



E: Gerry.Smith@gov.scot

## Local Authority Flooding Contacts

8 December 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009**

As you know, we are beginning to reach some of the significant deadlines in implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. In particular, SEPA is required to publish the draft Flood Risk Management Strategies by 22 December 2020, and local authorities now have until 31 March 2021 to publish a draft of the local flood risk management plan.

I understand that concerns have been raised about listing potential actions in the draft implementation plan, particularly in the light of future funding uncertainties. The principle of producing flood risk management plans is supposed to ensure a long-term, informed planning process that sets out the direction of travel for a 6 year period. Including “potential actions” in the implementation plan does not commit a local authority to implementation if, for any reason, that proves to be unworkable – one such reason could be that funding could not be secured. However, it does allow the public to see that local authorities recognise that there are flooding issues that require addressing in specific areas. This is likely to be an important assurance to the public during the consultation exercise.

The adoption of consistent principles, approaches and methods at each stage of the flood risk management planning process is essential to ensure a nationally comparable approach, which will inform management and investment decisions.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone involved in getting the flood risk management planning process to this stage during a very difficult year. I hope all those involved in flood risk management have a well deserved break over Christmas, and that the weather is kind to us.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Smith  
Head of Flood Risk Management Team

