Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2017 Northern Ireland - Infrastructure

The UK CCRA 2017 identifies a number of areas where stronger action and further research are needed for Northern Ireland in the next five years.

Infrastructure provides vital services to the economy and wellbeing of communities in Northern Ireland. Infrastructure in Northern Ireland is exposed to a range of climate hazards. Impacts on some assets have the potential to cascade on to others as part of interdependent networks. Flooding poses the greatest long-term risk to infrastructure performance from climate change, but the growing risks from heat, water scarcity and slope instability caused by severe weather could be significant.

The Northern Ireland Evidence Report from the UK Committee on Climate Change breaks these risks down in greater detail:

Risk/Opportunity	Urgency Score
Risks of cascading failures from interdependent infrastructure networks	More action needed
Risks to infrastructure services from river, surface water and groundwater flooding	
Risks to sewer flooding due to heavy rainfall	
Risks to transport networks from slope and embankment failure	
Risks to infrastructure services from coastal flooding and erosion	Research priority
Risks to bridges and pipeline from high river flows and bank erosion	
Risks to energy, transport and digital infrastructure from high winds and lightning	

Next steps

See here for further information on the evidence report and here for the government response.

The evidence outlined above will be a basis for further evidence gathering for development of the second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme, to be published in 2019.

If you would like to discuss the findings of this report, please email stephenjones@climatenorthernireland.org.uk.