

Mobile Plant Deployment and Operation Policy



A group of four independent statutory Land Drainage, water levels and Flood Risk Management Authorities working collectively under a partnership agreement in accordance with section 11(5) of the Land Drainage Act (1991).

Four Independent Boards:

- *Witham First District Internal Drainage Boards*
- *Witham Third District Internal Drainage Boards*
- *Upper Witham Internal Drainage Boards*
- *North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Boards*

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1.0 - Introduction

This guidance relates to the mobile pumping and electric power generation equipment held and operated by Witham & Humber Drainage Boards [W&HDB].

It aims to set out the guidance under which the Director of Operations will deploy such resources as are available in response to an unplanned flood event within the W&HDB catchments or further afield under the protocol of mutual aid to fellow professional Flood Risk Management Authority partners.

The hierarchy under which decisions regarding deployment will be based upon the following aims:

- i. Protection of IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- ii. Replacement of failed IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- iii. Recovery of W&HDB fixed pump assets or control structures within a district
- iv. Mutual aid deployed by W&HDB to Lincolnshire partner IDBs
- v. Mutual aid deployed by W&HDB to Lincolnshire partner FRMAs
- vi. Mutual aid to other FRMA via Local Resilience Forum [LRF] request.

In this guidance the term 'resources' refers to employees of a Drainage Board managed within the Witham & Humber group, and all plant and equipment owned and operated by them.

1.1 – Mobile Plant Available:

All individual pumps are supplied with appropriate lengths of suction and delivery hoses couplings and fittings for most scenarios. Exact requirements shall be confirmed before deployment to site.

All plant is trailer or skid mounted requiring a vehicle legally capable of towing 3.5 tonnes. Where mobile plant is not under the operation and control of W&HDB, it will be the users' responsibility to ensure compliance with all DVLA and HMRC regulations regarding fuel and vehicles used.

Woodhall Depot:

- 2no. 4" mobile pumps. 1no in quiet pack. 1no Sludge pump (non-quiet)
- 8no. 6" mobile pumps
- 7no. 8" mobile pumps
- 1no. 10" mobile pump [designated use site – not for deployment elsewhere]
- 3no. 12" mobile pumps – Electric
- 2no. 12" mobile pumps - Diesel

1no. 393 kw Electric Generator

4no. 160 kw Electric Generators

North Hykeham Depot:

1no. 8” mobile pump

New Holland Depot:

1no. 6” mobile pump & generator set

Where required for compliance with Eels [England and Wales] Regulations 2009, 2no. fish friendly intake suction baskets are available.

Unless by prior agreement W&HDB would not provide 12” mobile pumping equipment under the mutual aid protocol. This is due to their need for connection to external generator power, their size and weight and the inherent risk of harm to inexperienced operatives and the need for specialist equipment to deploy them.

1.2 - Deployment

It is estimated W&HDB has sufficient resource to deploy up to 6 mobile pump sets and their associated equipment within the districts during normal working hours of response. This is dependent upon the site location, size of pump to be deployed [either 4”, 6” or 8”] and the resources available at the time. The decision regarding their deployment will be based upon the criteria listed above, prevailing catchment conditions and shall be at the discretion of the Director of Operations, Director of Engineering or the Chief Executive.

Where mobile assets have been deployed by W&HDB at the request of a partner Lincolnshire FRMA, it will remain under the control and maintenance of W&HDB.

W&HDB retains the right to recall any plant deployed under the mutual aid protocol should circumstance change and there is a greater operational need elsewhere.

Requests for assistance from members of the public will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Decisions to deploy will be based upon the risk to the Boards’ employees, a clear benefit to Board’s assets, available resources, prevailing catchment conditions, operational effectiveness and risks posed by unplanned events.

The deployment of mobile pump assets would not be considered to provide an outfall to a breach of main river or other uncontrolled flow of water, unless part of a recovery plan.

1.3 - Hours of Response

The Boards have limited manual operational resources, and these will be managed during an unplanned event to ensure their health and to provide a safe place of work [as required by Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974] and to meet the operational requirements of the Board.

Deployment and maintenance of mobile resources will be limited to working hours between 06:00 – 18:00 and undertaken by W&HDB trained operatives and officers only, unless the risk of harm to human life is present.

Those resources deployed by the Boards shall be at the discretion of the Director of Operations, Works Supervisor or relevant Foreman.

Outside of the normal working hours outlined, mutual aid requests by Lincolnshire Partner FRMA's will be responded to on a best endeavours basis and by agreement. These requests are expected to be made via the LRF or Emergency Control Centre for assistance by Fire & Rescue Service, Police or LCC.

