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**Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy**  
**Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/JG/2667/12

Dafydd Elis Thomas AM  
Chair of the Environment and  
Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

12 September 2012

Annwyl Dafydd,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 19 July 2012 to give evidence as part of your Inquiry into Coastal Protection in Wales. Further to information I provided during the evidence session, you requested that I provide the following additional information:

- 1) A table showing separated figures for funding allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management from the Departmental budget, core central Government budget and European programmes;
- 2) Information on joint working with the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on the Green Sea Partnership in relation to coastal protection and tourism.

I am pleased to enclose a paper covering the information above; I hope that you find the information useful. I will look forward to receiving your report and recommendations.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Griffiths'.

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
**Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy**  
**Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development**

## **Environment & Sustainability Committee Supplementary information**

The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development attended the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 19 July 2012 to give evidence as part of their Inquiry into Coastal Protection in Wales. At the meeting the committee requested the following additional information:

- 1) A table showing separated figures for funding allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management from the Departmental budget, core central Government budget and European programmes;
- 2) Information on joint working with the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on the Green Sea Partnership in relation to coastal protection and tourism.

The purpose of this paper is to provide the above supplementary information.

### **Funding Allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management**

For clarity the table overleaf identifies the annual Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget separately from the additional funding received towards flood and coastal erosion risk management activities from other sources in year.

#### The Departmental Budget

The Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget had been increasing up to the most recent UK Spending Review (October 2010) which resulted in a reduced overall block budget for the Welsh Government. Since its peak in 2010/11 the reduction in the Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget has been more than offset by the additional funding received from other sources such as the European Regional Development Fund and access to additional sources of central capital funding. Going forward the Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget is set to increase to £37.1million in 2013/14.

#### Additional Capital Funding for FCERM from other sources.

The Welsh Government was successful in bidding for almost £50 million<sup>1</sup> in funding from the European Regional Development Fund to support a programme of flood and coastal risk management schemes over the five years from 2009-2014.

Additional Welsh Government central capital funding from the Strategic Capital Investment Fund was allocated to provide the match funding necessary to draw

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<sup>1</sup> The £50 million European Regional Development Fund programme includes £6 million allocated to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water for flood risk schemes. This is not included within the table as these are not Welsh Government funded.

down the European Regional Development Fund monies in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Further Welsh Government central capital funding from both the Centrally Retained Capital fund and under the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan was allocated towards flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in 2011/12 and 2012/13. In addition to this further funding was allocated in 2011/12 via a transfer of divisional funds.

### Total Expenditure Profile

The annual Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget rose to £38.6 million in 2010/11 but has since been consistently around £36-£37 million.

It is the additional capital funding received which has given rise to the peak and the subsequent apparent year on year 'reductions' in funding. 2010/11 was the peak year in the European Regional Development Fund scheme construction programme which, with the additional Strategic Capital Investment Fund match funding received, resulted in expenditure of £61.5 million in year.

From 2010/11 the European Regional Development Fund programme is set to run down and close in 2014/15. Further bids have been made for funding under the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for both 2013/14 and 14/15.

### Changes in the Table

A review of the original table submitted to the Environment and Sustainability Committee in June 2012 has found some double counting in the figures produced and these have been corrected in the table overleaf.

The Table has also been updated with the latest European Regional Development Fund forecasts.

## Funding Allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management.

For clarity the table below identifies the annual Departmental Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Budget separately from the additional funding received from other sources in year.

Financial Year	Annual Departmental FCERM Budget			Additional Capital Funding Received In Year				Total Funding (FCERM + Additional sources)
	Capital	Revenue	Total FCERM Budget	SCIF	CRC/WIIP	Divisional Transfers	ERDF	
2007/08	15.5	16.7	32.2					32.2
2008/09	18.8	16.9	35.7					35.7
2009/10	19.5	18.6	38.1	3.0			3.3	44.4
2010/11	18.5	20.1	38.6	5.0		0.8	17.1	61.5
2011/12	17.0	19.7	36.7		2.2	3.5	9.5	51.9
2012/13	14.7	21.0	35.7		6.0		6.0	47.7
2013/14	9.8	27.3	37.1		Bid pending		6.1	43.2
2014/15	9.8	27.3	37.1		Bid pending		1.5	38.6

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management  
SCIF – Strategic Capital Investment Fund

CRC – Central Capital Retained Capital  
WIIP - Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan

**Note** – the table does not reflect the Departmental budget exchange of £1 million made in 2011/12 and 2012/13 between the Living Wales Programme and Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme. This was essentially a departmental budget management exercise which brought forward £1 million in flood and coastal erosion risk management grant payments programmed for 2012/13 into 2011/12 to utilise available Living Wales budgets, with the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme budget ‘paying back’ the £1 million to the Living Wales Programme in 2012/13.

## **Information on joint working with the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on the Green Sea Partnership in relation to coastal protection and tourism.**

The Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science Department leads on the sustainable development of the coastline, working in partnership with the Department for Environment and Sustainable Development, along with other Welsh Government Departments and a range of external stakeholders.

Effective flood and coastal erosion risk management is integral to the sustainability of the Welsh coastline.

