

Temporary Sandbag Protocol

1) Participants

This temporary protocol is between:

Rivers Agency
Roads Service
Northern Ireland Water

and:

Belfast City Council
Other Councils may be added as consulted and agreed

2) Purpose of protocol

This protocol can be enacted in the event of an imminent threat of flooding to property in the areas of those Councils that are signatories to this protocol. This is not a binding contract but a gesture of good will that support will be provided if this is both required and available at the time of the incident.

3) Responsibilities of Rivers Agency

- To hold the normal stocks of sandbags which they deem necessary for the protection of locations/infrastructure which falls under their respective statutory responsibility
- To hold a limited additional stock of around 1500 sandbags for civil contingencies that can be made available to Councils during an Emergency.
- To provide to councils in advance of any flooding emergency an additional stock of sandbags for civil contingencies for councils to store and manage distribution of to the public.
- Alert the required Council(s) if assistance is required
- Ensure access for Council(s) vehicles/staff to their depots/supplies as requested
- Provide details of locations where they have received requests to provide sandbags and wish the Council(s) to assist with provision
- Assist the Council(s) to respond to requests for sandbags where resources permit.

3A) Responsibilities of Roads Service

- Roads Service has agreed general policy that where possible, a "Mutual Aid Protocol" for the supply and deployment of sandbags should be agreed with each local Council. It is the intention that this protocol could be enacted in the event of an imminent threat of flooding or following warning of a severe weather event. This is not a binding contract but a gesture of good will that support will be provided if this is both required and available at the time of the incident.

3B) Responsibilities of Northern Ireland Water

- To hold the normal stocks of sandbags which they deem necessary for the protection of locations/infrastructure which falls under their respective statutory responsibility

Temporary Sandbag Protocol

- To provide to councils an additional stock of sandbags for civil contingencies for councils to store and manage distribution of to the public where their property is deemed to be in imminent danger of flooding
- Alert the required Council(s) if assistance is required
- N.B. NI Water will deliver sand bags therefore access is not required. Provide details of locations where they have received requests to provide sandbags and where they wish the Council(s) to deal with provision of same
- Provide details of locations where they have received requests to provide sandbags and wish the Council(s) to assist with provision
- Assist the Council(s) to respond to requests for sandbags, **where practicable**, provided such assistance is compatible with their statutory duties and obligations under the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006

4) Assistance that may be provided by the Council(s)

If required the above Council(s) may act where resources are available in support of Rivers Agency, Roads Service and Northern Ireland Water. This support could include:

- Deployment of vehicles and manpower to collect sandbags from Rivers Agency/Roads Service/Northern Ireland Water depots, suppliers or containers
- Delivering sandbags to the public as directed by Rivers Agency/Roads Service/Northern Ireland Water
- Delivering sandbags to agreed community collection points where already set up or determined by the relevant agency
- Deployment of sandbags to members of the public who are assessed to require additional support
- Using provided sandbag resources to respond to requests received by the Council for the delivery of sandbags regardless of the type of flooding.
- Councils may agree to hold a stockpile of sandbags and can deliver/deploy these as required.

5) Enactment/alert arrangements

- Activation of this protocol is by Roads Service, NI Water or Rivers Agency
- If assistance is likely to be required as much notice as possible should be given to the Council(s)
- Contact details for each of the organisations included in this protocol are available in the Belfast Resilience and LGEMG Council Groups Emergency Contacts Directories

6) Replenishment of Sandbag Stocks

The relevant agency will replenish Council stocks after a flooding event or when Council stocks have depleted due to the servicing of sandbag requests prior to flooding events.

7) Review/formalisation of protocol

This protocol is a temporary provision which has been put in place following the flooding in June 2012. The protocol will eventually give way to a formal MoU developed through the Local Government Emergency Management Group (LGEMG).

Temporary Sandbag Protocol

Appendix 1 – Locations for Sandbags Storage/Collection

Belfast City Council

- Ormeau Park
- Musgrave Park
- Dixon Park Playing Fields (Rivers Agency Container)
- Residential Areas at Knock River (Rivers Agency Bunkers):
 - Orangefield Park
 - Sandhill Green
 - Sandhill Parade
 - Clara Way
- Duncrue Waste Management Complex
- Avoniel Leisure Centre

River's Agency

- River's Agency Ravarnet House, Altona Rd. Lisburn

DRD Roads Service

- Depots as agreed locally with Roads Service Divisional Managers

NI Water

- NI Water will deliver to Councils on request. These arrangements should be made prior to a flooding event and sandbags stockpiled for use by Councils

Other Councils Sandbag Locations

- To be added as consulted and agreed