



Civil Contingencies Secretariat

10 Great George Street
London
SW1P 3AE

Telephone 020 7276 5053

Fax 020 7276 5113

E-mail ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Web www.ukresilience.info

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Dear Colleague,

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

The Government laid before Parliament yesterday the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005 and made the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Amendment of List of Responders) Order 2005, which makes Strategic Health Authorities a Category 2 responder. The Government has also published today the final version of the statutory guidance document *Emergency Preparedness*. I am writing to inform you of these developments and to update you on progress on finalising *Emergency Response and Recovery*.

On 23 May 2005 the Government published a revised package of draft Regulations and statutory guidance, amended in the light of the public consultation. These were published in draft to allow local responders to drive forward their implementation programmes whilst the Government fulfilled its statutory duty to seek the consent of the National Assembly for Wales and consult the Scottish Executive on aspects of the package. This process has been completed, and the Government has this week finalised the package by laying the final Regulations before Parliament and publishing the final version of the statutory guidance. The Commencement Order laid alongside the Regulations provides that the bulk of the duties in Part 1 of the Act will come fully into force on 14 November 2005. The duty on local authorities to provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary sector organisations in relation to business continuity will come fully into force on 15 May 2006.

We have not made any substantive changes to the package of Regulations and statutory guidance published on May 23. However, we have made a number of cosmetic changes, corrected typographical errors and made a number of minor amendments to the text to reflect subsequent developments. I would therefore be grateful if colleagues could dispose of previous versions of the Regulations and guidance.



Both Houses of Parliament have also debated and agreed the Order under section 13 of the Act which makes Strategic Health Authorities a Category 2 responder. This Order was made on Wednesday 27 July and has immediate effect.

As you will be aware, we are working closely with a wide range of stakeholder representatives and other Government Departments to finalise *Emergency Response and Recovery* following public consultation from December 2004 to March 2005. This work is proceeding well and we will be in a position to publish the final document later in the summer.

Final versions of the Regulations and statutory guidance can be accessed via www.ukresilience.info/ccact, as can copies of the Commencement Order and the Order making Strategic Health Authorities a Category 2 responder. Hard copies of *Emergency Preparedness* will be circulated to local responders alongside *Emergency Response and Recovery* upon completion of the latter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the civil protection community for its ongoing support in developing and driving forward this legislation and supporting guidance. It is a much better package as a result of the close engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the policy development process.

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 contact us at ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

DAN GREAVES

