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Dear Colleague

## **Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme: Phase 2** **Consultation on revised chapters of *Emergency Preparedness***

As part of the Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme (CCAEP), we have undertaken a number of projects aimed at better supporting responders to fulfil their duties under the *Civil Contingencies Act 2004* (CCA). At Phase 1 of the Programme, we revised Chapters 2 (*Co-operation*) and 3 (*Information Sharing*) of *Emergency Preparedness*, the statutory guidance that accompanies the CCA, as well as drafting a new chapter on *The Fit with Other Legislation*. Following consultation on those chapters last year, the final versions of those chapters will be published next month, alongside reports on the consultations and the Government responses to those consultations. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to those consultations.

We are now consulting on revisions to further chapters. These changes have emerged from projects taken forward as part of Phase 2 of the CCAEP. These chapters are:

- Chapter 5 (*Emergency Planning*);
- Chapter 10 (*Scotland*);
- Chapter 11 (*Wales*);
- Chapter 12 (*Northern Ireland*);
- Chapter 14 (*The Role of the Voluntary Sector*);
- Chapter 15 (*Sectors that Should be Involved in Emergency Planning* formerly *Sectors not covered by the Act*); and
- *Further Reading* (formerly *Bibliography*).

The consultation paper is published on the UK Resilience website, <http://interim.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/ccs/news/20110117-ep-consultation.aspx> and we welcome your views and those of any other interested organisations. Details of the proposed changes to each chapter are set out in Annex A and a response form is attached as Annex B. Please complete this form when responding to the consultation and send to: [ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk) marking your response with '*CCAEP Consultation*' in the subject field of your email. The closing date for responses is Monday 14 March 2011.

Please note that the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information - to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing and explain your reasons when you send your response to



the consultation. We will, however, work within relevant legislation on data protection. The automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your e-mail system will not count as a confidentiality request for responses to this consultation. We will provide a summary of all responses, which will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

The results of this formal consultation will inform the final revised version of these chapters of *Emergency Preparedness* which we hope to publish in Spring 2011.

In Summer 2011 we will be launching consultations on the second set of revised drafts to:

- Chapter 1 (*Introduction*);
- Chapter 2 (*Co-operation*);
- Chapter 4 (*Local Responder Risk Assessment Duty*);
- Chapter 6 (*Business Continuity Management*);
- Chapter 7 (*Communicating with the Public*);
- Chapter 8 (*Advice and Assistance to Business and Voluntary Organisations*);
- Chapter 9 (*London*);
- Chapter 13 (*Monitoring and Enforcement*);
- Chapter 16 (*The Role of the Minister*);
- Chapter 17 (*Co-operation at the Regional Level in England*); and
- Chapter 18 (*Planning at the Regional Level in England*).

For further information, please contact the Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme team on 0207 217 5017 or e-mail [ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Kathy Settle





**CabinetOffice**

## Chapter 14

# The Role of the Voluntary Sector

Revision to *Emergency Preparedness*

## Chapter 14 (The Role of the Voluntary Sector) of *Emergency Preparedness, Revised Version*

### Summary

- The voluntary sector has an important role to play in supporting the statutory services in the response and recovery phases of most emergencies (paragraph 14.1).
- Category 1 responders who include the voluntary sector in their local planning arrangements will make the overall response more accessible and effective throughout the community. This is not just good practice: the Regulations require Category 1 responders to have regard to the contribution of the voluntary sector. This includes considering how the voluntary sector can be involved at every stage, including training and exercising to respond to emergencies (paragraphs 14.4-14.8).
- There are four models suggested for Category 1 responders to follow when engaging the voluntary sector effectively in order to discharge their duties at the local level (paragraphs 14.11-14.15).
- Responders should be aware of the extent and range of services the voluntary sector can offer before making plans to involve them (paragraphs 14.16-14.18).
- It is essential that volunteers from the voluntary sector are trained and that they are supported by the responding organisations they are helping (paragraphs 14.24-14.26).
- The way Category 1 and 2 responders work with the voluntary sector at the local level is supported by consistent arrangements at other levels (paragraphs 14.27-14.30).

## WHAT THE ACT AND THE REGULATIONS REQUIRE

14.1. In some circumstances, emergencies can overstretch the resources of the emergency services, local authorities and other local responders during the response and recovery phases of an emergency. The value of involving the voluntary sector at every stage in order to provide additional support has been demonstrated on many occasions. The delivery of their services, and their role as a link between communities and Category 1 responders, enables them also to harness the energy and enthusiasm of local individuals who are not members of voluntary organisations.

