



scientific advisor.

"If you include a 5km scale in your predictions, you are probably pushing things beyond what is realistic. So I'm a little surprised that scientists were prepared to go that far.

"If I was in the decision-making position in government, I would not have made the decision to publish those figures."

But Sir David backs Defra's decision to publish the figures at a 25km scale, despite the current uncertainties.

"There is the issue of saying to the local village council and the local city councils that this is an issue that affects you. I think that the driver was the need to get a message across to the people who make key decisions," he said.

"I believe we need the best we can get so that we can set in train a good adaptive process to protect the country from risk of flood whether from rivers or flash floods in cities or coastal floods."

That view was echoed by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins of the Grantham Institute in London, who chaired the independent review of the projections.

"[These projections] will help people make decisions about planning and designing structures now. That doesn't say that the guidance will be identical in three years' time.

"But for those making decisions now, I think this information and

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