

05 May 2023

Dear

ATISN 17369 -Tsunami preparedness

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 4th April 2023. You asked: what plans are in place to deal with a tsunami on the Welsh coast; what mechanisms are in place to detect a tsunami; what advice is in place to councils on averting risks to infrastructure and lives against a possible tsunami and what mechanisms are in place to warn the public of a tsunami?

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I am providing the following information that is held by the Welsh Government.

The Wales Flood Response Framework was updated December 2016 in response to a recommendation from Exercise Megacyma. Exercise Megacyma was run in March 2015 to test our strategic response to a widespread coastal flooding incident along the South Wales coast.

The Wales Flood Response Framework provides an overview of the plans and procedures in place for preparing for, and responding to, flood events. It was developed in partnership with Emergency responders. It provides responders with the information, guidance and key policies in a single strand of planning for flooding emergencies, thus providing a resource for all tiers of government, responders and other key external partners. It also sets out the communication processes during a flood event and highlights the importance of reporting incidents of flooded properties to Welsh Government by responders.

<https://gov.wales/flood-response-framework>

The response to all flooding incidents is handled by responders at the local level. This could range from minor impacts affecting a few houses to major emergencies affecting hundreds of properties where a full multi agency response would be coordinated by Local Resilience Forum organisations through a Strategic Coordination Group.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires responding organisations to maintain plans for preventing emergencies; reducing, controlling or mitigating the effects of emergencies; and taking other action in the event of emergencies. Effective and well-rehearsed emergency plans at organisational and multi-agency levels help enable a consistent and coherent response to flooding incidents. Local Authorities

have local arrangements in place for responding to small scale and local flood events and are generally the lead responders in relation to local events.

All Category 1 and 2 responders (defined in annex 2 of the Wales flood response framework) have their own plans in place to respond to flood events. The first indication of a potential incident will usually be via the Flood Forecasting Centre through the issuing of Flood Guidance Statements which provides an assessment of flood risk at a county level for all sources of flooding, for up to 5 days ahead. The three day Flood Guidance Statement is available to the public through the National Resources Wales (NRW) website ([Natural Resources Wales / Check flood warnings](#)) and prior to any potential flood event the public can receive flood alerts and warnings from National Resources Wales through Floodline Warnings Direct which, once registered, will send a message via phone, email, fax text or through the National Resources Wales mobile app.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely