



# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## 2010 CHAPTER 29

### PART 1

#### FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT

##### *1. Key concepts and definitions*

#### **1 “Flood” and “coastal erosion”**

- (1) “Flood” includes any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water.
- (2) It does not matter for the purpose of subsection (1) whether a flood is caused by—
  - (a) heavy rainfall,
  - (b) a river overflowing or its banks being breached,
  - (c) a dam overflowing or being breached,
  - (d) tidal waters,
  - (e) groundwater, or
  - (e) anything else (including any combination of factors).
- (3) But “flood” does not include—
  - (a) a flood from any part of a sewerage system, unless wholly or partly caused by an increase in the volume of rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) entering or otherwise affecting the system, or
  - (b) a flood caused by a burst water main (within the meaning given by section 219 of the Water Industry Act 1991).
- (4) “Coastal erosion” means the erosion of the coast of any part of England or Wales.

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** Ss. 1-3 applied by 2005 c. 5, s. 86B(4) (as inserted (with effect in accordance with Sch. 5 para. 9 of the amending Act) by [Finance Act 2015 \(c. 11\)](#), [Sch. 5 para. 1](#))

---

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the  
Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

---

#### **Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 1 in force at 1.9.2010 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2010/2169](#), **art. 3(2)(a)**
- I2** S. 1 in force at 1.10.2010 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2010/2169](#), **art. 4, Sch.**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Section 1.