

To: Minister for Implementation

From:

NR

NR

Civil Contingencies
Secretariat (CCS)

Clearance: Katharine Hammond, CCS

Date: 23 July 2018

National Security Capability Review (NSCR) – National Resilience - Implementation

Issue

1. To provide an update on the implementation of the national resilience recommendations arising from the National Security Capability Review (NSCR).

Recommendation

2. That you note progress, proposed next steps and the updated line to take on the potential establishment of a Civil Disaster Reaction Taskforce (CDRT), referenced in the Queen's Speech background briefing.

Timing

3. Routine.

Background

4. The national resilience project was led by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) and formed one of twelve strands of the NSCR. It sought to address some of the major themes emerging from the 2017 terrorist attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. It was also the primary vehicle to progress the action in the Queen's Speech 2017 background briefing "to develop a new strategy for resilience in major disasters, which could include a new CDRT to help at times of emergency."

5. As part of the NSCR, four resilience recommendations were approved by NSC in January (Annex A). This subsequently translated into a number of high-level commitments in the public version of the NSCR published in March 2018 to:

- continue to develop a holistic approach to supporting victims of emergencies;
- improve assurance of resilience and readiness of local and national capabilities; and
- reinforce mutual aid systems during major disasters.

6. No additional resource has been identified to deliver the NSCR recommendations. We have, therefore, developed a plan to deliver the thrust and overarching objectives of the resilience recommendations within existing resource. This will include conducting a number of pilots, which will inform our work on the forthcoming Spending Review.

Implementation

Supporting Victims

7. The NSCR identified a number of areas to enhance the support for victims including local data sharing during emergencies. A provision has been included in the recent Data Protection Act 2018 to enable appropriate data sharing between responders. CCS is now preparing updated guidance for local responders on data sharing during an emergency, to be finalised in the autumn.

8. The NSCR also identified issues with the organisation of charitable giving during domestic crises. The Charity Commission and DCMS are facilitating a proposal from the voluntary sector to better coordinate charitable giving, with recommendations expected this autumn. Cross-Government coordination of support for affected persons as a result of crises is also being enhanced. Drawing on the learning from the Victims of Terrorism Unit and the Grenfell Victims Unit, CCS is preparing guidance on establishing a victims unit if one is needed.

Assurance of Resilience and Readiness

9. To support enhanced local assurance, the first twelve Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) will be released on *ResilienceDirect* by the end of July. CCS with MHCLG is also leading work with a cohort of LRFs to co-develop and pilot a framework for LRF self-assessment and peer review. A fuller update was sent by NR on 19 July.

10. Nationally, CCS and MHCLG are also enhancing the training package for Government Liaison Officers (GLOs) who are the interface between national Government and the local tier during a crisis. This will give GLOs further tools to both better understand and assess local capability during a crisis and identify when a local area may have gaps or be reaching overstretch.

Targeted Support

11. The NSCR identified that more could be done if additional support is required locally during a crisis. MHCLG is working with the Local Government Association and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives on a sector-led model for enhanced local authority mutual aid arrangements. In addition, CCS is developing a mechanism to better facilitate the timely delivery of additional support. This could come from a range of sources, including specific Government expertise and surge capability through a cadre of (senior) deployable experts.

12. CCS is also enhancing cross-Government surge arrangements. We are refreshing and recommunicating the Lead Government Department expectation set for planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies setting out the standards expected from departments and examples of good practice. In addition, we are developing a network of Civil Servants with crisis management experience that can provide a cross-departmental surge function on complex and/or protracted incident responses.

13. There is some interest from the resilience community in whether a CDRT will be brought forward, but little wider interest. In light of the above, we will update our line to take to recognise that implementation of the NSCR is now underway. In line with the findings of the NSCR, we are strengthening our ability to identify local capability gaps or overstretch if they occur. In addition, we are ensuring that we are better prepared to identify and where necessary coordinate support from the most appropriate source. We believe this delivers the sentiment behind the text in the Queen's Speech background briefing.

Next Steps

14. Successful development and delivery of the NSCR resilience recommendations, will require continued input and buy-in from across Government including our key delivery partners such as MHCLG. Our intention is to substantially complete the above programme of work in twelve months. Progress will, however, be subject to the demands of crisis response and recovery.

15. There is annual reporting to Parliament on the National Security Strategy / Strategic Defence and Security Review. No equivalent commitment exists for the NSCR. The Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy is, however, conducting a review into the NSCR.

CC. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Mark Sedwill – National Security Adviser
Madeleine Alessandri - Deputy National Security Adviser
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Carol McCall – CCS Communications, Cabinet Office

**ANNEX A – National Security Council, National Security Capability Review
Resilience Recommendations**

- Provide better support for victims, by combining knowledge and creating a platform for sharing case data across government and local agencies.
- Develop a new approach to assuring and improving local response.
- Develop our understanding of local capability in a crisis by expanding and enhancing the role of Government Liaison Officers.
- Further support local capability, including enhanced mutual aid between local areas and develop a system for rapid deployment of national support (e.g. a National Crisis Surge Team).