### The Green Sea Partnership

The aim of the Green Sea Partnership is to achieve a co-ordinated practical approach to improving the quality of our coastal environment, focusing on bathing water and beach quality and the safe use of our beaches. The Partnership consists of a wide ranging stakeholder group with an interest in the sustainable development of the coast. Its main remit is to oversee and implement the agreed Green Seas Action Plan.

The aim and objectives for the group are set out in the Green Sea Partnership Development Plan 2006-2015.

Since its launch in May 1996, the partnership has encouraged the up take of the existing codes of conduct and marine codes in operation in Wales and has achieved considerable success in improving the quality of Wales' coastline and increasing the number of award winning beaches in Wales. For 2012, Wales achieved the following beach awards:

- 43 Blue Flag beaches,
- 5 Blue Flag marinas,
- 51 Green Coast Awards,
- more than 100 Seaside Awards.

As a result of the Partnership, in 2001 over £1m of funding was secured jointly with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water via the Objective 1 programme and in 2009 £2.75m was secured as part of the wider Coastal Tourism Environment for Growth project to develop and improve facilities on and around our beaches.

The Green Sea Partnership Forum is held on a biannual basis and is attended by a wide range of stakeholders including local authorities, beach managers, the Environment Agency, Keep Wales Tidy, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Welsh Government officials.

### Bathing Water Quality

Central to achieving a high number of beach awards in Wales is that bathing water quality remains as high as possible. The Water Branch within the

Department for Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for administering the implementation of the requirements of Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).

Water Branch officials work closely with both external and internal colleagues including the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science and Keep Wales Tidy to ensure that we deliver sustainable water quality improvements for Wales.

Keep Wales Tidy, who administer the Blue Flag scheme in Wales, has received £320,000 core funding from the Local Environmental Quality Team within the Department for Environment and Sustainable Development for the period 2012/13.

From the beginning of the bathing season 2012 it became a legal requirement of the revised Bathing Water Directive for information about water quality and potential sources of pollution to be displayed at beaches and inland waters throughout the European Union which had been designated as bathing waters. This information is intended to enable bathers at these sites to make an informed decision on when and where to bathe.

To assist bathing water controllers to meet these new signage obligations, Water Branch made £39,600 funding available to local authorities and private controllers in 2011. Detailed controller guidance was issued in September 2011 and a stakeholder workshop was undertaken to support that guidance.

Water Branch has also introduced a new process for identifying new designated bathing waters in Wales this year and as part of that process, colleagues from the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science and Keep Wales Tidy will be taking part in the application assessment process which will take place in January 2013.

In 2011 over 98% of EC designated bathing waters in Wales complied with the mandatory standards of the Bathing Water Directive. This means that performance against the more stringent EC guidelines standards is the best ever achieved for Wales with over 93% of beaches meeting this standard.

This year (2012) sees a further seven bathing waters in Wales designated, bringing the total number in Wales to one hundred.

Water Branch provides environmental quality updates for the Green Sea Partnership Forum and other associated meetings on a regular basis.

Maintaining high quality bathing waters also provides benefits for the people and economy in Wales, particularly in relation to tourism. The Welsh Government is committed to maintaining and achieving high bathing water quality standards and will reiterate the importance of this in the forthcoming consultation on water policy which will give us the opportunity to explore future options to set out Welsh Government policy in relation to Bathing Waters. Water Branch will work closely with colleagues in the Department of Business,

Enterprise, Technology and Science and the Green Sea Partnership in the development of any new policy options.

Water Branch will also be establishing a communications group to engage key stakeholders, including Keep Wales Tidy, water companies and colleagues in the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science. The aim of this group is to ensure that we have a communications strategy for Wales to deliver clear and consistent messages to people living in and visiting Wales about the high standard of our bathing water quality. This is essential in taking forward the new Bathing Water Directive classifications requirement which comes into force in 2015.

### Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - Multiple Benefits

There is a history of partnership working between the Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science and the Department for Environment and Sustainable Development, which seeks to improve access to and the use of our coastline. The following are examples of specific schemes that resulted in multiple benefits beyond flood and coastal erosion risk management:

- In partnership with Ceredigion County Council the proposed coastal defence reef at Borth was adapted to improve surfing conditions and encourage surfing tourism;
- A Sustrans Cycle route constructed on top of our scheme at the Taff Trail;
- Coastal defence improvements at Colwyn Bay were combined with promenade amenity works under a single construction contract. Following completion of that scheme Regeneration is now funding a watersports centre at the site which is currently being constructed. Further jointly funded works are proposed at Colwyn Bay with the next phase of coastal defence works importing sand to raise existing beach levels, which will not only improve the standard of protection against flood and coastal erosion but also enhance its tourism amenity;
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management funding for Phases 1 and 2 of the West Rhyl scheme are enabling a second regeneration project to take place that includes harbour improvements, a cycling route and the construction of a new, innovative bridge. Discussions have taken place regarding joint funding to deliver tourism enhancements as part of the next phase of the West Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme; and
- Signboards and a viewing platform at Valley, Anglesey to encourage tourists interested in observing local wildlife.

Officials from both Departments have also participated in a range of working groups including the Beach Nourishment Steering Group, which includes representation from the Environment Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Crown Estate.

