



# **Resilient Telecommunications Workshop**

## **Introduction and Strategic Overview**

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# Overview

- Purpose of today's event
  - To update you on the various strands of work that make up the Resilient Telecommunications Strategy
  - To assist you develop a multi-agency Telecommunications Plan
  - To help us understand the challenges you face



## Why a Resilient Telecommunications Strategy?

- Fundamental enabler to the effective response to any emergency
- But experience (Manchester; Boscastle; Carlisle; 7/7) showed potentially significant weaknesses which needed:
  - To be better understood
  - Implications evaluated
  - Remedies proposed
- More recently (Gloucestershire and Cumbria rail crash) showed significant challenges remain, particularly around CNI awareness/understanding and resilience of headquarters/SCCs

# Walham: electricity transmission switching centre





# Aim of the Strategy

Ensure that emergency responders at all levels can communicate and share information effectively in a major emergency



# Policy Objectives

- Encourage a diversity of telecommunications provision, so that emergency responders are not reliant on a single system
- Make telecommunications networks more resilient against the impacts of major emergencies, including by exploiting those networks which have the highest degree of embedded resilience
- Ensure that emergency responders know about privileged telecommunications services, and that such services function effectively in a way which meets their operational needs
- Make information available to those who need to know on the take-up of privileged services



# Four Strands to Resilient Telecommunications Strategy

1. Working with providers and responders to enhance the resilience of every-day, commercially-available telecommunications
2. Improving the management, take-up and resilience of privileged telecommunications schemes
3. Developing a high-integrity telecommunications backbone infrastructure providing connectivity and services between the main multi-agency co-ordination centres in the UK
4. Developing a means for securely sharing information between all local, regional and national responders both in preparing for and in response to a major emergency  
(Extranet)



# Roles and Responsibilities

- Central Government to provide:
  - Leadership
  - national resilience telecommunications framework;
  - backbone capability between tiers of response, and
  - support where it adds value
- LRFs through Telecommunications Sub Groups responsible for ensuring that local responders within their area of responsibility are able to communicate when faced with the most challenging circumstances



# What has been achieved

- Developed policy objectives in consultation with stakeholders
- Revised the arrangements for activating Privileged access to mobile telecommunications networks
- Clarified arrangements regarding the resilience of cellular mobile telephony
- Made available to responders commercial satellite communications equipment through a centrally negotiated catalogue
- Telecommunications Sub Groups established in many areas
- Completed feasibility study through MOD/BT on a High Integrity Telecommunications System



# Where are we going?

- TSGs to be embedded in all areas
- Multi-agency Telecommunications Plans to be developed locally
- Extranet bids to be evaluated and way forward agreed
- High Integrity Telecommunications System to be provided
- Roll out to continue of prioritised access to privileged schemes
- Etc.....