



26 September 2006

Dear Colleague,

## **NEWLY PUBLISHED REPORTS ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE LONDON BOMBINGS**

I am writing to draw your attention to the publication last Friday of two reports focusing on the lessons learned from the London bombings on 7 July 2005. The first is a Government report published by the Home Secretary, '*Addressing Lessons from the Emergency Response to the 7 July 2005 London Bombings*'. The second is a report from the London Regional Resilience Forum, '*Looking Back, Moving Forward: The multi-Agency Debrief, Lessons identified and progress since the terrorist events of 7 July 2005*'.

The Government's report, published by the Home Secretary, is an open assessment of the emergency response conducted with a view to establishing lessons of wider national relevance. The report concludes that the response was conducted with considerable efficiency and professionalism, and included many acts of bravery by front line responders as well as by members of the public and voluntary organisations. However the report also identifies areas where the response could be improved upon and details the work in hand to bring these improvements about. The main findings of the report are:

- Overall, the response to the bombings demonstrated the value of and flexibility of the UK's emergency response arrangements;



- There is a need to share information better and provide greater practical and emotional support to victims;
- That Reception and Assistance Centres needed to be established earlier on in the response; and
- That telecommunications equipment used by the emergency services worked well although the older systems did not perform as efficiently and that there are weaknesses that need to be addressed.

The report by the London Regional Resilience Forum , chaired by Local Government Minister Phil Woolas with the Mayor of London as his deputy, looks at the frontline actions by London's emergency services and the other key agencies involved on 7 July, and is concerned with the local lessons for individual responders. Among the reports findings are:

- That the initial response by London Underground staff was exemplary;
- That London Buses reacted quickly and effectively, initially withdrawing services from central London, then reinstating the network in time for the evening peak;
- That 1200 hospital beds were made ready in three hours;
- That the London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service's mutual aid arrangements were successfully triggered, and Local Authorities were also well supported by voluntary sector ambulance providers;
- That London's emergency plans were successfully deployed, these being the London Emergency Services Liaison Panel (LESLP) Major Incident Plan, Operation Benbow (joint operation by London's police forces), the London Command and Control Protocol, Local Authority Gold Protocol, First Alert Protocol, Public Information Plan, Mass Fatality Plan and Disaster Fund Plan.

Copies of both reports are available on-line and can be accessed via the UK Resilience website

<http://www.ukresilience.info/emergencies/terrorism.shtm#links>).

**PETER TALLANTIRE**

Civil Contingencies Secretariat

**Local response gateway: preparing together**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE