

21 April 2009

Dear Consultee,

Draft Flood and Water Management Bill

I am writing to invite views on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill published on 21 April 2009 as part of the consultation. The consultation period will end on 24 July 2009.

A draft Flood and Water Management Bill for England and Wales was laid before Parliament today. Once enacted, for the first time, the law will cover all forms of flooding and shift the emphasis from building defences to managing risk. The draft Bill and associated consultation paper cover all the remaining legislation necessary to give full effect to the Government's policy statements 'Making space for water' and 'Future Water'.

The Bill will also implement some of the key recommendations made in Sir Michael Pitt's independent review into the Summer 2007 floods, as promised in the Government's response in December. This includes giving local authorities a clear leadership role in local flood risk management, encompassing all sources of flooding. It also means introducing a modern risk-based approach to reservoir safety to replace the current system where regulation depends on size rather than the risk posed to surrounding communities.

In addition to provisions on flooding, the draft Bill includes important measures to improve conservation of water resources in times of drought and to improve the regulation of the water industry. It will also enable water companies to develop new ways of delivering large infrastructure projects.

The documents are available on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/floodsandwaterbill.htm>

Please send responses to either:

Flood and Water Management Bill Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 2C Ergon House
London
SW1P 2AL

Or electronically to: FloodsandWaterBill@defra.gsi.gov.uk

If your comments are specifically in relation to Wales, please copy your response to:

Water Policy Branch
Climate Change and Water Division
Assembly Government
Cathays Park 2
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or electronically to: water.consultation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed copies of the priced Command Paper which includes the draft Flood and Water Management Bill are available from TSO. Online – www.tsoshop.co.uk, or mail, telephone, fax and email

TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN
Telephone orders – 0870 600 5522
Fax orders: 0870 600 5533
Textphone: 0870 240 3701

The deadline for responses is 24 July 2009.

In line with Defra's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of responses we receive may be made publicly available through the Defra Information Resource Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses.

If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your email system will not be treated as such as a request. You should be aware that there are circumstances in which Defra will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.

The Information Resource Centre will supply copies of consultation responses to personal callers or in response to telephone or email requests (tel: 020 7238 6575, email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk). Where possible, personal callers should give the library at least 24 hours notice of their requirements. An administrative charge will be made to cover photocopying and postage costs.

This consultation has been prepared in line with the Government code of practice which is available from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at <http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/>

Comments or complaints about the consultation process (as opposed to comments about the issue which is the subject of consultation) should be addressed to:

Marjorie Addo
Defra's Consultation Coordinator
Area 7C
Nobel House
London
SW1P 3JR
Email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Yours Faithfully,

Simon Hewitt.
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.