

Part 1 - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Responsibilities

Issue

Responsibilities for flood defence and surface water drainage are spread between eleven different types of bodies, to which the Bill proposes to add two more – the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and the Sustainable Urban Drainage Approving Bodies (SABs) (see next page). To a considerable extent, the responsibilities of these bodies overlap.

The Pitt Review has therefore advised:

- “direction must come from the Government”; and
- “government leadership should be supported by clear oversight of all flood management activity and the Environment Agency’s risk management responsibilities extended accordingly”.

In this connection, the Bill proposes that:

- the Environment Agency (EA) should issue a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy;
- the LLFAs should issue Local Flood Risk Management Strategies on surface water run-off, groundwater and non-main rivers;
- the EA, LLFAs, Internal Drainage Boards, District Councils, highway authorities and sewerage undertakers would then have to carry out their functions consistently with these strategies;
- further, other public authorities (including Ofwat and Natural England) would have to have regard to these strategies.

Water UK's view

Water UK welcomes the purpose of Part 1 of the Bill of achieving greater coordination of the functions of the numerous bodies with responsibilities for flooding and surface water drainage.

However, Water UK is very concerned by the absence from the Bill of any duty to achieve specific policy objectives, or of any requirement for the provision of adequate funding for the achievement of objectives. In this connection, Water UK believes that the Government should be made responsible for determining what specific measures can be afforded and should be carried out.

Responsible bodies

- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Regional Planning Boards
- Local Planning Authorities
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Environment Agency
- Regional Floods Committees
- Internal Drainage Boards
- Highway Authorities
- Sewerage Undertakers
- Local Authorities
- Agricultural Lands Tribunals
- Landowners, Riparian Owners and Developers
- (Lead Local Flood Authorities)
- (Sustainable Urban Drainage Approving Authorities)

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Water UK represents all water and wastewater service suppliers at national and European level. The water industry has invested £85 billion since privatisation in 1989-90.