



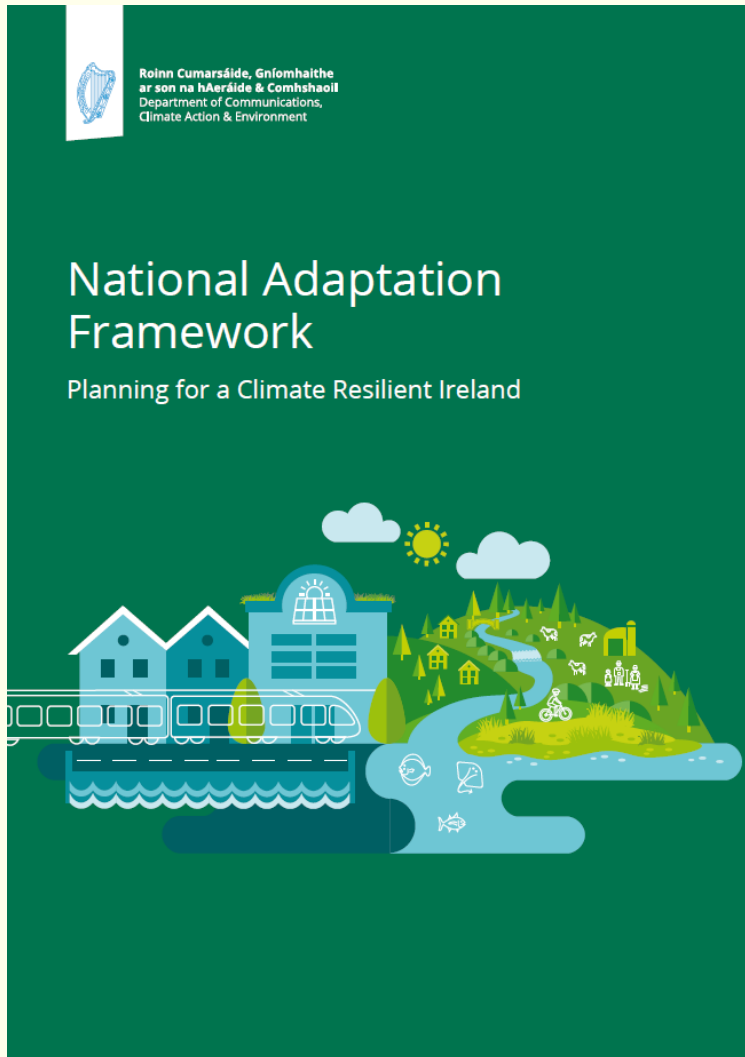
Oifig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste  
Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General

# Adapting flood risk management to climate change impacts

*Presented by: Manon Nouvian-Flynn, SAI Ireland*

# National Adaptation Framework (2018)

# Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015



*Number 46 of 2015*

## CLIMATE ACTION AND LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT ACT 2015

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#### Section

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6. Sectoral adaptation plan
7. Matters of which account is to be taken, and consultation, for the purposes of sections 5 and 6
8. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Council
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15. Duties of certain bodies
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# Sectoral adaptation planning under the National Adaptation Framework (2018)

Theme	Lead organisation	Sector
Natural and cultural capital	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<b>Seafood</b> <b>Agriculture</b> <b>Forestry</b>
	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<b>Biodiversity</b> <b>Built and archaeological heritage</b>
Critical infrastructure	Department of Transport	<b>Transport infrastructure</b>
	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	<b>Electricity and gas networks</b> <b>Communications networks</b>
Water resource and flood risk management	<b>Office of Public Works (OPW)</b>	<b>Flood risk management</b>
	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	<b>Water quality</b> <b>Water services infrastructure</b>
Public health	Department of Health	<b>Health</b>



# Audit objectives

## Compliance

*Consider the sectoral adaptation plan's compliance with relevant national guidelines and requirements.*

## Governance

*Review the governance structure in place in Ireland in the area of climate change adaptation, with a particular focus on the flood risk management sector.*

## Funding and expenditure

*Establish what funding was made available to support the implementation of the plan, and what expenditure had been incurred by end 2023.*

## Implementation progress

*Assess the progress made in implementing the plan since its approval by Government in October 2019.*





