

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

MAPPING AND HYDROMETRIC ISSUES SUBGROUP – REPORT FOR 3 JUNE 2004 NTAG MEETING

Purpose

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

Background

2. The Mapping and Hydrometric Issues Sub-Group met on 12 March and 11 May 2004. A third meeting has been arranged for Thursday 2 September 2004. Carolyn Warwick of Scottish Natural Heritage became a Member of the Sub-Group. David Murphy has replaced Jonathan Chapman as the Environment Agency representative. Meetings are chaired by Tim Jolley (SEPA) and a list of current Members is attached at Annex 1.

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.

Outcome of recommendations made at 12 March 2004 meeting and taken to NTAG on 1 April

4. NTAG agreed the following recommendations:
- a) **a SEPA leafleting campaign should take place during Flood Awareness Week.**
 - b) **SEPA should consider phasing in the map, area by area.**
 - c) **the map should be taken forward in a way that allows existing survey data from flood risk appraisals to be incorporated if required.**
 - d) **a review of SEPA's hydrometric network should be undertaken.**

Main discussion points from 11 May 2004

5. Members received an update on the preparation of the Second Generation Indicative Map of Scotland ("the map"). Tim Jolley explained that budgets are in place and staff are in post. The tender process had been completed and a preferred contractor has been identified. Papers will be signed shortly and SEPA met with the contractors on 19 and 20 May. Members discussed how the map might be used. It was highlighted that the map has been written into SPP7 as a trigger mechanism and SEPA are promoting the map as the start of the flood assessment process.

6. Norwich Union (NU) is in the process of mapping central Scotland for the purposes of flood insurance cover provision. SEPA met with NU in April and will continue to liaise to compare methods and to seek opportunities to share information, and validate source data.

7. Members received an update on the Scottish Executive's (SE) Asset Register project. The work will look at current flood prevention schemes constructed under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, assessing where they are, and what level of protection they currently provide. A contract for the work has been put out to tender, and the successful bidder will be announced shortly. The asset register will be able to be used as an overlay to the flood risk map. Members discussed the works that will be included in the Register.

8. Members discussed in detail how the map might be phased in area by area. SEPA plans to deliver mapping of a number of high profile catchments by September 2004. There was a discussion about the relative merits of using the Kelvin as a pilot catchment. TJ explained that SEPA are developing a communications strategy for the map and will be using Flood Liaison and Appraisal Groups to consult potential users of the map.

9. Members discussed at length how the map data might be represented in local plans. It was noted that many local authorities choose not to include flood outlines on local plan proposals maps. Members discussed how SE could not insist that local authorities use the map data but Members agreed in general that it would be helpful if flood outlines could be represented in local plans.

10. Members discussed the proposed scope of a review of the hydrometric network in Scotland. They agreed that the review outputs should be a report with a number of recommendations to NTAG about the strategic direction of network development. TJ is to make minor revisions to the scope to reflect the views of the sub-group. Andrew Black advised that he may be able to provide a PhD student to carry out the review work. A likely cost of one to two thousand pounds was put forward. [A copy of the draft Scope is attached at Annex 2.]

Recommendations to take to NTAG on 3 June 2004

11. The Sub-Group suggests that NTAG agrees that the SE should consider how the forthcoming Flooding Advice Note for planning and building standards might encourage local authorities to portray the information from the map in local plans.

12. The Sub-Group recommends that there is a need for local authorities to take a more strategic approach to planning flood prevention methods and the map should be recognised as a source of information to facilitate this.

13. Members propose that the map will not be a major issue for the development of technical guidance. It was agreed that as new technical guidance will be produced to help local authorities take forward individual flood prevention schemes, the process will have moved beyond the stage where local authorities will need to refer to the map.

14. Members recommend that the agreed review of hydrometric networks in Scotland is taken forward by a PhD student at Dundee University. It is likely to cost between £1,000 and £2,000.

Next steps

15. A further meeting has been set up for 2 September to discuss and finalise findings from the review of SEPA's hydrometric network.

16. Members are invited to:

- **discuss the above, and**
- **agree the recommendations at paragraphs 11 to 14 above.**

**NTAG Secretariat
May 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)

William Walker, Scottish Executive (Air, Climate and Engineering Division)

Observer

Peter Bolton, Consultant

NTAG Secretariat

May 2004

A REVIEW OF HYDROMETRIC DATA COLLECTION FOR FLOOD ESTIMATION IN SCOTLAND

DRAFT SCOPE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this study is to review the utility of the Scottish hydrometric, rain gauge and tidal networks for flood estimation and to make recommendations that would lead to improved flood estimation in Scotland.

2. Objectives

The study will review and assess the following aspects of hydrometric, rainfall and tidal networks:

- i) The roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations with respect to the management of the networks (including Scot Exec, SEPA, Met Office and POL)

16.1 Q1: Do we wish to include a study of who does what and to identify any dependent monitoring activities and how they are coordinated?

- ii) The geographical distribution of the networks
Are the networks sufficiently representative for the purpose of flood estimation?

- iii) The length of records available
Is the length of record a limitation for flood estimation?

iv) The quality of the data
16.2 Is data quality adequate for flood estimation and what standards should it satisfy?

- v) Data access
Q2: Do we want the study to consider whether access to data is adequate and to what international norms Scotland might aspire?

3. Method

It is expected that the following methods would be adopted:

- i) Interviews with staff from relevant organizations
- ii) Interviews with “users” of data for flood estimation
- iii) Reference to any national method for flood estimation
- iv) Reference to international/national standards for data quality
- v) Reference to international/national norms for data accessibility
- vi) Reference to internal procedures for managing data
- vii) Reference to recent reports relevant to this study

Note: The study will define the standards for data quality using national and international standards. The quality of the data for flood estimation will be assessed against these standards through reference to internal procedures, recent reports on data quality and where necessary analysis of representative data samples.

4. Presentation

The findings should be made available to NTAG through a technical report (with an executive summary) together with any supporting material.

5. Programme

The first draft will be submitted to the Mapping and Hydrometric Issues Sub-Group of NTAG before XX (third meeting?).

The final reported will be submitted by YY .

Tim Jolley, SEPA
May 2004