



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

1st October 2024

Dear Steve,

Request for Emergency Funding for Flooding Recovery in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents, who have been severely affected by recent flooding following torrential rainfall. Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council have outlined to me the significant challenges they face and the urgent need for financial support to assist residents and businesses with recovery efforts.

Central Bedfordshire has experienced record-breaking rainfall over the last week, with drainage systems and waterways overwhelmed. In some areas, over 45mm of rain fell in a single night, and the Met Office has confirmed the highest rainfall levels ever recorded in the region. More than 70 homes have been flooded, and the number continues to rise. Similarly, Bedford Borough has suffered widespread disruption, including the closure of the A421, a major route in the area. Although over 10 million litres of water have already been pumped from the road, further flooding risks have made it impossible to fully reopen it.

Both Local Authorities, alongside the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum, have been working continuously to manage the situation, including setting up assistance centres and deploying emergency responders. However, the scale of the flooding has stretched local resources. Additional financial support is now critical to sustain recovery efforts.

Without central government funding, the recovery will be slower, and the long-term impact on residents and businesses could be severe. I therefore urge you to consider providing emergency financial assistance to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to support their response and recovery in these exceptional circumstances.

Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Fuller".

Richard Fuller MP