Meeting ICE Reservoirs Committee

Date Thursday 18 June 2026
Time 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Venue MS Teams
Chair Jim Hall

Panel members

Sub-Committee 1
Alan Brown - Chair
Kenneth Barr
David Neeve
Andrew Thompson

Sub-Committee 2
Chris Scott - Chair
Dominic Molyneux
Martin Deane
David Littlemore
Debbe Cooke

Ex Officio
Mark Acford – Environment Agency
Jonathan Sewell – Scottish Government
Sara Fletcher – Scottish Government
Ryan Robinson – Department of Infrastructure, NI
Sam Deeley – Welsh Government
Matthew O'Brien – Natural Resources Wales
Alice Baverstock – Defra
Nasim Rahman – Environment Agency
David Courtenay – Department of Infrastructure, NI

Secretariat
Kerrie McPeake - ICE
Saima Saddique - ICE

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Summary of Applications in June 2026

New Applications

6 new applications were submitted to the Supervising Engineers Panel this cycle.

1 Supervising Engineer applicant has been recommended for appointment in England and Wales.

2 Supervising Engineers applicants have been recommended for appointment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2 Supervising Engineers applicants have been recommended for appointment in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

1 new application was submitted to the All Reservoirs Engineers Panel this cycle.

Re-applications

8 re-applications were made to the Supervising Engineers Panel this cycle.

4 Supervising Engineers Panel re-applications have been recommended for re-appointment to England and Wales.

1 Supervising Engineers Panel re-application has been recommended for re-appointment to England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2 Supervising Engineers Panel re-applications have been recommended for re-appointment to England, Wales and Scotland.

1 Supervising Engineers Panel re-application has been recommended for re-appointment to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

2 re-applications were made to the All Reservoirs Engineers Panel this cycle.

2 All Reservoir Engineers Panel re-applications have been recommended for re-appointment to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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Item no	**PART A** **Updates from government and enforcement authorities**	
2526	**Legislative changes, jurisdictional impacts**	
	Update on current legislative situation in each of the jurisdictions: **England –** Alice Baverstock • Defra is continuing work on the consultation paper on the Reform Programme, alongside Welsh colleagues, with the intention of publishing it later this year. **Scotland –** Jonathan Sewell • Additional funding has been secured for SEPA to undertake further investigative work on potential reservoirs. This builds on earlier, largely map-based work carried out around 18 months ago and will now involve detailed site visits. Where sites are found to require regulation, inundation mapping will be completed. The project, led by SEPA is expected to run over the next 2 to 3 years and may involve assessment of around 500 potential reservoirs. • Following the recent Scottish Parliament election, the SNP remains the largest party and the same Cabinet Secretary is in post, providing continuity. Reservoirs did not feature in election manifestos or early commitments, so there is no new particular driver. • Scotland will continue to engage with Defra and other administrations around the reform project, with the intention of remaining aligned across the UK to support cross-border working and maintain a sufficient supply of qualified engineers. **Northern Ireland –** Ryan Robinson / David Courtenay • The legislation remains under scrutiny by the Committee for Infrastructure and has not yet been passed. Officials appeared before the Committee again in April to respond to questions arising from the recent consultation on a potential grant scheme for reservoir managers. • The Responsible Reservoir Manager Status role is being operated for those reservoir managers who wish to participate, particularly Northern Ireland Water. A review of reservoir numbers has been undertaken over the past six months by the Reservoir Authority Team, resulting in a revised total of 165 known controlled reservoirs in Northern Ireland, down from 172, based on updated information from Northern Ireland Water.	

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	Wales – Matthew O'Brien • There are ongoing reviews of reservoirs newly brought into regulation in the 10,000–25,000 cubic metre range. A significant number of these reservoirs, once registered and assessed in more detail, have been found to exceed 25,000 cubic metres. MB advised that, when identifying potential reservoirs, it may be better to lower the threshold to capture those that appear smaller but are not.	
2527	**Reservoir Safety Review**	
	I. Update on progress – Alice Baverstock • Consultants have developed a set of proposed actions focused on learning and development, including training, mentoring, and support to help engineers successfully join the panels. • Additional work is underway to attract engineers from adjacent sectors and to improve outreach to universities, ensuring reservoir engineering is covered in engineering courses and better understood by graduates. • There is also progress on improving the commercial environment, particularly supporting smaller reservoir owners and make it easier for engineers to obtain insurance when working with them. **II. Update from Panel Engineer Committee – Chris Scott** The PEC has had ongoing engagement since the last meeting, including an April session on small owner insurance and a forthcoming July workshop on learning and development. Further discussions are also planned on hazard classification. The PEC continues to have concerns regarding proportionality and causality of the proposed reservoirs safety management practices. There are also questions on how proposed measures would achieve the stated outcomes.	
	Future meeting dates: Thursday 15th October 2026, 2.00pm – 5.00pm (Online)	

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