

Consultation Response Form

Draft Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management National Strategy for England

We welcome your views on the Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management National Strategy for England. Please use this form if you are responding by email or post rather than online.

If you would like to respond online, please use this link: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>

The consultation document and supporting evidence documents are also available using the link above. We would encourage you to read them. If you would like a hardcopy, please email us at FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk or write to us at the address provided in the 'Returning your response' section below.

Please complete the questions and where there is a free text field, give as much information as possible to support your answer.

Returning your response

The consultation will run for 8 weeks from 9 May to 4 July 2019. Any responses we receive after this date will not be included in the analysis.

We would like you to use this form if you are not submitting your response online. You can return it by email to FCERMstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk using the heading 'FCERM National Strategy Consultation'.

Please also use this email address if you have any questions regarding this consultation.

Or post your completed form to:

FCERM National Strategy Consultation
FCRM Strategy Team c/o Morena Staiano
Environment Agency
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH

How we will use your information

We are running this consultation in accordance with our Privacy Notice. A copy of the Privacy Notice is provided at the end of this document and we would encourage you to read this.

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses received online via our consultation website publicly available during and after the consultation. We will not be publishing consultation responses which are received by email or post, unless you specifically tell us to do so.

We will not respond individually to responses. After the consultation has closed we will publish a summary of the responses on our website. We will not publish names of individuals who respond but we may publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

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Section 1: About you

To help us analyse the responses we receive we'd like to understand more about you and, if applicable, the type of organisation and business you represent.

Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group:
(Please select one answer)

- ☐ Responding as an individual who has been directly affected by flooding and coastal change
- ☐ Responding as an individual who has NOT been directly affected by flooding and coastal change
- ☐ Responding as an individual employed by/volunteering for an organisation but not responding on behalf of the organisation
- ☒ Responding on behalf of an organisation or group (representing collective views)
- ☐ Other

If 'other', please specify:

If you are representing collective views, please specify which organisation or group and what type it is, e.g. environmental group, business:

Essex County Council (ECC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Please continue to the next page.

Section 2: Introduction and setting the context

Q1. To what extent do you agree with the vision: A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change - today, tomorrow and to the year 2100? (Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Since 2010 ECC has prioritised a series of detailed Surface Water Management Plans (10 in total) to enable our partners and public to be better informed and 'ready for' surface water flooding in Essex. Our 2015-2020 Capital Programme subsequently delivered flood protection in priority communities and has won an award for a local Natural Flood Management scheme. By the end of the capital programme we would have reduced flood risk to approximately 1,300 residential properties in Essex. Alongside this we have also promoted our uniquely customer focused Property Flood Resilience initiative. This has provided resilience and resistance measures to about 230 residential properties and counting. This PFR initiative is now financially self-sustaining therefore ensuring Essex residents are able to better make themselves more resilient to future flooding. We and our partners back the future flood resilience vision.

The following question relates to the strategic overview role of the Environment Agency. The relevant section within the draft strategy can be found on page 12.

Q2. To what extent do you agree with the Environment Agency's proposed strategic overview role as set out in the chapter 'setting the context for the draft strategy'? (Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)

- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

The Environment Agency (and RFCCs) are in a privileged position to enable the sharing of best practice, local learning and experience. As well as references to 'leading' and 'overseeing' the EA should consider their role in enabling collaboration and improved sharing of strategic information between regions/FRMAs/RFCC.

Section 3: Climate resilient places

We are asking for views about all of the strategic objectives and measures, however please do not feel you must answer all of these questions. If you don't have views to share, please leave the question blank.

Q3a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will be resilient to future flood and coastal risks. Over the next year the Environment Agency will work with partners to explore and develop the concept of standards for flood and coastal resilience? (Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

We completely support the strategic objective and we would also like this to be followed by tools to help LLFAs such as ourselves to contribute to the delivery of this objective.

Q3b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 1.1 can be found on page 22 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 1.1.1 - We would welcome proposed changes to the appraisal guidance for flooding and coastal change projects, for as long as these changes reflect the reality of LLFAs. We mostly deliver schemes resulting from 'local' flooding. These are smaller scale schemes when compared to the main river and coastal change schemes typically delivered by the EA. It makes no sense to have a 'one size fits all' approach when appraising flood schemes which originate from different types of flood risks and would be delivered by different types of risk management authorities. If we are to reduce the risk from natural hazards and adapt to and mitigate climate change, the appraisal methodology through which schemes would be allocated funding must reflect the nature of the flood risk being considered.

Measure 1.1.2 - Should we be aspiring to develop more than a 'concept' of standards for flood and coastal resilience as this is the key vision of the National Strategy? It would also be very useful to know if the EA would be adopting the national standard of food resilience proposed by the National Infrastructure Commission. Adopting these standards would have implications on how 'local' flood risk management schemes are delivered (schemes resulting from flood risk from ordinary watercourses, ground water and surface water flooding). It is not clear which flood resilience is being referred to, is this main river and coastal erosion resilience or does this refer to flood risk from all sources.

Q4a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.2: Between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change across a range of climate futures? (Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

All risk management authorities would achieve this task more consistently and effectively if there were open avenues for collaboration. Knowledge/skills gap, procurement and governance can be prohibitive. It would be very helpful for the EA to provide instruments that promote partnership working between risk management authorities.

Q4b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 1.2 can be found on page 26 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 1.2.6 - Will there be guidance or support/workshops for LLFAs to discuss and define what 'adaptive' approaches may be deliverable within their own local strategy context? When some 'adaptive' becomes business as usual will further innovation be required? A crucial stakeholder in implementing an adaptive approach to resilience would be the local planning authorities and the building regulation experts. At the moment, their functions are not congruous with those of the EA. It would be very prudent if any guidance and frameworks developed by the EA for a national audience take these stakeholders into consideration. Furthermore, it is not clear if the approach being outlined refers to new and/existing building stock and infrastructure. These two categories would probably require different approaches and the EA needs to take this under consideration.

Q5a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.3: Between now and 2030 all those involved in managing water will embrace and embed adaptive approaches to enhance the resilience of our environment to future flooding and drought? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

We strongly support this approach and we are already implementing some of these measures of Natural Flood Management and slowing the flow in Essex.

Q5b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 1.3 can be found on page 29 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 1.3.1 - Maintaining flexibility in natural flood management solutions is important although the aspiration is to 'mainstream' this. The multiple benefits of NFM solutions should be promoted more strongly within other sectors such as agriculture, public health and economic growth/communities. There is no reference to cross-sector collaboration. There is no mention of incorporating NFM solutions into the proposed flood appraisal guidance modification.

Q6a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.4: Between now and 2030 risk management authorities enhance the natural, built and historic environments so we leave it in a better state for the next generation? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

We strongly believe that the delivery of flood risk management schemes should consider other benefits such as ecological, social, recreational, economic and psychological. As a corollary, we recognise the utility of ensuring that flood risk management schemes result in a better environment, provide benefits to not only people but the local habitat and as much as possible do not result in increased carbon emissions and in some cases should act as a carbon sequester.

Q6b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 1.4 can be found on page 30 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 1.4.1 - The requirement of FRMA investments cannot be guaranteed if the request is financial. Each project would be assessed on its own merits and considered locally before any commitments are made. The measure could be amended to more accurately reflect the reality of this situation and propose improving the environment through continued adaptive development/projects and partnership working etc.

Q7a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 1.5: Between now and 2030, risk management authorities will use funding and financing from new sources to invest in making the nation resilient to flooding and coastal change? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

We support this strategic objective as we are actively engaging in partnership funding and we are constantly looking for new sources of funding for our flood risk management schemes. However, this should be in the context of the current financial pressures on local government funding and these should be a recognition by the EA that a lot of LLFAs are currently under severe funding pressures and any EA work on green finance strategy should take the requirements of LLFAs on board.

Q7b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 1.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 1.5 can be found on page 31 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 1.5.2 - The definition of 'test' is not clear. Does this mean consider the option of upfront financing, or committing to actually pilot the principle and deliver projects in this way? FRMAs should be open to considering finance options, where appropriate and cost-beneficial to do so within the local context. This measure is currently ambiguous.

Section 4: Today's growth and infrastructure - resilient to tomorrow's climate

We are asking for views about all of the strategic objectives and measures, however please do not feel you must answer all of these questions. If you don't have views to share, please leave the question blank.

Q8a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.1: Between now and 2030 all new development will contribute to achieving place based resilience to flooding and coastal change?

(Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q8b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.1 can be found on page 34 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 2.1.1 - The LLFA has appropriate training budgets in place to ensure that the team is appropriately skilled to provide advice on climate resilient design. Local and national skills matrices will help to ensure that LLFAs have access to the appropriate training and guidance. However, other RMAs may not be as well informed. When LLFA's took on their role as a statutory consultee to the planning process there was an assumption that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) would build up an increased knowledge of SuDS and flood risk. This was intended to reduce the burden on LLFAs over time. This has not been the case due limited funding available to LPA to commission training and no funds available for LLFAs to provide this training on top of responding to consultation which already puts pressure on limited resources. More information should be provided about the levels of investment expected and which RMAs should provide this.

