Dear colleague,

I have pleasure in enclosing

- the Government’s draft Civil Contingencies Bill, together with the associated consultation document, regulatory impact assessment and explanatory notes, and

- the revised third edition of “Dealing with Disaster,” which provides the Government’s core guidance to emergency planners and local responders.

We would welcome your comments on the proposals for a new legal framework set out in the draft Bill. Comments should be marked “Civil Contingencies Bill (Consultation)” and sent to the above address or emailed to ccbill@cabinet.office.x.gsi.gov.uk by 11 September 2003.

The revised third edition of “Dealing with Disaster” reflects the many changes that have taken place since the third edition was published by the Home Office in 1998. It is our intention to carry out a comprehensive revision of “Dealing with Disaster” to reflect the proposals in the draft Civil Contingencies Bill once these proposals have been enacted.

“Dealing with Disaster” contains generic guidance on the handling of emergencies. It is not intended as the vehicle for specific guidance for example on the response to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) emergency. Home Office guidance on CBRN is available in “Strategic National Guidance on the Decontamination of people exposed to CBRN” as well as on the Home Office’s website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk/terrorism

All these materials can also be found on the Government’s UK resilience website, www.ukresilience.info.

Yours faithfully

SUSAN SCHOLEFIELD
Head of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat