



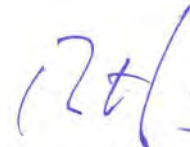
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 July 2014

The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
From the Secretary of State



Following our meeting in March I am pleased to confirm that my Department has reached agreement with the UK Statistics Authority on the publication of Flood Defence expenditure figures. This follows discussions held by my Head of Profession for statistics and finance colleagues with the UK Statistics Authority's Head of Assessment.

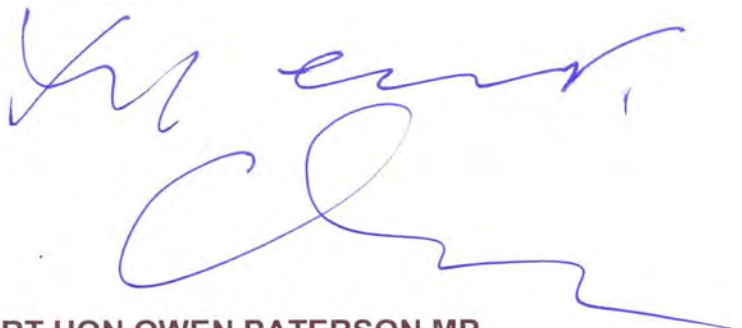
The accuracy of our figures is assured through our strict financial and audit processes, in compliance with financial, ministerial and civil service codes of practice. Our discussions with the UK Statistics Authority will help us to present these figures in a clear manner for the end user.

Given the complexity of the figures, we have agreed with the UK Statistics Authority to develop the Department's existing publication on Defra Funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management ([Defra Funding for FCERM in England](#)) into a fuller document. This will include a full explanation of the figures and context for a wide range of users. We are happy for this document to become an official statistic, subject to the Standards in the Code of Practice, given that the practices of the code are in line with those which we already employ. We will be consulting with the Authority and the Government Statistical Service's Good Practice Team to facilitate this.

I am grateful for your interest in these important figures and the suggestion from Sir Andrew Dilnot.



I trust that you find this information helpful.



THE RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP

