

[Press release: Flood wardens needed in Northumberland town](#)

Teams of volunteer Flood Wardens across the North East are playing a vital role in helping protect their communities.

The eyes and ears on the ground, they act as a link between the Environment Agency and communities at risk – getting vital information out to local residents.

And now the Environment Agency is calling on people to play their part in Ponteland.

At the River Pont in Ponteland there are 520 properties in the flood warning service area, with 69% of people signed up to receive free flood warnings.

And at the River Pont at Darras Hall, Kirkley Mill and Prestwick Carr there are 57 properties in the flood warning service area, with 33% of people signed up.

Flood Wardens play ‘vital role’

Colin Hall, who is the Environment Agency’s Flood Community Engagement Officer for Northumberland, is working with Ponteland Town Council. He said:

Being flooded is absolutely devastating and Flood Wardens play a vital role in supporting their community before, during and after a flood event.

It includes things such as checking water levels, reporting blockages in the river and monitoring weather forecasts to be a step ahead of a flood.

We also work with them to develop a Community Flood Plan, with key contacts and responsibilities to carry out in the event flooding takes place.

The local knowledge that wardens can provide on the ground is invaluable and helps communities be more flood resilient.

Raise awareness of flooding issues

Flood Wardens help ensure the Environment Agency’s flood warning messages reach the local community and are acted upon, and have a direct line through to the Environment Agency’s Area Incident Room in Newcastle.

Outside of a flood event, they can help raise awareness of flooding issues in the local community, encourage people to register to receive free flood

warnings and provide information to partners about vulnerable people or properties in the flood plain.

Anyone interested in becoming a Flood Warden or for help creating a Community Flood Plan contact Colin.Hall@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 020 7714 0547.

Residents can also sign up to receive flood warnings and find out what action they can take to protect themselves and their property by visiting the [Environment Agency website](#)

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Decision: Kevin, Ruth and Tom Lamacraft trading as KJ, RS, and TR Lamacraft: decision on licence application

The Environment Agency notifies the public of the decision made on certain applications for the abstraction or impoundment of water.

This decision statement explains:

- who has made the application
 - what decision has been made
 - how the decision has been made
-

Malawian delegation visit reinforces 'one planet' approach to environmental regulation

✘ 13 July 2018

The Malawian Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development visited SEPA's Edinburgh office on Friday 13 July to discuss how partnership working through the Hydro Nation can help tackle the 21st century challenges facing our environment.

- Malawian Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development met experts from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Edinburgh.
- Working in partnership on a global scale will help tackle 21st century environmental challenges facing our planet.
- Builds on commitment made between Republic of Malawi and Scotland to increase cooperation on environmental sustainability.

SEPA's environmental experts, led by Director Allan Reid, shared the agency's knowledge and vision for developing and encouraging sustainable solutions to environmental challenges with the Honourable Joseph Mathyola Nakari Mwanamvekha.

The visit follows the signing of the Global Goals Partnership Agreement by the President of the Republic of Malawi and Scotland's First Minister in April, on behalf of their Governments, committing both countries to realise the United Nations global development goals by increasing cooperation on a range of areas including on environmental sustainability. The 2018 Agreement updated the formal agreement between the two Governments for the Sustainable Development Goals era, replacing their original 2005 Cooperation Agreement.

To help create a prosperous Scotland that lives within the means of our one planet SEPA has transformed its approach to regulation for the 21st century.

As environmental challenges and climate change are not confined within international boundaries the agency is working with partners on a global scale to share its expertise and develop a one planet economy. This is at the core of SEPA's regulatory strategy, One Planet Prosperity. Only those businesses, societies and nations that have developed ways to manage their water, waste, materials and carbon-based energy consumption will thrive.

Terry A'Hearn, SEPA's Chief Executive, said:

It is a pleasure to welcome the Malawian Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to our Edinburgh office to share

our expertise on how we can tackle the 21st century challenges facing our planet together.

