

Governance

The NRA is coordinated by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) in the Cabinet Office. For each known risk there is a designated risk owner (Government Department or Agency) who is responsible for coordinating relevant evidence to inform the assessment of these risks. Any new risks are collectively identified by Government Departments and Agencies and assessed using evidence coordinated by an appropriate department or CCS, if the lead is initially unclear.

The NRA is endorsed by a cross-departmental senior official group and Ministerial committee; the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and departmental Chief Scientific Advisers.

Scope

The NRA covers civil emergencies, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004², which could occur in the next 5 years. It focuses on single events and does not attempt to assess the risk of a number of emergencies occurring simultaneously. The potential for simultaneous events is considered at a later stage when targets for contingency planning are identified in the National Resilience Planning Assumptions (see 'using this document' on page 10).

The NRA does not include every possible scenario for each type of risk but instead assesses the reasonable worst case scenario³ for each risk. Risk scenarios are only included as substantive risks in the NRA if they are judged to meet a pre-defined likelihood/plausibility⁴ and impact⁵ criteria. More detail on the identification of risks and risk scenarios can be found in the NRA Methodology chapter. Risk scenarios which fall short of these criteria, or for which there is insufficient evidence to determine whether they do, are included in the 'risks under review' chapters (6 and 7).

Assessment method

The NRA assesses the **likelihood/plausibility** of each risk scenario occurring in the next five years, alongside the expected **impact** if the scenario occurred. These assessments are used to score the scenario between 0 and 5 for likelihood/plausibility and impact to relatively sort the risks and allow risks to be prioritised. The method used to do this is summarised in chapter 8.

² An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare, the environment, or the security of the United Kingdom or a place within the United Kingdom

³ A challenging yet plausible manifestation of the risk which represents one scenario of many for that risk.

⁴ For malicious events there must be credible evidence that potential perpetrators have both intent and capability and that we are vulnerable to the attack scenario described. For naturally and accidentally occurring hazards there must be judged to have a 1 in 20,000 chance or more of occurring.

⁵ The scenarios must be judged to present a challenge for central Government and to inform our understanding of the consequences we could face as a result of civil emergencies.