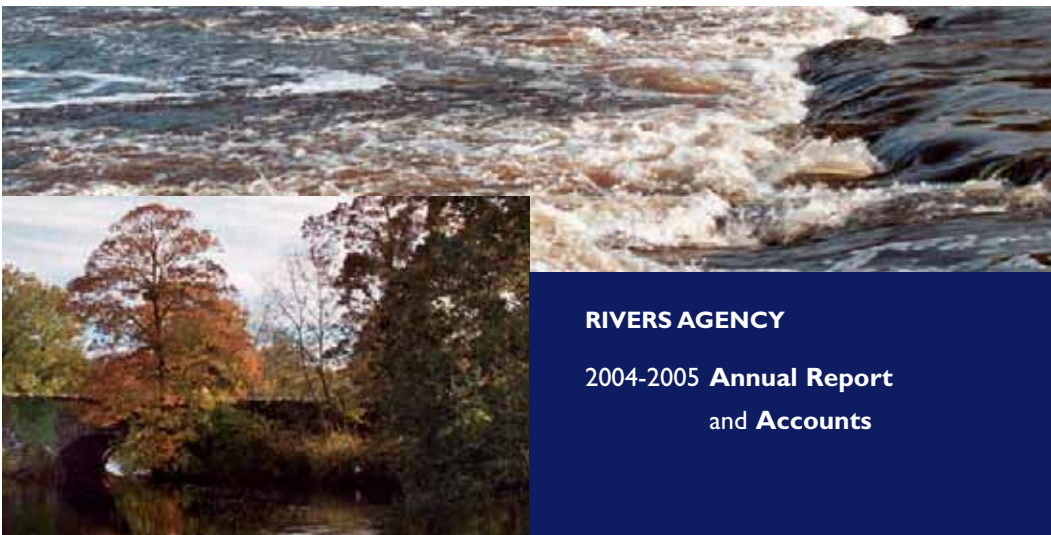


2004-2005
Annual Report
and Accounts

www.riversagencyni.gov.uk



An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture and
Rural Development
www.dardni.gov.uk



RIVERS AGENCY

**2004-2005 Annual Report
and Accounts**

**Rivers Agency
Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2005**

*Laid before the Houses of Parliament
by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
in accordance with Paragraph 12(2) and (4) of the Schedule to the
Northern Ireland Act 2000 and Paragraph 36 of the Schedule to
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14 July 2005

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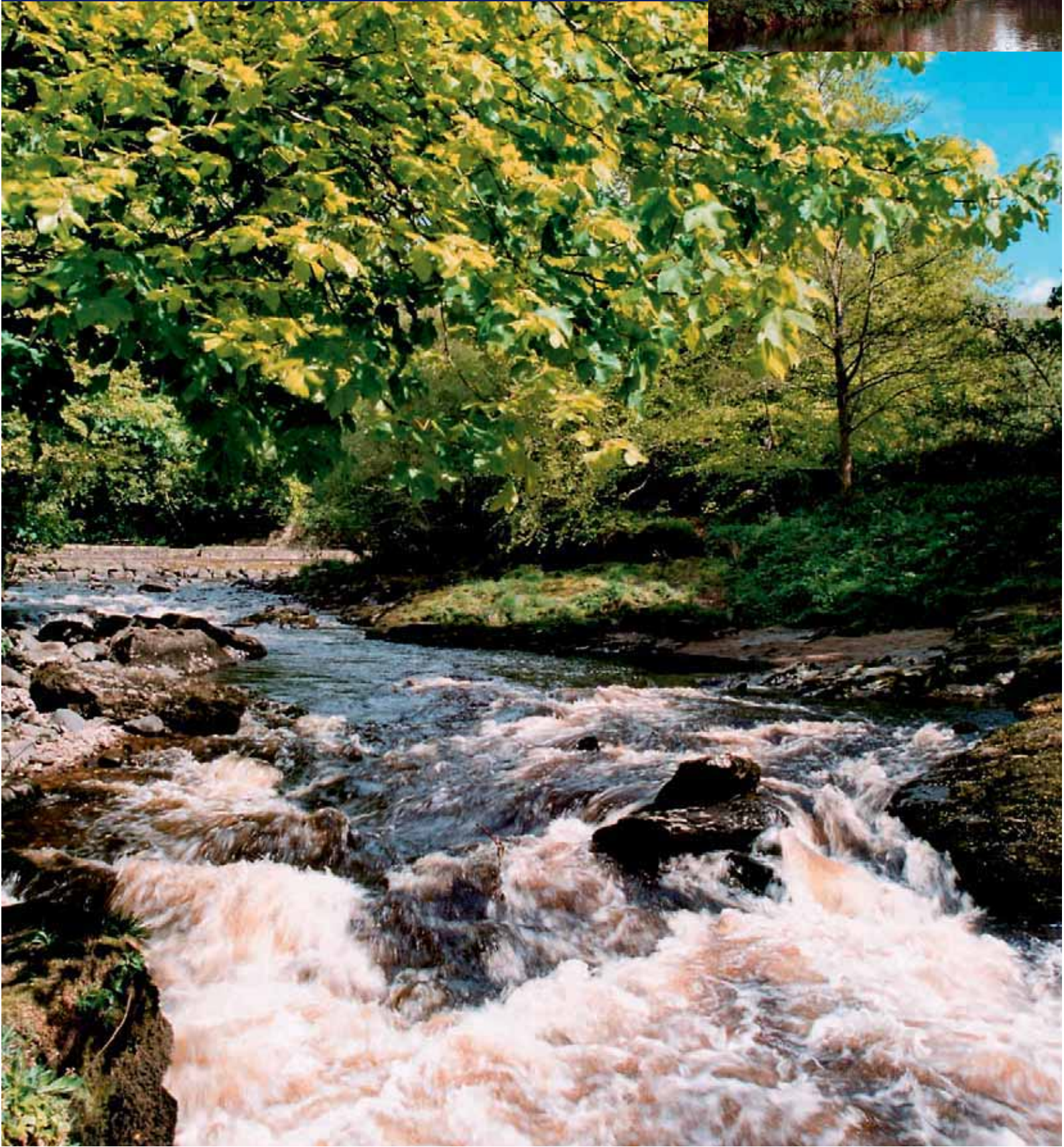
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Front cover:

Main picture - River Bush

Smaller picture - River Lagan at Drum Bridge





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Chief Executive's Foreword



I am pleased to present the Rivers Agency's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005.

The Annual Report covers the main areas of work addressed during the period and shows the progress achieved against the key targets set by the Minister. I am pleased to report that all of the key targets were achieved and that, in particular, a reduced risk of flooding was delivered in relation to a significant number of properties through construction/ refurbishment of urban flood defences and replacement/ refurbishment of our watercourse culvert assets.

Our commitment to continued improvement in dealing with flooding events is evidenced by the on-going work of the steering and liaison groups set up with our colleagues in Roads and Water Services. While there was a slight increase in the flooding events attributable to the arterial drainage network during the past year it is gratifying that the Agency met its emergency response commitments in respect of all incidents.

The Agency continues to liaise closely with Planning Service on drainage and flood protection aspects of Development Plans and individual planning applications. The volume of this work continues to increase and we have had to allocate additional resources to the task. This is deemed appropriate in terms of seeking to ensure that new developments do not suffer from flooding or result in increased flood risk elsewhere.



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Throughout the business year the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland has again made a valuable contribution through diligently discharging its statutory responsibility for overseeing our programme of publicly funded drainage and flood defence works. The range of interests represented on the Council have been well-served by the membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the staff of Rivers Agency for their commitment, efforts and support throughout the year in enabling the Agency to deliver the good outcomes that have been achieved. Senior management has a continued commitment to ensuring that staff are properly equipped to carry out their duties through training and development.

JOHN R HAGAN
Chief Executive



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AGENCY

INTRODUCTION

Our Business

The Rivers Agency is an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). It is the statutory drainage and flood defence authority for Northern Ireland.

The Organisation

The Agency is headed by a Chief Executive supported by a Senior Management Directorate who together make up the Agency Management Board. It is a multi-disciplinary organisation employing 442 skilled staff spanning Industrial, Administration, Lands & Professional and Technical disciplines.

Our Headquarters are located at Hydebank in Belfast and there are Regional Offices in Lisburn and Omagh with Area Offices in Coleraine and Craigavon, while an office in Riversdale services the Fermanagh Sub-area. Further details of our office locations and addresses are detailed in Appendix I.





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Management and Accountability

The Agency's relationship with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and its accountability to Ministers and the Northern Ireland Assembly, are set out in a Framework Document. The Chief Executive is responsible to the Minister for our operations and performance. The Minister determines the policy framework within which we operate, the level of resources made available each year, and the scope of our activities. The Minister also approves our Corporate and Business Plans, sets key performance targets and monitors our performance.

A senior official within the DARD core advises the Minister on strategic issues relating to the Agency and its business performance.

The Agency Management Board consists of the Chief Executive and three functional Directors whose responsibilities are set out in Appendix 2.

Aims

The Agency aims to improve social conditions and to support economic development in Northern Ireland through:

- Reducing risk to life and damage to property from flooding from rivers and the sea and
- Preserving the productive potential of agricultural land.

Objectives

In support of these aims the Agency's objectives are to:

Operational Objectives

- Identify flooding risks and execute works to minimise such risks
- Maintain a network of free flowing watercourses to provide adequate outlet for land drainage
- Administer advisory and enforcement procedures to protect the drainage function of all watercourses
- Regulate and control the water levels of Lough Neagh and Lough Erne within specified limits so far as climatic conditions permit

- Execute all work programmes in an environmentally sympathetic manner and conserve and enhance the environs of watercourses wherever possible.

Customer Service Objectives

- Pursue continuous improvement in the delivery of services having regard to the effective use of available resources and the Government's fairness and equality policies
- Secure an improvement in the quality of services available to the public in line with the principles of the Agency's Charter Standard Statement.

Finance and Administration Objectives

- Secure ongoing value for money and improved efficiency in the management of the Agency
- Enhance business processes.

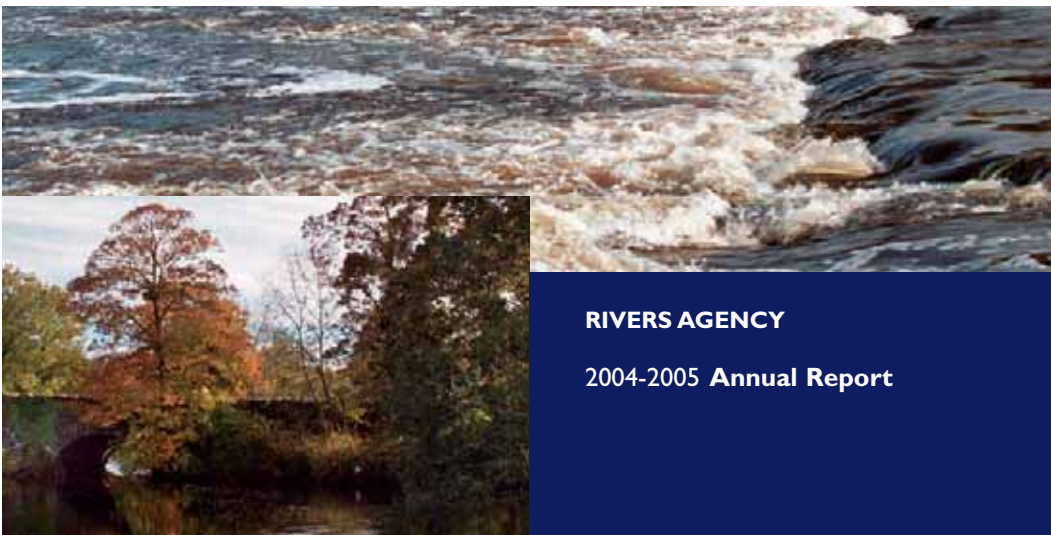


AGENCY PERFORMANCE IN 2004/05

The Agency was successful in meeting the six Key Targets set by the Minister for the 2004/05 business year. A summary of the outturn achieved against the targets set is given at Table 1.

