Quite simply, the main cause of the widespread flooding across Surrey was the exceptional and unprecedented amount of rainfall that fell over the months of December, January and February 2013/14, which in turn resulted in instances of flooding from surface water, ground water and fluvial (river/watercourse) sources.

A Section 19 report is a report that a Lead Local Flood Authority must publish after becoming aware of a flood event that has taken place in its area. This is required under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and it must investigate which risk management authorities had relevant risk management functions during the flood and whether they have exercised, or plan to exercise, those functions.

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing risk from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

Surrey County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Ordinary watercourses are all rivers and streams which are not designated as ômain riversô.

District and Borough Councils can carry out flood risk management works on m א bmrd ¶ drainage systems, including both their surface water only systems and combined sewer systems.

Highway Authorities are responsible for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches, and must ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk.

Risk management functions are detailed in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and they include responsibilities such as communicating with other risk management authorities, and in the case of the Lead Local Flood Authority, developing a Flood Risk Management Strategy, maintaining a register of assets that contribute to flood resilience, and publishing Section 19 reports. It is important to understand that the majority of these functions do not apply to a risk management authorityôs actual response during a flood event; however in the Section 19 reports we have included a significant number of the response and recovery actions undertaken by the risk management authorities in addition to the limited flood risk management functions required by the legislation.