

	<p>Unknown – 12.5%</p> <p>iii. Involved voluntary and faith-based sectors – 37.5%</p> <p>Unknown – 12.5%</p>
<p>5. Please detail how the aims and objectives of the exercise are determined and communicated to the parties involved.</p>	<p>The aims and objectives of the exercise are determined by assessing risks, previous incidents and capability using JESIP principles, NI Civil Contingencies Framework and HSC Core Standards as frameworks. Exercises may also be used in advance of organised events to test plans, preparedness and ensure multi-agency co-ordination.</p> <p>Aims and objectives are communicated using an exercise plan and via briefings.</p>

I hope the above fully assists you.

Please note that, under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, if you wish to publish or otherwise use this information besides for your own means, you will need to seek our permission to do so.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) HSC Trust, Site 30, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8SG.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the Trust has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

Website: [ICO Website](#)

Post: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Telephone: 028 9027 8757 or 0303 123 1114 (Belfast based Office)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that NIAS replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <https://nias.hscni.net> Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

(not signed – issued by email)

Information Governance Team

Enc

This response has been prepared for disclosure log publication. Only minor editorial or redaction amendments have been made for clarity and compliance with data protection legislation. The substantive content is identical to that provided to the requestor and the original issued version remains the authoritative record.

Category 1 Responders - Category 1 responders are those organisations at the core of emergency response. Category 1 responders are subject to the full set of civil protection duties. In Northern Ireland only the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are named as Category 1 responders, with the Department of Justice responsible for oversight of the PSNI's delivery of its duties in relation to the CCA.

In practice PSNI and MCA undertake the full cooperative duties, listed within Part 1 of the CCA, with the many local civil contingencies organisations who are not specifically named¹. The legal duties of Category 1 responders are:

- Duty to assess risk
- Duty to maintain emergency plans
- Duty to maintain business continuity plans
- Duty to communicate with the public
- Duty to share information
- Duty to co-operate

Category 2 Responders - Category 2 responders have a lesser set of duties and are usually only involved in incidents that are heavily involved within their sector. Only certain telecommunications operators and the Met Office are Category 2 responders in NI under the CCA. The CCA requires Category 2 responders to co-operate with Category 1 responders and share information.

Part 2: Emergency Powers - Part 2 of the Act updated the Emergency Powers Act 1920 to reflect the developments in the intervening years and the risks faced in the twenty-first century. It allows for the making of temporary special legislation (emergency regulations) to help deal with the most serious of emergencies but can only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Secondary Legislation - The CCA states: In Northern Ireland different administrative arrangements at the local level make it impossible for Part 1 to apply to Northern Ireland in the same way as it applies in the rest of the UK. It does apply to certain bodies in Northern Ireland who exercise non-devolved functions.

4.2 Major and Imminent Threat to Life

In terms of civil contingencies, major means an event which is important, serious or significant and imminent means almost certain to happen with little time remaining to change that outcome. The PSNI operate as the only named Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and will take the Strategic Co-ordination role for emergencies in Northern Ireland where; the scale and complexity of the humanitarian issues requires Command; Control and Co-ordination by the PSNI on the basis that urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation is required.

The definition above is the accepted definition of the term major and imminent threat to life but does not preclude communication, at all levels, to determine support in scenarios where an emergency may start below this threshold but has the potential to breach it. PSNI officers are embedded in all levels of the civil contingency arrangements and will participate in the Local Impact Group assessment calls to collaboratively determine the best outcome.

4.3 Framework

Overall civil contingency policy and strategy co-ordination falls to TEO which provides the NI Executive with immediate oversight of cross-cutting civil contingency arrangements for devolved matters. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has responsibility for national security matters and will lead the strategic response to such emergencies.

¹ NI Ambulance Service and NI Fire & Rescue Service as emergency responders