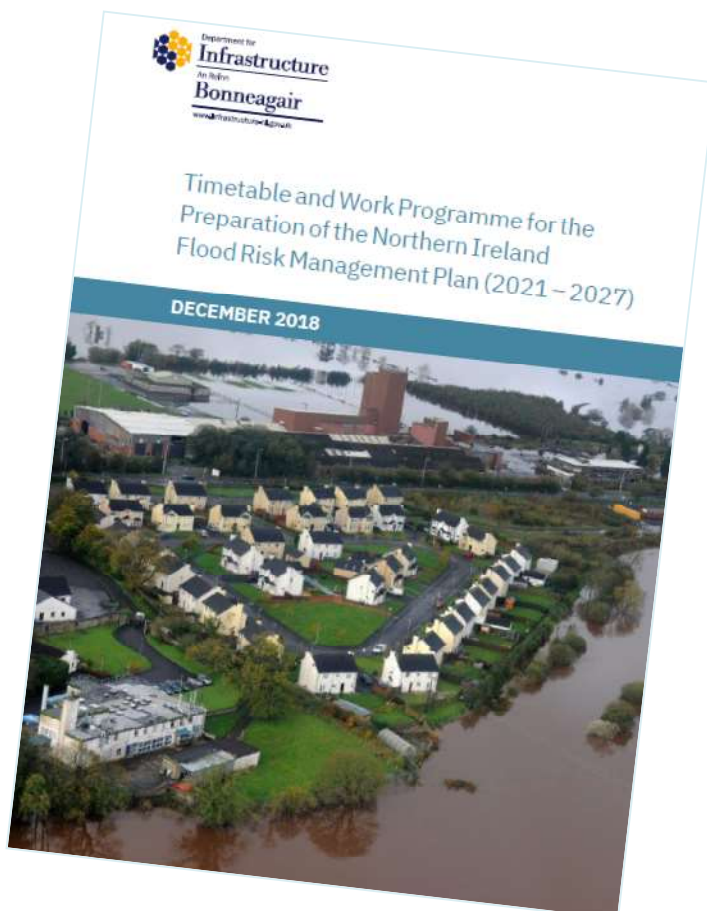


Consultation Report

Timetable and Work Programme for the Preparation of the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan (2021– 2027)



Water and
Drainage Policy
Division

October 2019

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
Purpose of This Report.....	3
Background	3
2. Draft Timetable and Work Programme	4
3. Public Consultation.....	5
4. Consultation Feedback.....	5
5. Conclusion and Next Steps	6

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has undertaken a public consultation exercise on the draft Timetable and Work Programme for the Preparation of the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan¹ (2021 – 2027).
- 1.2 The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the draft document.
- 1.3 The consultation document detailed the key deliverables and their deadlines for delivery and provided a statement on the consultation measures to be taken with stakeholders and members of the public.

Purpose of This Report

- 1.4 This report summarises the responses received and considers whether any changes should be made as a result of the consultation exercise.
- 1.5 DfI is grateful to all those who participated in the consultation process.

Background

- 1.6 The European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/ EC), known as the Floods Directive², came into force on 26 November 2007. This was transposed into domestic law through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations³ (Northern Ireland) 2009 which came into operation on 14 December 2009. The Floods Directive requires Member States to establish a framework for assessment and management of flood risk that is aimed at reducing the adverse consequences of flooding on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

¹ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/timetable-and-work-programme>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007L0060&from=EN>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2009/376/contents/made>

2. Draft Timetable and Work Programme

<u>Key Activity</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Publication of Timetable and Work Programme for the Preparation of the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) (2021 – 2027).	22 nd December 2018
Review existing flood hazard & flood risk maps for all Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR)	22 nd December 2019
Publication and consultation on draft FRMP and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	22 nd December 2020
Publication of the Northern Ireland FRMP (2021 – 2027) and SEA	22 nd December 2021
Submission of FRMP to European Commission (Note: Subject to Brexit arrangements)	22 nd December 2022

3. Public Consultation

- 3.1 The draft Timetable and Work Programme for the Preparation of the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan (2021 – 2027) was published on 22nd December 2018 for a six month consultation period. The consultation closed on 28th June 2019. In compliance with Clause 19 of the Regulations and the Department's Section 75 Consultees List, letters/emails were sent to inform stakeholders of the launch of the consultation and inviting their comments.
- 3.2 The consultation was advertised in Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and News Letter on 14th and 21st January 2019 and Belfast Gazette on 18th January 2019, covering the three River Basin Districts in Northern Ireland.
- 3.3 The consultation was also advertised on the Department website⁴ and provided to social media through the Departmental twitter⁵ account.
- 3.4 The Department received 13 consultation responses from members of the general public (4), Councils (4), other Organisations (4) and a Government Department.
- 3.5 Following the close of the consultation period the Department considered the details of each of the responses received.

4. Consultation Feedback

- 4.1 There were no objections to the Timetable and Work Programme and generally consultees responded favourably.
- 4.2 Many of the comments made by the responders related to matters which were not the subject of the consultation; for example they related to the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA)⁶ 2018 or to the Flood Risk Management Plan itself, which will be subject to consultation at a later date. Nevertheless, the Department replied to these comments as they were considered relevant to the flood risk management planning process.

⁴ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/timetable-and-work-programme>

⁵ <https://t.co/3GjGXBghHu>

⁶ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-flood-risk-assessment-nifra-2018>

- 4.3 In particular, some of the responders commented on flood maps, climate change and cross border harmonisation and these comments were appropriately considered.
- 4.4 The Department issued replies to all the responders.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 5.1 After due consideration of the comments which have been received, the Department has made no material changes to the draft Timetable and Work Programme for the Preparation of the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan (2021 - 2027).

**Department for Infrastructure
Water and Drainage Policy Division
Room 1-22
Clarence Court
Belfast
BT2 8GB**