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News story

Government to strengthen national resilience

The Government has published a new Resilience Framework to strengthen how the UK prepares for and responds to emergencies

From: [Cabinet Office](#)

[\(/government/organisations/cabinet-office\)](#) and [The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP](#)

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Today (Monday 19 December) the Government has published a new Resilience Framework to strengthen how the UK prepares for and responds to emergencies.

The [UK Government Resilience Framework](#)
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[government-resilience-framework](#)) sets out a new strategy, officially making resilience a national endeavour for the first time - and it will fundamentally strengthen the Government's approach to risks. A new 'whole of society' approach to emergency planning encourages individuals, businesses and other organisations to play their part in building resilience across the UK.

The Government will make better use of data and external challenges to build a more robust understanding of the country's strengths and weaknesses, and share this information to ensure that every group with a part to play in national resilience is empowered to do so.

By bringing together all levels of government, critical national infrastructure operators, the private sector, the public and all parts of civil society through improved data and communications, the UK will be better placed to prepare for, respond to and recover from, a range of risks and hazards - such as extreme weather, terrorism and pandemics.

The Framework follows the commitment made in the Integrated Review for greater strategic planning in resilience, to strengthen the approach to preparedness and civil protection. It sets out a number of commitments across six themes - Risk, Responsibilities and Accountability, Partnerships, Communities, Skills and Investment. These include:

- **Delivering a new UK Resilience Academy**, built out from the Emergency Planning College, making world class professional training available to all that need it.
- **Appointing a new Head of Resilience**, to guide best practice, encourage adherence to standards, and set guidance - making government more transparent and accountable
- **Introducing an Annual Statement to Parliament** on civil contingencies risk and the UK government's performance on resilience.
- **Clarifying roles and responsibilities in the UK government** for each National Security Risk Assessment risk, to drive activity across the risk lifecycle.

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- **Growing the UK Government's advisory groups** made up of experts, academics and industry experts to inform risk planning and provide external challenge.
- **Significantly strengthening Local Resilience Forums** in England by working across three key pillars of reform - Leadership, Accountability, and Integration of resilience into the UK's levelling up mission.
- **Developing a Measure for Social Vulnerability** as an indicator of socio-economic resilience and how risks impact across communities and vulnerable groups - to further guide and inform decision making.
- **Conducting an annual survey of public perceptions** of risk, resilience and preparedness.

A new sub-committee of the National Security Council will also specifically consider issues relating to resilience.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Oliver Dowden MP, said:

“ Resilience has long been part of the UK's approach to national security, but in an increasingly integrated world in which we cannot predict or prevent all of the challenges ahead, we need to refresh our approach – that's why we are making resilience a national endeavour, so that as a country we are prepared for the next crisis, whatever it may be.

“ We have set out an ambitious plan and have already begun, strengthening accountability and transparency here in government and refreshing the way we assess national security risks. Our framework is a tool for local government, emergency services, charities and the public, to enable everyone to prepare for crises.”

The new Framework builds on the work that the government has already taken to strengthen its resilience structures. The National Security Risk Assessment methodology was refreshed earlier this

year to ensure it was fit for the future - looking at a longer timescale and using the widest possible range of data and insight alongside external challenges.

Government has also made changes at the heart of government, with the Cabinet Office's emergency planning and response team forming a dedicated COBR Unit to continue to lead the government's response to emergencies. Meanwhile the Cabinet Office's Resilience Directorate has been established to take a more strategic approach to national resilience and drive work across the system to strengthen it.

The National Situation Centre (SitCen) was established to bring data, analysis and insight together, boosting the government's ability to identify, monitor and manage risks. For example, during the period of extreme heat in July, the SitCen worked with partners to identify vulnerable groups and locations, enabling responders to target support effectively.

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