



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Guidelines for the incorporation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) into the Planning System

Water Policy Advisory Committee

Water Division & Planning Division
10th March 2022



- **Why do we need these guidelines?**
 - Support development planning in meeting WFD requirements
 - Ensure consideration of WFD requirements is proportionate
 - Provide a consistent approach

- **Legal Status – Ministerial Guidelines**
 - Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000


28.-(1) The Minister may, at any time, issue guidelines to planning authorities regarding any of their functions under this Act and planning authorities shall have regard to those guidelines in the performance of their functions.



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GUIDELINES FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE INTO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Volume 1 – Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities



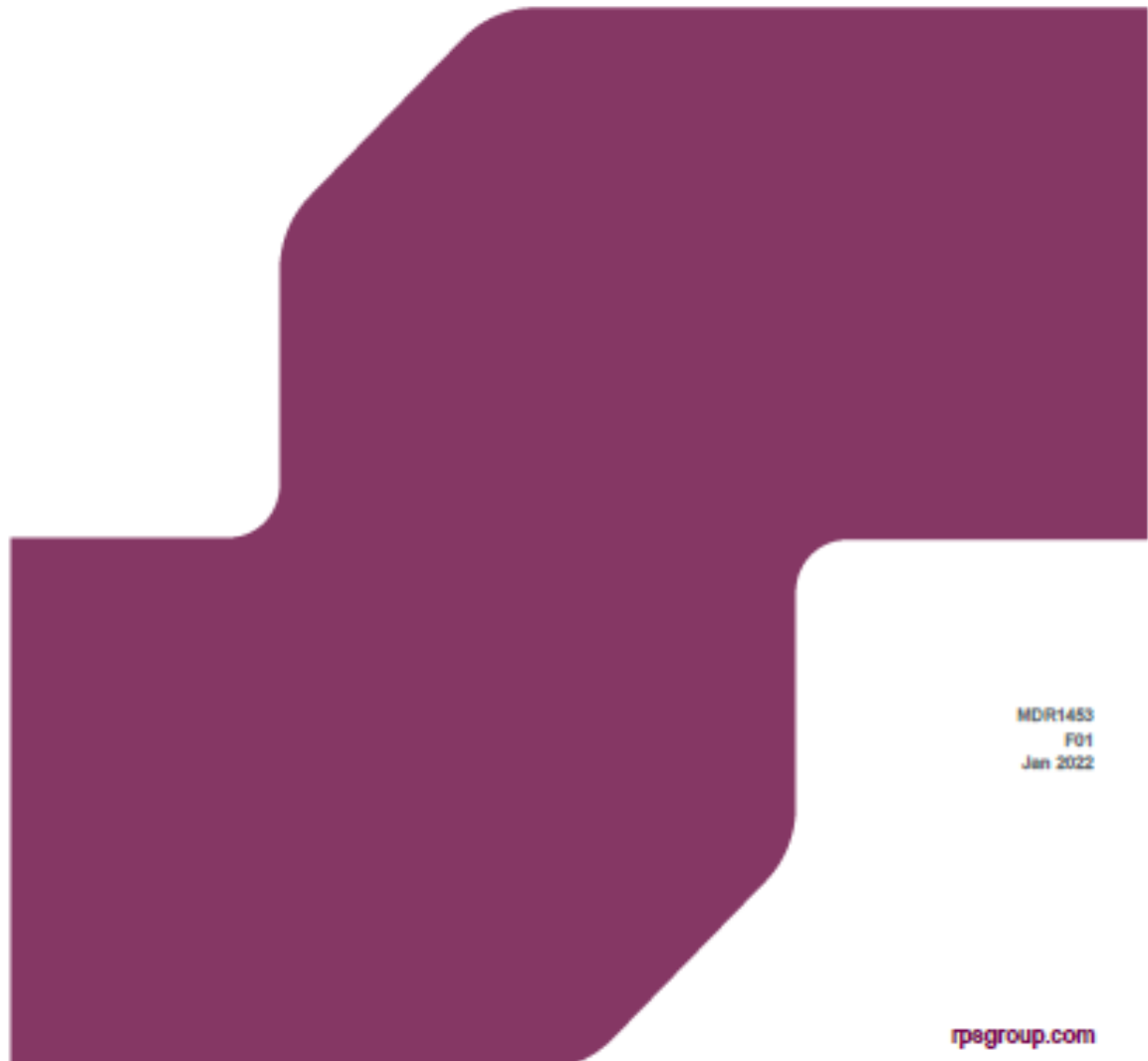
MDR1453
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GUIDELINES FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE INTO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Volume 2 - Draft Technical Appendix




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TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO MORPHOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF RIVERS

Guidelines for Planning Authorities



ISE1516
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO MORPHOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF RIVERS
F03
Oct 2021

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Document Structure



- **Guidelines for Planning Authorities**
 - Guidance documents to assist planning authorities in their role in plan making and development management, and also to assist developers and other stakeholders in the development management process.

- **Technical Appendices**
 - Supplementary supporting technical guidance on the application of:
 - Strategic Water Status Impact Assessment (S-WSIA) – Forward Planning Scale
 - Water Status Impact Assessment (WSIA) – Development Management Scale

and

- **Stand-alone, technical guidance to morphological risk assessment of rivers**
 - Technical methodology document for specialists, with a focus on physical modification in rivers

Key Provisions



• Practical advice to planning authorities on how environmental objectives under the WFD are further integrated into the planning system

• Building on existing work undertaken by planning authorities for SEA / AA / FRA etc.

• Provides detailed arrangements for Art. 4(7) derogations / exemptions

• Technical guidance and case studies

• Promotes the use of Nature based Solutions for the effective management of surface water / rainwater (water/climate/biodiversity/flooding)



Strategic Level

- Strategic Water Status Impact Assessment (SWSIA)
- Opportunities for alignment with SEA process
- Production of SWSIA File

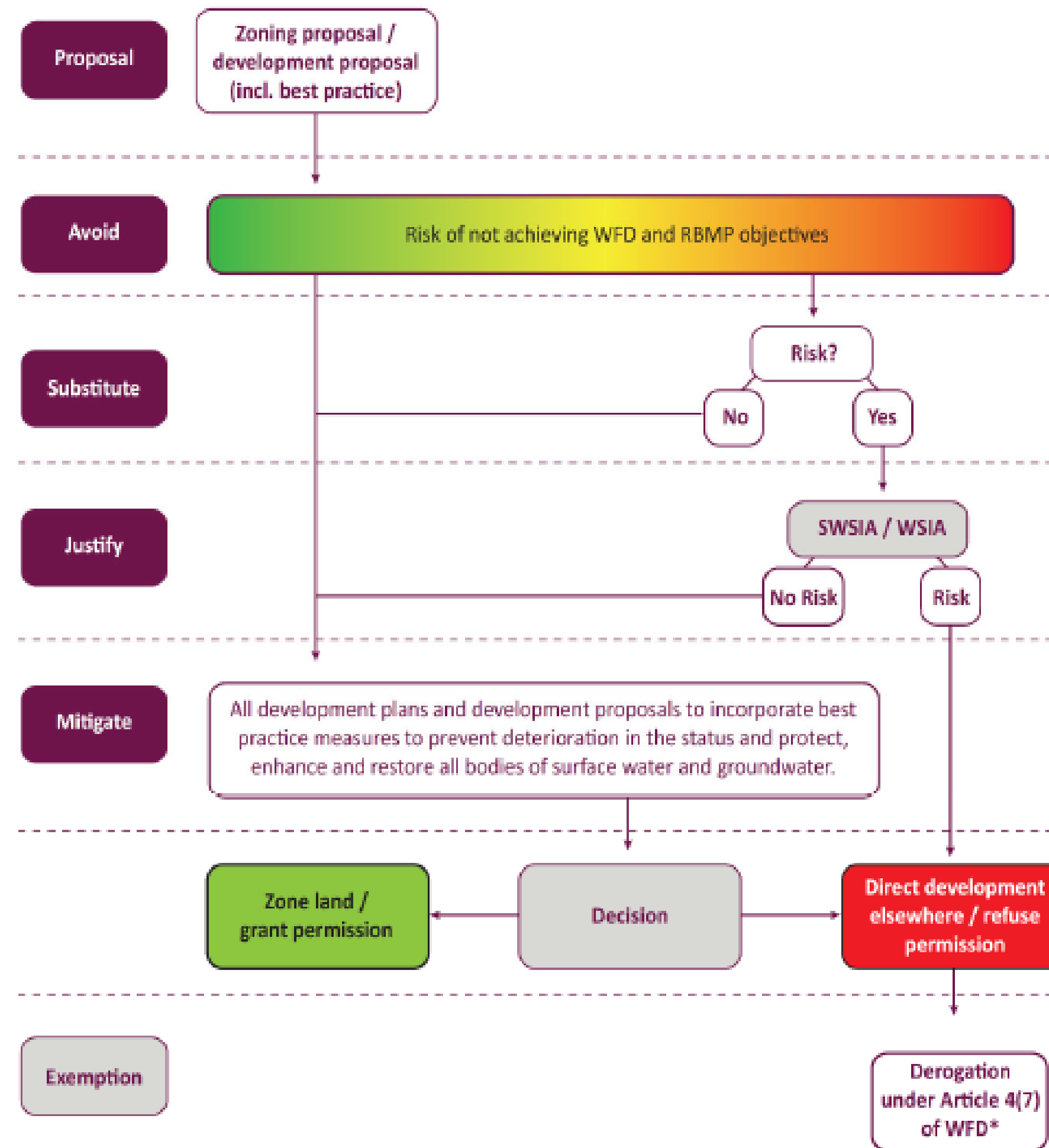
Development Management Level

- Water Status Impact Assessment (WSIA)
- Screening / WSIA Report
- Mitigation
- Article 4(7)

Goal: undertake the assessment as early as possible in the planning process



Sequential Approach Mechanism in the Planning Process



*Option for the project promoter to apply for a derogation under Article 4(7) but subject to satisfying strict criteria

Figure 1-2: Risk-Based Approach in the Planning Process



Steering Group Feedback

- EPA – SEA & Catchment Unit
- IFI
- NPWS
- ABP
- Irish Water
- OPR
- SRA
- LAWPRO
- NPWS
- OPW
- DHLGH – Water Unit
- Senior Planners

Summary

- Ensure connection / flow between main report and appendix
- Focus on both impacts and risk
- Highlight the protection function
- Include references to high status objectives
- Ensuring language is strong where there is legal obligation, e.g. must vs. should
- Collaboration on case studies
- Inclusion of rural examples
- Need for training / upskilling & resourcing
- Consistency in language

Timeline for delivery

