

Flood and Water Management Act 2010  
Section 19 Local authorities: investigations

**Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act states that:**

(1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers necessary or appropriate, investigate –

- a. Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- b. Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

(2) Where an authority carried out an investigation under subsection (1) it must –

- a. Publish the results of its investigation, and
- b. Notify and relevant risk management authorities.

*NB The term 'flood' includes any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water (from natural sources). It does not include flood from a burst water main or any part of a sewage system, unless caused by volume of rainwater entering the system.*

We will investigate:

Incident	Investigate?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any internal flooding (≥1 property)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding to highways which causes disruption or danger to traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding affecting local infrastructure in accordance with assets identified within Multi Agency Flood Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding to gardens and open space deeper than 0.25m*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If internal flooding would have occurred had local resilience measures not been employed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local discretion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other flooding to highways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local discretion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding to gardens and open space where no risk posed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local discretion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding to agricultural land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local discretion</li> </ul>

\*Flood depth greater than 0.25m = "Danger to Some" based on Flood Hazard Equation from Environment Agency R&D Report FD2320/TR2 "Flood Risk Assessment Guidance for New Development" - [http://evidence.environment-agency.gov.uk/FCERM/Libraries/FCERM\\_Project\\_Documents/FD2320\\_3364\\_TRP\\_pdf.sflb.ashx](http://evidence.environment-agency.gov.uk/FCERM/Libraries/FCERM_Project_Documents/FD2320_3364_TRP_pdf.sflb.ashx)

- The LLFA will aim to commence investigations within 2 working days, unless the event is either ongoing or categorised as an extreme event (as defined by a severe weather warning from the MetOffice) or the event covers a large area.
- Where investigated, the LLFA will aim to prepare a report within 2 months (resources allowing/depending on the extent of the event).

Flood and Water Management Act 2010  
Section 19 Local authorities: investigations

- The relevant risk management authority will be notified as soon as practically possible during the investigation.
- The summary findings of the report will be published within 2 weeks of completion of the report (resources allowing) and the full report will be available for viewing subject to local discretion.