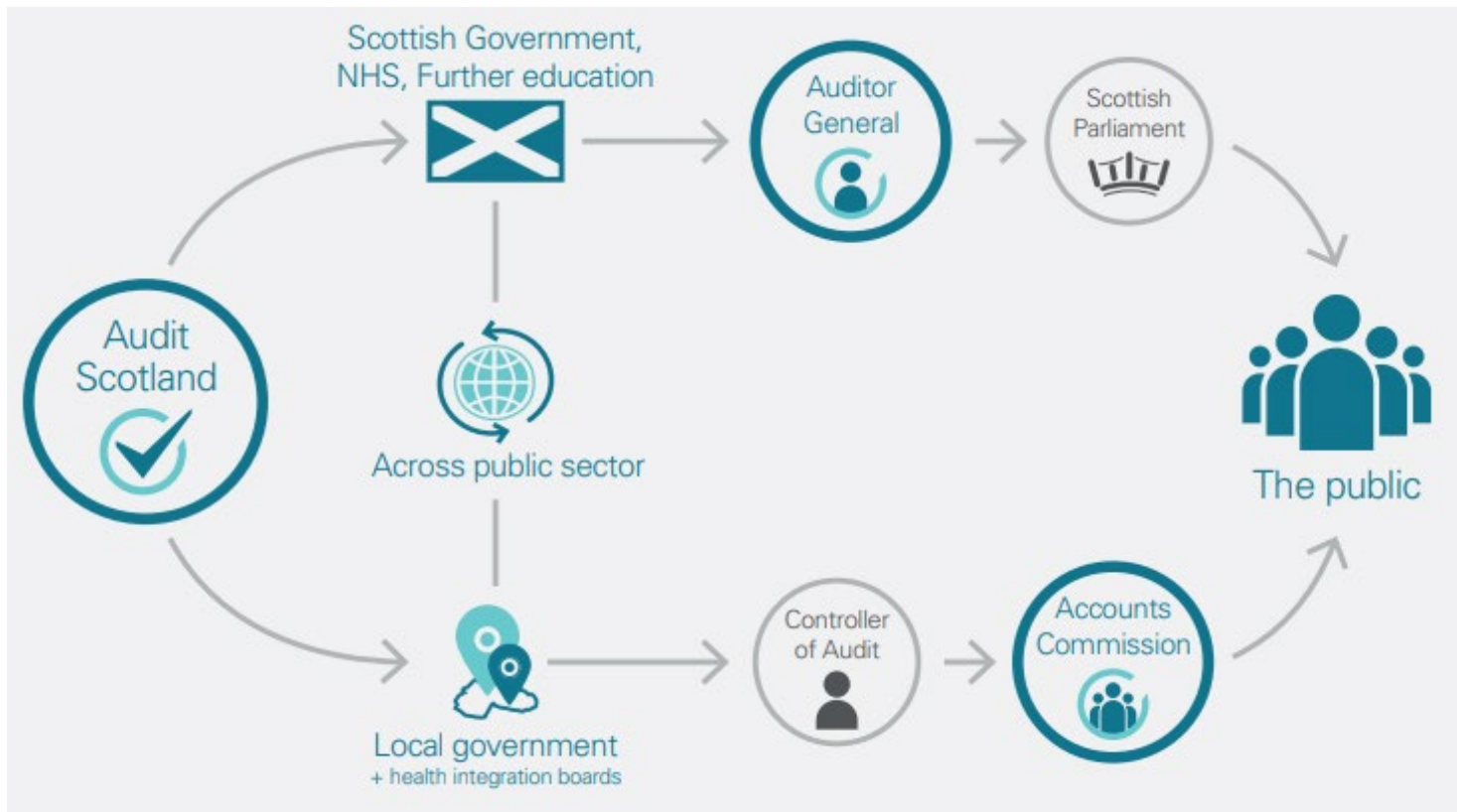


Performance audit on flooding in communities

Rebecca Seidel, Senior Manager



Who we are





Annual audits

- 125 local government
- 85 central government
- 23 National Health Service
- 20 further education



Performance audits

- National performance audit reports
- Overview reports (NHS and local government)



Best Value Assurance

- Report on individual local authorities once every 5 years
- Annual thematic report

Aim of the audit

To examine how well the Scottish Government, councils, central government bodies and their partners **are working together** and with local communities to address flooding in communities.

