Multi-agency Flood Planning Guidance (MAFPG) has been developed with the aim of providing a best practice model for all local emergency plans for flooding. The framework is being circulated in draft for comment with the aim of finalising the MAFPG this winter and circulating a final version of the MAFPG Spring 2017.

The Property Resilience Action Plan

Peter Bonfield's Property Resilience Action Plan was launched by Thérèse Coffey on the 20 October. It was developed through a business led roundtable and sets out, how collectively, business and government can best enable and encourage the use of property level resilience measures by the public, for buildings at risk of being flooded. The Plan is on GOV.UK. Anyone interested in improving and enhancing property level resilience is welcome to join the group which is now chaired by Graham Brogden of BERG. They will be organising and hosting an array of workshops and activities to progress the recommendations of the Bonfield Action Plan. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Flood.Reports@defra.qsi.gov.uk to register their interest (mark any emails as 'PLR roundtable')

Low Cost Flood Resilience

This project is researching flood resilient alternatives to the building materials and techniques commonly used by industry to repair property damage and developing an understanding of the professional networks at local level. The [Low Cost resilience research FD2682](#) project started in 2015 and is led by the University of the West of England. There is a further phase of this project, currently underway, which will report in 2017. This is a pilot project gathering information about how new knowledge can be integrated into the professional landscape at a local level.

Flood Warnings

Flood warnings save lives and provide people with vital time to get themselves, their loved ones and possessions out of harm's way. 1.16 million people in England are already registered for our free flood warning service and we urge people to sign up at <https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk>.

We are working with phone providers to access and automatically add customers to our flood warning service. Since January 2016, we have added over 350,000 customers (over 225,000 landline numbers and 129,000 mobile numbers). We have also introduced new flood warning schemes to more than 11 communities since last winter. We are reviewing and improving how people sign-up for flood warnings and the messages they receive. Our new flood warning system will be available in early 2017.

Infrastructure flood warning

The Targeted Flood Warning Service (TFWS) has been in operation since 2011. The Energy Networks Association (ENA) assisted the Environment Agency to design and test the service. There are around 70 current subscribers to the service, including phone companies, water companies, and energy providers.

The service was designed for organisations that have a large number of assets which are at risk of flooding and are national or regionally based. It allows organisations to upload a list of assets or locations of interest into the system and receive alerts and warnings for those assets. Subscribers can also access a dashboard and maps to monitor the flood situation during flood incidents.

Although the TFWS service was only offered to Category 1 and 2 responders, the service will be made available to any organisations who wish to use it as part of the Future Warning System (our new flood warning system). Currently the system is free for Category 1 responders, and Category 2 responders pay a licence fee. With the introduction of the new service, a free service will remain for those organisations with non-for profit activities.

Flood Forecasting Centre Flood Guidance Statement Next Generation Project

The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) is making good progress with delivering the next generation of the Flood Guidance Statement (FGS). They are planning to roll-out the new FGS in early 2017. The FFC are taking the opportunity to modernise how they present the forecast and produced the FGS more efficiently. Based on extensive consultation and customer feedback the new FGS now includes:

- Clear, concise presentation and more visual elements in PDF format
- Multiple area of concern maps
- Early flagging of potential flood risk in 6-10 day period
- Indicator of overall flood risk trend
- More detail in covering email
- Ability to include green area of concern maps for minor impacts at low or very low likelihood
- Improved writing style with concise and clear terminology

Further information and a sample of the new FGS can be found [here](#).

Trialling new partner interactions this winter

We're trialling some changes this winter with Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in Cumbria, Lancashire and West Yorkshire in response to their feedback following last winter's floods.

In order to be better prepared, share intelligence and act earlier to put tactical co-ordinating groups and strategic coordinating groups in place, we're trialling the following:

- weekly horizon scanning calls with the police and Met Office advisors
- changes to Flood Advisory Service membership / format for initial calls
- earlier activation of Initial Incident Telecoms led by the police
- sharing new forecast products during these conversations

We will review these trials in spring 2017.

5. Working with others

Flood and Coastal Engineering Higher Education Programme

Join us on this exciting new journey with Brunel University London and HR Wallingford to increase the skills and capabilities of our teams, to help us face the flood and coastal risk challenges of today, tomorrow and the future.

We are seeking potential hosts for Foundation Degree Trainees who will start the programme in September 2017. In order to host a Foundation Degree Trainee next year, you will need to:

- be able to fully support their work based training through the provision of a mentor (training will be offered) and a structured training plan to deliver the learning outcomes;
- agree a training agreement with your trainee before the programme starts; and,
- contribute towards the funding of the trainee (see below).

The host organisation will:

- Provide trainees with £1,000 a month training allowance (tax and national insurance contribution exempt) for their work based training (two six month blocks in total); and,
- Pay for accommodation and subsistence related costs for the week Summer School at HRW (expected ceiling costs in the region £400).

Trainees will:

- Self-fund their personal living costs during the academic development (two six month blocks in total) including any accommodation; and,
- Organise and pay for living costs near their work placement.

The funding arrangements for LLFA hosted Foundation Degree Trainees are as follows:

The Environment Agency will:

- Pay all tuition fees (£7,200 per academic year); and,
- Organise accommodation related to the week long Summer School at HR Wallingford.

Applications are being sought now via UCAS and we encourage you to help us promote this fantastic opportunity through your own media channels. The programme also includes a BSc (top of qualification for Foundation Degree Graduates) and an MSc for those working in flood risk management for both the Environment Agency and local authorities. We will be in touch again shortly regarding how you can get involved in these two courses.

We are also seeking membership to our Advisory Board, contributors towards our professional development programme, case studies and guest speakers and real-life project ideas for our students to cover as part of the programme. If you would like to get involved or have further questions, please contact [Paul Cross](#)

Survey on partnership funding for flood risk management

CIRIA is working on behalf of the Environment Agency and other interested stakeholders on a scoping study to understand how all Risk Management Authorities in England are progressing in their efforts to secure partnership funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management projects and understand how they can be better supported.

The project will gather information and experiences from practitioners delivering flood risk management schemes and will explore any appropriate approaches to help RMAs overcome challenges and secure partnership funding from a vast array of funding sources, particularly external private sector contributions.

We would like to invite you and the organisations involved in the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport Flood and Water Management Group to participate in the scoping exercise by completing the questionnaire here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RP1042> – which has been developed in collaboration with a number of representatives from in England. The questionnaire can be completed anonymously and it shouldn't take any longer than 20 minutes to complete the survey. The survey is open until 3 January 2017. If you have any queries please contact Paul.Shaffer@ciria.org.

International working

We work closely with other countries to share and develop FCRM best practice. This year we've held joint workshops with the US Army Corps of Engineers on Land Surface Hydrologic Modelling and on Coastal modelling. We've also worked with Rijkswaterstaat (NL) to observe and learn from each other's incident exercises and John Curtin's undertaken a 'study tour' of FCRM in the Netherlands.

These joint initiatives are supported by the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and we're just entering into a new MOU with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, which will focus on forecasting and warning. As well as bi-lateral relationships, our staff are actively involved in international networks to share experiences and best practice on topics such as storm surge barriers, coastal policy, coastal science and engineering and levee best practice. If you'd like to find out more about international working, please contact [Ruth Allin](#).

Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Chairs Recruitment

Are you passionate about taking the lead in reducing flood and coastal erosion risk?

If so, this is an exciting opportunity to help reduce the risk of flooding for thousands of homes and businesses. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is looking to appoint at four Chairs to the Thames, Anglian (Central), Northumbria and North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs).

This recruitment campaign will go live in January 2017 and we want to receive applications from individuals a wide range of backgrounds and ask RFCC Chairs to use their networks to identify and encourage suitable candidates. If you would like further information, please contact [Ed Telford](#).

6. Forward Look

Flood and Coast Conference 2017

The Flood and Coast Conference will take place in Telford, 28 -30 March 2017. Led by the Environment Agency, the event will draw together key partners from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) community, including local authorities, infrastructure providers, contractors, community groups and academia. Building on the success of the first Flood and Coast conference in 2016, the event will explore the themes of leadership and strategy in FCRM, enabling growth, global perspectives and integration. Programme sessions will showcase the latest examples of partnership projects, community flood action groups and international case studies.



Details of the advance programme are online at www.floodandcoast.com. Alongside the main programme, delegates can attend a Networking Reception on Day 1 and the ticketed Conference Dinner on Day 2, and join panel debates and interviews in the free exhibition hall.

For further information please contact info@floodandcoast.com.

Project Excellence Awards 2017

The Environment Agency's annual Project Excellence Awards will also take place alongside the conference. The awards aim to recognise excellent projects that contribute to managing flood and coastal risk and building local flood resilience. This includes projects developed or supported by local authorities, internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency, as well as community level initiatives. Full details on the award categories and how to apply are on the Flood and Coast website – please note the closing date for entries is 31 December 2016.

Full details of the award categories, guidance notes and an entry form are at <http://www.floodandcoast.com/fpea.php>.

You're invited to help design the future of UK infrastructure at our third interactive workshop

The [National Infrastructure Commission](#) has been tasked by Government to put together the first ever [National Infrastructure Assessment](#) (NIA). This is an in-depth look at the UK's major infrastructure needs over the coming 30 years, covering Energy, Transport, Water, Waste, Telecoms and Flood Risk Management.

To help us undertake this significant task, we are holding a series of highly interactive workshops. This is not a seminar where you'll be talked at, but a time and place to have your views recorded, shared and challenged. The future of infrastructure is a complex issue and there is no simple right answer, but we hope to develop better thinking with your help. We want to capture different perspectives as we develop a rich and robust evidence base to inform the NIA.

The third workshop in our series will explore **Flood Risk Management**, and we are inviting a wide range of informed stakeholders to come and share their knowledge with us, and help consider challenges,

responses, trade-offs and priorities. This event is the third in a series of eight, each with a focus on a different infrastructure sector.

Where? Central London (venue to be confirmed)

When? 10am – 4pm, 25 January 2016 (precise timings subject to final confirmation)

If you are interested in attending please email enquiries@nic.gsi.gov.uk by 4th January 2016. Feel free to forward this invite on to your contacts who may be interested in attending, however please note that due to space, we may initially limit places to one attendee per organisation.