Measure 2.1.2 - It is not clear how all new development will be required to contribute to achieving place-based resilience – how will it be monitored and enforced? If an adaptive approach to flood management is expected to be incorporated into strategic local plans then it is essential that the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government also ensure that appropriate legislation is incorporated into planning law. Without this attempts to include adaptive design may be challenged at examination in public.

Q9a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.2: Between now and 2030 all new development will seek to support environmental net gain in local places? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q9b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.2 can be found on page 35 of the draft strategy document)

Measures 2.2.1 Will biodiversity net gain be of equal weighting to other outcome measures with in the new investment programme? This may influence how 'achievable' the measure is.

Measures 2.2.2 - Essex County Council has implemented a Green Strategy (2019) which includes links to environmental gain as part of strategic planning (?)

Q10a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.3: Between now and 2030 all risk management authorities will contribute positively to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth through their investments in flooding and coastal change projects? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q10b. Please provide comments on the measure described under strategic objective 2.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.3 can be found on page 38 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 2.3.1 - Will regeneration and sustainable growth outcome measures feature in the new investment programme? This may influence how 'achievable' the measure is. The current flood appraisal methodology only takes into account physical benefits of flood risk management and does not encourage RMAs to look beyond the flood protection utility of projects. We usually tailor our business case to one audience, the EA and other potential funders i.e. economic growth, infrastructure delivery and green infrastructure do not necessarily have any use for the EA tailored business cases. As financially challenged LLFAs, we do not have the resources to produce business cases for multiple audiences therefore at the moment our hands are tied and we currently have a choice of delivering projects along the lines of the EA appraisal guidance with guaranteed funding levels or take a risk with a scheme for multiple audiences whose funding would not be guaranteed and thus extremely risky.

Q11a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.4: Between now and 2050 places affected by flooding and coastal change will be 'built back better' and in better places? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q11b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.4 can be found on page 39 of the draft strategy document)

New Measures - Should there be a measure relating to Property Flood Resilience funding and pathfinders? There could be more emphasis to ensure new development is flood resilient where there are residual risks of flooding due to asset failure.

Q12a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.5: Between now and 2030 all flooding and coastal infrastructure owners will understand the responsibilities they have to support flood and coastal resilience in places? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q12b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.5, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.5 can be found on page 41 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 2.5.1 - will this relate only to 'assets' which are deemed locally significant in terms of flood risk (S21 FWMA 2010) or will it extend to all local flood infrastructure, riparian responsibilities, SUDS features etc. There is a need for this in the long term.

Q13a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 2.6: Between now and 2050 the Environment Agency and risk management authorities will work with infrastructure providers to ensure all infrastructure investment is resilient to future flooding and coastal change? (Please select one answer)

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q13b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 2.6, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 2.6 can be found on page 43 of the draft strategy document)

Please continue to the next page.

Section 5: A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation

We are asking for views about all of the strategic objectives and measures, however please do not feel you must answer all of these questions. If you don't have views to share, please leave the question blank.

Q14a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.1: Between now and 2030 young people at 16 should understand the impact of flooding and coastal change, but also recognise the potential solutions for their place, and opportunities for career development? (Please select one answer)

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- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Please continue to the next page.

Q14b. Please provide comments on the measure described under strategic objective 3.1, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 3.1 can be found on page 48 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 3.1.1 - This perhaps should be encompassing of all age groups, not just young people. Many Flood Risk Management Authorities and other Category 1&2 responders already implement education programmes around flooding and flood risk. A wide ranging consultation should be involved as part of this measure to agree consistent messaging and remove confusion around roles/responsibilities.

