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for Environment
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Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
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Mr Jason Gooding
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FILE	
Our ref: PO2018/04735/MH	
10 APR 2018	
PASSED TO	
ANSWERED	

12 April 2018

Dear Mr Gooding

Thank you for your letter of 20 February to the Secretary of State about flood resilience grants. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and apologise for the delay in doing so.

I recognise the impact the 2015/16 flooding incidents had on householders and businesses in Carlisle was severe. My visit in December last year revealed how the city was recovering and I also valued the opportunity to hear at first hand, experiences of the flood and the recovery process from those directly affected.

Thank you for your suggestions regarding a national scheme to help people make properties more flood resilient. Risk management authorities can already submit applications for local schemes using property flood resilience measures for funding on a partnership basis through Grant in Aid. A new Environment Agency framework contract will be in place from July, to make it easier for management authorities to procure property flood resilience products and services. With regard to extending any future emergency recovery scheme to tenants in management company owned blocks, the grant is to assist with cost of repairs for those who have legal responsibility for buildings. Situations where the freeholder has arrangements in place that pass this responsibility to others on a long-term basis, can be considered case-by-case.

Exceptionally, following severe incidents, the Government will make special payments for property flood resilience measures available to homes and businesses, as a part of a wider recovery package. The scheme launched after the 2015 floods has seen a take-up rate in Cumbria of around 70%. I was delighted to read that you led a workshop with other authorities to help my officials review that scheme. I understand work will start that later this year on raising the level of defences and improving third party structures that impede flows.

I launched a business led Property Flood Resilience Action Plan in 2016 which sets out a vision for business and Government to enable and encourage the use of property flood resilience measures by the public over the next 5 years. The plan has had a number of outputs in its first year including a new public advice website at: <http://www.floodguidance.co.uk/> and the Cumbria Resilient Showcase project which has adapted the Botcherby Community Centre in Carlisle.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP





Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Jason Gooding

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Your ref:

Our ref:

20 February 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

RE: Flood Resilience Grants /Carlisle

At Carlisle City Council's meeting of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel, the Chair Cllr Jessica Riddle, requested that I write to you regarding flood resilience grants.

As you will be aware the City of Carlisle was badly affected by flooding in 2015. Following the floods, the Government offered grants for flood resilience measures. These grants have been taken up by 1161 householders in Carlisle.

The Environment Agency have recently reviewed the flood zones and the Council's Scrutiny Committee requests that the Secretary of State considers making flood resilience grants available as a matter of course to all households in these areas.

The Committee requests that the Secretary of State would also consider extending the scheme to tenants in flats with management companies enabling the tenants to work together to submit a community application. The Committee feels that grants such as these are very welcome, but their value is greater as a pro-active measure rather than reactive.

Yours sincerely

J Gooding

Town Clerk and Chief Executive