



Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management Programme

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Stage

INTRODUCTION TO THE DRAFT PFRA

All relevant information on the Draft PFRA is also available from the national CFRAM Website at: www.cfram.ie

In November 2007, the EU Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC), often referred to as the 'Floods' Directive, came into force. This Directive requires, inter alia, that Member States:

- Undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment by December 2011 to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk, and then for such areas,
- Prepare flood maps by December 2013 and,
- Prepare flood risk management plans by December 2015.

The requirements of the Floods Directive are closely aligned with some elements of the National Flood Policy, as established after Government approval of the 2004 Report of the Flood Policy Review Group. The principal vehicle for implementation of the Floods Directive is the Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies Programme.

The 2010 European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations transposed the Floods Directive into national law. Section 8 & 9 of those Regulations deal with the submission of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and provide for sending of copies of that Assessment to each county council. The Regulations require each council to place the Assessment on exhibition in the principal offices for a period of not less than one month.

The Regulation stipulate that the making of submissions from county councils in regard to the PFRA is a reserved function and councils may make submissions in this regard to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland within two months of the commencement of the public exhibition of the PFRA.

The purpose of this Introduction is to explain, in accessible terms, the context and purpose of the PFRA, the scope of documentation available to view and the ways in which interested persons may make a submission in respect of the PFRA.

CFRAM Programme

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is designed to assess and map the country's river systems to identify areas at risk of significant flooding.

The purpose of the Programme is to:

- produce detailed flood mapping in order to identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard and risk areas within the study area.
- Build the strategic information base necessary for making informed decisions in relation to managing flood risk.
- Identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within each river catchment as a whole.

There are three main stages in the Programme and a suite of documents will be produced for public consultation at each stage:

- 2011 - Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- 2013 - Flood Hazard Mapping
- 2015 - Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans

CFRAM Studies

The country has been divided into 6 river basin districts and separate studies are being commissioned to carry out a detailed mapping of Ireland's rivers. The Programme will meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) and the 2004 Flood Policy Review Report. The studies will focus on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas subject to significant development pressure both now and in the future.

Each Study is divided up into a number of key stages:

- Data Collection & Surveying
- Flood Risk Review
- Hydrology Analysis
- Detailed Hydraulic Modelling
- Flooding Mapping
- Development of Flood Risk Management Options
- Strategic Environmental Assessment & Appropriate Assessment
- Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan

The CFRAM Studies are being commissioned at the scale of the River Basin District (RBD). The River Basin Districts are:

- Shannon
- East
- South-East
- South-West
- West
- North-West/Neagh-Bann

PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) is an important first step in determining how flood risk will be assessed and managed in the future; both locally and nationally. The purpose of the PFRA is to identify areas at risk of significant flooding.

The PFRA is a national screening exercise, based on available and readily-derivable information, to identify areas where there may be a significant risk associated with flooding. Other EU Member States have used similar approaches to undertaking the PFRA as that undertaken in Ireland.

The objective of the PFRA is to identify areas where the risks associated with flooding might be significant. The draft PFRA, provides maps showing areas deemed to be at risk.

The areas deemed to be at risk (referred to as Areas for Further Assessment, or 'AFAs') are where more detailed assessment is required on the extent and degree of flood risk, under the CFRAM Studies which will assess the extent and degree of flood risk, and, where the risk is significant, to develop, where possible, measures to manage and reduce the risk.

The final designation of the AFAs will also take into account information and views provided through the public consultation and arising from on-site inspections that are being undertaken in parallel with the consultation.

The PFRA has been undertaken by:

- Reviewing records of floods that have happened in the past
- Undertaking analysis to determine which areas might flood in the future, and what the impacts might be, and,
- Consulting with the Local Authorities and other Government departments and agencies

This assessment has considered all types of flooding, including natural sources, such as that which can occur from rivers, the sea and estuaries, heavy rain and groundwater, and the failure of built infrastructure. It has also considered the impacts flooding can have on people, property, businesses, the environment and cultural heritage.