1.4 - Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance of the plant will be the responsibility of W&HDB operatives or their agents whilst the plant is deployed. Fuel will be supplied by the Board from the relevant or nearest depot.

At the discretion of the Director of Operations/Working Supervisor, an appropriate response will be provided to mechanical breakdown to plant deployed within the W&HDB district outside of normal response hours.

No plant managed by W&HDB will be operated, managed or amended by members of the public or un-trained professional partners.

1.5 - Mutual Aid

Mutual aid will be offered to appropriately trained staff within professional partner FRMAs only. They must have the skills and knowledge to operate the pumps safely. All assistance will be given where the Boards' resources are available, to provide guidance and advice where an agreed appropriate use and benefit of the Boards' plant is identified.

Participating authorities will hold appropriate levels of insurance that cover the use of **'Free of charge loan'** equipment from W&HDB (usually in Contractors' Plant/Works in Progress policy) and covering the following:

1. Breakdown & repair of W&HDB equipment whilst in their care.
2. Reimburses W&HDB in the event of any loss or damage up to its current value or replaces equipment at their cost.
3. Appropriate cover for equipment whilst it is being transported to be compliant with Road Traffic Act requirements.

This insurance cover needs to be evidenced before any pump and/or associated equipment is released from the 4 Boards' control.

Those operating the plant will be responsible for collection and delivery from the depot, all fuel, maintenance and repairs whilst it is in their care.

All mobile plant provided under mutual aid, will remain under the control of the requesting FRMA partner. It will not be loaned/managed/operated by any other third party under any circumstances.

Before any plant or equipment is deployed to third parties a full inventory will be drawn up and signed for, along with photographs, confirming all liabilities and responsibilities are accepted.

Where the period of loan or use under mutual extends beyond one week, it is expected that wearable parts/attachments [such as 'lay flat' discharge pipes, or other worn or broken parts, will be replaced at the third party's cost].

W&HDB will not be responsible for any injury loss or damage caused by the use of any equipment provided under the mutual aid protocol.

1.6 - Safety & Security

The location and operation of the mobile plant will be monitored by the on-board telemetry system. All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent unauthorised movement or use. Where available, security devices will be fitted, locks secured and barriers erected to prevent unauthorised access. Plant will be visited/checked on a regular basis to maintain.

1.7 - Control & Direction

The deployment of all plant and equipment will be administered by W&HDB and full records of their use recorded. Mobile units display hours pumped and this information is recorded via the on-line telemetry. This information will be used by W&HDB to ensure full cost recovery from third parties, where necessary, or for internal monitoring of costs and maintenance requirements.

1.8 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

This Policy document is written to meet the requirements of the Legislation within England.

It does not discriminate against people based on age, disability, family status, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, as defined as protected characteristics within the Equalities Act 2010. It is applied to meet the laws within England at the time of writing.

2.0 – Mobile Plant Deployment and Operation Strategy

2.1 - Aims

- Ensure safe and standardised use of the mobile pumping and electric power generation equipment held and operated by Witham & Humber Drainage Boards [W&HDB].
- Provision of guidance under which the Director of Operations will deploy such resources as are available in response to an unplanned flood event within the W&HDB catchment or further afield under the protocol of mutual aid to fellow professional FRMA partners.
- Protection of IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- Replacement of failed IDB fixed pump assets within a W&HDB district
- Recovery of W&HDB fixed pump assets or control structures within a district
- Mutual aid deployed by W&HDB to Lincolnshire partner IDBs
- Mutual aid deployed by W&HDB to Lincolnshire partner FRMA
- Mutual aid to other FRMA via LRF request.

2.2 – Strategy

- The deployment of all plant and equipment will be administered by W&HDB and full records of their use recorded. Mobile units display hours pumped and this information is recorded via the on-line telemetry. This information will be used by W&HDB to ensure full cost recovery from third parties, where necessary, or for internal monitoring of costs and maintenance requirements.

3.0 Statement of intent

The mobile plant deployment and operation policy is provided to aid an open, consistent and transparent way of deploying and operating mobile plant.

The Boards will achieve this policy by:

- Ensuring that the policy is available to all staff.
- Ensuring that the policy is available to partner agencies via the website.

4.0 - Glossary / Definitions

Word/ term	Definition

5.0 - Document review:

Version	Date	Reviewed by	Changes	Approved by/ date
01	13.11.2025	SMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation	Board APMs / Nov 2025
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	

This policy is due for review at 5 yearly intervals, unless a review is required before e.g. change to management, process or anything which may affect the contents of this policy.

6.0 - Supporting documents and forms (Annex)

None.