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1	Interim Conclusion	Government Response to the Interim Conclusion
2	<p>IC 1 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Government takes the lead in making the case for the need for adaptation to climate change and particularly in mitigating the potential impacts on communities.</p>	<p>Agree. A significant priority for Government is communicating the need and benefits of adaptation, and to facilitate and enable adaptation by removing barriers/addressing market failures preventing adaptation – but not necessarily leading the implementation. Over the past decade, Defra has been funding work on bridging research and stakeholders through the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP). Key elements of the Government's Adapting to Climate Change Programme work are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Change Bill which will provide a statutory national agenda for adaptation • The Adaptation Policy Framework (APF) document will be published once the Bill has been settled in Parliament. This will make the case for action on adaptation and outline the role of government in taking adaptation forward. • UKCIP08 scenarios to be published in November 2008. • Local Government Performance Framework's indicator on adaptation. UKCIP shares this information with Local Authorities to support them in taking forward their adaptation work as well as providing support for the adaptation elements of the Nottingham Declaration.
3	<p>IC 2 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government develops a clear strategy and action plan to deliver the provisions of the Climate Change Bill to support adaptation to increasing impacts from flooding.</p>	<p>Agree with modification. The Climate Change Bill currently will introduce the requirement for a National Risk Assessment; power for the SoS to require public bodies and statutory undertakings to produce a report on the risks from the current and predicted impacts of climate change on the UK; and establish a programme to address these risks. We will also provide statutory guidance to help public authorities understand how to assess the risks of climate change and plan any related action.</p>
4	<p>IC 3 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency further develops its tools and techniques for predicting and modelling river flooding, especially to take account of extreme and multiple events; and takes forward urgently work to develop similar tools and techniques to model surface water flooding.</p>	<p>Agree with slight modification. The Environment Agency Flood Risk Science programme is committed to continuing to develop tools and techniques for predicting and modelling river flooding for a range of events. Work on developing similar tools and techniques to model surface water flooding should form part of the preparations for the EU Floods Directive.</p>

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5	IC 4 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency revises its flood maps to identify areas where there is a risk of significant depths and velocity of water, to improve the effectiveness of emergency planning.	Agree and this should be taken forward as part of the work to meet the EU Floods Directive.
6	IC 5 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency works more closely with Local Resilience Forums to provide information drawn from flood risk modelling and mapping tools to improve the accuracy and consistency of flood risk information in Community Risk Registers.	Agree.
7	IC 6 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency progressively develops and brings into use flood visualisation tools, designed to meet the needs of flood risk managers, emergency planners and responders.	Agree.
8	IC 7 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Met Office and the Environment Agency produce an early assessment of the costs, benefits and feasibility of techniques which can predict where rain will fall and where surface water flooding will occur.	Agree.
9	IC 8 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that PPS25 should be rigorously applied by local planning authorities, including giving consideration to all sources of flood risk and ensuring that developers make a full contribution to the costs both of building and maintaining any necessary defences.	For further consideration. CLG are discussing with the Environment Agency the detail of PPS25 and how its is being implemented so we are clear on what we need to include in the Practice Guide and what more we might need to do to get all Local Planning Authorities to apply the policy. CLG are planning a series of regional workshops (in July 2008) to ensure that PPS25 continues to be implemented, and is applied to surface water flooding.

