

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON FLOODING ISSUES

Scottish Water – Role, Responsibilities and New Initiatives

Role and Responsibilities

1. Sewer flooding is the responsibility of Scottish Water in terms of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968. Scottish Water is required “to provide such sewers as may be necessary for effectually draining their area of domestic sewage, surface water and trade effluent.” Surface water is defined as “the runoff of rainwater from roofs and any paved ground surfaces within the curtilage of premises.”

1.	Scottish Water will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems • Manage the storage and release of flood water from water supply reservoirs • Liaise with SEPA, local authorities and the emergency services during a flood event • Work in partnership with local authorities and emergency services to alleviate any flooding of foul sewers and the impact of this flooding • Maintain water supply and sewerage infrastructure • Repair burst mains and deal with any flooding caused by bursts

Scottish Water recognises flood mechanisms in the urban environment can often be complex and that special partnering arrangements are required with local authorities and SEPA in particular if effective responses to urban flooding are to be delivered.

New Initiatives

2. In recognition of the complex nature of flooding in the urban environment, Scottish Water is actively participating in two key UK research initiatives into urban flooding.

Firstly, the ‘AUDACIOUS’ research project, part of the BKCC (Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate) programme supported by UKCIP and EPSRC. AUDACIOUS is an acronym for Adaptable Urban Drainage – Addressing Change in Intensity, Occurrence and Uncertainty of Stormwater. This project aims to set out a clear picture for a range of stakeholders of the scope and interactions between the likely problems caused to the performance of existing drainage systems due to climate change and the wider urban catchment.

And secondly, ‘Designing for Exceedance in Urban Drainage Systems’, a CIRIA project that will provide guidance for the hydraulic design and management of urban drainage systems (both designed and natural) and associated landforms to reduce the impacts that arise when flows exceed system capacity due to severe rainfall events.