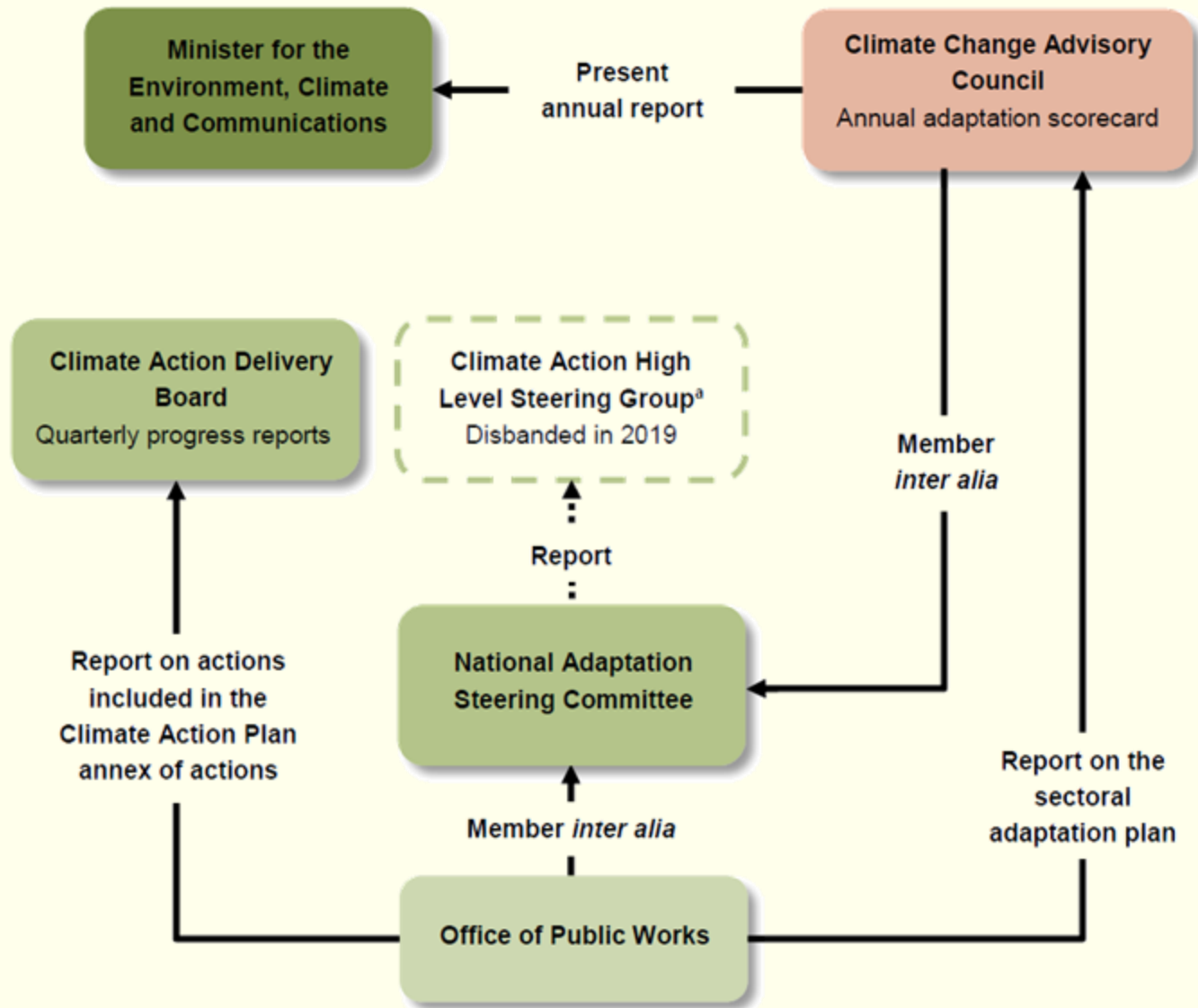
# Audit findings - Compliance

## Key statutory sectoral adaptation planning requirements under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015

Requirement	Compliance
Submit a sectoral adaptation plan for Government approval by 30 September 2019	✓
Consult with other ministers as specified by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications	✓
Consult with the Environmental Protection Agency	✓
Consult with the Climate Change Advisory Council	✓
Hold a public consultation on the draft sectoral adaptation plan	✓



# Audit findings - Governance





# Audit findings - Funding & expenditure

- No estimate of funding or staffing requirements.
  - No inclusion of specific allocation of funding towards climate change adaptation planning or measures in the budgetary process.
  - Difficulty tracking direct spending on adaptation measures.
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- Total direct expenditure on the plan reported by OPW of just under €167,000 to end 2023.
  - Limited transparency around the performance of climate change adaptation activity.



# Audit findings - Implementation progress

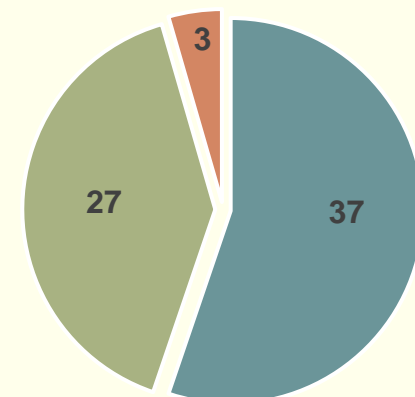
**15** organisations, responsible for the implementation of

**21** 'soft' adaptation actions, broken down into

**67** sub-actions.

**'Good'** progress rating given each year by the Climate  
Change Advisory Council between 2021 and 2024.

Sub-actions' progress  
status (March 2024)



- Complete
- In progress on schedule
- In progress behind schedule





# Audit findings - Implementation progress

- No set of national adaptation indicators developed for Ireland as at June 2024, and no definite indicators defined by OPW for the flood risk management sector.
  - Five *interim* indicators set out in the sectoral adaptation plan. As at end 2023
    - \* two indicators (flood mapping) showed full implementation
    - \* two indicators (flood relief schemes) reflected very little or no progress
    - \* no information available yet for the last indicator.
  - No measure of the sectoral adaptation plan's contribution to other climate-related goals (e.g. SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction).
- Three recommendations issued to improve the existing monitoring and evaluation system.



# Audit impact - Recommendations

**Recommendation 1** - The next iterations of the flood risk management sectoral adaptation plan should establish **formal reporting mechanisms** for the OPW to receive progress updates from external stakeholders responsible for individual adaptation actions on a regular basis e.g. quarterly.

**Recommendation 2** - A set of **process-based indicators should be developed** without delay to allow meaningful monitoring of progress on climate change adaptation and to ensure defined climate change adaptation actions are being implemented.

**Recommendation 3** - The next iterations of the flood risk management sectoral adaptation plan should include consideration of how the plan might contribute to the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The OPW should also consider including **indicators relating to disaster risk reduction and resilience** in the plan.

Link to published report: [audit.gov.ie](https://audit.gov.ie)

Adapting flood risk management to climate change impacts, chapter 4, *Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2023*



# Thank you



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