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Dear Colleague

### **Core Competence Framework to Link to National Occupational Standards**

**Last Autumn we wrote to you to announce that Skills for Justice (Sector Skills Council) in partnership with the Emergency Planning Society (EPS) and the Emergency Planning College (EPC) were leading a project to develop a set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) to strengthen resilience across the public, private and voluntary sectors. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the project and how it links to the EPS Competency Framework.**

By working together, we have built on the significant work already undertaken by the EPC and EPS in this area. The NOS will provide a foundation on which the Society intends to build its own Core Competence Framework and the two products, taken together, will provide a sound basis for enhancing the professionalism of all those involved in civil protection.

#### National Occupational Standards (NOS)

A project working group has been established to identify core functions relevant to this occupational area as well as developing draft NOS where it has been identified that new NOS are required.

This group is made up of emergency practitioners from a host of UK organisations involved in planning for and responding to Civil Contingencies for instance, Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance and health services, local authorities, environment agency, transport, voluntary agencies etc.

The project will produce a suite of NOS and Functional Map for Civil Protection including approximately 16 new National Occupational Standards Units.

The Functional Map aims to identify all the functions which take place in the occupational area of civil protection.

Each NOS Unit will consist of:

- A summary of the Unit
- A description of the Target Group the Unit is aimed at
- Links to other NOS Units
- A set of Skills and Attitudes which need to be applied to reach the Standard
- A set of Performance Criteria which needs to be met to obtain the Standard
- A description of the Knowledge and Understanding required to meet the Standard
- A glossary of terms

It is important to note that all practitioners will not be expected to meet all of the NOS, but only those which are relevant to them in their work.

A 12 week consultation will take place, beginning in March. Consultation documents will be available via the Cabinet Office Local Response Gateway, Skills for Justice and EPS websites.

For further information visit [www.skillsforjustice.com/civilnos](http://www.skillsforjustice.com/civilnos)

### EPS Competency Framework

The Emergency Planning Society's Core Competence Framework will build upon the foundation of the NOS, and provide additional guidance and benefits for the practitioner, for employers, and for training providers.

The objectives of the Framework are:

- To place the NOS within the context of civil protection in all its forms so that all activities from all sectors are reflected in the framework
- To provide a documented transferable skill set for practitioners
- To provide a mechanism where employers can ensure their staff are keeping their skills up to date
- To provide guidance to training providers about how they might wish to apply for their training courses to be accredited by the Emergency Planning Society.

### **Next Steps**

It is anticipated that, following the consultation process, the National Occupational Standards will be published in the Autumn of 2008. It is further expected that the EPS Core Competence Framework will also be launched in November 2008, at the EPS Autumn Study.

Yours faithfully

Ken Lawson  
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Chair  
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*Local response gateway: preparing together*