



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Reservoir Safety Reform Programme

A safety regime for reservoir dams in England which protects our communities, by making us ready for and resilient to climate change – today, tomorrow and the future.



## Toddbrook Reservoir emergency incident 2019





## The programme's vision & aims

### Vision

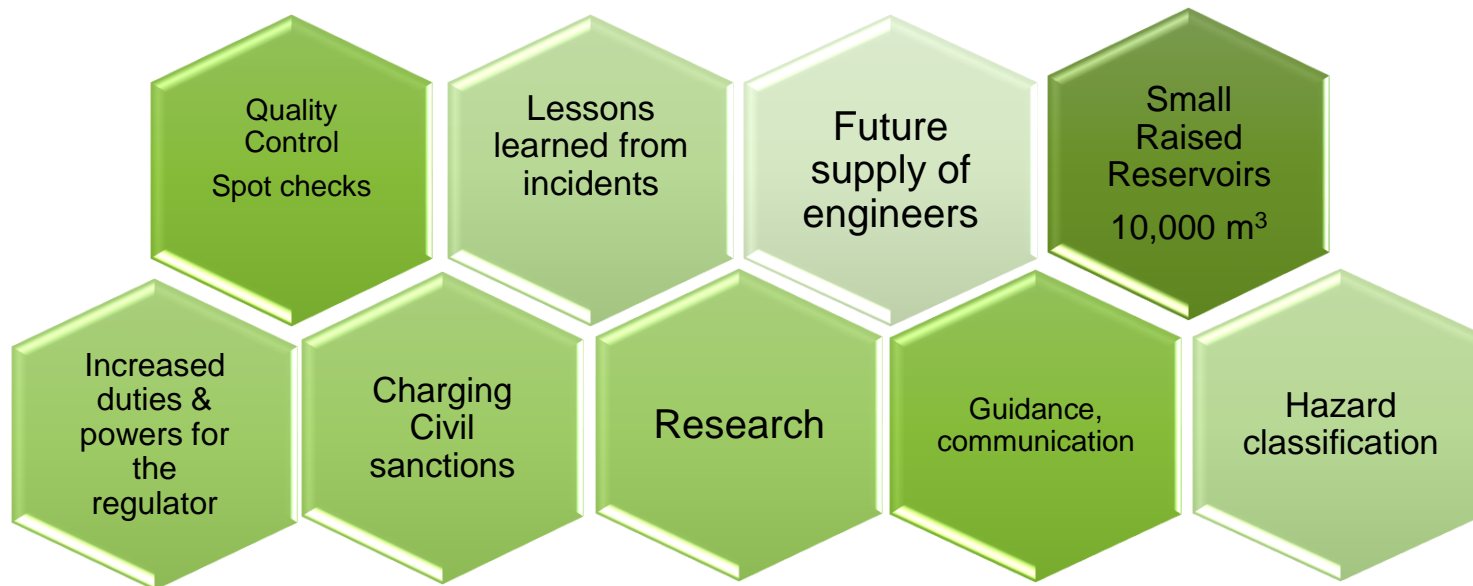
A safety regime for reservoir dams in England which protects our communities, by making us ready for and resilient to climate change – today, tomorrow and the future.

### Aims

- ❖ Strengthening roles and responsibilities for reservoir owners, operators, engineers, and the regulator.
- ❖ Improving safety practice and culture, through a programme of continuous development of skills, capacity and training across the reservoir community.
- ❖ Modernising legislation and safety management practice to ensure a robust, proportionate safety regime that is fit for the future.
- ❖ Engaging with stakeholders to help shape our approach and deliver reforms.

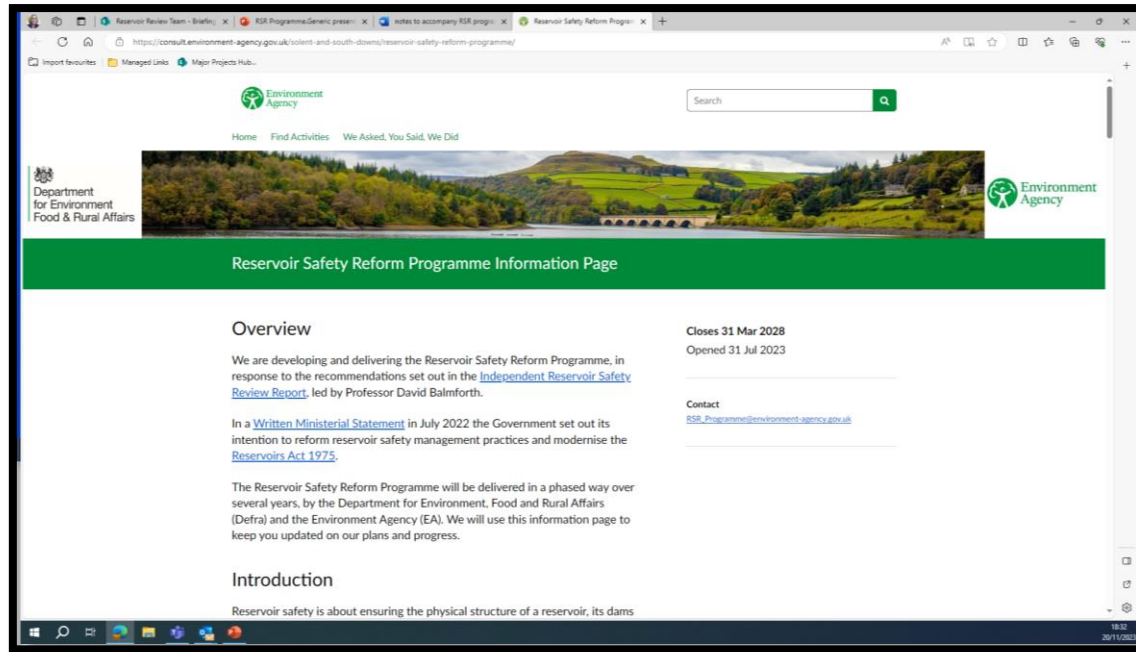


## Key Reforms





## Engaging with the reservoir community



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Information Page'. The page features the Environment Agency logo at the top left and a search bar at the top right. Below the logo is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Find Activities', and 'We Asked, You Said, We Did'. A large landscape image of a reservoir is centered on the page. Below the image is a green header bar with the text 'Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Information Page'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains an 'Overview' section with text about the programme's development and a 'Contact' section with an email address. The right column contains a 'Closes 31 Mar 2028' and 'Opened 31 Jul 2023' section. The bottom of the page shows a taskbar with various application icons and a system tray with the date and time.

Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Information Page

### Overview

We are developing and delivering the Reservoir Safety Reform Programme, in response to the recommendations set out in the [Independent Reservoir Safety Review Report](#), led by Professor David Balmforth.

In a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) in July 2022 the Government set out its intention to reform reservoir safety management practices and modernise the [Reservoirs Act 1975](#).

The Reservoir Safety Reform Programme will be delivered in a phased way over several years, by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Environment Agency (EA). We will use this information page to keep you updated on our plans and progress.

### Introduction

Reservoir safety is about ensuring the physical structure of a reservoir, its dams

Closes 31 Mar 2028  
Opened 31 Jul 2023

Contact  
[RSR\\_Programme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:RSR_Programme@environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Survey on Reservoir Safety

- Better understand training and information needs,
- what works well and what needs improving with the reports and statements written by reservoir engineers, and to evaluate the
- current approach to on-site emergency flood plans.
- Relevant to all Undertakers, Panel Engineers, and Local Resilience Forums, Local Authority Emergency Planning Teams.