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10	IC 9 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that householders and business owners should no longer be able to lay impermeable surfaces as of right.	Agree for householders. A restriction on permitted development rights for householders was announced in the Defra Water Strategy (February '08). Our intention is that the legislation will come into force in October '08. CLG will consider the issue for businesses as part of a review of non-domestic permitted development rights.
11	IC 10 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the automatic right to connect surface water drainage of new developments to the sewerage system should be removed.	Current public consultation. The review of the right to connect was announced as part of (Feb 08) Water Strategy. Consultation on this was launched through the Water Strategy, and we hope to announce the results in Autumn '08.
12	IC 11 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that no new building should be allowed in a flood risk area that is not flood-resilient, and that the Government should work with organisations such as the Royal Institute of British Architects and the building industry to encourage flood-resilient building and development and development design.	For further consideration. Planning aspects are already covered by PPS25, but there may be a case to strengthen the Practice Guide to make policy clearer. CLG has already carried out research with the Environment Agency in order to develop and highlight suitable flood protection techniques. The findings of this research were published in May 2007 along with a guidance document entitled <i>Improving the Flood Performance of Buildings: Flood Resilient Guidance</i> .
13	IC 12 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should incorporate flood resistance and resilience requirements for new properties in flood risk areas into Building Regulations as part of the current process of revision.	For further consideration. CLG are currently considering how best flood performance could form part of the Building Regulations. The Government anticipate that flood performance will form part of our considerations for 2010 amendment to the Building Regulations. However, this will be subject to public consultation and preparation of a robust and proportionate Impact Assessment.
14	IC 13 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Government should incorporate requirements for resistant or resilient refurbishment of flooded properties in high flood risk areas into Building Regulations as part of the current process of revision.	For further consideration. As part of the wider considerations, CLG will investigate requirements relating to the flood performance of buildings that are being refurbished - however there maybe legal limitations on what we can realistically do where the work is principally repair and maintenance.

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15	<p>IC 14 - The interim conclusion of the Review is the local authorities and housing associations should take a more active role in increasing the uptake of flood resistance and resilience measures, leading by example by repairing their properties with appropriate materials where it is cost effective.</p>	<p>For further consideration. CLG will review this recommendation with the Housing Corporation in the light of its work to raise the quality and environmental performance of new housing. RSLs should be able to carry out limited emergency responses, in conjunction with local partners, of course dependent on local circumstances. RSLs should have adequate insurance cover on all of their stock that would cover structural damage. Therefore the majority of costs would be covered, although insurance policies and approaches by individual RSLs will vary. There may well be damages to communal areas, for example playground areas, that may not be covered by insurance. RSLs would have to look at their own sources of funding or funding from other bodies.</p>
16	<p>IC 15 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities in high flood risk areas should extend eligibility for home improvement grants and loans to encompass flood protection and resilience products.</p>	<p>Agree but should be locally determined. Local Authorities already have wide-ranging powers to provide assistance under the Regulatory Reform Order (2002) on Housing Renewal. Under the RRO, LAs are expected to determine local priorities for action within their areas, so if there is a need to extend the eligibility for home improvement grants to those affected by flooding they already have the power to do so if it is viewed as a local priority.</p>
17	<p>IC 16 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities, as they discharge their responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to promote business continuity, should encourage the uptake of property-level flood resistance and resilience measures. This should be reflect in guidance from the Government.</p>	<p>Agree. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires local authorities to provide advice & guidance on business continuity management (BCM) to those undertaking commercial activities, and encourages them to relate this to relevant community risk registers. The Cabinet Office will look at how best to promote increased awareness of existing guidance on the need for risk based business continuity planning (see also IC55 on the adoption of BS 25999 by Category 2 responders).</p>
18	<p>IC 17 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities should lead on the management of surface water flooding and drainage at the local level with the support of all responsible organisations including the Environment Agency, water companies and internal drainage boards, the Highways Agency and British Waterways.</p>	<p>Current public consultation. Was the basis for our consultation on Surface Water Management Plans, which was issued as part of new Water Strategy (7 Feb 08). We propose that local authorities should lead, but of course the final decision depends on outcomes of consultation itself (timetable as per IC 20).</p>

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19	IC 18 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities in flood risk areas should assess their capabilities to deliver the wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management.	Agree. Such an assessment by local authorities would help inform proposals under the Environment Agency Inland Strategic Overview. This will consider the respective roles of different organisations in local flood risk management, including issues around expertise or capabilities required. Defra plan to consult on proposals for Inland SO later in the year.”
20	IC 19 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency should have a national overview of all flood risk and that, Defra’s work on the development of a national overview role for the Agency in relation to surface water flooding should be progressed.	Agree. The intention is to give the Environment Agency a strategic overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management was announced in the first Government response to Making Space for Water. The Agency’s role in relation to sea flooding and coastal erosion has been defined, announced and largely implemented. Work is in progress on the Inland Strategic Overview (including for surface water) and will be informed by other workstreams, including the current Integrated Urban Drainage pilots and the consultation on the Water Strategy.
21	IC 20 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Surface Water Management Plans, as set out under PPS25, should provide the basis for managing surface water flood risk. These plans should be coordinated by the local authority and be risk-based, considering all sources of flooding.	Agree, and the basis for our consultation on Surface Water Management Plans, which was issued as part of new Water Strategy (7 Feb 08). The Plans will provide a central route for co-ordination between stakeholders. End April 08: Consultation closes. Spring 08: IUD Pilots complete. End July 08: Analysis of consultation responses published on Defra website. By end October 08: Government response to consultation published, including guidance on producing Surface Water Management Plans published.
22	IC 21 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that a local register of all the main flood risk management and drainage assets (overland and underground) should be compiled by the relevant local authority, including an assessment of their condition and details of the responsible owners.	For further consideration. This is an interesting proposal, and something Government picks up in the Surface Water Drainage Consultation accompanying the Water Strategy. We need to make sure that the costs of such a proposal are properly assessed and proportionate (timetable as per IC20).