Table 1 Outturn Against Key Targets

Target	Outturn
<i>Output</i>	
To construct or refurbish 612 metres of urban flood defences.	Achieved
To accommodate increased storm run-off from 91 hectares of development land.	Achieved
To replace/refurbish 653 km of dangerous culverts.	Achieved
To complete identified maintenance works on 1,235 of the 1,585 designated open watercourses included in the Notice of Annual Maintenance as part of a 6-year scheduled maintenance programme.	Achieved
<i>Quality Of Customer Service</i>	
To issue substantive replies to 80% of written enquiries within 15 working days of receipt.	Achieved
To respond to 98% of Schedule 6 applications within 3 months.	Achieved



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DEVELOPMENTS IN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD DEFENCE

Major Schemes

A major part of the work of the Rivers Agency is to design and construct new flood and sea defences where flooding risks have been identified and to undertake drainage infrastructure works required to facilitate development. The main schemes progressed during the period of this report were as follows:

Ballyskeagh, River Lagan

Work started on site in November 2004 and is expected to be complete by June 2005. The scheme was undertaken to provide flood protection to two industrial properties and one domestic property within the grounds of the Lambeg Mill site. The scheme involves the construction of a 350m sheet pile wall along the edge of the river with a further 200m of a sheet pile cored floodbank required to tie the defences into higher ground.

Belfast, Farset River, Millfield Road Crossing

Work started on site in April 2004 and was complete in November 2004. The scheme was necessary for maintenance purposes to replace an existing

culvert and cascade at a high level with a new culvert at a lower level, thereby solving an ongoing siltation problem. Works to the new 35m length of culvert were carried out across one of Belfast's busiest thoroughfares, containing a complexity of services and requiring careful traffic management and consultation with DRD Roads Service.

Coleraine, Windyhall Branch Drain & Screen Road Drain

The works commenced in February 2005 and are programmed for completion in June 2005. The objective of this scheme is to replace structurally defective culverts that are at risk of collapse and to upgrade the watercourses to cope with increased stormwater run-off from recent and proposed development.

At Windyhall Branch Drain the works involve the laying of a 1200mm diameter pipe under the railway to cross the Hall Road. Also included are channel improvements to the section of open watercourse between the Hall Road and the confluence with the Windyhall Drain. Works at the Screen Road Drain involve the

replacement of existing concrete pipelines, varying in diameter from 300mm to 1050mm and extending to a length of 485m. Ancillary works include the infilling of abandoned culverts and the desilting of pipelines.

Enniskillen, Drumgay Lake Drain

Work started in May 2004 and was substantially complete in February 2005. The scheme was undertaken to replace structurally defective culverts within a processing complex. The existing triple 1050mm diameter concrete pipes had been laid during World War II by the American forces during the development of the St. Angelo airfield. The scheme involved the replacement of the pipes with a 160m long reinforced concrete box culvert. The poor sub-soil conditions required the use of precast concrete end bearing piles and a reinforced concrete ground slab onto which the 2.4m x 1.2m box culvert was laid. Associated works included the regrading of 800m of the open watercourse.

Enniskillen, Killynure Lough Drain

Works commenced in November 2004 with a programmed completion date of June 2005. The scheme is being undertaken to alleviate flooding problems in the vicinity of Derrychara Link and Dublin Road and to facilitate additional development identified in the current Area Plan. The works include the construction of 585m of 1800mm diameter reinforced concrete pipeline to act as a pressurised relief culvert between Breandrum Park and the River Erne. Due to poor sub-soil conditions the pipes are being laid on a reinforced concrete ground beam which itself is founded on precast concrete end bearing piles. In conjunction with these



works 335m of new 1050mm diameter concrete tank sewer is being constructed on behalf of DRD Water Service, utilising the same foundations as Rivers Agency's flood relief culvert.

Feeny, Feeny Drain

Work started on site in June 2004 and was complete by October 2004. The scheme was necessary to cater for increased run off from new areas of development. The main works involved the replacement of 370m of a structurally and hydraulically inadequate culvert, along the Glenedra Road to its confluence with the Alcattan River, with 750mm and 900mm diameter pipes.

Hollywood, Motte Stream

Work commenced in July 2004 and was substantially complete in January 2005.

The inlet grille to the rear of Church Road Hollywood has a history of blocking, causing water to back up in the Motte Stream and on one occasion causing severe flooding. The site of the grille is not easily seen or accessed so the first indication of trouble is a flooding alert. The works comprised the installation



of a mechanical rake to clear the grille of debris and to reduce the potential for flooding.

Kilkeel, Kilkeel Harbour River

Works commenced in November 2004 with a programmed completion date of September 2005. This scheme is being undertaken to alleviate flooding to several industrial premises adjacent to the Kilkeel Harbour River. The works comprise the construction of 337m of reinforced concrete floodwall and 177m of sheet pile flood wall on the opposite bank to protect two processing factories.

The reinforced concrete floodwall was substantially completed in February 2005. The sheet pile wall requires working in the bed of the Kilkeel Harbour River and



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following consultation with fishery interests this work will not commence until the end of April 2005. Fishery enhancement measures are also included in recognition of the importance of the river for the spawning of fish.

Londonderry, Coshquin Burn

Works commenced in February 2005 with a programmed completion date of April 2005. The scheme is being undertaken to facilitate additional development identified in the current Area Plan. The works include the construction of 179m of 1800mm diameter HDPE pipes on an off-line route to the existing Coshquin Burn. The new pipeline is designed to cater for storm flows generated by the development land in the upstream catchment and convey it directly from the Bunrana Road into the Skeoge River via a new outlet structure.

Associated works include the laying of 17m of 1500mm pipes upstream of the Bunrana Road and a new inlet structure.

Saintfield, Rowallan Drain

Work started on site in May 2004 and was substantially complete by the middle of November 2004.

The scheme was undertaken to cater for recent and future development within the catchment. The scheme involved the removal of silt from sections of the existing drain, the replacement of an existing accommodation culvert with 2100 mm x 1200 mm box culvert and local re-grading. Further upstream, an existing series of culverts and open channels were replaced with a 2400 mm x 1500 mm box culvert, the invert of an existing railway culvert was lowered and a glass reinforced plastic semi-circular low flow channel was inserted. Works were also required upstream of the railway culvert to re-grade the channel and replace a second accommodation culvert with an 1800 mm diameter pipe.

Other major works

During the last Business Year works were substantially completed on time on the Canal Drain, Ballymagorry; the Spa Drain, Ballynahinch; and the Cambrai Heights Stream, Waringstown.

Other Works

Watercourse maintenance has been based for a number of years on a 6 year rolling programme of rural watercourse inspections with urban watercourses being inspected annually. During the past Business Year the Agency reviewed the watercourse maintenance management system, which is based on need and priority. The review found that this well-established system is still a sound basis for the development of the maintenance works programme, and that only small amendments are necessary to further enhance the ongoing relationship with the Environment and Heritage Service in respect of environmentally sensitive areas.





Maintenance work undertaken by the Agency's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) and under contract included flood bank repairs, grille and flap valve maintenance, culvert repair and removal of excess weed, silt, shoals and fallen trees that threatened to impair the drainage capability of watercourses. The well-established practice of incorporating appropriate fishery and other environmental measures within maintenance schemes continued.

In year a service level agreement was finalised between the Agency and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Inland Fisheries the purpose of which is to formalise and update the previous guidelines and fishery liaison

procedures put in place by their respective predecessors. Designated sea defences, totalling 26km in length, were regularly inspected with necessary maintenance work undertaken by the Rivers Agency's DLO.

Associated flap valves on the drainage outfalls were maintained and the outfalls on the seaward side were kept clear using specialised equipment.

As part of the Agency operations to minimise the risk of flooding, essential work of debris clearance from grilles, mostly situated in urban areas, continued throughout the year. Achievement in this area of work was well in excess of the Customer Service Target.

During the year 14 fishermen's quays on Lough Neagh were maintained as necessary to enable continued access for boats.

Hydrometrics

The Agency continued to operate the Northern Ireland surface water hydrometric network, mainly for flood defence, water quality and water resource

purposes. As well as assisting the Agency's flood estimation, flood assessment and regulatory and advisory functions, the network supports key functions of some other government agencies.

River flows, lough and groundwater levels throughout the Province continued to be monitored by means of 120 hydrometric stations in the network. Efficient and prompt collection of data is achieved through a high degree of electronic instrumentation and telemetry. The data are used within the Agency in the core area of flood defence to assist with the estimation of flood flows and the estimation of flood frequency. Data were made available to many external organisations during the year such as the Environment and Heritage Service in relation to water quality and pollution issues, Water Service for water resources, universities for environmental research and educational establishments for various projects. The Agency also fulfilled its obligation to supply data to the National Water Archive in Wallingford, which publishes river flow information



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through its National Hydrological Summary publication and on the Internet. An Agency representative currently chairs the National Surface and Groundwater Archives Committee and participates as a board member on the Hi-Flows UK project to update information used within the Flood Estimation Handbook, a national methodology for flood estimation.

Rainfall April 2004 to March 2005 – Northern Ireland

Province-wide ending March 2005, 12-month rainfall accumulations amounted to between 90% and 100% of normal across most areas. Only around 81% of the long-term average rainfall was recorded at the Met Office at Aldergrove and at Silent Valley 88% of normal was recorded. When compared with the calendar year rainfall of 2004, rainfall for the 12 months ending March 2005 showed a noticeable fall in some areas, with a 10% drop in the corresponding figures noted across the northwest. This was largely due to the relatively dry winter of 2004/05.

The period November 2004 to March 2005 was notably dry

across Northern Ireland. The 5-month rainfall for the period ending 31st March 2005 amounted to between 65% and 85% of normal across Northern Ireland. Silent Valley received around 67% of normal rainfall over this period and Met Office, Aldergrove received only around 64% of its long-term average.

EC Water Framework Directive

Following on from its completion of a high-level study into potential impacts of the Water Framework Directive on its main business of flood defence and land drainage, the Agency commenced a second stage, more detailed study. This has included, liaison with other agencies in Northern Ireland, the UK and Republic of Ireland who are concerned with implementation of this far-reaching Directive, as well as training staff in the objectives and timescales of the Directive and on the potential business impacts. The study is due to be completed

during the summer of 2005 and it will inform the Agency on its approach towards implementation and clarify its potential roles.

