

Easy read summary

Flooding in communities



Flood resilience



A **flood** is when heavy rain makes water overflow onto land that is normally dry.

The Scottish Government and councils want people and communities to be more **resilient** to flooding.



This means they are:

- better protected from flooding
- better prepared for flooding.



This means they will recover more quickly if flooding happens.



Flooding is getting worse because we are getting more rain.

Flooding is going to happen more often.



Flooding can affect people and land very badly by:

- putting lives at risk
- damaging homes, other buildings and land
- people having to leave their homes because of the damage
- affecting physical and mental health
- costing a lot of money to repair damage
- making it more difficult to get:
 - a **mortgage** – a loan from a bank or building society to buy a property
 - **insurance** – a way to protect against the cost of repairing or replacing something if it is damaged or lost.





People who have less money are likely to:

- find it harder to protect themselves from flooding
- find it more difficult to recover after a flood has happened.



The Scottish Government, councils and public services need to think about all of this when making decisions about:

- how money is spent
- what support is given.



The Scottish Government has a national plan called a **strategy** about how communities can be better protected from flooding and better prepared for it.

We are worried that:



- there is no clear information about who will do the work and when it will be done by



- there is not enough detail on how the strategy will deal with the challenges affecting communities.

Some important things need to happen to make the strategy better:



- the Scottish Government being clear about how much money is available for **flood schemes** – projects that help stop floods from happening



- being clearer about:
 - how the government, councils and others will work with communities to help them be better prepared
 - when things need to be done by





- making sure everyone works together:

- to deal with what makes flooding worse



- to spend money in a way that makes the most difference



- to do things that can make there be less flooding, like planting trees near rivers



- making sure there are enough people with the right skills and experience in councils so they can deal with flooding.