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23	<p>IC 22 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra should issue guidance on how all organisations can be brought together to work with local authorities on surface water flood risk management, sharing information, modelling and expertise on a consistent basis.</p>	<p>Agree. This supports Defra's ongoing work on the 15 integrated urban drainage pilots. We will be issuing guidance later in the year on how to prepare a Surface Water Management Plan.</p>
24	<p>IC 23 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government, as part of its Water Strategy, should resolve the issue of which organisations should be responsible for the ownership and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems.</p>	<p>Agree. We support the IC because SUDS have a key role to play in mitigating localised flood risk. Options for better SUDS take-up were included in the consultation on Improving Surface Water Drainage which accompanied the recently-launched Water Strategy. SUDS can provide an additional benefit in reducing contamination of surface water, thereby enabling us to meet national and EU commitments to improve water quality.</p> <p>End April 08: Consultation closes.</p> <p>End July 08: Analysis of consultation responses published on Defra website.</p> <p>By end October 08: Government response to consultation published.</p> <p>By Spring 09: consultation on implementation of agreed way forward.</p>
25	<p>IC 24 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra should work with Ofwat and the water industry to explore how appropriate risk-based standards for drainage systems (including pumping stations) can be achieved.</p>	<p>Reservations. A review of risk-based standards for drainage systems will require wider stakeholder involvement beyond that of Defra and Ofwat.</p>
26	<p>IC 25 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that, as part of the forthcoming water industry pricing review, the water companies, in conjunction with local authorities and other partners, should develop proposals for investment in the existing drainage network to deal with increasing flood risk.</p>	<p>Reservations. We suggest that the IC would be better expressed as '.....Ofwat should encourage water companies, in.....' Ofwat already require climate change to be factored into company strategic direction statements for PR09. Also should be noted that water companies are responsible for the public sewer network only.</p>

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27	<p>IC 26 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authority scrutiny committee review SWMPs and other linked plans, such as Local Development Frameworks and Community Risk Registers, to ensure that flood risk is adequately considered and to ensure greater transparency and progress in the management of that risk.</p>	<p>This is an interesting proposal, and something we pick up in the Surface Water Drainage Consultation accompanying the Water Strategy. We will work through some of the details of local government arrangements with CLG (timetable as per IC20).</p>
28	<p>IC 27 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that it is appropriate for the Environment Agency and other local organisations to continue to focus investment on area of highest assessed long-term risk, whether or not they have been recently flooded.</p>	<p>Agree. Defra are working with the Environment Agency to continue the development of National Flood Risk Assessments and increasing use of this in identifying areas in need of investment. Defra is also developing an improved approach to prioritisation and extending the application of Outcome Measures for maintenance and other activities.</p>
29	<p>IC 28 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should commit to a strategic long term approach to its investment in flood risk management planning up to 25 years ahead.</p>	<p>Agree. Defra will continue to work with the Environment Agency on the Long Term Investment Strategy and believe that a long term programme together with efficient delivery mechanisms is essential for the future of flood and coastal erosion risk management.</p>
30	<p>IC 29 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency should open dialogue with all those landowners who will be affected by either a withdrawal from or significant reduction in maintenance of rural watercourses.</p>	<p>Broadly agree but suggest that any dialogue should be established before it is agreed that reducing or withdrawing maintenance is right course of action.</p>
31	<p>IC 30 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should develop a single national set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use of usefulness of sandbags and other alternatives, rather than leaving the matter wholly to local discretion.</p>	<p>Reservations. The Environment Agency and LGA developed a policy agreement following 2000 floods. This could be revisited in light of the recommendation but other issues may have to take greater priority.</p>

