



Government Office for Science

Sir Mark Walport FRS FMedSci
Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government and
Head of the Government Office for Science

1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

T **Irrelevant & Sensitive**
E GCSA.walport@bis.gsi.gov.uk
W www.bis.gov.uk/go-science

Felicity Oswald-Nicholls
Civil Contingencies Secretariat
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

I welcome the 2014 Interim National Risk Assessment (NRA) and I am happy to recommend its approval by Ministers.

I have been supporting the review process for the development of the 2016 NRA. As I have outlined before, I believe that the NRA could be further strengthened:

- Firstly, in order for the NRA to be useful it needs to be accessible. **Irrelevant & Sensitive** **Irrelevant & Sensitive** and I think this is a factor in making it less well known across Government. We should be aiming to produce a document that is largely accessible, **Irrelevant & Sensitive** **Irrelevant & Sensitive**. This will better inform those who should be aware of the UK's key risks, while keeping the more sensitive information properly protected.
- Secondly, I think there are four reasons to have a risk assessment; to prevent the risk; to mitigate the risk, to respond to it and to recover. The response and recovery have been addressed in your work to date. However, I think we need to actively look at what the Government can do to avoid and mitigate against the risks. This remains an outstanding issue and I would like to see this tackled more effectively in the coming months.
- As we saw during the winter flooding and again in the Canvey Island flooding, one risk can cascade into another. We need to do more to model the interaction of risks and their consequences.

I remain committed to the further development of a rigorous evidence base for this process and my team and I are ready to provide the support you need to make this happen.

Personal Data

Sir Mark Walport