



Civil Contingencies Secretariat

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Dear Colleague,

DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

The Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat is pleased to announce a joint venture with the Emergency Planning Society which is aimed at establishing a set of core competences designed to further enhance the professionalization of the workforce in the civil protection sector.

The purpose of the project is to professionalize civil protection and raise standards of service delivery by providing a set of core competences which will guide practitioners, their employers and those who train them. It is envisaged that, following full and open consultation with all those with an interest in the enhancement of civil protection standards, a diverse set of competences will be established to support the Civil Contingencies Act and strengthen resilience. The projects terms of reference and membership of the projects team are attached at Annex A and B.

The first stage of the process will be the publication of a Scoping Paper and Consultation Questionnaire later in the year through the following routes:

- Local Response Gateway;
- UK Resilience website;
- EPS website; and
- Emergency Planning College website.

Once the information from this initial consultation has been collated, there will be a series of discussion workshops in the first half of 2007. The draft Competences Framework will be drawn up and then circulated for wide external consultation. It is anticipated that the final report and adoption of the competences will be complete by 2008.



If you have any queries or suggestions in respect of the project, please e-mail epc.competences@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk with your comments.

KEN LAWSON

Project Manager

Local response gateway: preparing together



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Annex A

The project terms of reference:

1. To develop by end of 2008 a set of core competences for professional emergency planning practitioners working in government and in public, private and voluntary sector organisations.¹
2. To provide a set of core competences which will guide practitioners and the trainers of practitioners and help employers specify requirements for professional posts.
3. To determine whether and how the competences should cover different grades and levels of emergency planning practitioner.
4. To seek the consent and agreement to these competences of the emergency planning profession.
5. To propose how the competences, once agreed:
 - Can be established as a standard for the profession
 - Should be administered, maintained and monitored so as to remain useful and relevant.

¹ Note: The competences will be designed to match the requirements and scope of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 in England and Wales, including the duties for Category 1 and 2 responders. The competences will be designed also to be relevant and useful for emergency planning and civil protection practitioners, who wish to adopt them, in other jurisdictions in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The focus is not limited to emergency planning; it will include elements of, for example, risk assessment, business continuity management and information and communications management, in accordance with the scope of the Act and having regard to the work of professional bodies already delivering competency frameworks in these areas.



Annex B

Current Membership of Project Team:

Ken Lawson (Project Manager)

Bob Overy (Secretary)

Martina Corrigan

Martin Fenlon

Rob MacFarlane

John Parkinson

Kerry Williams

Eve Coles

Patrick Cunningham

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