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32	<p>IC 31 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme and framework to achieve greater working with natural processes, including the identification of appropriate sites and the development of more incentives for creating water storage, restoring the natural course of rivers and establishing green corridors.</p>	<p>Agree with reservations. The Government agrees that there is a need for more concerted action to translate policy on working with natural process into delivery. We would not want to see an alternative framework which distracted from the work of CFMPs and SMPs, but there could be merit in establishing a programme to identify potential improvements in delivery. Delivery could be principally an Environment Agency role with the support of Natural England and other partners. There is a role for Defra in facilitating policy join up and setting policy/expectations. This is a long term objective with opportunities for some short-to-medium term quick wins. Defra is currently considering what more could be done to support the delivery of multiple benefits alongside flood and coastal erosion risk management.</p>
33	<p>IC 32 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency should provide an analysis of the effect that land management practices had or would have had on the impact if flooding during the summer 2007 floods.</p>	<p>Agree in principle but it will difficult to get a definitive answer. There has been significant research undertaken to investigate the link between land management and flood risk which indicates that the connection between the two is poor and that models are currently unable to predict what impacts land management change would have on flood risk at a catchment scale. However, other studies may be able advise further on this.</p>
34	<p>IC 33 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that flooding legislation should be updated and streamlined under a single unifying Act that amongst other outcomes addresses all sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management.</p>	<p>Agree. This is under active consideration and a programme of work for developing a Bill is planned.</p>
35	<p>IC 34 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government and the insurance industry should work together to deliver a public education programme setting out the benefits of insurance in the context of flooding.</p>	<p>Agree with the principle. The Government has recently extended the Department for Work and Pensions' 'Now let's talk money' campaign to include access to insurance. The 'Now let's talk money' campaign works through trusted intermediaries such as housing associations, charities and community groups to provide information and support to help the hard-to-reach access financial services. The Government will also review experience of Public Education Programmes in Scotland and identify potential options for further consideration.</p>

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36	<p>IC 35 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government and the insurance industry work together to develop options to improve the availability and uptake of flood risk insurance by low-income households and assess the costs, benefits and feasibility of these options, before the Review's final report.</p>	<p>For further consideration. Government is working with the insurance industry as part of the review of the Statement of Principles to identify what further joint work may be appropriate. This links to work being undertaken by the ABI on financial inclusion and to the work by the Department for Work and Pensions through its 'Now let's talk money' campaign and Financial Inclusions Champions Initiative.</p>
37	<p>IC 36 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that, in flood risk areas, a note on flood risk and the simple steps that could be taken to mitigate it should be included with all insurance renewal notices. Moreover, if Flood Warning Direct is available in a customer's area, one of the conditions of renewal could be sign-up to this</p>	<p>For insurance companies not Government.</p>
38	<p>IC 37 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Met Office and the Environment Agency should produce an assessment of the options for issuing warnings against a lower threshold of probability, including costs, benefits and feasibility; this will be considered further in the final report.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>
39	<p>IC 38 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that unless agreed otherwise locally, 'upper tier' local authorities should be the lead organisation in relation to multi-agency planning for severe weather emergencies at the local level, and for triggering multi-agency arrangements in response to severe weather warnings.</p>	<p>Agree. CCS will look to reinforce it as good practice where appropriate in national guidance.</p>

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40	IC 39 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that where a Gold Command is established, the police, unless agreed otherwise locally, should convene and lead the multi-agency response.	Agree , but this is also for local determination. This is likely to be swept up in the Flood Emergency Framework and also covered in Multi Agency Flood Plans.
41	IC 40 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Gold Commands should be established at an early stage on a precautionary basis where there is a risk of serious flooding.	Agree , but this is also for local determination. This is likely to be swept up in the Flood Emergency Framework and also covered in Multi Agency Flood Plans.
42	IC 41 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Local Resilience Forums should assess the effectiveness of their Gold facilities, including flexible accommodation, IT and communications systems.	For LRFs, not Government
43	IC 42 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Local Government Association should consider how best mutual support might be enhanced between local authorities in the event of a future wide-area	For LGA, not Government
44	IC 43 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Cabinet Office guidance to local planners should specifically include incidents which leave large numbers of people stranded on motorways and trunk roads.	The Government agrees that stranded motorists should be supported in an incident. There is agreement between Highways Agency and Local Authorities on the support of people in their cars, where in-car support is preferred to evacuation. If stranded motorists are indeed evacuated, Local Authorities will follow their own plans on rest centre accommodation, which are based on their community risk register
45	IC 44 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that, as part of their emergency plans, Local Resilience Forums should consider the vulnerability of motorways and trunk roads to flooding, and consider the potential for earlier, stronger,	For LRFs, not Government