14.2. The voluntary sector in the United Kingdom is very large and diverse. The skills and expertise available from the voluntary sector vary from place to place. Experience shows that advance planning enables voluntary sector activity to be more integrated and effective.

14.3. The Regulations require Category 1 responders to have regard to the activities of certain voluntary organisations in the course of carrying out their emergency and Business Continuity planning duties.<sup>1</sup> The Regulations provide that Category 1 responders must have regard to those voluntary sector bodies which carry out activities in the geographical area for which the responder is responsible.

14.4. Voluntary sector organisations are those bodies whose activities are carried out not for profit and which are not public authorities nor local authorities. Under the Regulations, they become relevant voluntary organisations if they carry on any activities for the purpose of preventing emergencies, reducing, controlling or mitigating the effects of emergencies, or taking other action in connection with emergencies.<sup>2</sup> This is a broad definition that will capture charities and other voluntary organisations.

14.5. This does not mean that Category 1 responders should work only with those voluntary sector organisations established solely for the purpose of working in the field of civil protection. Few voluntary sector bodies are established for the sole purpose of responding to emergencies. Most will have a partial interest tangential to their main business. Nevertheless, these voluntary sector organisations must be factored into local civil protection arrangements where they may have a contribution

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<sup>1</sup> regulation 23(1)

<sup>2</sup> regulation 23(2)

to make or a role to play in planning for, or the response to, or recovery from, an emergency.

14.6. This obligation is intended to ensure that Category 1 responders actively consider the voluntary sector during the planning process, rather than at the end or not at all. As such, simply sending copies of plans to voluntary organisations is not sufficient, nor is including voluntary organisations in plans without consulting them. Instead, Category 1 responders must consider the capabilities that relevant voluntary organisations within their area have to offer, and whether those capabilities should be built into response and recovery plans.

14.7. The requirement to have regard to the activities of relevant voluntary sector organisations covers both emergency plans and business continuity plans (BCPs). In the case of the former, voluntary sector capabilities such as search and rescue or humanitarian support may be built into the response arrangements agreed between the statutory services. In the case of the latter, the voluntary sector may, in the course of everyday business, already deliver certain services on behalf of a statutory provider that would need to be maintained (such as ‘meals on wheels’). In addition, certain BCPs may use voluntary organisations to backfill functions that would be undermined by the diversion of resources to deal with the direct consequences of an emergency or major incident. For example, with ambulances diverted to the scene of a large emergency, an ambulance trust might have an agreement with the local St John Ambulance (paragraph 14.17) or British Red Cross (St Andrew’s in Scotland) for the organisations to carry out routine patient collection.

14.8. The Act also requires local authorities to provide business continuity advice to those voluntary sector bodies which it considers to be appropriate.<sup>3</sup> Advice on how to discharge this requirement is set out in Chapter 8. Nevertheless, local authorities may find it useful to consider how their engagement of the voluntary sector in the round might dovetail with work to meet that specific requirement.

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<sup>3</sup> s. 4

## HOW THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT AND THE REGULATIONS MAY BE CARRIED OUT

### Engaging the Voluntary Sector at the Local Level

14.9. By establishing the appropriate organisational framework, the voluntary sector can be properly factored into the planning process. Sound co-operation through the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) processes and directly with individual Category 1 responders should be based on an agreed framework. This structure needs to suit local circumstances, be understood by all concerned and have clearly identified points of contact. These contact arrangements must be kept up to date by regular formal and informal dialogue between each of the participants at local level.

14.10. There are several different models that can be applied at the local level. None is mandatory, but these models, either individually or in combination, can help Category 1 responders to discharge their duties under the Act.

#### **Model 1: Engagement Through the LRF**

14.11. At the local level, each LRF should consider including a voluntary sector representative. The representative should be able to speak on behalf of all the major voluntary organisations operating in the area, as well as any smaller, local voluntary organisations.

#### **Model 2: Establishing a Voluntary Sector Subgroup of the LRF**

14.12. Setting up a voluntary sector co-ordinating group at local level can help co-operation between the statutory services and local voluntary organisations. A representative from the Local Authority Civil Contingencies Team will normally chair such a group. The group can bring together representatives from the voluntary sector organisations with an interest in civil protection who are active in the LRF area. The principal advantage of such a group is that it should enable all Category 1 responders to have a good understanding of the strengths and limitations of local voluntary sector organisations, and to consider including them in their planning to an extent that is realistic.

#### **Model 3: Bilateral Links on the Basis of Functions**

14.13. One method of involving voluntary organisations in civil contingency planning is to group them where appropriate on the basis of their functions, and link them with

the Category 1 responder responsible for those functions. This functional grouping can clarify the contributions which individual voluntary organisations can make. It can prevent duplicated demands on their services and enable Category 1 responders and voluntary organisations to make the best use of the voluntary contribution.

14.14. In some cases, there will be one Category 1 responder and one voluntary organisation linked to a specific function, for example, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). In other cases, where a voluntary organisation performs a range of functions, it would need to be associated with more than one Category 1 responder and represented on all the relevant functional groups. In all cases, local civil protection personnel should be fully aware of the level of voluntary sector support available and the arrangements for its provision in a co-ordinated manner.

#### **Model 4: Bilateral Links on the Basis of Capabilities**

14.15. A related method is to distinguish between the operational role of voluntary organisations when they directly help in the response to an emergency, and their support role, for example when they provide refreshments for the emergency services. An LRF-level multi-agency plan can list which services are offered across the range of voluntary organisations. A key principle of the plan is to avoid double-counting by indicating which Category 1 responder has first call on (or priority need for) any particular voluntary contribution and to define a co-ordinated call-out system.

#### **Box 14.1 Case Studies of Good Practice in Local Voluntary Sector Engagement**

In Lincolnshire, arrangements are being developed to enable the voluntary sector to engage better, strategically and tactically, in the planning, response and recovery phases. This will be achieved through the use of two groups: the Voluntary Co-ordination Group; and the Local Voluntary Agencies Group.

The Voluntary Co-ordination Group will be chaired by the county emergency planning officer and will comprise representatives of national voluntary sector organisations, the emergency services and local authorities. The voluntary sector representatives will have a senior management role in their own organisation and have the authority to agree resources in regard to mutual aid and cross border support. This group will focus on:

- establishing what the national voluntary sector organisations are able to contribute to response and recovery phase activities;
- identification of potential challenges or issues that should be referred to the LRF or an individual Category 1 responder;
- identification of voluntary sector representatives on relevant project groups; and
- increased understanding of voluntary sector integration and co-ordination in response and recovery activities.

Additionally, the British Red Cross member of the Voluntary Co-ordination Group is a member of the LRF and will undertake the call-out and co-ordination arrangements for the mobilisation of the voluntary sector, including convergent volunteers in the response and recovery phases of an emergency. This arrangement has been agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Local Voluntary Agencies Group will be chaired by the a local authority emergency planning representative and will comprise representatives of the wider voluntary sector groups, to maintain communications and to discuss any issues or challenges that arise from the Voluntary Co-ordination Group. This group will focus on:

- effective communication between the voluntary sector and the LRF;
- operational policies and procedures for voluntary sector engagement;
- completion of risk assessments, appropriate training and the availability of appropriate insurance arrangements; and
- maintenance of an accurate database of local volunteers, capabilities and assets.

*“These arrangements build on well established local relationships in Lincolnshire and lessons from recent emergencies in the UK where the effective tasking and co-ordination of humanitarian assistance and rescue efforts (especially that provided by mutual aid or on a voluntary basis) posed particular challenges for local resilience fora. We believe these arrangements provide an improved understanding of each other’s capabilities and capacity to assist during emergencies but will also help raise standards and safety and recommend it to be good practice.”* David Powell, County Emergency Planning Officer Lincolnshire.

In Derbyshire, the voluntary sector is closely involved in local civil protection work. There is no voluntary sector representative on the LRF, the LRF and voluntary organisations have opted for the model of a voluntary sector subgroup.

The subgroup is chaired by a representative from the local authority civil protection team, and its membership includes the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, WRVS, Samaritans, Salvation Army, RAYNET, the National Voluntary Civil Aid Service, a Derby radio amateur group, Mountain Rescue, RSPCA and representatives of religious groups.

Individual voluntary sector organisations are then brought into the detail of planning through bilateral relationships with Category 1 responders on the basis of their capabilities and functions, ensuring full interconnectedness between the voluntary and statutory sectors. Voluntary sector organisations also take part in some other LRF subgroups, are offered training and take part in exercises.

*“By establishing a voluntary sector subgroup of the LRF, we ensure that the statutory responders have access to a clear picture of the voluntary sector’s capabilities in Derbyshire.”* Ian Shuttleworth, Chief Emergency Planning Officer, Derbyshire.

*“The statutory services in Derbyshire have adopted a flexible but well-organised approach to our voluntary sector involvement. This careful engagement at the planning phase has proven its worth in the response phase, and we have successfully supported the statutory services when emergencies have stretched their resources.”* Moya Wood-Heath, Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum

## Capabilities of the Voluntary Sector

14.16. Those preparing emergency plans should be aware of the extent and range of operational and support activities and services provided by the voluntary sector at all stages, from planning through to the response and recovery phases of emergencies in the United Kingdom.

- There are established organisations such as the British Red Cross, WRVS, Salvation Army, St John Ambulance (or St Andrew's in Scotland) that provide a range of services and activities.
- Many individual volunteers have particular skills, but are not necessarily members of recognised voluntary organisations: for example interpreters or representatives from the faith communities.
- Certain organisations contribute specialist skills in various types of activity:
  - search and rescue organisations, such as the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC), coastguard response teams (HM Coastguard's Auxiliary branch), the Mountain Rescue Council (MRC), the RNLI, the International Rescue Corps (IRC), Sky Watch, search and rescue dog teams;
  - groups of doctors, such as the British Association for Immediate Care Schemes (BASICS);
  - voluntary radio operators, such as the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network (RAYNET);
  - Organisations which specialise in providing emotional support and counselling, such as Cruse Bereavement Care, the Samaritans and Victim Support; and
  - other non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

14.17. The voluntary sector can provide support at every stage of emergency planning, response and recovery in a number of generic areas:

- practical support and welfare;
- social and psychological aftercare;
- medical support;
- search and rescue;
- transport;
- communications;
- documentation;
- training and exercising; and

- Signposting to other organizations.

14.18. Annex 14A sets out examples of the extent and range of support activities and services that volunteers can provide and of the statutory organisations with which they frequently work.

14.19. It is important to be precise on the accountability of volunteers to a professional agency because of issues of legal liability, including statutory requirements under the Children Act 2004, and because of insurance indemnity issues. Agencies using volunteers may become responsible for the health and safety of volunteers and will need to ensure that they are properly equipped, trained, supervised and supported. Where volunteers could reasonably be expected to work within an inner cordon, they should make arrangements to obtain the necessary skills and personal protective equipment to allow them to operate in safety.

14.20. It is of vital importance that, if an emergency occurs, the voluntary sector should be able to contribute what has been mutually agreed and written into local plans. Voluntary agencies have therefore to be able to demonstrate their capabilities and that their support is reliable, consistent and sustainable to the required standard. A record of available local voluntary resources should be maintained, where appropriate, as part of an LRF-level multi-agency plan.

14.21. The statutory and voluntary sectors should be clear about their respective roles in an emergency. They each have their own structures and constraints. Voluntary organisations must appreciate that the Category 1 responders bear the responsibility for the overall emergency response. Equally, the statutory services must develop an understanding of the voluntary sector as a rich resource for personnel, professional skills and equipment . They should also recognise that the voluntary sector has the capability to work with local individuals who are not members of a voluntary organisation and wish to contribute to the response or recovery phases as convergent volunteers, building capacity, individual and community resilience.

14.22. There should be agreement and effective plans on the use of volunteers, the decision-making process leading to their call-out and the method of call-out. Plans should determine who will organise, manage and brief volunteers. Debriefing should be included as part of plan maintenance procedures. Planners also need to establish

that volunteers receive refreshment and are appropriately clothed, identified and equipped.

14.23. Plans should include effective procedures for alerting or calling out voluntary organisations. Early alert is desirable because of the lead time needed for contacting and assembling teams in organisations other than the emergency services. Contingency arrangements should reflect this.

### **Training and Exercising**

14.24. When considering the particular contribution that the voluntary sector can make, it should be noted that established voluntary organisations and volunteer groups will usually have their own training arrangements. They should be able to demonstrate their effectiveness to the Category 1 responders.

14.25. Additionally, the Category 1 responders and voluntary agencies should aim for joint training and exercising (including involving the community/volunteers where possible). It is very important that voluntary organisations understand the management framework of the response and how they should be positioned and integrated into the response as a whole. There will be some overlap between the functions and capabilities of different voluntary organisations. Joint exercising will identify any problems, ensure plans and procedures are up to date and foster working relationships.

14.26. Effective communication, planning and training should aim to identify opportunities for sharing heavy workloads and providing mutual support. General issues of training and exercising are further discussed in Chapters 5 and 6.

### **The Voluntary Sector at the UK and Regional Levels**

14.27. At the UK level, the voluntary sector has developed a co-ordinated approach to planning its contribution to civil protection, and all responders should aim to fit into this framework.

14.28. At the UK level, a Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Working Party and Forum have been convened by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the British Red Cross. The aim of the Working Party and Forum is to identify and maximise the voluntary sector contribution to UK civil protection arrangements. This includes

informing and influencing policy, testing and challenging strategic and practical guidance and facilitating the exchange of information. There are currently 20 voluntary organisations with a national or UK-wide civil protection role that are members of the Forum. The Forum provides links between the voluntary sector, central government and statutory authorities. The Working Party supports the Forum.

14.29. There is a further national level standing committee, The National Voluntary Aid Societies' Emergency Committee (NVASEC). NVASEC exists to co-ordinate the auxiliary role of the three Voluntary Aid Societies (VASs); the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance and St Andrew's Ambulance, to support military medical services in times of conflict and war.

14.30. At the regional level, a representative of the voluntary sector forms part of the core membership of the Regional Resilience Forum (as set out in Chapter 17). The representative will form a bridge between the Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Working Party, NVASEC and the local level.

## Annex 14A

### **EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDING ORGANISATIONS.**

The voluntary sector has the capacity and capability to undertake the following activities and services. The volunteers should receive appropriate training that is recognised by the responding organisation seeking their support for every stage of an emergency, from planning, through response and recovery, to resilience building.

#### **Welfare**

- Staffing rest centres, family and friends reception centres, survivor reception centres and humanitarian assistance centres
- Feeding
- Provision of clothing
- Advice on entitlements, grants, loans, claims
- Resettlement of victims, evacuees, etc
- Support and comforting
- Providing information and advice
  - Support Lines
  - Drop in centres

in support of:

- Local authority social services
- Local authority education department
- Local authority housing department
- Police family liaison officers

#### **Social and psychological aftercare**

- Listening skills, welfare support and comforting
- Befriending
- Providing longer-term support

in support of:

- Local authority social services

- Local authority educational psychologists
- National Health Service (NHS).

### **Medical support**

- Support to Ambulance Service
- First aid and medical aid posts
- First aid and medical aid support in reception and rest centres
- Emergency feeding
- Auxiliary roles in hospitals
- Welfare

in support of:

- NHS Ambulance Service
- NHS hospital trusts

### **Search and rescue**

- Mountain, cave, tunnels and shafts, cliff, moor, inland waterways, coastal rescue, coastal or inland flooding, etc.
- Supervision of other searchers (eg youth organisations)
- Loan of equipment

in support of:

- Emergency services

### **Transport**

- Transport and escort of homeless, outpatients, next-of-kin, etc, to and from airports, railway stations, hospitals, mortuaries, rest centres, hostels, etc.
- Transport by 4x4 vehicles

in support of:

- Local authority social services or housing departments
- Emergency services
- NHS

### **Communications**

- Providing radio and telephone communications and operators
- Vehicles
- Messengers
- Interpreters and translators

in support of:

- Emergency services
- Local authorities
- Utilities

### **Documentation**

- Tracing people nationally and internationally
- Assistance at Casualty Bureau in some local areas
- Logging/diary procedures
- Computer support

in support of:

- Emergency services (especially police)
- Local authority social services or housing departments
- NHS
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- International Committee of the Red Cross

### **Financial aid**

- Advice and provision of appeals, disaster funds

in support of:

- Local authorities

### **Training and exercising**

- Analysis of training needs and capabilities
- Devising instructional programmes
- Joint planning and conduct of multi-agency exercises, including call-out arrangements and debrief
- Formulation and dissemination of good practice

in support of:

- Emergency services
- Local authority departments
- National utilities
- NHS

### **Building individual and community resilience**

- Individual and community resilience building
- Encouraging local participation in resilience activities
- Developing individual resilience through duty service delivery

in support of:

- local authority departments; and
- emergency services

Note:

The emergency services may call on assistance from the armed forces, particularly military search and rescue resources. Voluntary organisations such as cave and mountain rescue may therefore sometimes find themselves working with the armed forces.

