

**CCG(NI) PROTOCOL FOR THE NORTHERN
IRELAND CENTRAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT
ARRANGEMENTS**

September 2016

NORTHERN IRELAND CENTRAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS PROTOCOL

Introduction

1. When an emergency has occurred or is anticipated which is likely to have a serious impact either to a part of or the whole of Northern Ireland, central strategic co-ordination arrangements can be activated by government as required to:
 - provide strategic co-ordination of the response and /or recovery across the NI departments and other responders; and
 - provide an interface at strategic level with other emergency co-ordination bodies in Northern Ireland, GB and Ireland.
2. These strategic co-ordination arrangements are known as the 'Northern Ireland Central Crisis Management Arrangements' (NICCMA). These arrangements are only used for the most serious of emergencies. This is in line with the principle of subsidiarity, which states '*that decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level with co-ordination at the highest necessary level*'. The vast majority of emergencies will therefore be dealt with at local level without direct engagement with NICCMA.
3. The First Minister and deputy First Minister or TEO may activate NICCMA following a request to do so from the Executive; the Lead Government Department; a senior representative from the NIO Briefing Room (NIOBR); a senior member of PSNI involved in the Police led multi-agency GOLD group; the local level co-ordinator; or in the absence of any such requests, whenever TEO judges it appropriate to do so.
4. Cross-departmental co-ordination and support will be provided by TEO through the activation of NICCMA.

the 'CCG(NI) Protocol for the Collaborative Communications Process'.

Scope of the Protocol

18. The full NICCMA, as set out in this paper, have been designed to facilitate strategic co-ordination by government across a large number of local, sub-regional and regional organisations and so consequently are normally suitable for use in Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies only.

19. Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies require direction, co-ordination and effective decision making at government level. This may be in addition to any actual / direct response co-ordinated by PSNI through their multi-agency GOLD arrangements. PSNI led multi-agency GOLD deals primarily with the emergency service type issues and focuses on the immediate actions necessary to avert an emergency, or protective measures to mitigate its effects eg search and rescue, evacuation. NICCMA will focus on the wider issues to prevent the incident from further escalation eg critical infrastructure, essential service provision. Interface arrangements to ensure a joined up approach are detailed at page 12.

20. It is recognised that these levels of emergency may well have an impact on the rest of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The UK interface arrangements are set out in paragraphs 36-38 below. Separate to this arrangements also exist to share information on planning and response with government departments in Ireland, although these arrangements are outside the scope of this protocol.

NI Central Crisis Management Structure

21. The NICCMA are discharged by the various groups of the central crisis management structure, a schematic of which is at Annex A. Each group is staffed by suitably trained personnel from NI departments and other key organisations. Activation of the various groups depends on the specific circumstances at the time and each group can be activated independently