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46	<p>IC 45 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra should review the current requirement in emergency regulations for the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency, to reflect reasonable needs during a longer-term loss of mains supply.</p>	<p>For further consideration. Defra has set up a working group to review the requirement for the minimum amount of water. The group will research and review other relevant guidance that indicates quantities of alternative drinking water, together with any sub-allocations. The review will also consider the logistics of distribution of alternative supplies and the adequacy and efficacy of the measures in place for vulnerable people.</p>
47	<p>IC 46 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that central government crisis machinery should always be activated if significant wide-area flooding of whatever nature is expected or occurs.</p>	<p>Agree with modification. Central crisis machinery should be activated where widespread flooding is expected to cause significant impact, and where activation of central crisis machinery adds value. The impact, rather than the spread or nature, should determine the scale of response. Defra's Lead Government Department Plan will be amended to reflect this approach.</p>
48	<p>IC 47 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra extends its current departmental programme to share best practice and provide training in emergency response across the organisation.</p>	<p>Agree. Defra's Contingency Planning and Security Division will take this forward as part of their ongoing work (a) to ensure that the Department has the ability to learn lessons from emergency exercises and real events, to spread good practice and to retain knowledge and (b) to ensure a consistent approach across Defra to the response to emergencies where this is feasible and/or desirable. CPSD will implement via a cross-Defra event during 2008.</p>
49	<p>IC 48 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Defra and the Environment Agency work together to establish a single London situation room to coordinate flooding information, to act as a focal point for cross-Defra efforts, and to support Defra ministers.</p>	<p>Agree with modification. Defra and the Environment Agency will work together to deliver the intention of this recommendation. As part of this work, and in support of its cross-Government Lead Department role for flooding, Defra will develop plans for using the Department's Emergency Operations Room. However, the Government considers that we can meet the intention of this recommendation without necessarily establishing a single London Situation Room. This can be achieved by ever closer joint working and real-time information sharing, while allowing both organisations to continue to manage the flooding situation for their own separate purposes, and within their own managerial space. To this end, the EA are prepared to provide a Strategic Liaison Officer to support Defra's work in a major flood.</p>

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50	<p>IC 49 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that a national flooding exercise should take place at the earliest opportunity in order to test the new arrangements which central government departments are putting into place to deal with flooding and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Agree in principle. This will be considered with all parties suggested. There is a substantial lead time for a properly conducted, major exercise especially if national crisis machinery (ind COBR) is to be used. Plan for an exercise will be formulated by end October 2008 which will set out when it will be conducted.</p>
51	<p>IC 50 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that financial assistance for local responders in relation to emergency response and recovery should be revised to improve speed, simplicity and certainty.</p>	<p>For further consideration. Government is considering whether any future financial assistance package could be made simpler. We comment thought that the efforts met the three criteria set out in the IC in terms of: Speed - central government's financial contributions to the Flood Recovery effort were developed and delivered swiftly and effectively. Certainty - The financial assistance made available in response to last summer's events should not be seen as setting a precedent. Every major emergency is different and requires a tailored response. It is up to councils to assess their own risk and put in place the right mix of insurance, self insurance and reserves to provide both security and value for money for communities. Simplicity - The schemes were logical and reasonable for their intended use.</p>
52	<p>IC 51 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Local Resilience Forums should be aware of recent Cabinet Office guidance setting out the transition to recovery. Recovery sub-groups should be established from the onset of major emergencies and in due course there should be formal handover from Gold Command to the local Recovery Coordinating Group(s), normally chaired by the Chief Executive of the affected local authority.</p>	<p>Agree. Implementation is a matter for local responders.</p>

