

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES, ENSURING BUSINESS CONTINUITY: STRENGTHENING FLOODING RESILIENCE

Online Live Conference

Wednesday 16th July 2025



Key Speakers



Overview

The growing frequency and severity of extreme weather events driven by the global climate crisis have led to a significant rise in flooding across the UK – a risk that is only expected to escalate in the coming years. According to projections from the *Environment Agency*, 6.3 million properties in England are currently at risk of flooding. This number is set to rise to around 8 million by the middle of the century—equivalent to one in four properties. This presents a serious challenge for both national bodies and local authorities, and underscores the urgent need for robust prevention and adaptation frameworks, coordinated response strategies and effective recovery plans to strengthen community resilience and safeguard business continuity.

In response to this growing threat, the Government established the *Flood Resilience Taskforce*, bringing together partners from across national, regional, and local government, devolved administrations, local resilience forums, emergency responders, and other key stakeholders. In March, the Government announced a record £2.65bn investment over the next two years to strengthen flood defences and improve preparedness, aiming to better protect communities and businesses across the UK, with a further £16m in additional funding for internal drainage boards (IDBs) to boost flood protections for agricultural land.

This timely online conference provides a vital platform for key stakeholders from local authorities, emergency planning teams, flooding response teams, local resilience forums (LRFs), planning officials, police, health services, fire and rescue, and representatives from the private and third sectors to explore strategies for tackling the increasing threat of flooding. The event will also offer an opportunity to share innovative best practice to strengthen prevention efforts, deliver coordinated responses through a 'whole-of-society' approach, and accelerate recovery in the face of increasingly damaging flood events.

Why Attend?

- Live webinar featuring presentations and panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers, experts from across the emergency planning, resilience, civil contingencies and national and local government
- Gain insights into the impact of climate change on intensifying the frequency and severity of flooding across England and the projected impact it will have in the future
- Explore key Government initiatives aimed at enhancing flood prevention, emergency responses and long-term recovery strategies
- Examine how improved prevention, planning and infrastructure decisions can reduce flood risks
- Embedding a 'whole-of-society' approach that engages communities and businesses to prepare for and respond to floods
- Enhancing post-flooding recovery and resilience in every community
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Share ideas with fellow participants from local authorities, local resilience forums, emergency planning / civil contingencies, the police, fire and rescue services, planning officials, climate adaptation officers, health and the private sector & third sector
- *On Demand* – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources

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Programme

09:30 AM	Delegate Online Login
10:00 AM	Introduction by Webinar Organiser
10:05 AM	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks • Charlie Hall QPM, <i>Former Chief Constable, Hertfordshire Constabulary; Former National Police Strategic Lead, JESIP</i>
10:10 AM	Keynote Address: Flooding Resilience and Preparedness – The National Picture ➤ Explore how the latest climate change projections, data and modelling tools are being used to assess future risk ➤ Informing national resilience planning through the <i>National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA)</i> and <i>National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM)</i> ➤ Understanding the role of the <i>Floods Resilience Taskforce</i> in strengthening defences, improving emergency responses and bolstering long-term flood resilience ➤ Utilising flood alert and early warning systems to protect communities and reduce response times • Caroline Douglass, <i>Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM), Environment Agency</i>
10:30 AM	Keynote Address: Questions and Discussion
10:45 AM	Comfort Break
10:55 AM	Panel Session One: Preparing for and Responding to Escalating Flood Risks in Every Local Area ➤ Assessing the latest threats from the climate crisis, including the impact of the increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events on flood risk ➤ Raising awareness and informing decision-making – Enhance public understanding of both current and future flood risks ➤ Creating climate-resilient places – Explore proactive local planning reforms that strengthen adaptation and reduce flood risk through place-based and nature-based approaches ➤ Identifying and addressing vulnerabilities in existing infrastructure to withstand escalating flood risks, and prevent cascading emergencies ➤ Examining strategies to upgrade drainage and sewer systems to better manage and mitigate surface water flooding • Will Lang, <i>Head of Risk & Resilience Services, Met Office</i> • Olivia Shears, <i>Senior Analyst – Adaptation in the Built Environment, The Climate Change Committee</i> • Toby Jones, <i>Emergency Planning Lead, JBA Consulting</i> • Celia Davis, <i>Senior Projects and Policy Manager, Town and County Planning Association</i>
12:00 PM	Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion
12:20 PM	Comfort Break

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12:50 PM	Programme Cont'd Panel Session Two: Delivering a Coordinated Response through a 'Whole-of-Society' Approach ➤ Adapting preparedness plans to meet the growing challenges posed by more frequent and severe flooding events ➤ Delivering effective responses through strengthened multi-agency partnerships across central government, local authorities, flood managers, infrastructure providers, third-sector organisations and emergency services ➤ Building collective resilience – Empowering businesses, local communities, voluntary organisations, community groups and the public to prepare for and respond to flooding ➤ Prioritising public health and ensuring access to healthcare services – Examining the <i>Adverse Weather and Health Plan</i> ➤ Boosting response capacity among emergency services through co-location, effective communication, coordinated operations, shared risk intelligence and real-time situational awareness • Katie Noble, <i>Lead for Flood Resilience, London Resilience</i> • Steve Eason-Harris, <i>Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer, Lincolnshire County Council</i> • Richard Hood, <i>Strategy Lead for Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Management and Resilience, Communities Prepared</i>
1:40 PM	Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion
1:55 PM	Comfort Break
2:10 PM	Panel Session Three: Strengthening Post-Flooding Recovery, Resilience and Business Continuity ➤ Creating long-term recovery strategies to help get communities and businesses back to normal faster ➤ Ensuring continuity after floods – Maintaining essential services and supply chains in both remote and urban areas during periods of disruption ➤ Accelerating the distribution of key funding to eligible households and small businesses to support swift and effective recovery ➤ Targeting support for vulnerable communities to protect those disproportionately affected by flooding and help them recover and rebuild ➤ Embedding lessons learned from past flood events into future planning and preparedness strategies • Dr Anya Gopfert, <i>Consultant in Public Health, Extreme Events and Health Protection, UK Health Security Agency</i> • Laura Scott, <i>Head of Crisis Response, British Red Cross</i> • Gale Alexander, <i>Manager, Devon Resilience Innovation Project</i>
3:00 PM	Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion
3:10 PM	Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments
3:15 PM	End of Online Conference

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DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]					
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES
Online Registration with Card Payment – CLICK HERE	☐	£ 245 + vat	☐	£ 215 + vat	☐ £ 175 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	☐	£ 245 + vat	☐	£ 215 + vat	☐ £ 175 + vat
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Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	☐	£ 295 + vat	☐	£ 265 + vat	☐ £ 225 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:			
Name of Key Contact:		Job Title:	
Organisation Name:		Department:	
Address:		Post Code:	
Email Address:		Telephone No:	
Accounts Dept. Contact:		Telephone No:	
Purchase Order No:		Cost Centre Code (if applicable):	

Card Payments:			
Government Procurement Card (GPC) ☐	☐	MasterCard ☐	☐ VISA / VISA Debit
Cardholder:	Postcode:	Total Amount:	£ + VAT (at 20%)
Card No:	Expiry date:	Security Code (CVC):	
Date:	Signature:		

Other Payment Methods:	
☐	Please Invoice my organisation £ + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No.
☐	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to accounts@policyforesight.com or fax to 020 3633 5766
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