



Civil Contingencies Secretariat

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Dear Colleague,

MAKING STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES CATEGORY 2 RESPONDERS

Section 13 of the Civil Contingencies Act permits the Government to amend the list of Category 1 and 2 responders listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. I am writing to inform you that the Government has laid a draft Order before Parliament which would make Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) Category 2 responders. The draft Order and Explanatory Memorandum can be found at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/dsis2005.htm>.

It has become necessary to make Strategic Health Authorities a Category 2 responder in order to reflect the evolution of SHAs' co-ordination role in relation to emergency planning and response. Making SHAs' Category 2 responders under the Act will help ensure that they can play an appropriate role in local multi-agency civil protection arrangements. In particular, Category 2 status will enable Strategic Health Authorities to represent other NHS bodies on Local Resilience Forums where this is deemed appropriate.

It is reassuringly difficult to make legislation of this kind. An Order under section 13 of the Act is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, which requires the Order to be debated and voted upon in both Houses of Parliament. We are confident that we will get Parliamentary approval for the Order before the bulk of the duties in Part 1 of the Act come into force in November 2005. We will also reflect this change in the final version of *Emergency Preparedness*.

As always, we would be very pleased to receive any feedback you have on this bulletin. If you have got any questions or queries about any aspect of this letter, please speak to your Regional Resilience Team or contact the Act Team directly at ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

DAN GREAVES

