The Reservoirs Bill for Northern Ireland

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SYNOPSIS The 1975 Reservoir Act¹ does not extend to Northern Ireland (NI) and there is currently no regulation of reservoir safety, which means that there is no requirement for routine inspection or maintenance of the 151 reservoirs identified as holding 10,000m³ or more of water. In early 2011 DARD Rivers Agency, the flood risk and drainage authority for Northern Ireland, established a Bill Team to take forward reservoir safety policy development. The draft legislation was approved by the NI Executive in November 2013 and was subsequently introduced in the NI Assembly in January 2014 as the ‘The Reservoirs Bill’. The Bill is currently being scrutinised by the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and is expected to be on the statute book towards the end of 2014, with commencement in early 2015.

REFERENCES