

Our Ref: OPW-MO-00745-2023

Your Ref: NOM 14-2023

Ms. Anne Maria Walsh  
Kilkenny County Council  
Corporate Services Department  
County Hall  
John Street  
Kilkenny R95 A39T

6th February 2024

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I refer to your correspondence to Minister of State, Patrick O'Donovan TD in relation to Flood Relief Schemes in Kilkenny.

Six projects were identified in County Kilkenny under the Flood Risk Management Plans announced in May 2018. Of those six, one major scheme is currently being delivered in County Kilkenny (at the Kilkenny-Carlow border): a scheme at Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch and a smaller scheme at Ballyhale is also being progressed.

Aside from these two schemes, there are four other schemes to be delivered in the next phase of scheme delivery for County Kilkenny: those at Inistioge, Thomastown, Freshford and Piltown.

While the prioritised approach to delivering schemes means that work is complete or underway to protect some 80% of all at risk properties, nationally, the flood relief projects for Inistioge, Thomastown, Freshford and Piltown. are not in the first phase of projects being progressed nationally. However the funding for these scheme is available.

On 2 May 2023, Mr. Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, announced that the OPW is piloting a new delivery model through four flood relief schemes in Donegal and Kilkenny. Specifically, the Pilot involves schemes for Freshford and Piltown in County Kilkenny.

The OPW, working closely with its Local Authority, at all times strives to expedite and progress capital flood relief works with the minimum delay within the resources, including the specialised engineering resources, available to it.

The OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme provides funding to Local Authorities to undertake minor flood mitigation or coastal protection works or studies to address localised flooding and coastal protection problems within their administrative areas. This scheme provides 90% funding to local authorities to manage localised flood risk. It is open to Kilkenny County Council to apply to the OPW for flood mitigation measures in Inistioge, Thomastown, Freshford and Piltown ahead of works to start the design of a major flood relief scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Garret Nolan

Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Patrick O'Donovan TD