Asset Management

Historically, the Rivers Agency has maintained a working knowledge of the condition of its assets through a range of organised surveys and inspections. During the year a programme of inspections was undertaken on flood defence and sea defence structures, while manhole inspections were undertaken on the culvert network. All of these inspections were carried out in accordance with provisions set out in the Agency's Maintenance Manual.



Under renewals accounting a detailed Asset Management Plan (AMP) for all designated culverts throughout Northern Ireland is required. The Agency has completed this task and is now assured that the culvert asset is being maintained in a serviceable condition.

Geographical Information System (GIS)

The Agency is heavily reliant on information which is geographically based and is fully committed to the use of GIS in much of its work.

During the past year the Agency has continued to maintain and improve the existing GIS systems and the information contained therein.

Best Practice Client

The Agency has been developing an approach to procurement of work programmes based on the Office of Government Commerce Guidelines, which encourages efficiencies and helps to ensure delivery of the programmes within appropriate timeframes.

Procurement Gateways have been adopted whereby at four stages during the life of a project opportunity is taken to review and decide on the merits of proceeding to the next stage. Post project evaluations are used to identify and learn from the successes and/or failures completed projects.

The extensive use of a Framework for Consulting Engineers has continued and has become essential to the efficient delivery of our business. The Agency has set in place two Frameworks for works and they are now fully operational. These Frameworks will bring improved efficiency in the actual delivery of works.

The Agency's expertise in Procurement has been recognised by the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel and agreement has been reached with them for additional support and guidance to be provided through a Service Level Agreement.

Planning Advice

Rivers Agency, as a key consultee in the planning process has continued to provide advice to Planning Service in respect of flood risk areas and safe disposal of storm water run-off from development sites. The Agency has worked closely with the Planning Service in the delivery of its planned programme of adoption and publication of various Area Development Plans.

The Agency is represented on Planning Co-ordinating Committees for Magherafelt, Banbridge-Newry and Mourne, Armagh, Ards-Down, Antrim-Ballymena-Larne, Northern and West Tyrone Area Development Plans. In addition it has continued to input to the Belfast



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Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and has allocated a considerable resource aimed at delivering timely and adequate drainage advice to what is a major project.

In response to growing public concerns, supported by evidence of serious flooding in recent years in Great Britain, and climate change implications, the Agency operates its own policy and practice guidelines for the protection of floodplains in relation to development. It recognises the risk to life and damage to property arising from floodplain development and consequential flooding. These guidelines are of assistance to Planning Service in vetting planning applications with floodplain considerations and in the formulation of their own policy on Planning and Flood Risk (PPS15). The policy and practice guidelines also provide practical guidance to Agency staff when dealing with development issues in flood risk areas.

Emergency Planning

During the last year the Agency has continued to develop its emergency planning functions in line with the Department's Integrated Emergency Management Programme and within the context of the Agency's Flood Management Strategy.

Progress has been made in the development of an Agency Integrated Emergency Plan. The plan comprises four parts; Generic Emergency Plan, Business Continuity Plan, Flooding Emergency Plan and Site Specific Plans. Memoranda of Understanding, Protocols and Guidance are being developed in support of these plans.

The Agency has continued to play a leading role in the further development of inter-agency flooding response procedures with other emergency responders at both an operational and strategic level.

Work is currently in progress to develop a protocol with local councils to provide mutual aid and support and to provide a mechanism whereby the responses of the various groups, including the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade, to flooding events can be integrated.

Emergency Response

During the Business Year Agency staff responded to 200 incidents across Northern Ireland. The Customer Service target of responding to 80% of incidents within a 3-hour period was exceeded with 100% responded to within the target time.

The most significant flooding event during the year was in Londonderry. The flooding was caused by concentrated heavy rainfall, which overwhelmed drainage systems in parts of the city. Agency staff reacted promptly and in conjunction with other services were able in some cases to limit the extent of the damage.



On a number of occasions throughout the year, inter-agency flood teams were established in response to flooding. Agency staff played a significant role in co-ordinating a joint operational and media response. The effectiveness of the newly established Best Practice Guidelines was well demonstrated.

Environmental Aspects

Environmentally sympathetic good working practices are adhered to in the execution of works. With the specific responsibility on the Agency to ensure that fisheries interests are accommodated within our works programmes, there has also been ongoing liaison with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure as well as fisheries and angling organisations.

During the business year the Agency has consulted with Government bodies and a variety of conservation organisations and interest groups on a range of environmental issues.

The Agency is represented on the inter-Departmental Freshwater Sciences Sub-committee, which co-ordinates and encourages projects to enhance the freshwater environment.

In support of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity and Conservation Strategies the Agency participates in a number of local partnership projects. During the year these included:-

- the control of water levels at Annaghroe Meadows, Co Armagh to encourage wet habitat for breeding waders and Greenland White Fronted Geese. The project helps preserve floodplain grazing marsh and lowland meadow;
- the Colin Glen Enhancement Project to encourage biodiversity in the Glen River in an urban setting; and,
- the Lagan Wetland Project – this project is still at an early stage however it is envisaged the work will facilitate seasonal flooding for breeding waders.

In-year the Agency clarified its position regarding its participation with other bodies in environmental projects within the riverine context and thereby developed policy guidance for staff who may be involved.





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LOUGH ERNE AND LOUGH NEAGH

The Agency has continued to fulfil its obligations to maintain water levels within statutory limits in the interests of all stakeholders, as far as climatic conditions permit.

Water levels in both Loughs were monitored on a daily basis. The Lough Erne level continues to be managed by the Agency in liaison with the Electricity Supply Board at Ballyshannon while the Lough Neagh level is solely the responsibility of the Agency. Control is exercised by adjusting gates and in the case of Upper and Lower Lough Erne by spilling at the two hydroelectric power stations near Ballyshannon.

As in previous years the restricted Lower Bann channel downstream of Loughs Neagh and Beg tended to impede the outflow during heavy rainfall in the Lough Neagh catchment, which drains 43% of the land area of Northern Ireland. During such occasions the flood gates at Toome were fully opened, where possible in advance of the anticipated rise in level. Incremental adjustment of flood gates was practiced in order to minimise impact on the range of environmental and other interests which can be affected.

Lough Neagh Levels

Lough levels were generally controlled within the statutory limits of 12.45m to 12.6m to Belfast Datum. During the last 3 weeks of January 2005 the maximum level was exceeded by up to 500mm. The mean level at Toome was 12.53m over the 12 month period.

Lough Erne Levels

The sluice gates at Portora were raised between 15 November and 23 December 2004. The highest water level in the Upper Lough was recorded on 13 January 2005 and was 350mm above the recommended maximum level. The Upper Lough was above the recommended maximum level between 9 January 05 and 24 January 05 inclusive as a result of the exceptional rainfall experienced at this time. The levels were brought back within the normal range as quickly as reasonably practicable and spilling at Ballyshannon took place continuously between 3 January 05 and 27 January 05. Spilling commenced before the levels rose to, or above, their maximum and

this was to satisfy the conditions specified in the Erne Drainage and Development Act which are designed to pre-empt exceptional levels. In the Lower Lough the highest level recorded was 25 mm above the maximum statutory level on three days, namely the 10 January, the 11 January and the 13 January 2005.

Lough Erne Estate

Rivers Agency, acting on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development manages the Lough Erne Estate which consists mainly of the bed and soil of Upper and Lower Lough Erne and a strip of land around the perimeter of the Loughs exposed by schemes which lowered the Lough levels.



WORKS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

The Agency continued to carry out operational works related to water recreation on behalf of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. In addition the Agency commenced works under a new Service Level Agreement with the Loughs Agency.

For the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure works providing pathways, fencing and anglers' facilities for people with disabilities were completed at Brantry Lough, near Eglis. Improvement works were carried out at Shaw's Bridge, River Lagan which included stabilising and securing a heavily utilised section of the Towpath and improving access to this reach for cyclists and wheelchair users.



Phase I of the Green Gauge Riverside Path, Ballymoney and associated landscaping was finished in-year; while resurfacing works were undertaken on the Coalisland Canal Towpath and fishing stands, including some for people with disabilities, were completed at Verner's Bridge on the River Blackwater.

For the Loughs Agency works included fishery enhancement measures on both the River Faughan and the River Roe. Smolt traps were removed at Glencurry Burn, Omagh and work commenced on the new weir in the River Strule, Omagh below Bell's Bridge. Channel works were also undertaken at Sion Mills on the Mourne River to enhance the passage of fish.





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CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Agency continued to implement its Charter Standard Statement which sets out the standards of service members of the public can expect in their dealings with our staff. The key elements of the Charter are:

- To provide a courteous and timely response to all enquiries from members of the public
- To apply equality of treatment across Northern Ireland regarding decisions to invest public monies in drainage and flood protection works
- To consult with all relevant interest groups prior to commencement of a new works scheme
- To reinstate private property to agreed standards after completion of works
- To provide a prompt response to watercourse related flooding incidents
- To take all complaints seriously and deal with them as quickly as possible.

A copy of our Service Standards has been displayed in all our offices and is also available on our Internet site

www.riversagency.ni.gov.uk.

The Agency's performance against key measurable standards of customer care is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Outturn Against Charter Standards

Standard	Outturn
To attend 80% of watercourse related flooding incidents within 3 hours.	Achieved
To give riparians at least 2 weeks notice in advance of commencing works on a drainage or flood protection scheme.	Achieved
To issue substantive replies to 80% of written enquiries within 15 working days of receipt*.	Achieved
To respond to 98% of Schedule 6 applications within 3 months*.	Achieved

**Also reported as key performance targets in Table 1.*



DRAINAGE COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Agency continued to provide secretariat and administrative support to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland. The Council is a broadly based Independent Advisory body with 18 members, comprising 10 District Councillors, a Department of Agriculture and Rural Development official representing drainage interests, a Department of The Environment official, one representative each from agriculture, conservation, industry, tourism and fisheries interests and one independent drainage specialist.

Its main functions are to determine which watercourses should be designated for drainage works at public expense and to consider the Department's proposals for Drainage and Flood Protection Schemes. It also has a consultative role in relation to assessment of the environmental impact of drainage works under the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2001.

The Council is subject to the equality and human rights obligations of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as well as a statutory duty to ensure uniformity of treatment of drainage throughout Northern Ireland.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Drainage Council produced a Publication Scheme to inform the public about information it publishes or intends to publish, where it can be accessed and whether the information will be available free of charge or at a specified cost. Where possible information is published on the Drainage Council website at www.riversagency.ni.gov.uk Information may also be obtained on written request to the Drainage Council Secretariat, c/o Rivers Agency, Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road, Belfast BT8 8JP.

A list of the members of the Drainage Council and the interests, which they represent, is provided at Appendix 3.



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MANAGING THE BUSINESS

The Agency has made progress on a number of fronts during the year to improve the way in which the business is managed.