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53	<p>IC 52 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should establish a systematic, coordinated, cross-sector campaign to reduce the disruption caused by natural events to critical infrastructure and essential services.</p>	<p>Agree. The Cabinet Office have undertaken a scoping study on reducing the vulnerability of critical national infrastructure to natural hazards. This indicated that there are a number of trends that increase vulnerability of critical infrastructure and essential services, and the consequences of disruptions to both. Work is already in hand to assess the vulnerability of infrastructure to natural hazards, but there is potential to extend the scope of this work to encompass a wider range of undertakings across the key service sectors.</p>
54	<p>IC 53 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should develop and issue guidance on consistent and proportionate minimum levels of protection from flooding and critical infrastructure.</p>	<p>Agree in principle. See IC52. The Government will consider how to provide planning guidance on the risks of flooding to critical infrastructure that will enable appropriate measures to be taken”</p>
55	<p>IC 54 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that infrastructure operating companies should present the case for further investment in flood resilience through the appropriate regulatory process.</p>	<p>For further consideration. The interim conclusion of the Review is that infrastructure operating companies should present the case for further investment in flood resilience through the appropriate regulatory process. In those sectors, such as rail and strategic roads, where some or all infrastructure costs are borne by Government, the costs and benefits of investment in measures to improve flood resilience should be considered by Government on a case-by-case basis as part of infrastructure planning.</p>
56	<p>IC 55 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that a duty should be introduced on critical infrastructure operators to have business continuity planning to BS 25999 in places to more closely reflect the duty on Category 1 responders. This should include minimising the loss of supply as far as practicable in the event of a serious emergency resulting from flooding.</p>	<p>Agree that this should be considered in the context of the forthcoming developmental review into the operation of the Civil Contingencies Act. In the interim, the Government will encourage critical infrastructure operators to have business continuity planning to appropriate standards eg BS25999.</p>

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57	<p>IC 56 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that, in relation to information-sharing and cooperation, the Civil Contingencies Act and Regulations should be extended to require Category 2 responders to more formally contribute information on critical sites, their vulnerability and the impact of their loss.</p>	<p>The Government is already taking steps in relation to UR 10 to facilitate the sharing of relevant information on critical sites.</p>
58	<p>IC 57 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that single points of failure and the complete loss of assets need to be explicitly considered in the risk assessment and contingency planning undertaken by operators, emergency planners and responders.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees that the risks arising from single points of failure and the total loss of critical services should be assessed and planned for as appropriate, and will consider whether further measures in addition to UR10 are necessary including through a review of the Civil Contingencies Act.</p>
59	<p>IC 58 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Local Resilience Forums should ensure that Community Risk Registers reflect risks to critical infrastructure from flooding and other hazards.</p>	<p>For LRFs, not Government</p>
60	<p>IC 59 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that Category 2 responders should be required to participate fully at the Gold and Silver Commands and that the Government should deliver this through the Civil Contingencies Act or other regulatory regimes.</p>	<p>For further consideration. The Government agrees that there are benefits in having increased and more consistent levels of participation by Category 2 responders in emergency response and recovery and will consider whether and how to take this forward, including through the review of the Civil Contingencies Act later in the year.</p>

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61	IC 60 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that emergency plans and business continuity plans of essential service providers should be reviewed annually by local authority scrutiny committees.	For LRFs, not Government
62	IC 61 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that critical infrastructure planning should become a separate discipline within civil protection at the local level.	For LRFs, not Government
63	IC 62 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government should implement the legislative changes proposed in the recently published Environment Agency biennial report of dam and reservoir safety.	For further consideration. The policy needs to be considered alongside other Bill Proposals and a full understanding of costs and benefits (including whether canals should be brought under the same legislation as reservoirs).
64	IC 63 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that all reservoir undertakers should be required by Defra to prepare inundation maps and share them with Local Resilience Forums to improve Community Risk Registers and emergency planning.	Agree. Work on a Direction to require this is well under way, including preparation of guidance to reservoir undertakers on how to prepare flood plans. We intend consulting on our proposals, including an Impact Assessment, later this year.
65	IC 64 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency should produce a sliding scale of options for greater personalisation of public warning information, including costs, benefits and feasibility, before the final report.	Agree.

