

# Statement of consultation arrangements for Flood Risk Management Plan 2028

**FRM (Scotland) Act 2009 Section 30**



## Introduction

The SEPA flood risk management plans are Scotland's route map for reducing the effects of flooding on our communities. They set objectives for tackling flooding in Potentially Vulnerable Areas and identify the actions needed to work towards those objectives. The local flood risk management plans, published by local authorities, provide more detail on how the actions will be delivered including who will lead them, how they will be funded, when they will take place and how the actions will be coordinated with other organisations.

This document explains how we will consult on the next flood risk management (FRM) plans and outlines when we run the consultation and what will be included in the consultation.

SEPA and local authorities will consult the public and partners on the SEPA FRM plans and the local FRM plans. These plans together will assess past efforts and incorporate the most recent evidence to identify objectives and actions needed to manage flood risk.

They will serve to prioritise national investment, inform decision-making, and guide local delivery. All while ensuring a cohesive and coordinated approach.

In developing this consultation approach SEPA consulted responsible authorities and other stakeholders.

## Statement of consultation arrangements

SEPA's aim is to facilitate partner and public participation in the development of the FRM plans. To do so, we are providing the consultation arrangements information in advance.

The consultation process for the FRM plans 2016 and FRM plans 2022 was conducted in phases, with a first phase allowing partners and the public to review the evidence before a second phase that presented objectives and actions.

This phased approach to consultation is also proposed for FRM plans 2028, as detailed below.

## Phased consultation proposal

The consultation for the FRM plans 2028 will be split into two phases. This two-phase method has proven effective in the past for gathering feedback from all over Scotland. It allows for local input on flooding issues before proposing objectives and actions. This approach aims to increase public engagement and better understand flooding impacts before finalising objectives and actions.

The final SEPA FRM plans 2028 (due for publication in December 2027) will take account of views expressed during the phased consultation.

There will be two phases to the consultation, as follows:

### **Phase 1:**

By 22 December 2026, sections providing background information (known as characterisation reports) for each Potentially Vulnerable Area will be made available for review. Questions may be posed about the key flooding concerns within each community.

### **Phase 2:**

By 22 March 2027, in addition to the characterisation reports, objectives, actions along with additional information relevant to the management of flood risk will be available for public consultation with linked questions. This phase of the consultation will be open for 3 months.

### **Co-ordination with Local Flood Risk Management Plans:**

Phase 2 of SEPA's FRM plans consultation will be run concurrently with the local FRM plans consultation, led by the lead local authorities. Aligning and co-ordinating both consultations is an example of the partnership approach to managing flood risk carried out by responsible authorities in Scotland. It will also help achieve an open, transparent and accessible consultation process.

## Key dates

Key dates for the consultation and preparation of the SEPA FRM plans and local FRM plans is as follows:

**Table 1: Key dates for the consultation and preparation of FRM Plans.**

Key dates	Consultation and preparatory action
By 22 December 2026	Phase 1 launch – SEPA will make characterisation information available for review
By 22 March 2027	Phase 1 closes
By 22 March 2027	Phase 2 launch – information on objectives and actions made available for review
By 22 June 2027	Phase 2 closes
By 22 July 2027	Information from Local Authorities received by SEPA
October 2027	Submission to Scottish ministers
22 December 2027	Publication of SEPA FRM plans
22 June 2028	Publication of Local FRM plans

## Co-ordination with River Basin Management Plans

SEPA and the lead local authorities will continue to work closely together and with partners to ensure consistency between the FRM plans, local FRM plans and the River Basin Management Plans.

For more information you can visit SEPA's flood risk management planning section on the [flooding page](#).

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