



Cabinet Office

# 2019 National Security Risk Assessment

An assessment of risks and their common consequences

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# Foreword

The United Kingdom has a world-leading national approach to resilience and emergency response. Our ability to mitigate, respond and recover from significant events is vital to protect our people, values and way of life. Robust, evidence-led risk assessment underpins everything we do and is enables contingency planning at all levels.

The National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) assesses the key risks that could potentially damage the safety or security of the UK or our interests both domestically and overseas. It also draws out the consequences in the event of such scenarios occurring. This makes the NSRA an effective tool that can be used at all levels of government to drive risk management and an essential part of the way we approach national security.

The analytical framework ensures that our capabilities, plans and priorities are driven by evidence and expert judgement, and that risks are assessed in a consistent way. Crucially, the NSRA recognises that a large number of risks that the UK faces can be planned for generically: taking a risk agnostic approach and making sure our capabilities are used in the most effective and efficient ways. The global risk landscape is perpetually changing, making it essential that we update the risk assessment evidence base regularly and identify ways to continuously improve our risk management processes.

The 2019 NSRA builds on the strengths of previous iterations, including combining the National Risk Assessment and the National Security Risk Assessment, in order to deliver a unified risk assessment framework and directly compare malicious and non-malicious, domestic and international risks. This recognises that risks can transcend borders and acknowledges that domestic and international risks will often interconnect. This iteration also has an increased focus on the capabilities required to enable effective recovery.

In line with previous versions, as much information as possible has been included at OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE classification to enhance usability and transparency.

The production of the NSRA has been supported throughout by an extensive stakeholder group, who have been dedicated in providing evidence and challenge. This has included relevant government departments, Devolved Administrations, Chief Scientific Advisers, the intelligence community, and Local Resilience Forums, as well as experts from academia and industry.

This broad community is essential in the delivery of the assessment, and in ensuring that the NSRA meets the needs of its users. Recipients of the NSRA should continue to exercise care in how this document is used and interpreted, focusing on the planning activities that result from the risks, rather than where specific risks fall on the matrix. Ultimately, any assessment is only worthwhile if it is used, and translated into actions to meet the challenges ahead.

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