

Emergency Planning

3.1 Under the NI Civil Contingencies Framework (2011) the Department has been identified as the Lead Government Department for responding to the health and social care consequences of emergencies arising from:-

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear incidents;
- Disruptions to the Medical Supply Chain;
- Human Infectious Diseases, e.g. Pandemic Influenza; and
- Mass Casualties.

3.2 This requires the Department to not only develop and maintain appropriate emergency plans and response arrangements to manage its own response to an emergency, and that of its associated agencies and NDPBs, but also to co-ordinate the inter agency aspects of civil protection for those emergencies for which it has been designated lead. In such circumstances the Minister would be required to lead, direct and co-ordinate the response for NI, reporting as necessary to the Executive under the Northern Ireland Central Crisis Management Arrangements (NICCMA).

9.0 EU EXIT

9.1 The primary focus for DoH has been to ensure the Health and Social Care Sector in Northern Ireland was prepared for EU Exit so that patient care was paramount. Preparedness was progressed across three workstreams:

- Contingency Planning;
- Emergency Planning; and
- Departmental Business Continuity Planning.

9.2. The Department worked closely with the Executive Office, the Department of Health and Social Care in England (DHSC), and the other Devolved Administrations as part of these preparations.