Areas where on-site inspection is required to investigate the issues more closely have also been identified and these investigations will be carried out as part of the CFRAM Studies.

The PFRA is only a preliminary assessment, based on available or readily-derivable information. Analysis has been undertaken to identify areas prone to flooding, and the risks associated with such flooding, but it should be stressed that this analysis is purely indicative and undertaken for the purpose of completing the draft PFRA.

The primary purpose of the public consultation on the PFRA is to facilitate the inclusion of locally-derived knowledge and information to better inform this preliminary assessment of flood risk.

PFRA Outcomes

The Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) identified through the draft PFRA in each Local Authority area are listed in the PFRA Main Overview Report and shown on the draft PFRA maps on display in each Local Authority principal offices during the public consultation period.

The completed PFRA and its outcomes will take into account submissions made, the findings of site inspections, and any other information that has arisen.

When complete the Preliminary Assessment will inform the determination of the two further stages of the CFRAM Programme: Flood Hazard mapping and the production of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs).

DRAFT PFRA DOCUMENTATION

The documentation associated with the PFRA is extensive and largely of a technical nature.

The core documents of the draft PFRA consist of 420 maps indicating flood extents and PFRA outcomes. These maps are available in a folio of national maps accompanying the suite of PFRA documentation on display in county council offices. The easiest way to access these maps is through the national CFRAM website www.CFRAM.ie and the PFRA page. By clicking on the relevant square on the national map you can download an A3 map of each geographical area.

Another useful list is the alphabetical list by county of Probable and Possible Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) is at Appendix F1 of the Main Overview Report and is downloadable on the PFRA page of the www.CFRAM.ie website.

The list of reports attached to this Introduction for the draft PFRA is as follows:

MAIN OVERVIEW REPORT 110 pages

PFRA MAPS 420 MAPS

OTHER ASSOCIATED REPORTS:

- ESB REPORT 71 Pages
- WATERWAYS IRELAND REPORT 20 Pages
- WATERWAYS IRELAND APPENDICES 6 X
- PFRA ENVIRONMENTAL RECEPTOR VOL 1 50 Pages
- PFRA ENVIRONMENTAL RECEPTOR VOL 2 369 Pages
- PFRA GROUNDWATER REPORT 111 Pages
- ICPSS NORTH-EAST REPORT 115 Pages
- ICPSS SOUTH-EAST REPORT 115 Pages
- ICPSS SOUTH REPORT 120 Pages
- NATIONAL PLUVIAL SCREENING REPORT 116 Pages
- FLUVIAL NORMAL-DEPTH REPORT 39 Pages
- PFRA NATIONAL MONUMENTS REPORT 66 Pages
- PFRA PREDICTIVE METHOD REPORT 51 Pages

The draft PFRA Main Overview Report sets out the approach, methodologies and draft outcomes of the PFRA. More detailed information on the PFRA is provided in that Report and associated technical reports.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PFRA

The draft PFRA is available for formal public consultation. Information, views and locally-derived knowledge generated through the public consultation will be taken into account prior to the finalisation of the PFRA.

The draft PFRA documents are on display, during the public consultation period, for viewing at each Local Authority principal offices, and are also available for viewing / download on the national CFRAM Programme website www.cfram.ie

Each Local Authority will be requested to submit its formal response to the PFRA findings covering its area of the country.

Any member of the public, is also invited to make a submission on the findings of the draft PFRA. If you have any information that you think should be considered, or agree or disagree with any aspect of the PFRA or its conclusions, you can submit this information or point of view in one of the following ways.

By the Web: Search www.cfram.ie and follow the link to “Public Consultation”.

By Post to:

Mr. P. McAlinney
PFRA Consultation
Office of Public Works
17-19 Hatch Street
Dublin 2.

All submissions will be reviewed prior to finalising the PFRA.