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NSC (THRC) (R) (O) (18) 4th Meeting

CABINET

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (THREATS, HAZARDS, RESILIENCE AND
CONTINGENCIES);**

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCE

MINUTES

MINUTES of a meeting held in Main Meeting Room, Lower Ground Floor, 10 Victoria Street

On 19 December 2018 at 14:00

PRESENT

Katherine Hammond
CABINET OFFICE
In the CHAIR

Mike Botten

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial
Strategy

NR

Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs

Jon Fuller

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

NR

Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure

NR

Department for Transport

NR

Department for International Development

Clair Baynton

Department for Health and Social Care

NR

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

NR

Her Majesty’s Treasury

NR

Health and Safety Executive

NR

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government

Katherine Richardson
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government

NR

Met Office

NR

Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland

NR

Scottish Government

NR

National Fire Chiefs’ Council

NR

Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre

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Zonia Cavanagh
Cabinet Office

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SECRETARIAT

NR

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Natasha Grant
Cabinet Office

NR

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No	Action	Owner	Completion Date
1	ALL DEPARTMENTS to provide requested feedback to the CABINET OFFICE on the National Security Risk Assessment.	ALL	Next meeting
2	The MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT to complete scoping work with local resilience fora on EU Exit Planning.	ALL	Ongoing
3	ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to provide any additional feedback on the community resilience development framework and the spontaneous volunteers guidance.	ALL	9 th January 2019
4	The CABINET OFFICE to instigate publication of the community resilience development framework and the spontaneous volunteers guidance following the resolution of any outstanding feedback from departments.	CABINET OFFICE	Ongoing
5	ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to review and provide ongoing feedback for the Impact Cell guide and Parity Grid.	ALL	Ongoing
6	ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to review Crisis Management Profession update paper and return to NR @cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk .	ALL	4 th January 2019

1: Introduction and minute of last meeting and actions arising

The CHAIR welcomed all members to the meeting. Members were given the option to raise any issues or questions about outstanding actions. Due to time constraints, actions or minutes were not discussed.

2: EU Exit Planning

The CABINET OFFICE updated members on Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) prioritisation work in the lead up to EU Exit. They planned to move into the operational mode of EU Exit planning in early January. CCS stressed that capacity will be maintained to continue normal preparedness activities and ensuring that Part 2 of the CCA is refined if required (for contingency purposes). In discussion members raised the following points:

- As part of the normal preparedness activities – would continuity of crisis management continue? The CABINET OFFICE advised that it would be maintained and tested as required but that some elements will be prioritised.
- That some departments still wished to provide feedback on the National Security Risk Assessment. The CABINET OFFICE actioned all departments to complete the feedback requested if not already done so.
- Would hostile state activity exercises will continue? The CABINET OFFICE advised that exercises other than EU exit planning are under the control of the lead government departments and that they must prioritise accordingly.

The CHAIR summarised that officials should continue to brief ministers on what level of business as usual activities/departamental responsibilities could continue following a move to the operational mode of EU Exit planning.

Actions

- **ALL DEPARTMENTS to provide feedback to the CABINET OFFICE on the National Security Risk Assessment.**
- **The MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT to complete scoping work with local resilience fora on EU Exit Planning.**

3: National Security Capability Review, National Resilience Project Update:

a. Holistic Support to Victims

The CABINET OFFICE presented two community resilience guidance documents. The Community resilience development framework had been developed to enable public resilience, enable category one responders to adapt to changing public expectations and enable category one responders to utilise capabilities. The CABINET OFFICE had engaged with all appropriate government departments as well as consulting with over two hundred practitioners at events. Spontaneous volunteers guidance had also been developed with practitioners, giving points to consider for emergency responders to engage with the public during emergencies. The CABINET OFFICE stated that comments would be accepted and addressed up until 9th JANUARY 2019 at which point it would be assumed that departments were content with publication. The CABINET OFFICE clarified that following the 9th January 2019 they would be seeking final sign off from the MINISTER FOR IMPLIMENTATION.

The CABINET OFFICE presented two further documents relating to victims from the National Security Capability Review. The Impact Cell Guide, a guide produced to assist the lead government department in creating a unit to manage the impacts of an emergency or incident requiring significant government involvement or support. A Parity grid had also been produced in two phases, phase one contained eleven areas of support provision to compare the support offered in different government responses to emergencies since the 2015 Sousse attack. Phase two provided guidance to ministers and lead government departments on options that may be considered in response to new incidents, taking into account previous responses. It was stressed that the parity grid was a working document and would be continuously reviewed and revised.

Actions

- **ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to provide any additional feedback on the community resilience development framework and the spontaneous volunteers guidance prior to the 9th January 2019.**
- **The CABINET OFFICE to instigate publication of the community resilience development framework and the spontaneous volunteers guidance following the resolution of any outstanding feedback from departments.**
- **ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to review and provide ongoing feedback for the Impact Cell guide and Parity Grid.**

b. Assurance and Standards

The CABINET OFFICE updated members on the Resilience Standards, of which three had been agreed by the board and were due to be shared through Resilience Direct. Further standards would now be prioritised in line with EU exit work, however the next likely standards to progress would be flooding, counter-terrorism, data sharing and mass fatalities due to good progress within each of the respective lead government departments. The members were advised of the positive feedback in regards to the approach of keeping the standards to two pages containing elements such as good practice. The CABINET OFFICE advised the next group of standards will be distributed out for consultation by the end of January 2019.

c. Mutual Aid

The MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT updated members on local resilience fora engagement, including producing a framework for a consistent approach and improvement in number of contacts for local level to engage with. It was also advised that a new guide had been published in conjunction with Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) making clear the duties for Local Authorities during an emergency, as well as how Local Authorities could prepare and respond. The MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT also informed the group that cross regional coordinators have been established to ensure that local resilience fora were receiving the same messages, as well as opportunities for local responders to provide shared learning with areas facing similar risks. Members were updated on the progress of a training package, in company with the CABINET OFFICE, to be provided to Resilience Advisers within the MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT in relation to their own welfare during prolonged response periods, as well as equipping advisers with the required aids memoires and links with other government departments to provide support. Finally, MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT informed the group of ongoing work encouraging mutual aid agreements between local authorities, including

creating a pool of quick release resources allowing for immediate mutual aid support at all levels for authorities.

d: Crisis Management Professionalisation

The CABINET OFFICE updated the group on the crisis management profession development plan. A paper had been prepared which looked at impacts and learning points following recent major incidents, reviewing if there were any common shortfalls. The CABINET OFFICE advised that it would look to identify senior experienced crisis management practitioners to utilise as a surge pool to assist in government response. Although currently deprioritised, the CABINET OFFICE advised there will be a project team established to understand the baseline of crisis management and where all government departments currently fit in relation to the identified baseline. The project team would then look to develop a consistent training program, currently anticipated to be implemented over a 3 year period. Once staff have completed the program to a specified standard, the proposal is that the staff would form a pool of qualified professionals and would be encouraged with a financial incentive.

Actions

- **ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS to review Crisis Management Profession update paper and return to Alexander.Jell@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk by 4th January 2019.**

4: AOB and date of next meeting

1. The CHAIR gave thanks from the members to NR who moves on to a new role in January.
2. The CHAIR advised that NSC (THRC) (R) (O) is going to be paused due to prioritisation, but stressed that this forum will be resumed as and when appropriate.

Cabinet Office

December 2018