

Ref: EIR / 5880

13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Mr

## **Environmental Information Regulations Request - Historical Flood Data**

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

**I am researching a parametric flood insurance model for transboundary catchments, with emphasis on the River Foyle at Strabane/Lifford.**

- 1. Could you please provide any available historical flood incident reports, risk assessments, or council minutes related to flooding in the Strabane area?**

**In particular, I am interested in data on flood extents, dates, response actions, and any recorded river level measurements from the Strabane gauge.**

The 'Environmental Health Service' of the 'Health and Community Wellbeing' Directorate of Derry City and Strabane District Council only receive flooding notifications from The Department for Infrastructure for the purposes of administering the 'Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance' of behalf of the Department for Communities (DFC).

Article 26 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992([external link opens in a new window / tab](#)) makes provision for a scheme of emergency financial assistance to district councils.

The Scheme enables the Department to reimburse the councils for expenditure incurred as a result of immediate action following a flooding incident. It includes an immediate payment of £1000 to householders as practical assistance to those who have suffered severe inconvenience to help make **homes** habitable as quickly as possible (If household deemed to fit criteria). The current flooding

### **Derry**

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[f](#) Derry City & Strabane District Council  
[@dcsdcouncil](#)

scheme is from 20 July 2025 to 19 August 2025, and the relevant criteria can be found at the following link.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-lg-152025-scheme-emergency-financial-assistance-sefa-district-councils-flooding-20-july-2025-19-august-2025>

Below is a summary of the flooding service requests made by householders and received by Council and also figures for those properties which met the criteria and were approved for SEFA payments under the scheme in operation at the time of the flooding incidents.

FLOODING COMPLAINTS RECEIVED											
Year	DCSDC Area										TOTAL
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Complaints Received	8	671	38	195	67	51	509	84	16	1639	
Approved under SEFA scheme	0	386	0	15	19	15	154	23	1	613	
											TOTAL
STRABANE AREA											
Complaints Received	4	77	14	182	48	19	127	76	7	554	
Approved under SEFA Scheme	0	37	0	15	18	5	43	22	1	141	

In Northern Ireland, a single phone number, 0300 2000 100, is used to report all types of flooding, excluding life-threatening emergencies. These reports are collated through the PIPS (Preliminary Incident Reporting System) and managed by WDM on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure. This number is available 24/7 and directs reports to the relevant agencies, such as the Rivers Agency, Roads Service, or NI Water.

### Risk Assessments

Derry City and Strabane District Council do not conduct risk assessments relating to flood risk management plans. The Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018 is available at:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/northern-ireland-flood-risk-assessment-report-2018-updated-may2019.pdf>

## **Council Minutes**

Council minutes can be found at:

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

## **Sources of other Information**

### **Overall Responsibility for Flood Risk Management**

The Department for Infrastructure which includes DFI Rivers and DFI Roads is the competent authority for delivery of the Floods Directive. This is a legislative requirement that is carried out in co-operation with other government departments, agencies and stakeholders that have flood risk management responsibilities.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/who-involved-managing-risk-flooding>

### **DFI Rivers Water Level Network**

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/dfi-rivers-overview>  
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/check-risk-flooding-your-area>  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/dfi-rivers-water-level-network>

### **Rivers and flooding**

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/rivers-and-flooding>

### **Flood Maps**

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/what-flood-maps-ni>

### **Further Relevant Contact Information**

All river and flood data is held by the Department for Infrastructure and Rivers Agency. Further information may be available from the relevant department teams:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/flood-maps-ni>

[DFI Rivers office with responsibility for the River Foyle in the Strabane area](#)

[Telephone: 028 8225 4900](#)

[Email: \[rivers.omagh@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\]\(mailto:rivers.omagh@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN  
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

**Denise McDonnell**  
**Lead Assurance Officer**