Q15a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.2: Between now and 2030 people will understand the potential impact of flooding and coastal change on them and take action? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q15b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.2, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 3.2 can be found on pages 49 and 50 of the draft strategy document)

Q16a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.3: Between now and 2030 people will receive a consistent and coordinated level of support from all those involved in response and recovery from flooding and coastal change? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q16b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.3, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 3.3 can be found on page 51 of the draft strategy document)

Measure 3.3.1 - Despite Pitt Review and FWMA 2010 there is still a gap in terms of the surface water flood emergency response role. LLFAs have clear direction in terms of preparedness and in the recovery, but they currently have no statutory role, resources or skills to deal with a surface water event response phase. In addition to clarity of roles, this measure should also seek to define when a surface water event is classed as a 'major incident' within the emergency planning field. Using the local example of Canvey Island flooding in 2014, potentially up to 1000 properties were affected but the event was not classified as a major incident (recommendations of the peer review of our S19 flood investigation report may be interesting <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/canvey-island-flood-investigation-peer-review>)

Q17a. To what extent do you agree with strategic objective 3.4: Between now and 2030 the nation will be recognised as world leader in managing flooding and coastal change, as well as developing and attracting talent to create resilient places? *(Please select one answer)*

- ☐ No agreement
- ☐ Some limited agreement (I can agree in part, but not entirely)
- ☐ Basic agreement (I can live with it)
- ☐ Strong agreement (I can support it)
- ☒ Complete agreement (I can support it wholeheartedly)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain your answer:

Q17b. Please provide comments on the measures described under strategic objective 3.4, and tell us about any additional measures you think there should be, and who could implement them.

(The measures for strategic objective 3.4 can be found on page 53 of the draft strategy document)

Section 6: Any other comments

Q18. Please provide any other comments:

What does the EA want the LLFAs to deliver as part of this strategy ? will there be funding made available for any extension in (statutory or non-statutory) responsibilities? Is it affordable? What political commitment to this is there?

Section 7: Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Only respond to these questions if you wish to comment on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft strategy.

You will need to refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment environmental report that you can download from the consultation website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>

Do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental assessment? *(Please select one answer)*

☒ Yes

☐ No

If not, please explain why:

Are there any further significant environmental effects (positive or negative) of the draft strategy you think should be considered?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please describe them:

Are there further mitigations for potential negative effects or opportunities to achieve positive effects that should be considered for the final national FCERM strategy?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, please give details:

Privacy notice

We are the Environment Agency and we are running the creation, publication and implementation of a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. We are the data controller for this process. A data controller determines how and why personal data (personal information) is processed. Our personal information charter (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter) explains how we deal with your personal information. Go to GOV.UK and search 'Environment Agency personal information charter'.

The personal data we collect about you includes:

- Your email address
- Responses, feedback, queries and comments you leave, including information that may reveal your identity if you choose to include in your response
- Full name and contact details including addresses, emails or phone numbers if you contact us and include this information
- Whether you are responding to the consultation as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group, and the name and type of your organisation or group

We are allowed to process your personal data because you consent to us doing so by responding to this consultation. You have the right to withdraw consent at any time. The lawful basis for processing your personal data is consent.

What we do with your personal data

Public consultation

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses received online via our consultation website (Citizen Space) publicly available during and after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not be publishing consultation responses which are not received online via our consultation website, unless you specifically tell us to do so.

Throughout the consultation we will look to make all comments received online (excluding personal information) publicly available on our website, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish personal data. But we may publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations. We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

We will also publish a summary of all responses on our website in which we may publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

We will not respond individually to responses. After the consultation has closed we will publish a summary of the responses on our website.

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In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Developing the strategy

We will use your views to develop the strategy but will not identify you in the strategy. We will only share the minimum amount of your personal data as necessary with internal colleagues who are providing expert advice on developing the strategy. We will also share your views with external stakeholders who are taking part in analysing consultation responses, but we will ensure that you are not identifiable from the information we provide.

If you provide them, we will use your name and contact details to contact you if we have any queries about the information you've provided.

How long we keep your personal data

We will keep your views, and any personal data you have included in your response, as part of our records until these have been superseded by a new flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England.

Where your personal data is processed and stored

We store and process your personal data on our servers in the UK. We will not transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area.

Contact details

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for independent advice and monitoring of the Environment Agency's use of personal information.

If you have any concerns or queries about how we process personal data, or if you would like to make a complaint or request relating to data protection, please contact our DPO using the following details:

Address: Data Protection Officer

Environment Agency

Horizon House

Deanery Road

Bristol

BS1 5AH

Email: dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can find out about your personal data rights from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at www.ico.org.uk. The ICO regulate the data protection legislation. You have the right to lodge a complaint with them at any time.

Consultation Principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the guidance set out in the government's Consultation Principles. More information is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Lucy Payne, Consultation Co-ordinator
Environment Agency
Orchard House,
Endeavour Park,
London Road,
Addington,
ME19 5SH

Email: lucy.payne@environment-agency.gov.uk