Human Resource Development

The expertise of a skilled and experienced workforce is one of the Agency's greatest assets and we are committed to developing that potential to the full. Following Investors in People accreditation during October 1999, the Agency has given high priority to maintaining the ethos and standards of practice resulting in re-accreditation during June 2002 and December 2003.

Staffing pressures have continued to present a problem, compounded by the increasing need for expertise in aspects of the Agency's business. In recent years due to a highly competitive labour market there has been difficulty with external recruitment to the Civil Engineering grades and retention within the Civil Engineering discipline. This has resulted in the Agency being unable to obtain the requisite number of recruits to fill current and anticipated vacancies. In order to address these issues

the Agency recruited at Graduate Trainee and Trainee Civil Engineering Assistant levels during 2004.

During the period under review the Agency implemented the Competence Framework for all non-industrial staff. This identified the skills, knowledge and behaviours that staff require to be effective in their roles. The Agency also successfully embedded a new Performance Management System that reports on the achievement of these competences.

The Agency's continued commitment to training and development was maintained through the requirement for all non-industrial staff to agree a personal development plan outlining their development needs. During the 2004/2005 year there were 1774 days of training undertaken averaging some 4 days per member of staff. This training covered specialised engineering functions, health and safety, IT, management training and other non-technical skills training.

The Agency also continued to evaluate training and development to ensure training objectives were achieved and business needs met.

Health and Safety

During the past year the Agency has embarked on a number of reviews of health and safety management systems and has continued to actively promote a health and safety culture throughout the Agency. Much of the progress on health and safety related issues is achieved through the action of working groups and a risk assessment approach has been applied in order to prioritise the work programme.





An incident investigation policy is under development and one of the working groups has almost completed an Agency-wide review of grille accesses. This will result in recommended improvements in their design and construction thus improving the safety of operational staff during flood emergency response.

Communications

High importance is placed on the need for good internal communication in order to achieve good business performance and maintain high standards in our dealings with the public. Staff are kept abreast of policy developments through a variety of communication mechanisms. These include policy/information circulars, a structured Team Briefing process, through regular management meetings and through the Agency's and DARD's Internet/Intranet sites. All staff receive copies of the departmental staff magazine "groundwork" to keep them abreast of wider DARD developments.

Financial Management

The Agency's administration and running costs budget (Admin Cost Limit) was £12.0 million for 2004/2005 and was largely based on rolling forward and uplifting expenditure from the previous year. The budget for the Agency's programme of capital and maintenance works, was £9.4 million.

The Agency carried out its budget management and monitoring regime on an accruals basis during the year.

Vehicles, Plant & Equipment

The Agency continued to invest in updating and maintaining the vehicles, plant and equipment required to enable it to fulfil its range of functions effectively.

This fleet currently consists of 189 Large Goods and Support Vehicles, 45 excavators, 14 Dumpers and Dump Trucks, and 478 Items of Ancillary Vehicles and Equipment.

Total replacement value is approximately £7.4 Million and write down value is approximately £4.0 Million.





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Audit

The audit function within the Agency is monitored by a Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (CGAC). The Agency Management Board, the Agency Accountant, and representatives from DARD Internal Audit are members of the Committee. The Northern Ireland Audit Office attends each meeting of the Committee.

The process of business risk management has now been fully embedded in the Agency and clear links with the Business Plan have been put in place. The Agency has a Risk Register which is reviewed quarterly. The audit process is informed by the Risk Register.

Under the terms of a Service Level Agreement, DARD Internal Audit Branch provides an annual assurance report to the Chief Executive as Agency Accounting Officer. The audit report in respect of the 2004/05 business year provided general assurance that the Agency's internal control framework, risk management, and governance procedures were effective and that they enabled achievement of the Agency's objectives. The report made some recommendations for improving controls that have been accepted by the Agency Management Board. Appropriate implementation schedules have been agreed in respect of these recommendations.

DARD Internal Audit Branch also validated the out-turn against the key targets as reported in the Agency Performance section of this Report.



EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Business Planning

The Agency remained committed to applying business planning principles at all levels in the organisation. The published 2004/2005 Business Plan was supported by Operational Plans for each Business Unit within the Agency. These plans were regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the most effective use of resources in securing the Agency's corporate aims and objectives.

Industrial Pay and Grading

Specific industrial relations issues pertaining to the Rivers Agency industrial workforce continued to be discussed and negotiated in the well-established forum – the Rivers Agency Joint Industrial Council. While many localised issues were resolved at Area level in the Joint Consultative Committees.

The 2004 pay offer did not include any agreement on harmonisation issues. As in the previous year the Industrial Trade Union Side negotiated a settlement based solely on increasing basic pay.

Amendments to the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973

The Agency held a public consultation from September to December 2004 on proposals to amend the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973. The purpose of the amendments is to give the Department powers to make orders to dissolve drainage trusts and to make regulations to charge for the functions it undertakes. The responses to the consultation were generally supportive and the draft Order in Council was laid before Parliament on 26 January 2005. The House of Commons approved the Order on 28 February.

Information Systems & Information Technology

During the year the Agency continued to maintain, develop and enhance its use of Information Systems and Technology. Much work was undertaken to assist with the information management and system changes to support the Departmental Records Management Project in order to meet Public Records Office of Northern Ireland and Freedom of Information requirements. Work

has commenced on the upgrade of PCs, servers, databases, software and infrastructure facilities to support planned DARD, departmental and Agency IS/IT Projects such as Electronic Record and Document Management Systems and centralisation of Agency databases.

The Agency has further developed the Project Administration Database System to include capital works project prioritisation together with further refinements of project data, methodologies and training of staff. The Agency has also upgraded key Computer Aided Design and Draughting software products.

The use of IT in the management of information, communication, technology and assets is regarded as essential in order to improve internal efficiency and effectiveness and to meet greater internal and external demands.



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FUTURE STRATEGY

Within the context of the Programme for Government, and the associated funding provisions, the Agency will continue to fulfil its statutory remit. The Minister has again set challenging key targets for the 2005/06 business year as set out in Appendix 4.

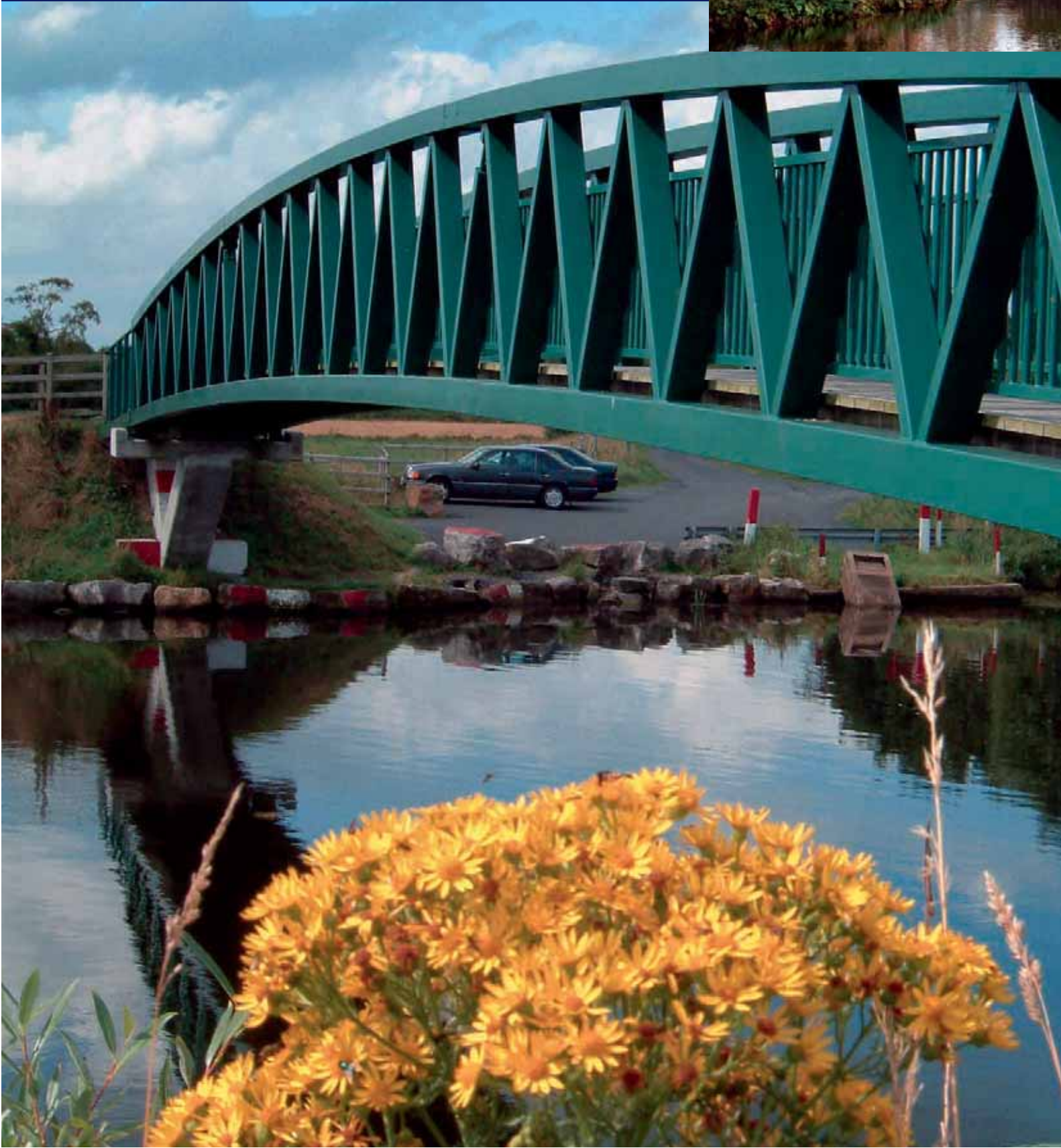
The Agency is committed to continuous improvement in the delivery of its services, and, where possible, it will be seeking opportunities to enhance standards of service to its customers.

More detailed information on proposals for the future can be found in the Agency's published Corporate and Business Plans which are available from any of its offices.





River Blackwater at Maghery





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FOREWORD TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounts Direction

These are the Rivers Agency's audited Accounts for the Financial Year 31 March 2005. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Department of Finance and Personnel Direction under Section 11(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

History and Background

The Rivers Agency was established as an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland (DANI) on 1 October 1996. As a result of restructuring, the parent Department is now known as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Agency is responsible for arterial drainage and flood protection in Northern Ireland under the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Agency are:

- to construct and maintain flood and sea defences;
- to maintain designated watercourses and sea defences;
- to respond to flooding incidents;
- to protect the drainage functions of all watercourses; and
- to regulate water levels on Lough Neagh and Lough Erne.

Business Review

The aims and objectives and a full report on developments in the Rivers Agency business is contained within the body of the Annual Report which accompanies these Accounts.

The Agency uses the DARD financial accounting system which was introduced to support the production of accruals and resource accounts for the Department as a whole and for its Agencies. The Agency does not have an independent accounting system of its own.

The Agency is also developing its own management information system.

The deficit for the year as shown on page 36 was £28,626k (2003-04 £28,136k).



Fixed Assets

The Agency does not believe there is any material difference between the market and book value of its fixed assets at 31 March 2005.

