



Cabinet Office

# 2016 National Risk Assessment

An assessment of risks and their common consequences

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## Foreword

The United Kingdom has an enviable reputation for stability and resilience, a reputation built on the foundations of robust risk management and tried and tested emergency response and recovery arrangements. This resilience is crucial to supporting our people and businesses and through them the economy and society.

In a rapidly changing world, the UK is at the forefront of embracing new opportunities, remaining one of the most open societies in a world that is more networked than ever before. Our openness and integration of technological developments bring huge benefits to the UK but also introduce risks and vulnerabilities. Maintaining and improving our resilience requires us to understand how the risks we face are changing and to adapt our capabilities, plans and priorities accordingly.

The 2016 National Risk Assessment brings together within a single framework an assessment of the key risks that have the potential to cause a significant disruption in the UK. As such, it is an essential part of our risk management toolkit, providing Government and local responders with the means to prioritise and proportionately prepare for a range of eventualities.

In line with a programme of continuous improvement, this iteration of the National Risk Assessment is more robust, informative and accessible than previous iterations. To reflect the UK's integrated approach to emergency management, information about national risks and their common consequences is now held in one comprehensive and concise document. We have made this document available at Official Sensitive in order to ensure that those with the responsibility to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from any emergency, whether locally or nationally, have improved access to the evidence base on which to take informed action.

Compiling the National Risk Assessment requires significant support from Government Departments, Devolved Administrations, Chief Scientific Advisers, local resilience practitioners and external partners, including universities and industry. It is only with your help that we are able to produce robust and credible assessments and translate them into collective action that prepares us for the challenges we face.

**The Rt Hon Ben Gummer MP**

**Minister for the Cabinet Office  
and Paymaster General**

**Sir Mark Walport**

**Government Chief Scientific Adviser**