

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES
MAPPING AND HYDROMETRIC ISSUES SUB-GROUP – REPORT FOR 23
SEPTEMBER 2004 NTAG MEETING

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the National Technical Advisory Group on Flooding Issues (NTAG) with a third, and final, progress report from the Mapping and Hydrometric Issues Sub-Group.

Background

2. The Sub-Group met on 12 March, 11 May and finally on the 2 September 2004. The current membership is detailed in Annex A, with Tim Jolley chairing the meetings.

3. This Sub-Group is set up to discuss the preparation of a second generation flood risk map for Scotland and related hydrometric issues and consider how these might feed into technical guidance on taking forward flood prevention schemes under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961.

Feedback from last meeting on 2 September 2004

4. The focus for the meeting was the report back from Dr Andrew Black on the review of the Hydrometric Data Network in Scotland. He gave a presentation on the findings of the review, highlighting the need to increase the number of flow gauging stations and establish a centralised national database of gauging station data. The report also recommended that a review of tidal water level monitoring should be undertaken, although it was noted that SEPA has no statutory duty to measure this data. Members also agreed with the report's findings that minimum standards need to be set for data quality and there should be full and easy access to all hydrometric data collected. Members discussed the recommendations in detail and the implications they might have on SEPA's resources.

5. Members agreed that reliable data is the building blocks for flood risk management and therefore welcomed the report and its findings, concluding that it was good value for money. Tim Jolley explained that SEPA would come back with a detailed response on the recommendations made in the report and Andrew Black agreed to amend the report taking on board the feedback received at the meeting.

6. Tim Jolley updated Members on the production of the second generation flood map, confirming that the contract had been placed with HR Wallingford and is due for completion in September 2005. He explained that SEPA is working with Norwich Union to correct the DTM (digital terrain model) tiles for the south of Scotland. Members were informed that the Executive has now purchased the DTM tiles for North of Scotland. The Kelvin catchment pilot study will be completed by 12th October and from there SEPA will move onto catchments in the Firth of Forth, East and Mid- Lothian, Ayrshire, and Dumfries and Galloway.

Recommendations from that meeting to take to NTAG on 23 September 2004

7. The Sub-Group proposes that NTAG accepts the recommendations made in the review of the hydrometric data network in Scotland, namely that:

- 1) additional flood gauging stations are needed to make the network truly representative and this will require additional resources for SEPA;
- 2) a centralised national catalogue of gauging station data is required;
- 3) a national review of tidal water level monitoring for flood risk estimation purposes is carried out;
- 4) full-calibration, high quality, high completeness sites are required and a minimum of 8 years of record at all full-calibration sites should be standard;
- 5) ratings and other data quality determinants at sites not selected for pooling by HiFLOWS-UK should be improved or downgraded;
- 6) we need an insight into web user interest into real-time level data, and
- 7) we need to attract more people to study hydrometry to help alleviate SEPA's recruitment problem in this area.

8. A copy of the report is attached at Annex B.

Review of Mapping and Hydrometric Issues Sub-Group output.

Outputs

9. The Sub- Group has offered advice to SEPA on the preparation of 2nd generation flood map. In particular, recommending that it should be developed to include existing survey data from flood risk appraisals already carried out. It also advised that the map should be phased in area by area.

10. Members also recommended that SEPA undertakes a leafleting campaign to help raise flood awareness during Flood Awareness Week

11. Following a recommendation made at the Sub-Group meeting on 11 May a review of the hydrometric network in Scotland has been carried out by Dr Andrew Black, of the University of Dundee. It has made a number of recommendations for NTAG to consider on 23 September.

Next Steps

12. Members propose that the next steps on mapping and hydrometric issues should be that:

- 1) SEPA updates NTAG on the outcomes from the Kelvin Catchment pilot study, which will be completed in October 2004.

- 2) NTAG considers the next steps for the 2nd generation indicative flood map, offers advice on how it might be improved and considers whether a 3rd generation map might be needed.
- 3) SEPA considers the resource implications of the recommendations made in the review of the hydrometric network and updates NTAG on its finding.
- 4) A visit to SEPA is arranged to meet with the map's project manager for a demonstration on how the map works and to discuss progress.

Conclusions

13. Members are invited to:

- **Discuss and agree the recommendations made in the report into hydrometric data collection in Scotland at paragraph 7;**
- **note the outputs in paragraphs 9 to 11;**
- **agree the next steps in paragraph 12 and**
- **consider whether the Sub-Group should resume, and in what form, if NTAG continues beyond 2004.**

**NTAG Secretariat
September 2004**

THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
FLOODING ISSUES - MAPPING AND HYDROMETRIC ISSUES SUBGROUP**

Chair

Tim Jolley, SEPA

Members

Andrew Black, University of Dundee (Department of Geography)

Alan Burdekin, Scottish Executive (Environment Department, Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Sebastian Catovsky, Association of British Insurers

Helen Wood, Scottish Executive (Development Department, Planning Division)

John Riddell, Independent Consultant

David Murphy, Environment Agency

David Seaman, Scottish Executive (Environment Department, Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Carolyn Warwick, Scottish natural Heritage

Secretariat

Debi Garft, Scottish Executive (Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Chris Birt, Scottish Executive (Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Observer

Peter Bolton, Consultant

NTAG Secretariat

September 2004