



Mr Alan Lovell  
Chair, Environment Agency  
National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY  
(Sent by email)

Phone: 01772 536260  
Email: [angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk)

Our ref: AR/AJH  
Date: 28 May 2024

Dear Mr Lovell,

**Meeting of the Full Council - 23 May 2024**

I am writing as Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council to inform you that the county council, at a meeting on 23 May 2024, approved a resolution regarding the Environment Agency's current approach to funding flood defence.

In particular, Full Council asked that I write to you and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency about the devastating impact of flooding in small communities and rural areas, the role that can be played by community-based Flood Action Groups and to express our disappointment at the Environment Agency's decision to pause the Padiham flood defence scheme.

Please find enclosed a copy of the council's resolution in full, for your reference.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Angie Ridgwell", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Angie Ridgwell  
Chief Executive

Encs.



**Notice of Motion approved by Lancashire County Council on 23 May 2024:****Flood Defence Funding:**

This council believes that the Environment Agency's current approach to funding flood defence does not take into sufficient account the devastating impact of flooding in small communities and rural areas, and unfairly favours large schemes over smaller schemes that could be delivered for much less money and still save lives, property and livelihoods.

This council also believes that community-based Flood Action Groups understand their own areas and are an important source of knowledge and ideas for small local projects that could be delivered efficiently and effectively.

When it comes to the appraisal, design and cost-benefit analysis of flood defence schemes, a quicker turn-around on smaller improvement projects is required. This will ensure that vital schemes are delivered ensuring residents who are at risk of large-scale flooding events and who have experienced many near misses, are protected.

Therefore, this council resolves that the Chief Executive writes to the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Environment Agency asking them to:

- Commit to improving the funding arrangements to support the delivery of schemes for smaller communities and rural areas in Lancashire.
- Set out their approach to ensuring effective, regular communication and engagement with communities and community Flood Action Groups in developing and delivering these schemes.
- Work with Lancashire County Council to help protect our residents in all our communities from the catastrophic effects of flooding.
- Acknowledge the county council's disappointment at the Environment Agency's pause of the Padiham flood defence scheme and urge the Environment Agency to deliver the scheme as soon as possible.



Mr Philip Duffy  
Chief Executive, Environment Agency  
National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY  
(Sent by email)

Phone: 01772 536260  
Email: [angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk)

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Angie Ridgwell  
Chief Executive

Encs.

Appendix 'A'	Copy correspondence between the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council and the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Environment Agency
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creating a better place  
for people and wildlife



Angie Ridgwell  
Lancashire County Council

**Our Ref:** CE22463RidgwellSR  
**Your Ref:** AR/AJH  
**Date:** 5 June 2024

By email to  
[angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:angie.ridgwell@lancashire.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Ridgwell,

#### **Funding for flood defences**

Thank you for your letters of 28 May 2024 to Philip Duffy, CEO, and Alan Lovell, Chair, of the Environment Agency. Alan and Philip have read your letters and asked me to respond on their behalf. They will also see a copy of this reply.

I acknowledge the concern of the county council in relation to the funding of flood defence schemes and the effects of flooding in small communities and rural areas.

The Environment Agency receives its funding for Flood and Coastal Risk Management Schemes from government. The amount of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) available for a particular scheme is based on a formula which takes into consideration numerous factors, including the number of households protected, property value and estimated preventative impacts.

In May 2011, under a new system named the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership Funding, government pay the full cost of a scheme if it has high benefits. For schemes, such as Padiham with lower benefits, the Government pay a share of costs, while the remainder must be found through other sources.

I do acknowledge the county council's disappointment in relation to the Padiham flood scheme. Our Lancashire project team is still working on a full financial appraisal and considering all available options. We envisage that we will be able to provide the Council with an update on how we intend to move forward in September 2024. The Council could consider financial support to the scheme to help it progress.

The local Flood Action Groups (FLAGs) do play an important role in the community and can be a great source of local knowledge. Nationally, we closely work with numerous community groups utilising local expertise, to build resilience and deliver measures to prevent flooding.

**Chief Executive's Office, Environment Agency**  
Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF  
[Chief.Executive@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Chief.Executive@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
<http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency>

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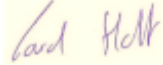


Appendix 'A'

Copy correspondence between the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council and the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Environment Agency

We are committed to effective engagement with stakeholders to deliver defences to protect communities and our local teams work closely with Lancashire County Council's Flood Risk Teams. We are always open to opportunities to strengthen our stakeholder engagement and if you would like to discuss this matter further, Fiona Duke, who is the Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for Lancashire will be happy to assist. You can contact Fiona Duke on [fiona.duke@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.duke@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Carol Holt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

**Carol Holt**  
**Area Director Cumbria and Lancashire**