## **Summary of Proposed Changes to Chapters in *Emergency Preparedness***

### Chapter 5 (*Emergency Planning*)

Chapter 5 has been revised to strengthen the lessons learnt process in testing and exercising; and to take advantage of the opportunity to reinforce response and recovery messages, as well as the importance of the voluntary sector.

Specifically, changes have been made to emphasise the importance of senior management involvement in testing and exercising. The guidance has also been amended to recommend that lessons identified documents, both from incidents and exercises, are routinely copied to relevant senior personnel, with a clear steer from Emergency Planners about the relative importance of implementing individual recommendations. The guidance also now suggests that in relation to multi-agency exercises, the LRF membership monitor, as appropriate, the implementation of recommendations by organisations. The chapter ends with a recommendation to publicise good practice in testing and exercising, particularly through the NRE.

Chapter 5 now also includes references to the importance of including the community in emergency planning and sharing information with them. However, the message has been incorporated sparingly, and has been hedged in such a way as to maximise local discretion, to help ensure that the guidance does not go further than the Regulations.

### Chapter 10 (*Scotland*), Chapter 11 (*Wales*), Chapter 12 (*Northern Ireland*)

Modifications have been made to chapters relating to the Devolved Administrations to reflect changes to arrangements in these areas such as the creation of *The Civil Contingencies Group, Northern Ireland*. See response template for further details.

### Chapter 14 (*The Role of the Voluntary Sector*)

A new emphasis has been given to the need to 'have regard to the voluntary sector' and involve these organisations all the way through the planning cycle, so that they can be more effectively used at the response and recovery stage.

### Chapter 15 *Sectors not Covered by the Act* (re-named *Sectors that Should be Involved in Emergency Planning*)

There have been no substantial changes made to this chapter. Changes that have been made are minor and further highlight the need to involve relevant organisations, not directly covered by the Civil Contingencies Act, at the earliest possible stage of emergency planning.

The name of the chapter has been changed to reflect better the importance of these sectors in the emergency planning process.

*Bibliography (re-named Further Reading)*

The bibliography is no longer a comprehensive list of documents covered in the guidance, as references to documents will all be hyperlinked in the relevant areas of the text. For this reason, the section has been re-named 'Further Reading' and has been re-focused on broad planning guidance for practitioners and incident reports of interest.

## Chapter 14

<b>Document being consulted on:</b>	Chapter 14 of <i>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</i> (Role of the Voluntary Sector)
<b>Queries to:</b>	ccact@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk 020 7276 5017

<p><u>Question 19:</u></p> <p>Do you agree with the new emphasis on inclusion of the voluntary sector at the earliest stages of the planning process?</p>	<p>YES/ NO/ NO OPINION/ DON'T KNOW</p> <p>[Delete as appropriate. Add comments in box below]</p>
<p><u>Comments on Question 19:</u></p>	
<p><u>Question 20:</u></p> <p>In your opinion, will early, and continuing involvement of the voluntary sector at every stage of the planning, testing and exercise process be helpful to your ability to respond positively to emergencies?</p>	<p>YES/ NO/ NO OPINION/ DON'T KNOW</p> <p>[Delete as appropriate. Add comments in box below]</p>
<p><u>Comments on Question 20:</u></p>	
<p><u>Question 21:</u></p> <p>Is the meaning of the phrase 'have regard to' in the requirement that 'Category 1 responders must <b>have regard to</b> those voluntary sector bodies which carry out activities in the geographical area for which the responder is responsible' sufficiently clear? Chapter 14 para 14.3</p>	<p>YES/ NO/ NO OPINION/ DON'T KNOW</p> <p>[Delete as appropriate. Add comments in box below]</p>

Comments on Question 21:

**Other Comments on the consultation paper: Chapter 14 of *Emergency Preparedness (The Role of the Voluntary Sector)***

(Please use a separate line for each detailed issue that you think needs to be addressed, adding more rows as necessary)

<b>Paragraph number</b>	<b>Comments</b>