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Dear Colleague,

## **DATA PROTECTION GUIDANCE**

**The Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat has produced new non-statutory guidance on data protection issues which is available on the UK Resilience website.**

The Government's resilience lessons report on the 7 July 2005 attacks identified a problem of misinterpretation and over-zealous application of the Data Protection Act 1998 in emergency planning and response. Subsequent reports from the regions have indicated that the London experience is not unique.

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) has worked with a wide range of stakeholders across government to finalise tailored guidance for the emergency community. The main features of the guidance are a one-page summary of expert views on the sharing of personal data in an emergency and a series of scenarios to help debunk some of the myths surrounding the Data Protection Act 1998. These should encourage emergency planners and responders to shift their default position to one of sharing data during an emergency. More detailed guidance is provided in the main body of the document, which focuses on an emergency context but signposts other sources on wider data protection issues.

CCS is developing training on data protection issues with the Emergency Planning College. If you have any queries or suggestions in respect of the guidance, please provide them through the feedback form on the UK Resilience website.

**JOHN TESH**

***Local response gateway: preparing together***