Agency Management Board

The Rivers Agency Management Board is responsible for the day-to-day management and performance of the Agency. Members of the Board for the financial year were:

John Hagan	Chief Executive
Ronald White	Director of Development
Melvyn Hamilton	Director of Operations
Alan Morton	Director of Corporate Services

Following a recruitment competition Mr John Hagan was appointed Chief Executive on 24 April 2000 for a fixed period of three years under the Senior Civil Service Management Code. The Contract of Employment was subsequently converted to “indefinite period” in June 2001.

The Chief Executive’s pay is determined by the Permanent Secretary in accordance with the rules set out in Chapter 7.1 Annex A of the Civil Service Management Code and that of the Directors is determined by the Central Personnel Group of the Department of Finance & Personnel.

Details of the remuneration of the Chief Executive and senior staff within the Agency are provided in salary bands in note 3.3 in the accounts.

Charitable Donations

The Agency made no charitable donations during the year.



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Practice on Prompt Payment

The Rivers Agency is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Confederation of British Industries Better Payment Practice Code and the British Standard BS 7890 – Achieving Good Payment Performance in Commercial Transactions.

Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is made within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services on presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

Regular reviews conducted to measure how promptly the Agency paid bills found that 97.4% were paid within this standard. In this context it is relevant to note that the Agency does not itself pay suppliers directly, but processes invoices through the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Disabled Persons

The Agency follows the NI Civil Service Code of Practice on the Employment of Disabled People. The Agency aims to ensure that disablement is not a bar to recruitment or advancement.

Employee Involvement

The Agency recognises the benefits of keeping employees informed of the progress of the Agency and of involving them in the Agency's performance. During the year staff are informed of significant developments affecting the Agency through Team Briefings, Agency circulars and regular contact with management. Formal and informal consultation takes place with the Trade Union representatives on all significant developments affecting staff.

Health and Safety

The Agency is committed to adhering to all existing legislation on health and safety at work to ensure that staff and customers enjoy the benefits of a safe environment.

Equality of Opportunity

The Agency follows the NI Civil Service policy that all eligible persons shall have equal opportunity for employment and advancement on the basis of ability, qualifications and aptitude for work.



Financial Objectives

The financial objective of the Agency was to maintain expenditure within the control totals agreed with the parent Department.

Pension Costs

Further details in relation to the pension schemes are given in accounting policy note 1.10 to the accounts.

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) for Northern Ireland in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. He is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and he and his staff are wholly independent of the Agency. His findings are reported to Parliament.

The audited Financial Statements for 2004/2005 resulted in a notional audit fee of £22,700, which is included within the administration costs of the Income and Expenditure Account.

The C&AG may also undertake other statutory activities that are not related to the audit of the Agency's Financial Statements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R Hagan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

JOHN R HAGAN

Chief Executive

Dated: 30 June 2005



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STATEMENT OF THE AGENCY'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Section 11(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, the Department of Finance and Personnel has directed the Rivers Agency to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction.

The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Agency's state of affairs at the year-end and its income and expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the Accounts the Agency is required to comply with the Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual prepared by the Department of Finance and Personnel, and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual, have been followed and disclose and explain any material departure in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in operation.

The Accounting Officer for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has designated the Chief Executive of the Rivers Agency as the Accounting Officer for the Agency. His relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Accounting Officer's Memorandum in "Government Accounting (Northern Ireland)" issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel.



STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

As Agency Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Agency's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting Northern Ireland. I operate within the terms of a Framework Document, which sets out the Agency's relationship with DARD and my accountability to the Minister.

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Agency's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Agency for the year ended 31 March 2005 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with DFP guidance.

The process of business risk management at programme level has been embedded in the Agency. Key roles have been defined, senior staff have been trained and a risk register, which identifies the Agency's principal risks and control strategies, has been compiled. The risk register is kept under regular review by the Agency Management Board. The Agency is also represented on the DARD Risk Management Forum.

The Agency uses the service provided by DARD Internal Audit Unit, which operates to standards defined in the Government Internal Audit Manual. The work of Internal Audit is focused on 'principal risks' identified along with a range of Corporate Governance issues. They submit reports which include the HIA's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agency's system of internal control together with recommendations for improvement.

The three Directors within the Agency have each provided me with Support Statements in which they acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that objectives for which they are responsible are clearly defined and that all members of staff within their Directorates are aware of the objectives relevant to their work. In addition they have each acknowledged their responsibility for developing and maintaining effective internal controls within their



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Directorates to provide reasonable assurance of achievement of these objectives. They have also provided me with specific details of actions taken in various areas of control. These supporting statements are available for audit inspection.

The Rivers Agency Corporate Governance and Audit Committee on which all members of the Agency Management Board sit also considers risk and internal control issues. The DARD Director of Finance is a member of this Committee.

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the Agency who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the issues arising from the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Agency Management Board and the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and a plan, to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system, is in place.

My review of the effectiveness of the Agency's system of internal control is therefore informed by: -

- The Business Risk Register and associated review processes;
- The work of internal auditors;
- Support Statements prepared by each of the Directors within the Agency; and
- Comments made by the NIAO in their management letter and other reports.

JOHN R HAGAN

Dated: 30 June 2005



The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons and the Northern Ireland Assembly

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on pages 36 to 58 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out on pages 39 to 43.

Respective responsibilities of the Agency, the Chief Executive and Auditor

As described on page 31, the Agency and Chief Executive are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and Department of Finance and Personnel directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. The Agency and Chief Executive are also responsible for the preparation of the other contents of the Annual Report. My responsibilities, as independent auditor, are established by statute and I have regard to the standards and guidance issued by the Auditing Practices Board and the ethical guidance applicable to the auditing profession.

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and Department of Finance and Personnel directions made thereunder; and whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report if, in my opinion, the Foreword is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Agency has not kept proper accounting records, or if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my certificate if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

I review whether the statement on pages 32 and 33 reflects the Agency's compliance with the Department of Finance and Personnel's guidance on the Statement on Internal Control. I report if it does not meet the requirements specified by the Department of Finance and Personnel, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered whether the Accounting Officer's Statement on Internal Control covers all risks and controls. I am also not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.



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Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Agency and Chief Executive in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, or by fraud or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Fundamental Uncertainty

In forming my opinion, I considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in Note 1.3b of the financial statements concerning the valuation of the culvert network carried out by the Agency. The availability of further cost information from the future maintenance of the network could cause this valuation to be revised. My opinion is not qualified in respect of this.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Rivers Agency at 31 March 2005 and of the net cost of operations, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and directions made thereunder by the Department of Finance and Personnel; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

J M Dowdall CB
Comptroller and Auditor General

Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast BT7 1EU

7 July 2005



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

	NOTE	2004/05		2003/04	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income	2		434		488
Expenditure					
Staff costs	3.2	9,987		9,349	
Other Admin costs	4.1	2,572		2,590	
Programme costs	4.2	16,501		16,685	
Total Expenditure			(29,060)		(28,624)
Net cost of operations			<u>(28,626)</u>		<u>(28,136)</u>

The net cost of operations arises wholly from continuing operations.

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

	NOTE	2004/05	2003/04
		£'000	£'000
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of tangible fixed assets		9,047	(3,876)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of intangible fixed assets		1	-
	12.2	<u>9,048</u>	<u>(3,876)</u>

The notes on pages 39 to 58 form part of these accounts.



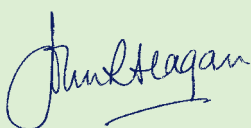
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**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2005**

		2004/05		2003/04	
	NOTE	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5	287,287		276,190	
Intangible Assets	6	<u>21</u>		<u>9</u>	
			287,308		276,199
Current Assets					
Stocks	7	202		197	
Debtors	8	590		924	
Cash in hand	9	<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>	
		795		1,123	
Current liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(1,822)</u>		<u>(1,529)</u>	
Net current assets / (liabilities)					
			<u>(1,027)</u>		<u>(406)</u>
Total assets less liabilities					
			286,281		275,793
Provisions for liabilities and charges					
	11		<u>(60)</u>		<u>(61)</u>
			<u>286,221</u>		<u>275,732</u>
Financed by Capital and reserves					
General Fund	12.1		255,073		253,403
Revaluation reserve	12.2		<u>31,148</u>		<u>22,329</u>
			<u>286,221</u>		<u>275,732</u>



JOHN R HAGAN

Chief Executive

Date: 30 June 2005

The notes on pages 39 to 58 form part of these accounts.



CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

	Note	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Operating activities			
Net cash outflow from continuing operating activities	13.1	13,604	15,063
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure activities	13.2	5,663	4,559
Total cash outflow before financing		19,267	19,622
Financing			
Cash inflow from financing		19,268	19,622
(Increase) / decrease in cash	9	(1)	-
Net cash inflow from financing	16	19,267	19,622



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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual issued by DFP. The accounting policies adopted by the Agency are described below. They have been consistently applied in dealing with all the items relating to the accounts.

1.1 Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of fixed assets at their value to the business by reference to their current cost.

Without limiting the information given, the accounts meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by DFP, in so far as these requirements are appropriate.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets

Freehold land and buildings have been restated at current cost using professional Valuations carried out by the Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) at five yearly intervals and appropriate indices in the intervening years. The valuation of land and buildings currently used in these accounts was provided by the VLA at 1 April 2000. Buildings that are of a specialised nature, if ever sold on the open market, are valued at depreciated replacement cost.

The minimum level of capitalisation of a tangible fixed asset is £5,000.

Other tangible assets have been stated at current cost using indices extracted from a publication of The Stationery Office Limited entitled 'MM17 - Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting'.

1.3 Infrastructure assets

a. Flood defence

Expenditure on all Flood Defence assets is capitalised and depreciated over the useful economic life of the asset. For most assets this will be a period of 50 years. Flood Defence assets have been defined as the product of capital expenditure on the creation, provision, purchase, replacement or improvement of discrete physical watercourse based structures, which enable the Agency to achieve its strategic aim of providing flood protection.



b. Culverts

The Agency manages a culvert network of 255 kilometres, in which there are over 5,000 culvert reaches, i.e., lengths of culverts between manholes. The depths at which culverts are laid vary between 1 metre and 12 metres. The Agency has developed an in-house model to calculate a modern day replacement cost of the culvert network. The model uses physical quantification data from a database dedicated to culverts. This database also records the condition grading of each culvert, based on detailed surveys carried out by the Agency over the past 10 years. The unit cost information that is used in the valuation model derives from an analysis of various schemes undertaken by the Agency. However, since internal costing information is limited to culverts built since 1988, and also due to the wide variation in the available costing data, the Agency has supplemented the model with information from the Water Industry. The valuation model has also been validated by WS Atkins.

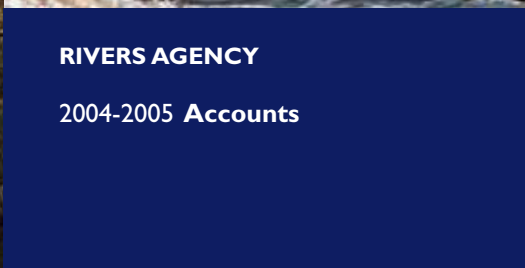
Each year the valuation will be revalued using indices mentioned in note 1.2 above. It will also take account of any additions and condition surveys that may have taken place in the year. The information gathered in future years in relation to costs and quantification will be reviewed and a decision made as to whether amendments should be made to the existing model. Any such exercise will also be subject to independent, external validation.

