



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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Reference EIR-1802

Date 25 March 2025

## FLOOD MANAGEMENT COSTS

Thank you for your email on 27 February 2025 asking for information concerning the cost of flood management. You asked the following questions:

1. How much was spent on maintaining flood management each year from 2021-2024, and did these costs exceed yearly projections?
2. In these years, what are the top 4 flood defences that cost the most to maintain?
3. What aspect of flood defence maintenance has accrued the most costs in 2023 and 2024?

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. We have checked our financial audit files to consider whether we hold any relevant information and can confirm that we do not hold information that relates to maintenance spend or falls within the scope of your questions. The supporting information that we reviewed to audit the financial statements of the Environment Agency, does not present maintenance spend separately.

The [Environment Agency Annual report and accounts for the financial year 2023 to 2024](#) does not supply specific data on maintenance spend either, but the published financial statements include analysis of expenditure by type (see note 5 on page 116) as well as year on year spend patterns on (pages 45-46). In addition to this, the commentary on maintenance (page 17) also provides expected level of spending on maintenance. Furthermore, you may wish to contact the Environment Agency to see if they can help you with the information you are seeking.

I hope this response is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request.

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely

**NAO FOI Team**