

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 September 2021
Subject:	Investigations Undertaken under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Summary:

This is a standing item to inform the Committee of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County.

Actions Required:

Members of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the investigations undertaken in the County under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Members are asked to view the current list of completed and active flood investigations online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations> and inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Scrutiny Committee meeting.

1. Background

This is a standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County, which can be viewed online at – <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>. It will be noted that in some cases the investigation is marked as being completed, but there may be outstanding works arising from recommendations in the investigation report which have not yet been completed or programmed by the relevant Risk Management Authority.

The following briefing focuses on the number of flood investigations initiated from February 2021. At the time of writing a total of 21 flood investigations were started since February 2021 (Table 1), 9 in July alone. It is currently believed that 25 properties have been affected by flooding; however, it should be noted that this number may increase or decrease as the investigations progress (Figure 1).

Table 1 Number of Section 19 investigations commission from February 2021 to present with number of affected properties

Month	Number of investigations commissioned.	Number of properties affected.
February	7	7
March	1	1
April	0	0
May	3	4
June	0	0
July	9	12
August	1	1
Totals	21	25

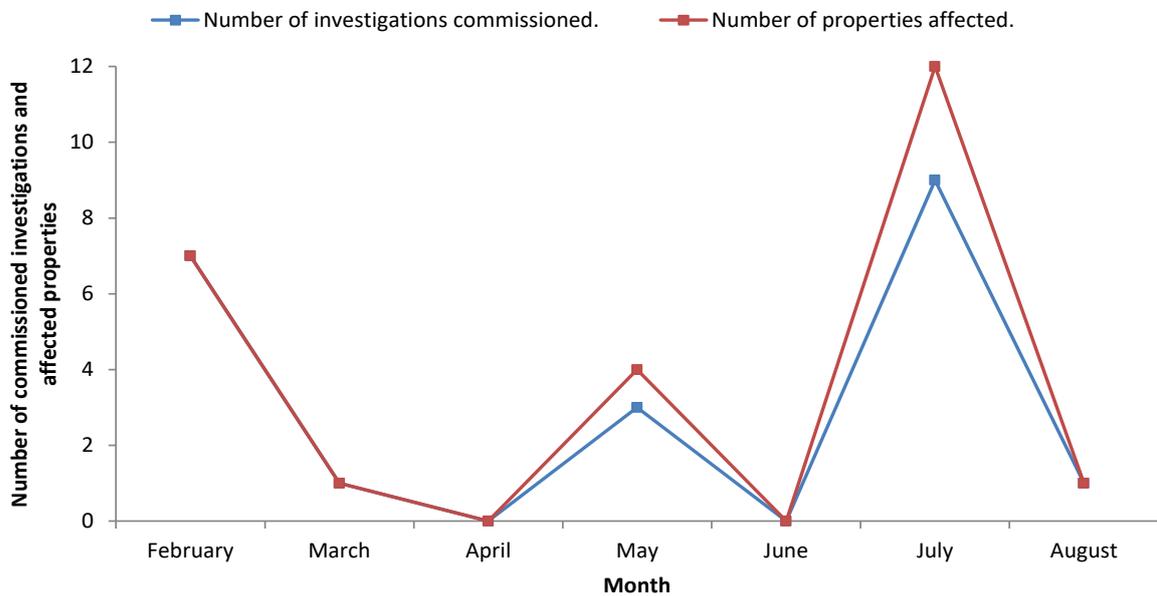


Figure 1 Number of Section 19 investigations commission from February 2021 to present with number of affected properties

Figure 2 below illustrates the total number of flood investigations initiated from 2012 to 2020. Although the total number of flood investigations initiated in 2021 is uncertain, based on current data it is evident that more investigations have already been commissioned than in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2018.

This has therefore, maintained the pressure on a finite resource, although steps have been taken to make the process more efficient by:

- Taking a proportionate approach to flood investigations where, for example, the source and cause is clearly understood. Where such a 'light touch' is considered to be appropriate, the Committee can be assured that the requirements of Section 19 are met in full as well as the additional output of recommendations being made for mitigating future flooding.
- The sourcing of additional resource.

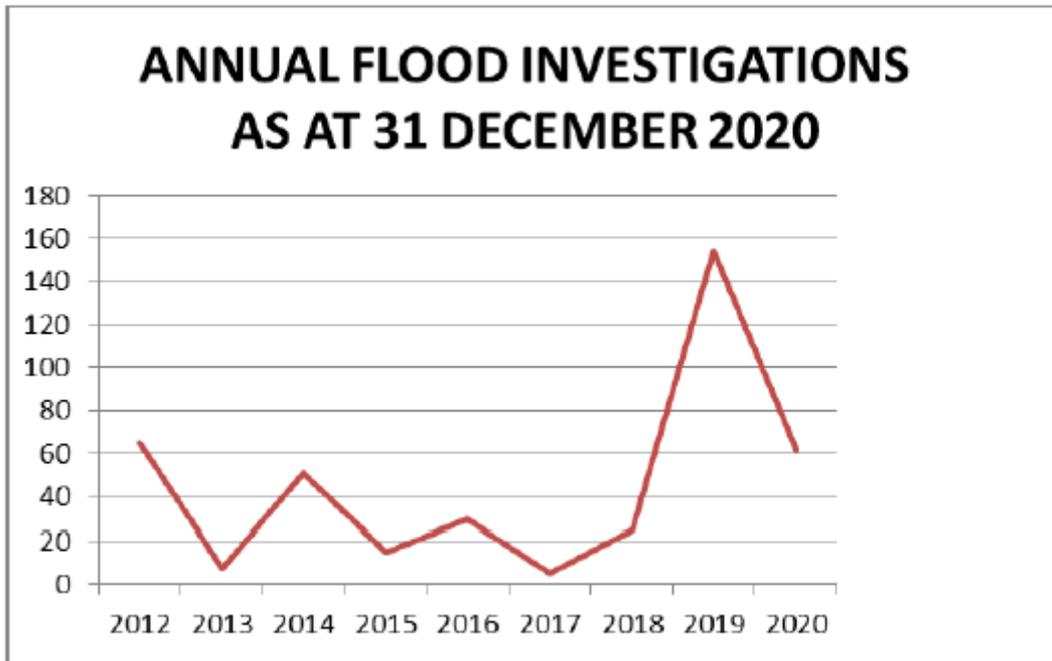


Figure 2 Annual Flood Investigations 2012 to 2020

It should be noted that while investigations are underway it is not possible to give an indication of the local factors at play in each flood event. Even when some localities have experienced repeated flooding in a short period of time, until the investigation is completed it is not always possible to say which individual properties were victim to such flooding or if there are common causes between these events.

2. Conclusion

So far 2021 has maintained the pressure on a finite resource. It is acknowledged that, because of the volume of flood investigations it has been necessary to carry out, final investigation reports are not being completed in as timely a manner as might normally be expected. The Committee's attention is drawn to the steps outlined above which have been taken to address this.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

NA

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Matthew Harrison, Senior Commissioning Officer - Flood Risk, who can be contacted on 07771 837565 or Matthew.Harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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