The accounting policy adopted in relation to culverts is a variant of renewals accounting as detailed in NIRAM paragraph 3.5.9. This policy requires the formulation of a detailed Asset Management Plan that determines the amount to be spent to maintain the asset in a steady state condition and also the charge to the Income and Expenditure Account. An Asset Management Plan has been in place in the Agency from 1st April 2004. The Agency charges actual refurbishment costs to the Income and Expenditure Account, with any variation between this figure and that suggested by the Asset Management Plan adjusted in the accounts.

c. Soft defences

Soft Defences mainly consist of levees and soft earth banks of varying heights. Those on designated watercourses are maintained to their existing standard, and do not contain a hard core as in the case of urban Flood Defences. The Agency has decided that it will not attempt to value these defences because:

- For most part they provide protection to agricultural land to a lesser degree than that afforded to the urban environment.



- They are subjected to a six-year rolling programme of scheduled inspection, and are maintained on the basis of need, rather than by reference to a detailed maintenance plan. Any expenditure incurred is merely reactive in nature.

The accounting policy adopted by the Agency in respect of Soft Defences is to expense all expenditure to the Income & Expenditure Account each year.

d. Capitalisation of engineers time

The Agency has included engineer salary costs in Flood Defence and Culvert Network valuations from 1 April 2004. The Agency, however, will not include an estimate for engineers' time previously incurred in any valuation.

1.4 Depreciation

Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the valuation of freehold buildings and other tangible fixed assets by equal instalments on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, which are as follows:

Freehold Buildings	50 years
Vehicles	5 to 10 years
Plant and Machinery	5 to 15 years
Equipment and Tools	3 to 10 years
Computer Equipment	3 to 7 years

1.5 Intangible fixed assets

Purchased computer software licences are capitalised as intangible fixed assets where expenditure of £5,000 or more is incurred. In addition similar licences falling below this threshold, which when grouped exceed the threshold, are also capitalised. The value of the capitalised licences is restated at current value at the balance sheet date in accordance with the movement in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). Software licences are amortised over their expected useful life, which can be from 3 to 15 years depending on the licence.

1.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.



1.7 VAT

Apart from VAT which is taken into account for all trade debtors and trade creditors, all other items in the accounts are exclusive of VAT that is recoverable on a departmental basis.

1.8 Contingent liabilities

In addition to contingent liabilities disclosed in accordance with FRS 12, the Agency discloses certain liabilities where the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit is remote. These comprise:

- Items over £100,000 that do not arise in the normal course of business and which are reported to Parliament / the Northern Ireland Assembly by minute prior to the Agency entering the arrangement.
- All items (whether or not they arise in the normal course of business) over £100,000, which are required by NIRAM to be noted in the resource accounts.

1.9 Cost of capital

A charge, reflecting the cost of capital utilised by the Agency, is included in operating costs. The charge is calculated at a real rate set by the Department of Finance and Personnel (currently at 3.5%) on the average net book value of all assets less liabilities, except for, tangible and intangible fixed assets where the cost is based on opening values, adjusted pro-rata for in-year:

- additions and subsequent capital expenditure on existing assets at cost;
- disposals as valued in the opening balance sheet (plus any subsequent capital expenditure prior to disposal);
- impairments at the amount of the reduction of the opening balance sheet value (plus any subsequent capital expenditure); and
- depreciation of tangible and amortisation of intangible fixed assets.



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1.10 Pension costs

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) (PCSPS) which is an unfunded defined benefit scheme covers Agency staff. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three schemes – **classic**, **premium** and **classic plus**. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality “money purchase” stakeholder based arrangement with a significant employer contribution (**partnership pension account**). For 2004/05, employers’ contributions were payable at one of four rates in the range 12 to 18 per cent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. From 1st April 2005 these rates have increased as a result of the latest actuarial valuation to between 16.5% and 23.5%. Additional details are given in note 3.3 to the accounts.

1.11 Taxation

No taxation is chargeable on the financial results of the Agency.

1.12 Provisions

The Agency provides for the legal or constructive obligations which are of uncertain timing or amount at the balance sheet date on the basis of the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

2. Income

Income comprises monies received in respect of the following:

	2004/05	2003/04
	£'000	£'000
Work done for Dept. of Culture, Arts & Leisure under the terms of a Service Level Agreement	209	348
Work done for Loughs Agency under the terms of a Service Level Agreement	82	-
Work done for Waterways Ireland	2	5
Work done for other Government Departments	112	102
Sundry income	29	33
	434	488
	434	488



3. Staff costs and numbers

3.1 Average number of staff employed

	2004/05	2003/04
	Number of staff	Number of staff
Board and Senior Management	4	4
Administration	55	55
Professional and Technical	113	113
Industrial	270	276
	<u>442</u>	<u>448</u>

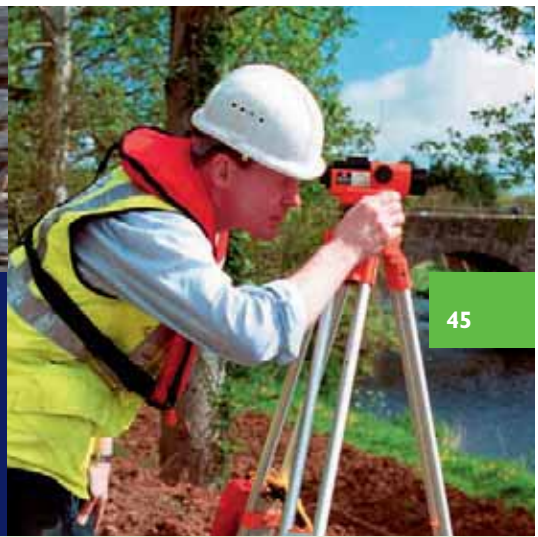
3.2 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2004/05	2003/04
	£'000	£'000
Salaries and Wages	8,491	7,876
Social security costs	607	549
Superannuation	1,003	924
Less Capitalised Engineers' time	(114)	-
	<u>9,987</u>	<u>9,349</u>



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The PCSPS(NI) is an unfunded defined benefit scheme which produces its own resource accounts, but the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2003 and details of this valuation are available in the PCSPS(NI) resource accounts.

For 2004/05, employers' contributions of £1,002,887 were payable to the PCSPS(NI) (2003/04 £924,252) at one of four rates in the range 12 to 18 per cent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. From 1st April 2005 these rates have increased as a result of the latest actuarial valuation to between 16.5% and 23.5%. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Employees joining after 1 October 2002 could opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employers' contributions of £nil were paid to one or more of a panel of four appointed stakeholder pension providers. Employer contributions are age-related and range from 3 to 12.5 per cent of pensionable pay. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3 per cent of pensionable pay. In addition, employer contributions of £nil, 0.8 per cent of pensionable pay, were payable to the PCSPS(NI) to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of these employees.

Contributions due to the partnership pension providers at the balance sheet date were £nil. Contributions prepaid at that date were £nil.

Seven persons retired early on ill health grounds; the total additional accrued pension liabilities in the year amounted to £2,854.



3.3 Emoluments of Chief Executive and Senior Management

The salary, pension entitlements and the value of any taxable benefits in kind of the most senior members of the Agency were as follows:

(1) Salary, including performance pay (£k)	(2) Benefits in kind (rounded to nearest £100)	(3) Real increase in pension and related lump sum (£k)	(4) Total accrued pension at age 60 at 31/3/05	(5) CETV at 31/3/04 (nearest £k)	(6) CETV at 31/3/05 (nearest £k)	(7) Real increase in CETV after adjustment for inflation and changes in market investment factors (nearest £k)	(8) Employer contribution to partnership pension account including risk benefit cover (nearest £k)
--	---	--	--	---	---	--	--

Current Board Members

John Hagan <i>Chief Executive</i>	Consent for disclosure withheld
Alan Morton <i>Director of Corporate Services</i>	Consent for disclosure withheld
Melvyn Hamilton <i>Director of Operations</i>	Consent for disclosure withheld
Ronald White <i>Director of Development</i>	Consent for disclosure withheld



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Salary

- (i) 'Salary includes gross salary; performance pay or bonuses; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowances to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation.

Pension

- (ii) Pension benefits are provided through the CSP arrangements. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based "final salary" defined benefit schemes (**classic**, **premium**, and **classic plus**). The Schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under **classic**, **premium**, and **classic plus** are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of **premium** or joining a good quality "money purchase" stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (**partnership pension account**).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for **classic**. Benefits in **classic** accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three year's pension is payable on retirement. For **premium**, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike **classic**, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). **Classic plus** is essentially a variation of **premium**, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per **classic**.

The **partnership pension account** is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Further details about the CSP arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk.

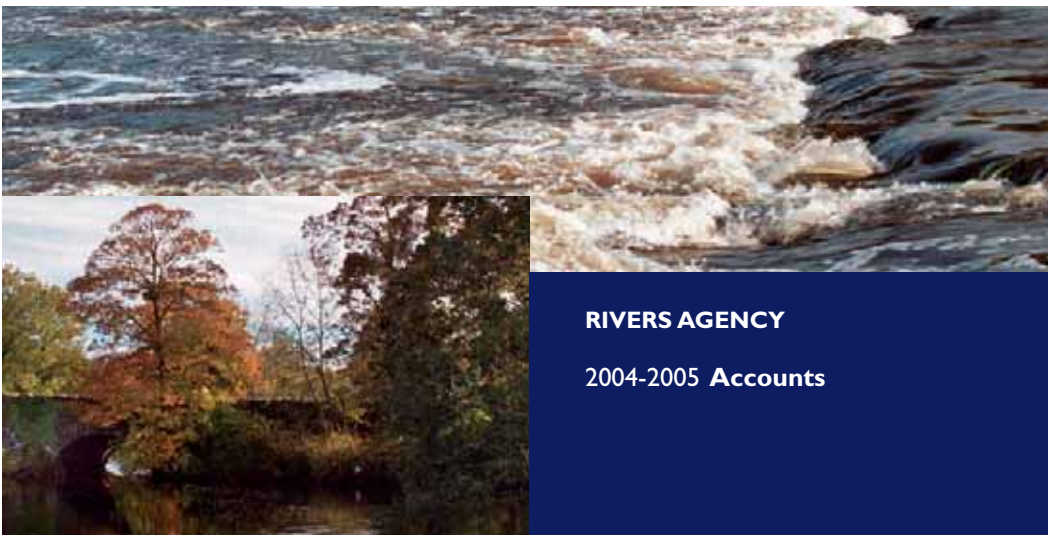


Columns 5 & 6 of the above table show the member's cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) accrued at the beginning and the end of the reporting period. Column 7 reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a sector capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003/04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the CSP arrangements and for which the Estimate has received a transfer payment commensurate to the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Benefits in kind

- (iii) The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument. There were no benefits in kind received by any of the Senior Management in the 2004/05 financial year.



