

# Managing Flood Risk in Ireland

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is leading a proactive and whole of Government response to flooding in Ireland and has now published Flood Risk Management Plans setting out measures to address flood risk.

## Completion of the largest ever study of flood risk in Ireland

In 2012, the OPW identified 300 areas or communities believed to be at significant flood risk, of which 90 are coastal. The OPW, through its CFRAM Programme, carried out the largest ever flood risk study in Ireland to date, undertaking a detailed engineering assessment of these communities. This study assessed 80% of properties at risk from Ireland's main causes of flooding and was informed by public consultation at each stage.

The key **outputs** of the CFRAM Programme are:

- **40,000 Flood Maps** showing the flood risk for 300 communities that support planning decisions and emergency response.
- **29 Flood Risk Management Plans** to cover the whole country, with the proposed flood relief measures - informed by costs, benefits and environmental factors - to address the flood risk in each community and nationwide.

The Plans were informed by associated Strategic Environmental and Habitats Directive (Appropriate) Assessments.

## Building on Investment to Date

A broad range of both structural and non-structural measures has already been implemented to address flood risk, including in response to the experience of the flood events in Winter 2015/2016.

The OPW has completed 42 flood relief schemes which, in addition to other flood relief works undertaken by Local Authorities under their own works programmes, are protecting 9,500 properties. These completed schemes are also providing an economic benefit to the State in damages and losses avoided estimated at €1.9 billion. A further 8 schemes are under construction with 25 at design and planning stages. These together with other works by local authorities will protect 12,000 properties approximately.

Almost 500 Minor Works projects have also been delivered so far by Local Authorities, providing local flooding solutions to almost 6,500 properties. Two thirds of these projects are benefiting properties that were not studied under the CFRAM Programme.

While structural flood relief schemes are in place for specific communities, other measures such as emergency response and planning guidelines benefit all at risk properties.

*...for plans and maps*

## Investment in new Flood Relief Schemes

The key **conclusion** of the Plans is that **95%** of properties assessed as being at risk can be protected through continued investment in flood relief schemes.

The Plans set out the flood relief schemes that have already been constructed and those that are currently underway. The Plans then provide the outline of 118 new proposed schemes to protect a further 11,500 properties and provide the evidence to prioritise the delivery of future Government investment to where its benefit is greatest.

The OPW is now working closely with the Local Authorities to commence the implementation of a first tranche of new schemes that have been prioritised. This first tranche includes 5 major schemes, each costing more than €15 million, along with a range of mid-sized and smaller schemes throughout the country.

The National Development Plan 2018-2027 commits to almost €1 billion in funding for flood relief schemes, with annual Capital funding for flood relief for the OPW doubling to €100m by 2021.

## Importance of Other Measures

The Plans also include proposed flood policy measures that can benefit all at risk properties, including those properties where structural measures are not feasible or those that were not assessed in the CFRAM Programme. The Interdepartmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group is continuing to focus on flood policy initiatives including:

- Individual Property Protection
- Flood Forecasting
- Developing Community Resilience
- Planning
- Land Use Management and Natural Flood Risk Management
- SUDS - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Emergency Response

## [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie)

The OPW has launched a new website to provide access to the Plans and Maps developed by the OPW and information on flood risk management in Ireland.

Through the interactive Flood Plans Viewer, users can view a summary of the flood risk management measures as set out in the Plans. The Flood Maps Viewer allows users to access flood mapping data for the areas assessed.

The 29 Plans and all supporting documentation are available to download in the Publications section of this website. Users can also access key policy reports, county summaries and other useful material.

118



FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES  
**PROPOSED TO  
PROTECT 11,500  
PROPERTIES**

## 10 YEAR PROGRAMME OF FUTURE INVESTMENT

### OTHER MEASURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- **Flood Forecasting**
- **Individual Property Protection**
- **Community Resilience**
- **Schemes are adaptable for climate change**

€1BN



**FUNDING  
AVAILABLE  
TO 2027**

*...for plans and maps*

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