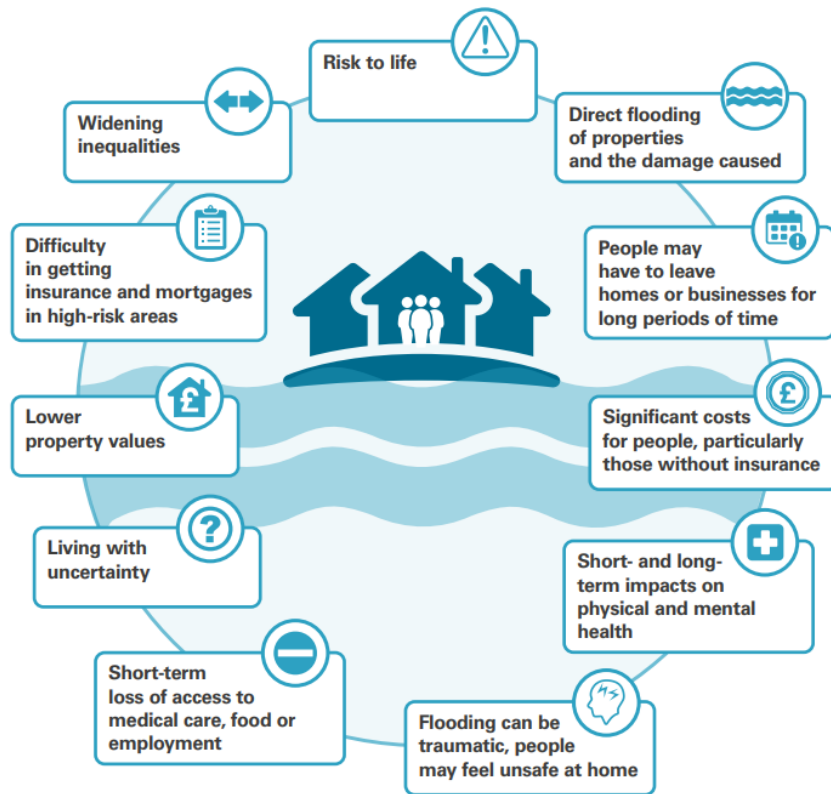
- What is the **impact** of flooding on communities and what **strategies and plans** are in place for building flood resilience in communities?
- How well are public bodies **collaborating with each other and with communities** to avoid flooding and to support communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding events?
- Looking ahead, how well placed and resourced are public bodies to work together and with communities to **achieve long-term ambitions** to build flood resilience in communities?

Methodology: interviews, document review, data analysis, site visits



Impact of flooding on communities

Highest risk from climate change in Scotland is **increased incidents of flooding** and its impact on communities.



Flood Risk Management (2009-2024)



Flood Resilience (2025-2045)

- **Assess** – where is flood risk?
- **Prioritise areas for action**
 - Likelihood of flooding
 - Level of expected damage
- **Reduce risk** – flood protection, including building flood defences



Assess – where is flood risk?



Avoid – prevent where possible



Prepare – forecasting, adapting, flood protection



Respond – warning system, emergency response



Recover – after flooding

There are multiple barriers to effective collaboration.

- Good examples of public bodies working well together

BUT

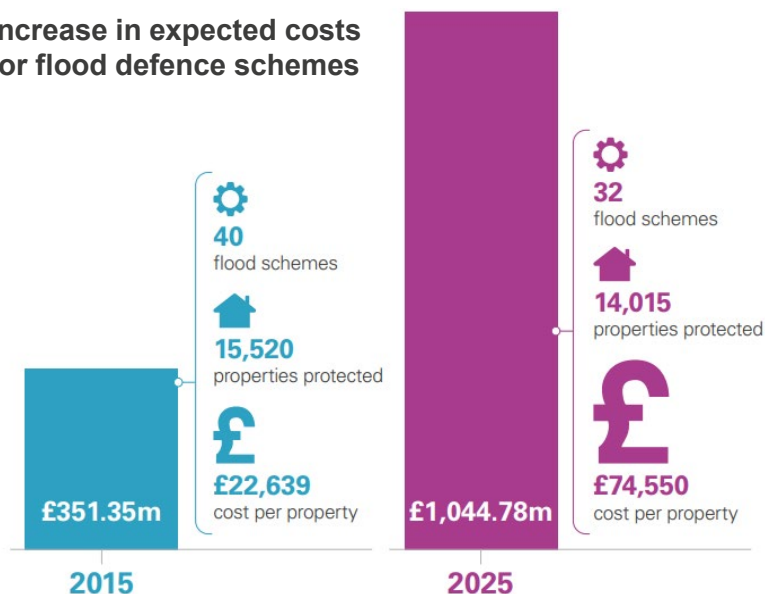
- Unclear roles and responsibilities
- Gaps in data and information
- Reduced capacity and skills gaps
- Lack of joined-up action (land use and natural flood management)

Community engagement is complex and challenging, but essential.

- More needs to be done to support communities to prepare for flooding
- Good examples of community engagement show importance of:
 - ✓ **Building relationships** with communities over time
 - ✓ **Joint working** and delivering services in partnership
 - ✓ **Empowering communities** with the right information, support and an equal voice

The funding mechanism for flood defence schemes is not fit for purpose.

Increase in expected costs
for flood defence schemes



Source: Scottish Government

- Significant increases in costs
- Projects taking longer than expected
- Overall value for money has decreased
- Future funding is highly uncertain
- Funding model needs to demonstrate:
 - ✓ Transparency
 - ✓ Accountability
 - ✓ Risk management
 - ✓ Monitoring of progress

There is a high risk that the action needed will not happen at the scale and speed required.

- Scottish Government's National Flood Resilience Strategy provides clear long-term vision
- BUT it lacks key elements needed for effective delivery:



Targets and indicators



Specific actions



Timescales for implementation



Roles and responsibilities



Governance and accountability structures



Resources

Scottish Government, local government and partners should work together to:

- Clarify roles and fill gaps in responsibilities
- Fill gaps in information and data
- Review flooding services across departments to ensure coordinated approach
- Improve community engagement
- Clarify future funding arrangements for flood defence schemes
- Publish implementation plan for National Flood Resilience Strategy