

National Infrastructure Commission: The challenges and opportunities

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**NATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMISSION**

Better infrastructure for all

challenges

Too little water– with currently a 1 in 4 chance that large numbers of households will have their water supply cut off for an extended period because of a severe drought in the next 30 years

Too much water– with currently about 5 million properties in England at risk of flooding, including around 325,000 properties at high risk of surface water flooding

Too dirty water – there is great public concern about the frequency of sewer discharges, while the number of serious pollution incidents caused by water and sewerage companies in 2021 was the highest since 2013

Drought

Relying on emergency measures would cost an estimated

£40 billion

Over the next 30 years – being resilient would cost only £21 billion

! emergency cost

£40 bn

✓ resilience cost £21 bn

The UK needs an extra

4,000MI

of water a day to assure long-term supply



flood


High flood risk:
1 million
homes have more than 1% chance of flooding in any given year




RESILIENCE SAVES PEOPLE FROM THE TRAUMA OF FLOODING AND THE COSTS OF DAMAGE AND INSURANCE

The Commission have proposed a national standard so that by 2050 communities will be resilient to flooding

99.5%
of the time wherever feasible



This means that someone living in a house at risk of flooding for 20 years would face only a 1 in 10 chance of flooding over that time



Surface Water Flooding

Investing c. **£12 billion** in cost effective improvements to **2055** could **reduce** properties at high **risk** by **60%**.



The Commission recommends...

Government and the Environment Agency should:



Stop unmanaged development making the problem worse



Improve risk mapping



Set national targets



Devolve funding to high risk areas



Explore options to protect individual properties

Ofwat should enable water companies to:



tackle surface water flooding



build and maintain sustainable drainage

Risk management authorities in local areas should:



Deliver long term joint plans to meet local targets.

Sources: Environment Agency, Mott MacDonald, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans, Commission modelling

National Infrastructure Commission **Reducing the risk of surface water flooding**

What changed?

100 years of evolution

But was it time for revolution?