

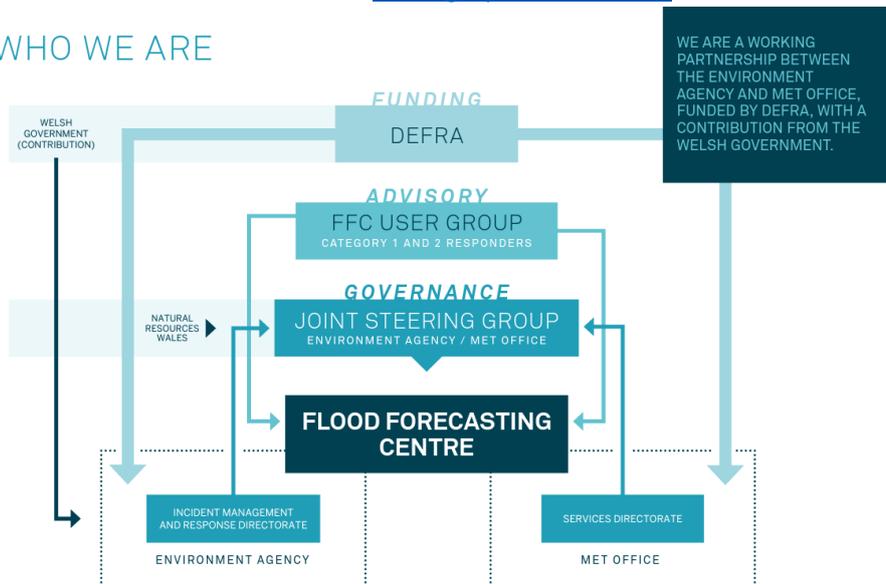
Overview of the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) January 2025

Introduction

- The FFC is a long-term strategic partnership between the Environment Agency and the Met Office supporting national flood resilience in a changing climate
- The FFC brings together the meteorological expertise of the MO and the hydrological expertise of the EA, creating a team of specialist hydrometeorologists working 24/7
- With this experienced and professional team in one national centre, the FFC provides flood guidance and outlooks to the Category 1 and 2 emergency response community in England and Wales
- The FFC is largely funded by Defra with a funding contribution from Welsh Government via funding to NRW
- The FFC helps maintain and improve national flood models and systems, working closely with institutions across the country and promoting and sharing best practice around the world
- As an established centre of 15 years, we are working hard to develop career paths into and through the FFC for a more diverse group of individuals, in an increasingly global marketplace

Who we are and our Governance [Strategic plan 2021-2024](#)

WHO WE ARE



Our Goal and Purpose [FFC Website](#)

Our goal is to ensure that the FFC clearly contributes to National Resilience. We do this by undertaking flood forecasting and sharing our risk assessments in the form of flood guidance and flood outlooks. We operate under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. We need to continually evolve our services to maximise their value to responders as flood risk continues to increase across the country.



Operational working

- The FFC produces a daily Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) which provides a summary of flood risk from all natural sources out to five days for emergency responders; this is a collaborative service with the Met Office, Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Local Forecast Centres
- We provide scenarios each day to inform planning for Flood Alerts and Warnings to the public in England and Wales by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, and work closely with the Met Office to co-ordinate information with National Weather Warnings
- We issue two public 5-day forecasts each day, based on Open Data from the Flood Guidance Statement, available via the EA's webpages on [.GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and on [NRW's website](https://www.nrw.gov.uk) (in Welsh and English)
- The Flood Outlook provides a flood forecast for the coming month in England and Wales. It is issued twice a month and is now available widely on the Cabinet Office's Resilience Direct and the Met Office's Hazard Manager Systems

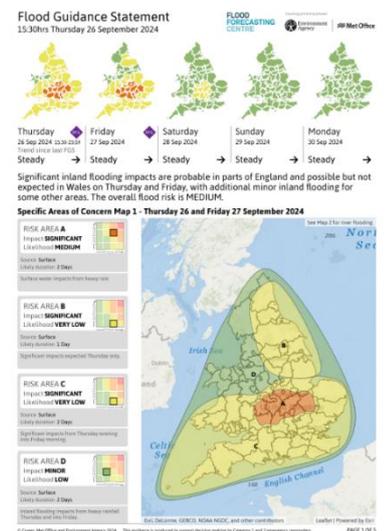
The FFC also provide the following to Wales

- Business Reporting – annual and quarterly reporting including FFC scorecard and monthly stats
- Post Event Reporting Summaries
- FFC User Group which includes Wales representatives
- Business Planning including finance and Shared Service Schedule co-ordination
- Strategic Delivery Plan
- Whole Centre Planning framework
- Improvements programme

These services are underpinned by the EA-Met Office Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

Improvement, Training and Engagement Work

- Between May and September 2024, the FFC ran a trial Rapid Flood Guidance service with the aim of providing short notice flooding updates to the responder community in England and Wales
- Early results from the trial are incredibly positive. Further research will inform future of the service for 2025 and beyond
- The RFG trial is part of the Surface Water Flood Forecasting Improvement Project, a 3-year SR21 funded initiative, completing in March 2025
- Outside of flood incidents the team support seasonal readiness campaigns, wider training and flood exercises, visits to the FFC and Open Days
- As part of our mission to continually evolve our services, we are undertaking a project to make more use of our forecasts in the digital world, opening up services and offering more value (the Digital FGS project).



Standing and Impact

- The FFC is regarded as a world-leading in its field of expertise sharing learning and experiences worldwide
- The FFC has helped transform flooding response from reactive to proactive benefiting at-risk communities
- Recent research (2024) reported almost 85% of FFC service users were satisfied with the services they had received from the FFC over the previous two years
- Infrastructure providers (e.g. Utilities companies and National Highways) use our flood forecasts to deploy their own mitigation measures, increasing resilience of their networks
- This balance of operational and improvement work brings proven benefits in service provision, customer satisfaction, staff retention and development