“Sustainability does not have borders and to solve today’s biggest environmental problems it is critical that all nations work together. The world requires increasingly sophisticated solutions to today’s complex environmental challenges, and Scotland is aiming to be a world leader in environmental protection on the global stage, establishing lasting relationships and sharing best practice with other nations.

“Like Scotland, SEPA is small enough to organise itself to deliver effectively, but large enough to have a real impact not just nationally, but globally too. We are transforming our approach to create a world-class environment protection agency fit for the challenges of tomorrow. By embracing opportunities to work with others with a global voice and reach we can help make our voice heard and our vision real.

“We look forward to working further with the Government of Malawi in partnership with the Scottish Government and the University of Strathclyde to help increase sustainability on a global scale.”

Professor Robert M Kalin, Professor of Environmental Engineering for Sustainability at the University of Strathclyde said:

The University of Strathclyde, through the Climate Justice Fund Water Futures Programme, aims to support the Government of Malawi to achieve clean water and sanitation for all people.

“We will continue to collaborate with our ‘Team Scotland’ partners SEPA and Scottish Water International, and our other partners in Scotland and Malawi, to implement work streams around water asset management, policy exchange, capacity building, and research and knowledge exchange.”

Ends

[Detailed guide: Apply to renew a water abstraction licence](#)

If you want to continue abstracting water after the date your licence expires you must apply to the Environment Agency to renew your licence.

You need to submit your application form and supporting information at least 3 months before your licence expires. As long as we've received your application, you can carry on abstracting water after the expiry date while we make our decision.

If we do not receive your application until after the expiry date we may:

- not be able to grant your licence on the same terms
- not be able to grant you a new licence
- have to advertise your licence – you will have to pay the cost of this

If you abstract without a valid licence you may be breaking the law. We may take legal action against you.

Apply to renew your licence with different terms

If you want to change any of the terms of your current licence you must submit an application for a new licence.

Complete the [application forms for a new licence](#).

Apply to renew your licence with exactly the same terms

Complete the form [Application for a new licence to replace a time-limited licence or condition](#).

How to complete your renewal form

You need to complete one form per licence. You must make sure all the following details are correct – the licence:

- holder's name
- holder's contact details
- number

You must demonstrate:

- how you use water efficiently, such as irrigating at night or checking your pipes for leaks
- your need to abstract the same quantities of water as your current licence and what you use the water for
- how you've worked out the amount you use

We will only process your renewal application if you provide all of this information.

How to submit your renewal form

When you submit your form you must also provide:

- £135 application fee
- a map showing the area of land you have a right of access to and the abstraction point, reach or area you take water from

You must show you're entitled to apply for a licence to abstract water from where you will abstract. You must either:

- occupy the land
- have a right of access to the land
- expect to have a right of access from when the licence will take effect

You must have this right for at least one year or for as long as the licence lasts. You may need to prove you have the right by providing a:

- deed
- lease or tenancy agreement

The renewal form must be signed by the correct person. The following types of licence holder need signatures from these people:

- individual – the individual
- a number of individuals – each individual
- limited liability partnership – a partner, company director or company secretary
- registered company – company director or company secretary
- public body (for example, a local authority or NHS trust) – a person authorised to sign documents on behalf of the organisation
- partnerships – one or more of the partners
- trust – all trustees, or the chairman, treasurer or secretary

What happens after you apply

The Environment Agency will consider the details in your form and grant you a licence as long as:

- there are no changes to the existing licence
- the details in the licence are correct
- you submitted the application fee and map

We will use your abstraction data returns information when we consider our decision.

Your abstraction must be environmentally sustainable. We need to make sure there's enough water available for everyone and the environment. If we think we may need to change your licence we'll contact you to discuss our proposals.

How to contact us

Ask for your local water resources permitting team.

General enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

Email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone

03708 506 506

Telephone from outside the UK (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm GMT)
+44 (0) 114 282 5312

Minicom (for the hard of hearing)

03702 422 549

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm