

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL**

**NOTE OF CIVIL CONTINGENCIES GROUP (NI) MEETING
WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021**

Present

Karen Pearson	TEO (Chair)
Andy Cole	TEO
Alison Clydesdale	TEO
Mark McGuicken	TEO (Secretary)
Dr Richard Crowe	DAERA
Name Redacted	DfI
Jonathan McKee	DfI
Name Redacted	DfI
NR	NI Water
Anthony Carleton	DfC
Liz Redmond	DoH
Name Redacted	DoH
Michelle Bell	DfE
Name Redacted	DE
Doreen McClintock	DoF
Mark Larmour	DoJ
Marie Ward	NIO
Joan McCaffrey	Local Government
Ch Supt I&S	Local Government
Ch Insp I&S	PSNI
Area Cmdr Paul Harper	PSNI
Michael Bloomfield	NIFRS
Billy Newton	NIAS
Susan Todd	NIAS
Dr Ruth Moreno	MCA
Dr Will Lang	FSA
	Met Office

Support Staff

Name Redacted	TEO
	TEO
	TEO
	TEO
	TEO

Apologies

Kathryn Baker	FSA
Cathy Galway	DoJ
Andrew Scott	DE
Sian Kerr	DfI
Des Nevin	NIW
Paul Duffy	DoF
ACFRO Paddy Gallagher	NIFRS
T/ACC Jonathan Roberts	PSNI

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was the second meeting of this group in Prepare mode. Members were thanked for attending and apologies were noted.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes & Actions from 26 March 2021 meeting

2. The Chair invited Mark McGuicken (TEO) to update Members on the current status of the minutes and action points from the 26 March 2021 meeting. Mark stated that all actions had been completed and the agreed minutes and revised TOR were circulated to members on the 21 April 2021.
3. Action 2/21 was to arrange a meeting with Dr Will Lang (Met Office) and Joan McCaffrey (Local Government) to discuss the new Extreme Heat Warning system. Mark invited Dr Lang

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL**

to provide a short update on the Extreme Heat Warning system as well as the discussions he has had with Met Eireann on the mismatch in colours of weather warnings. Dr Lang provided Members with an overview of the Extreme Heat Warning work but explained that it would be unlikely to be used in Northern Ireland. However, he was keen that Northern Ireland remain involved in the discussions and are aware of the capabilities of the system. He explained that regarding the mismatch in colours, the Met Office and Met Eireann have agreed to manage this jointly through their communications.

4. Mark advised Members that papers from both the previous CCG (NI) meeting and today's meeting are available to view on Resilience Direct (RD).

Agenda Item 3 – CCG (NI) Governance Proposal

5. The Chair discussed the new proposed risk management focused governance approach for CCG (NI), explaining that Departments would still own their own risks but the NI Risk Register would provide an overview to all NI Risks at a strategic level and provide CCG (NI) and the Executive with sight of all the NI Risks in one place. The Chair invited Alison Clydesdale (TEO) to provide a more detailed update to Members.
6. Alison explained that the need for such a governance approach had been identified through initial scoping work; a gap in central visibility and monitoring of the NI risk portfolio had been identified and a central NI Risk Register will provide assurance to HOCS and the Executive. Alison assured colleagues that the development of a governance model that helped identify NI Strategic Risk Categories was not intended to create duplication or add additional overhead for Departments or partners. Work to date indicated that some of the sub-groups and working groups that will be required to report NI Risks may already exist. Closely linked to the governance model and the Framework is a review of the C3 Leads Group, so this would also be included under the governance work stream.
7. Alison outlined that the paper proposed a new concept of a Civil Contingencies Assurance Group. This was a support function that will look across all the NI Strategic Risk Categories and provide assurance to CCG (NI). The next steps will involve more collaborative working and collective agreement from all risk owners to engage over the next three months with a plan to come back to CCG (NI) in September clarifying the risk categories and proposed sub-group structure.
8. Ch Supt I&S (PSNI) agreed with the principle but highlighted the issue of cyber attacks which the PSNI did not see as a Societal Risk and proposed should be a stand-alone item. He also raised a question around the purpose of the Civil Contingencies Assurance Group. Richard Crowe (DAERA), welcomed the work already done and stated there was a need for further engagement around risk categories and also the need to build into this discussion the resource requirement needed to complete this work on risks. Michelle Bell (DfE), welcomed the pragmatic approach being taken and informed Members that once the risks were identified, work would most likely be taken forward as business as usual and may require additional resources if new risks emerged.
9. The Chair noted that the work around governance and risk would remain agile and a live issue. Name Redacted (DoF), informed Members there was already a paper on NI Risks, focussing on Information Governance, going to the NICS Board and suggested that there

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL**

needed to be a connection made between that paper and this civil contingencies focussed paper. [NR] pointed out that cyber attacks are a growing issue and agreed with [I&S] [I&S] that this was not a societal risk and would have a DoF Lead. Doreen McClintock (DoJ), welcomed the direction of travel of the arrangements. The Chair welcomed all comments from Members and agreed to consider them in developing the paper coming to the CCG (NI) meeting in September.

Agenda Item 4 – NI Civil Contingencies Framework

10. The Chair invited Alison Clydesdale (TEO) to update Members on the NI Civil Contingencies Framework.
11. Alison thanked Members for their comprehensive and positive engagement and stated that the majority of the feedback received has been incorporated; it was envisaged that the Framework would become the single source of reference. Alison informed Members of the need for further engagement on the role of C3 leads and the identification of sub-groups. The document adopted the 3 phases of prepare, respond and recover and had embedded the JESIP principles into the core of the document. The Framework had been well received, not only in NI, but also by Cabinet Office, who CCPB were working with closely as they strengthen resilience planning on a UK wide basis. Alison invited [Name Redacted] (TEO) to provide a more comprehensive update on the Framework. [NR] updated Members on some of the detailed changes to the document and outlined the updated schedule for the Framework.
12. The Chair thanked Alison and [NR] for their work on the Framework and asked Anthony Carleton (DfC) to discuss vulnerable people. Anthony welcomed the document and emphasised the importance of including vulnerable people in planning and preparing to respond as well as ensuring the voluntary and community sector was represented to ensure a citizen focused document. Jonathan McKee (DfI) stated the document provided a good foundation, welcoming the work and suggesting exercising will be key to testing the Framework, thanking TEO for their engagement.
13. Liz Redmond (DoH), expressed her thanks and welcomed the documents, she highlighted the specific issues raised by DoH including the roles of SCG, the C3 system and CCG (NI) subgroups in prepare mode. Liz also raised the perceived issue of duplication of resources between SCG and CCG (O). Liz stated that DoH were content to endorse the Framework on the understanding it remained a live document that could be updated and amended. The Chair thanked DoH and acknowledged their comments would continue to be worked through.
14. Richard Crowe welcomed the document, commenting that DAERA Gold Command and MERP have only just been stood down, otherwise DAERA would have been engaged more fully in the process. Richard welcomed that the document will remain live and following a review of the MERP they may have further comments to make on the Framework. Joan McCaffrey (NIEPG), shared her thanks for the document and engagement through NIEPG workshops. Joan agreed with comments by Anthony Carleton that citizens needed to be the main focus of this document. Ch Supt [I&S] commented on the excellent work completed and expressed his thanks, stating he was very content with the role and structure of SCG and PSNI support both the overall approach and the inclusion of the JESIP principles. Sam agreed this was only the foundation and exercising will be needed to test the document

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL**

and this will need to be a collaborative approach. The Chair agreed with the need for exercising to test and validate the Framework. Michael Bloomfield (NIAS), shared the same views as Members and welcomed the document, commenting that more clarity around when SCG is required is needed in the document. Paul Harper (NIFRS), also welcomed the document and agreed that the Framework will be validated over the next twelve months through exercising.

Agenda Item 5 – Arrangements for a Major Fire at a Control of Major Accident Hazards Site (COMAH)

15. The Chair invited Joan McCaffrey (Local Government) to update Members on the current arrangements for COMAH sites.
16. Joan introduced the paper to Members stating that there are currently nine COMAH sites in Northern Ireland, four of those in Belfast, and outlined partners concerns raised during testing and review of the COMAH plans. The Chair enquired regarding the burn out strategy, if this is the only strategy and if all sites have the same strategy.
17. Michelle Bell welcomed the paper and agreed more understanding of the issue was required, proposing that DfE and DAERA hold further discussions with partners and bring a paper with recommendations to the next CCG (NI) meeting in September. Richard Crowe stated that NIEA had fed into this work and was content with the proposal for DfE and DAERA to bring forward a paper to the next meeting. Paul Harper informed Members the paper reflected the NIFRS position on large scale industrial fires and welcomed further discussion with DfE and DAERA. The Chair asked that Local Government, DfC and TEO also be involved in these discussions. Ruth Moreno (FSA) informed Members that FSA would have an interest in COMAH around cross contamination with food products and would welcome being involved in discussions.

