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TO: TEO Departmental Board

TITLE: A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF CIVIL CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS
ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND

Issue: Civil contingencies arrangements in Northern Ireland have not been reviewed for over 20 years. This paper seeks agreement to commission a strategic review of civil contingency arrangements across Northern Ireland to ensure effective arrangements are in place to enable the Executive to support citizens and wider society in the event of an unforeseen emergency event or situation.

Recommendation: The TEO Board is invited to:

- (i)** Note the current position and that civil contingency arrangements have lacked investment and not been reviewed for a number of years;
- (ii)** Note the significant changes in the strategic landscape that impose new risks and considerations for our civil contingency preparations;
- (iii)** Note the C3 Futures Report has 85 recommendations for improving Civil contingencies arrangements in Northern Ireland (Annex A);

DP (£330)	10	30	9,900
AO (£ 200)	5	15	3,000
Total	110	330	110,200

***Note that costs are based on TEO staff costs ready reckoner**

20. The total overall estimated total cost for undertaking this assignment is in the region of **£230,200**.

21. The Board will wish to note that the funding for the engagement of Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) and proposed strategic review, including cost of external support, would be required to be met by TEO. The Cabinet Office is not prepared to fund a strategic review.

Risk

22. Northern Ireland has benefitted from modern operations facility and infrastructure including enhanced technology such as a secure Video Conference Room facility; secure telephone lines, known as Rosa facility and enhanced operating procedures that have been tried and tested. There has also been considerable work involved across the public sector and new relationships and networks established both across the NICS departments, local government and wider public sector to improve situational awareness, risk management, planning, exercising and the NI overall response capability.

23. However, if no action is taken to address the lessons learnt and to implement recommendations from the C3 Project experience the risk arises that civil contingency arrangements in Northern Ireland will fall even further behind the rest of the UK, and the Executive and wider society may not be prepared for, or have the capacity and capability to deal effectively with, an emergency situation should a major contingency present.