

# Revising response

*Lorna Shore, Assistant Director at the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat, provides an update on the Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme...*

In December 2008, the Cabinet Office launched a programme to review Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA), which established a single statutory framework for civil protection in the UK at local level and placed duties on responders to prepare for an emergency. As the Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme (CCAEP) moves into Phase 2, we will be taking a fresh look at the CCA, its supporting regulations, and the statutory and non-statutory guidance, to consider whether there are opportunities to enhance the existing framework.

The CCA created a list of local responders, divided into two categories depending on the extent of involvement in civil protection work. Category 1 responders include the emergency services, local authorities and other organisations likely to be involved in most emergencies. Category 2 responders include utility and transport providers. The CCA prescribes a consistent set of duties for Category 1 responders, which reflect four elements of the emergency planning cycle (risk assessment, emergency planning, business continuity planning, and warning and informing). In addition, all responders have a duty to cooperate and share information, which aims to support effective working to ensure emergency preparedness. This framework has given greater structure and consistency to local civil protection arrangements. However, subsequent reviews (particularly the Pitt Review of the summer 2007 floods and the Buncefield Investigation) suggested that the CCA regime merits a thorough review.

Phase 1 of the CCAEP has focused on improving standards and consistency in CCA implementation. We have developed the 'Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice Sets',<sup>1</sup> which aim to clarify what is expected of Category 1 and 2 responders. The sets have been used to develop an online self-assessment tool, designed to enable responders to identify performance and development issues; we hope to pilot this shortly. We have also published a revised version of the 'Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance'<sup>2</sup>, which reflects lessons learned since its original publication in 2005, and aims to provide a set of common concepts and language for emergency response and recovery to support inter-agency working. In the autumn, we will be publishing consultations on a draft revision to Chapter 2 (Cooperation) of the statutory guidance, 'Emergency Preparedness'; a draft non-statutory guidance on information sharing, aiming to complement Chapter 3 (Information Sharing); draft non-

statutory guidance to raise awareness of the need to consider the CCA alongside other civil protection legislation; and proposals for renewing CCA arrangements in London.

Phase 2 of the programme begins in October and will explore recommendations for improvement that would require amendments to CCA, the supporting regulations or the statutory guidance, 'Emergency Preparedness'. We will be working with central government departments and their agencies, the Devolved Administrations, members of Regional Resilience Forums and Local Resilience Forums to understand the need for change before developing policy recommendations. Key areas of enquiry are:

- Whether the UK resilience chain would be improved by establishing statutory responsibilities and roles for the regional tier, Devolved and UK Government;
- Whether existing duties should be enhanced, including whether the scope should be broadened to include local response and recovery elements; and
- Whether the schedule of responders, categories and statutory requirements each category need adjusting.

At this stage, we cannot say what, if any, changes to the statutory framework for civil protection will be proposed, but any recommendations will be taken forward for public consultation, expected at the earliest in summer 2010.

For updates, please visit [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience).

<sup>1</sup> [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/217546/expectations\\_set-parts1to3.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/217546/expectations_set-parts1to3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx)

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Lorna Shore  
Assistant Director, Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme

Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office

Tel: +44 (0)20 7276 5055

[ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