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4. Other operating costs

4.1 Administration costs

	2004/05	Restated
	£'000	2003/04
		£'000
Travel and subsistence	516	518
Telephone	83	82
Staff training	112	93
Printing, stationery & advertising	45	58
Accommodation costs	241	245
Permanent diminution	9	11
Miscellaneous	261	362
Notional costs (Note 4.3 below)	1,258	1,190
Cost of capital	4	2
Depreciation	43	29
	<u>2,572</u>	<u>2,590</u>

4.2 Programme costs

	2004/05	Restated
	£'000	2003/04
		£'000
Supplies, Services and Stores	555	693
PV & E Running costs	1,091	1,059
Other expenditure	101	139
Other maintenance	997	2,557
Culvert maintenance	773	362
Impairment of fixed assets	5	-
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of assets	7	(64)
Cost of capital	9,669	9,701
Depreciation	3,303	2,238
	<u>16,501</u>	<u>16,685</u>



4.3 Notional

Certain services are provided and received without the transfer of cash. The amounts included in the net cost of operations to reflect these costs are as follows:

	2004/05	2003/04
	£'000	£'000
NIAO	23	22
Accommodation	273	268
Core Services	865	785
Services from Other Departments	41	78
BDS	56	37
	<u>1,258</u>	<u>1,190</u>

Note 1:

The Agency takes out commercial insurance to cover third party risks associated with vehicles, owned or leased on the Agency's behalf, and for buildings leased on its behalf where insurance is a requirement of the lease. No other external insurance is effected against fire, explosion, common law, third party and similar risks. A notional charge, based on standard rates, as advised by the Department of Finance and Personnel, has been calculated to reflect the costs of insurable risks of 2004/05 £106,363 (2003/04 £48,981).

In accordance with paragraph 7.4.4, NIRAM 2005 edition, this has not been charged to the income and expenditure account.



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5. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land, Bldgs & Sluices	Plant, Vehicles Equip	Computer Equip	Flood Defence Assets	Culverts	Assets Under Constr- uction	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2004	13,810	6,657	129	61,538	246,549	1,493	330,176
Additions (Note 1)		1,158	43	740	400	3,334	5,675
Disposals	(64)	(357)					(421)
Transfers (Note 2)	(135)	(30)					(165)
Reclassifications (Note 3)				433	943	(1,376)	-
Revaluations (Note 4)	(230)	1					(229)
Impairments	(7)		(18)				(25)
Indexation	500	(7)		2,106	8,380		10,979
At 31 March 2005	13,874	7,422	154	64,817	256,272	3,451	345,990
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2004	1,110	2,959	41	13,633	36,243	-	53,986
Charge for year	262	789	40	1,272	980		3,343
Disposals		(284)					(284)
Transfers (Note 2)	(6)	(28)					(34)
Revaluations (Note 2)	(17)						(17)
Impairments	(2)		(9)				(11)
Indexation	31	(1)		462	1,228		1,720
At 31 March 2005	1,378	3,435	72	15,367	38,451	-	58,703
NBV @ 31/3/05	12,496	3,987	82	49,450	217,821	3,451	287,287
NBV @ 31/3/04	12,700	3,698	88	47,905	210,306	1,493	276,190



Note 1: - Capitalisation of Engineers' Time – Culverts and flood defence asset additions includes engineers' salary costs which have been capitalised.

Note 2: - Transfers – Relates to assets transferred out of the Agency to other public bodies. Land and buildings and vehicles were respectively transferred to Waterways Ireland and DARD Science Service on the 1st April 2004.

Note 3: - Reclassification of Assets - The reclassifications relate to assets transferred from Assets in the Course of Construction to additions to Culverts and Flood Defence Assets.

Note 4: - Revaluation of Land & Buildings - The revaluation of land and buildings was carried out by the Valuation and Lands Agency in accordance with the Appraisal and Valuation Manual published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The date of the valuation was 1 April 2000. The index at March 2005 has been applied to these valuations for the purpose of these accounts. The downward revaluation in 2004-05 for land and buildings relates to the adjustment to the net book value of property prior to its planned disposal in 2005-06.



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6. Intangible Fixed Assets

The Agency's intangible fixed assets comprise purchased software licences.

Purchased software licences
£'000

Cost or Valuation

At 1 April 2004	10
Additions	14
Indexation	1
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2005	25
	<hr/> <hr/>

Amortisation

At 1 April 2004	1
Charge for year	3
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2005	4
	<hr/> <hr/>

NBV @ 31/3/05 21

NBV @ 31/3/04 9

7. Stocks

	2004/05	2003/04
	£'000	£'000
Stock	202	197
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	2004/05	Restated
	£'000	2003/04
		£'000
VAT	505	789
Trade debtors	66	118
Sundry debtors	19	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	590	924
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Included within debtors is £42,406 (2003-04: £110,956) that will be due from other central government bodies.



9. Cash

	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Cash in hand	3	2

10. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2004/05 £'000	Restated 2003/04 £'000
Other taxation and social security	108	117
Trade creditors	30	66
Capital creditors	898	1,001
Accruals and deferred income	722	331
Other creditors	64	14
	<u>1,822</u>	<u>1,529</u>

Included within creditors is £5,254 (2003-04: £29,958) that will be due to other central government bodies.

11. Provisions for liabilities and charges – legal costs

	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2004	61	-
Provided in the year	45	61
Provisions not required written back	(38)	-
Provisions utilised in the year	(8)	-
Balance at 31 March 2005	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>

Legal costs – Legal claims under £100,000 are assessed together and a provision of 50% of the likely maximum claim value is made. This percentage is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure it continues to represent a reasonable estimate of the expenditure of the Agency on such claims. Claims greater than or equal to £100,000 are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and provided for or disclosed as a contingent liability as applicable.



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12. Reconciliation of movement in reserves and government funds

12.1 General Fund

	Note	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Balance as at 1 April 2004		253,403	250,875
Opening balance adjustments (Note 1)		-	17
Restated balance at 1 April 2004		253,403	250,892
Net cash inflow from financing	16	19,267	19,622
Net cost of operations		(28,626)	(28,136)
Notional and other non-cash costs	4.3	1,258	1,190
Cost of capital		9,673	9,703
Transfer of assets to Waterways Ireland		(129)	(11)
Transfer of assets to Science Service		(2)	-
Transfer of realised element from revaluation reserve	12.2	229	143
Balance as at 31 March 2005		255,073	253,403

Note 1:

The opening balance adjustment is as a result of timing differences on consolidation of fixed assets with DARD's Resource Accounts.



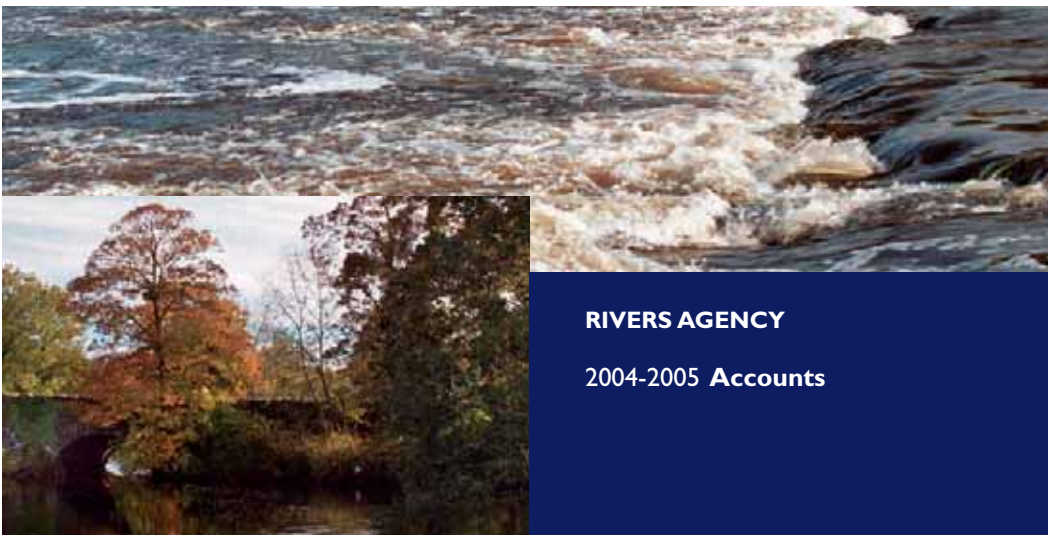
12.2 Revaluation Reserve

	Land, Bldgs & Sluices	Plant, Vehicles Equipt	Intangible Assets	Flood Defence Assets	Culverts	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2004	1,957	319	-	2,994	17,059	22,329
Revaluations	256	(5)	1	1,644	7,152	9,048
Transfer of realised elements to general fund (note 12.1)	(157)	(72)	-	-	-	(229)
At 31 March 2005	2,056	242	1	4,638	24,211	31,148

13. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

13.1 Reconciliation of the net cost of operations to net cash outflow from continuing operating activities

	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Net cost of operations	(28,626)	(28,136)
Cost of capital	9,673	9,703
Depreciation	3,346	2,267
Notional and other non-cash costs	1,258	1,190
Loss/(Profit) on sale of assets	7	(64)
Impairment of fixed assets	5	-
(Increase) / decrease in stock	(5)	(37)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	334	(26)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	396	(32)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	(1)	61
Permanent diminution	9	11
Net cash outflow from continuing activities	(13,604)	(15,063)



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13.2 Net cash outflow from capital expenditure activities

	2004/05	2003/04
	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed asset additions	(3,717)	(4,226)
Intangible fixed asset additions	(14)	(10)
(Increase) / decrease in AICC	(1,958)	(535)
Increase / (decrease) in capital creditors	(103)	73
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	129	139
	<u>(5,663)</u>	<u>(4,559)</u>

14. Capital commitments

The capital commitments at the end of the financial year for which no provision has been made in the accounts amounted to £1,340k.

15. Contingent Liabilities

Due to the serious prejudice that would be caused to the Agency's position in relation to disputes with other parties, full disclosure of its contingent liabilities is not possible. The Agency cannot reliably estimate the cost of its contingent liabilities, but considers that the cost should not exceed £20,000.



16. Source of Funds

	Note	2004/05 £'000	2003/04 £'000
Net cash outflow from continuing operating activities	13.1	(13,604)	(15,063)
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure activities	13.2	(5,663)	(4,559)
Total cash inflow from financing		<u>(19,267)</u>	<u>(19,622)</u>

The Agency has no borrowings and relies on DARD for its cash requirements, and is therefore not exposed to liquidity risks. It has no deposits and all assets and liabilities are denominated in sterling, so it is not exposed to interest rate or currency risk.

17. Related Party transactions

The Rivers Agency is an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ('the Department').

The Department is regarded as a related party. During the year, the Agency has had material transactions with the Department.

In addition the Agency has had a small number of transactions with other Government Departments and other central government bodies.

During the year, none of the Board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties have undertaken any material transactions with the Agency.

18. Losses and special payments

Losses statement

There were thirteen cases involving a total amount of £1,879 during the year. These cases were in relation to malicious damage and theft.

Special payments

There were no special payments during the year.



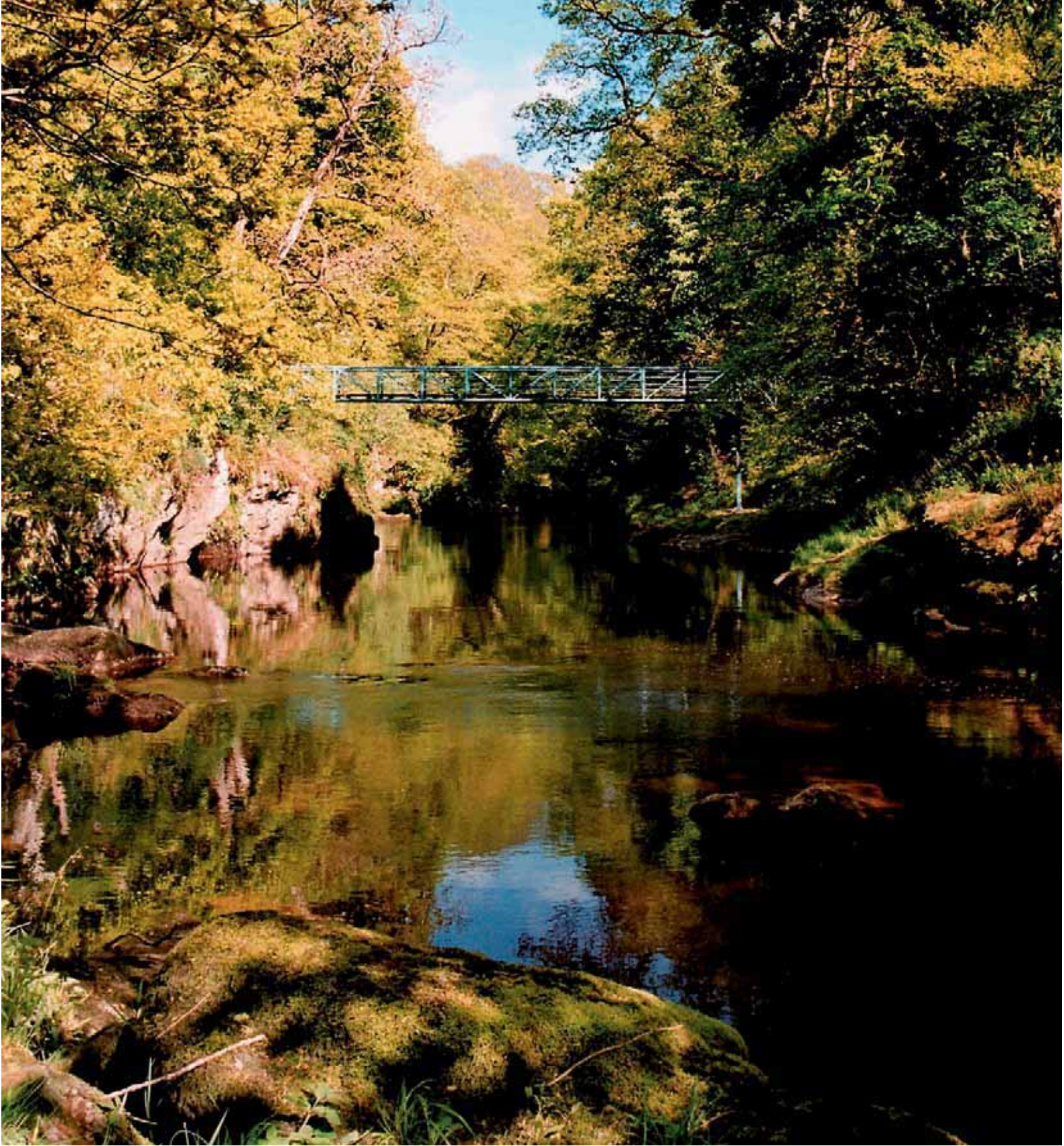
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River Roe



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APPENDIX ONE

Agency Offices

Agency Headquarters

Hydebank
4 Hospital Road
BELFAST BT8 8JP
Tel: 028 9025 3355
Fax: 028 9025 3455

Western Region

Regional Office
Woodside Avenue
Gortin Road
OMAGH BT79 7BS
Tel: 028 8225 4900
Fax: 028 8225 4901

Eastern Region

Regional Office
Ravarnet House
Altona Road
LISBURN BT27 5QB
Tel: 028 9260 6100
Fax: 028 9260 6111

Coleraine Office

37 Castleroe Road
COLERAINE BT51 3RL
Tel: 028 7034 2357
Fax: 028 7032 0628

Armagh Office

44 Seagoe Industrial Estate
CRAIGAVON BT63 5QE
Tel: 028 3839 9111
Fax: 028 3839 9113

Fermanagh Office

Riversdale
Ballinamallard
ENNISKILLEN BT94 2NA
Tel: 028 6638 8529
Fax: 028 6638 8972

Plant Unit

44 Seagoe Industrial Estate
CRAIGAVON BT63 5QE
Tel: 028 3839 9100
Fax: 028 3839 9112



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APPENDIX TWO

Agency Management Board

	Chief Executive Mr J R Hagan	
Director of Development	Director of Operations	Director of Corporate Services
Mr F R White	Mr J M S Hamilton	Mr A P Morton
Capital Works Programme	Operational Management	Finance
Construction Procurement	Design	Human Resource Management and Development
Hydrometrics	Plant	Corporate Policy, Planning and Correspondence
Asset Management	Health & Safety	Legislation
Planning Advice	Environment	Drainage Council Secretariat
Information Technology	Emergency Planning	
Professional Standards		



APPENDIX THREE

Membership of the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland

NAME OF MEMBER	INTEREST REPRESENTED
Cllr Roy Thompson	Antrim Borough Council
Cllr Hubert Nicholl	Ballymena Borough Council
Cllr George Savage	Craigavon Borough Council
Cllr Thomas J Conway	Derry City Council
Cllr Michael Gillespie	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
Cllr Gerry McHugh	Fermanagh District Council
Cllr Catherine McCambridge	Moyle District Council
Cllr Pat McElroy	Newry & Mourne District Council
Cllr Alan Graham	North Down Borough Council
Cllr G Allan Rainey	Omagh District Council
Mr Robert G Cummings	Agriculture
Mr James Orr	Conservation
Mr Gerald Crawford	Fisheries
Mr Colin Mairs	Industry
Mr Rodney Watson	Tourism
Dr Robert Myers (<i>Chairman</i>)	Drainage
Mr Pat McBride	DOE Planning Service
Mr John Hagan	DARD Rivers Agency



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APPENDIX FOUR

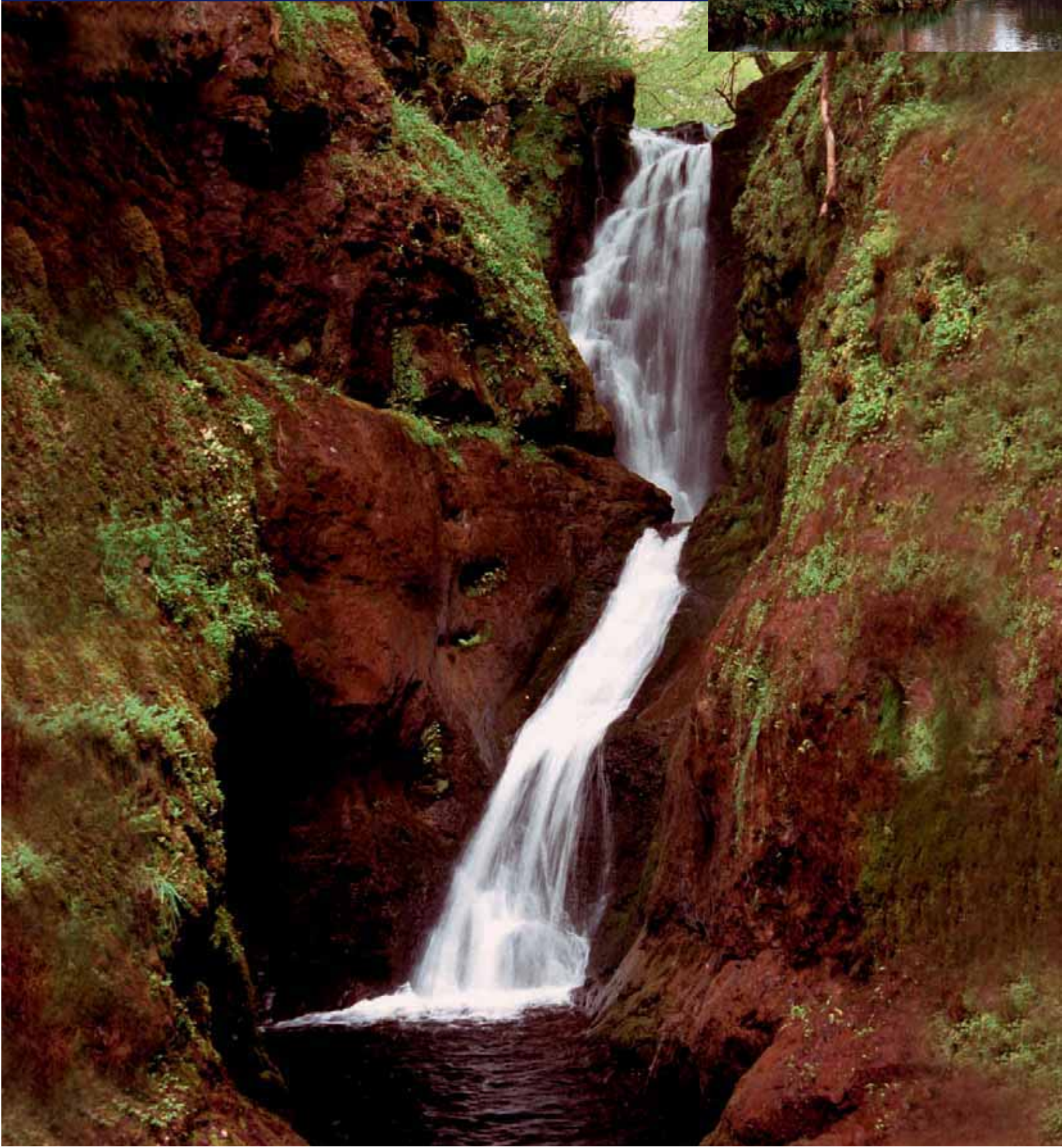
KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2005/2006

The key performance Targets published in the Agency's 2005/2006 Business Plan are as follows:

Urban Flood Defences:	To construct or refurbish 286 metres of urban flood defences.
Drainage Infrastructure:	To accommodate increased storm run-off from 79 hectares of development land. To replace/refurbish 646 metres of dangerous culverts.
Maintenance of Watercourses:	To complete identified maintenance works on 1167 of the 1617 designated open watercourses included in the Notice of Annual Maintenance as part of a 6-year scheduled maintenance programme.
Replies to written enquiries:	To issue substantive replies to 80% of written enquiries within 15 working days of receipt.
Schedule 6 applications:	To respond to 98% of Schedule 6 applications within 3 months.



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