ACTION 4/21 – DfE and DAERA to arrange discussions with HSE, NIEA, NIFRS, LG, DfC, TEO and FSA on COMAH and bring a paper with recommendations to the next CCG (NI) meeting in September.

Agenda Item 6 – Space Imaging and Mapping

18. The Chair invited NR (TEO) to update Members on the Space Imaging and Mapping paper.
19. NR referred Members to the detail and background in the paper, informing Members that the imaging and mapping products will provide a very useful addition to our current capabilities and emphasising the proposal in the paper did not remove any existing capabilities, rather it added additional resources which would enhance what is already available. NR thanked partners for their help in producing the paper and asked Members to agree the recommendations.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

20. Andy Cole (TEO) welcomed the proposed capabilities stating they will be very useful in response to emergencies. Richard Crowe informed Members that DAERA strongly supported this paper as they use mapping for various different areas and the additional capabilities would be very useful.
21. Members agreed the recommendations and the Chair enquired about the next steps. NR informed Members that a revised pathway with contact details would be created and placed on RD and training for managers would be organised by TEO with technical training being organised by OSNI.

ACTION 5/21 – TEO to create revised Contacts Pathway on RD and TEO and OSNI to organise training for managers and technical staff respectively.

Agenda Item 7 – Cell Broadcasting

22. The Chair invited Mark McGuicken (TEO) to update Members on the Cell Broadcasting paper.
23. Mark referred Members to the detail of the paper, informing them that Cell Broadcasting was a Cabinet Office led and funded initiative with good engagement with NI, including EIS. The Chair advised that liaison was required with the Republic of Ireland through the NIO and this was already underway. Jonathan McKee welcomed the paper and stated DfI would be very interested in utilising this system. Andy noted the very high threshold for utilising the system and Mark advised that the system can be tailored to a specific postcode, which would make it very useful in Northern Ireland. The Chair advised that TEO would have further discussions with Departmental colleagues before the launch.

ACTION 6/21 – Secretariat to arrange meeting with Departments to discuss Cell Broadcasting.

Agenda Item 8 – UKG / Civil Contingencies Secretariat Work Streams

24. The Chair invited Andy Cole (TEO) to update Members on UKG / Civil Contingencies Secretariat Work Streams.
25. Andy noted his thanks to Alison, NR and partners for their work on the Framework, and thanked CCG (NI) and C3 Leads for their engagement and endorsement of the approach and the draft document.
26. Andy informed Members the UKG programme of work consisted of a reset of resilience workstreams including a review of the methodology of the National Security Risk Assessment, a review of the Civil Contingencies Act and the launching of a new 24/7 Situation Centre and the National Cell Broadcasting system. A Cabinet Office Call for Evidence on the National Resilience Strategy will be launched in mid-July with return date by end of September. Andy

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL

proposed that NICS sends a single response which CCPB will co-ordinate, with non-Dept partners replying direct to CCS and copying in CCPB for information. Members agreed the proposed approach. The Chair informed Members that resilience had become very important across the UK following lessons learned after the COVID-19 and D20 responses.

Agenda Item 9 – AOB

27. The Chair invited Doreen McClintock (DoJ) to update Members on the Northern Ireland Excess Deaths Operational Plan.
28. Doreen informed Members that the Northern Ireland Excess Deaths Operational Plan was nearly finalised and will shortly be issued to Members via correspondence through the Secretariat.
29. Andy Cole stated that there was a need for an additional meeting in September in order to progress Critical Infrastructure, Sub Group and COMAH papers with the normal November meeting being used for winter preparedness.

Agenda Item 10 – Date of Next Meeting

30. The Chair confirmed that the date of the next two meetings will be 29 September 2021 and 17 November 2021 and thanked all Members for their constructive engagement and their participation in the meeting, emphasising that testing and exercising will be very important and useful going forward.

CCG (NI) Secretariat
30 June 2021

Action Log – Live Actions

REFERENCE	ACTION	UPDATE
ACTION 4/21	DfE and DAERA to arrange discussions with HSE, NIEA, NIFRS, LG, DfC, TEO and FSA on COMAH and bring a paper with recommendations to the next CCG (NI) meeting in September.	Ongoing – on track to bring paper to September meeting.
ACTION 5/21	TEO to create revised Contacts Pathway on RD and TEO and OSNI to organise training for managers and technical staff respectively.	Contacts Pathway placed on RD 03.08.21. Managerial training arranged for 25.08.21. Technical training arranged for 08.09.21.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
FINAL

ACTION 6/21	Secretariat to arrange meeting with Departments to discuss Cell Broadcasting.	Ongoing – on track.
--------------------	---	---------------------