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66	<p>IC 65 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Environment Agency works with local responder to raise awareness in flood risk areas and identify a range of mechanisms to warn the public, particularly the vulnerable, in response to flooding.</p>	<p>Agree and the Environment Agency already have a programme of work in place to raise awareness and warn the public in flood risk areas, as well as work underway to consider the best way of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.</p>
67	<p>IC 66 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that advice by telephone during a flood emergency should come from just two sources – the Environment Agency for flooding information and local authority contact centres for local advice.</p>	<p>Reservations. This could cut across other accepted practices e.g. for casualty bureaux. The wording might be amended to read e.g.: "County-level major incident plans should have a clear, pre-determined communications procedure that enables the public to obtain information directly, and on a range of issues, from a minimum number of advice and helplines."</p>
68	<p>IC 67 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that advice disseminated via the internet should be coherent by ensuring integration and consistency between local websites, including that of the Local Resilience Forum and those of the all category 1 responders.</p>	<p>For LRFs, not Government</p>
69	<p>IC 68 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that essential service providers should maintain continuous provision of public information during an emergency, through a website linked to other responders and local authority contact centres.</p>	<p>For LRFs, not Government</p>

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70	<p>IC 69 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government works towards a single definitive set of flood-related health advice for householders and businesses, which can be used by media and the authorities locally and nationally.</p>	<p>Agree. The Health Protection Agency had a page on it's website which covered public and professional advice on flooding from previous flooding incidents. During the 2008 incidents updated and expanded guidance was pasted to the page, including Q and As and guidance on new probelms identified. Also guidance was produced in paper form for distribution by local authorities in flooded areas where internet access was difficult and to cover households not on-line. Use was also made of print and broadcast media. A group has been set up by the HPA to review this guidance and prepare further guidance in the light of lessons identified during the 2008 flooding, and this will be delivered to the HPA web-site over the next year the timing of each section depending on the evidence base of the subjects being explored.</p>
71	<p>IC 70 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that council leaders and chief executives play a prominent role in public reassurance and advice through the local media during a flooding emergency as part of a coordinated effort overseen by Gold Commanders.</p>	<p>The Government, for its part, believes that National Recovery Guidance, which includes advice and case studies on working with the media and the role of elected members during the recovery phase, may be applicable also to the responsibilities of Category 1 responders for warning and informing the public in the response phase also. This can be found at http://www.ukresilience.info/response/recovery_guidance.aspx</p>
72	<p>IC 71 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that flood risk should be made part of the mandatory search requirements when people buy property and should form part of Home Improvement Packs.</p>	<p>For further consideration. We have already committed to consider the potential for mandatory flood and ground stability searches to be included in HIP. As part of our consultation in Jan 2007 we sought views on the inclusion of a mandatory flood risk assessment as part of the Home Information Pack. A small and mixed response was received. There were also some words of caution that Government should be confident that there was both the technology and the competitive markets in place to deliver these searches quickly and at a reasonable price for the consumer, before they were mandatory. Government welcomes Sir Michael's contribution to this debate and will continue to monitor the implementation of HIPs.</p>

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73	<p>IC 72 - The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Government launches a public information campaign which draws on a single definitive set of flood prevention and mitigation advice for householders and businesses, and which can be used by media and the authorities locally and nationally.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees and will consider how the existing annual flood awareness campaign, lead by the Environment Agency, might be further changes to improve awareness at local, regional and national level of flooding risks, and the response to the risks, under the national flood emergency framework. The 2008 campaign has already been amended to reflect lessons learnt from the Summer 2007 flooding.</p>
74	<p>IC 73 – The interim conclusion of Review is that local recovery coordinating groups should ensure that coherent health and well-being support is readily available to those affected by flooding, using a variety of sources including voluntary and community groups.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees with this and considers that the issue of implementation is a multi agency task that Health is well placed to support at a local level. Some studies on the physical and psycho-social health effects of flooding are ongoing. The results of this work will inform any further work in preparing for any subsequent event. In particular a framework needs to be developed centrally and guidance on what monitoring is required disseminated to the local level.</p>
75	<p>IC 74 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that the monitoring of impacts on health and well-being, and actions to mitigate and manage the effects, should form a systematic part of recovery work at the local level.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees with the interim conclusion and considers that the issue of their implementation is a multi agency task that Health is well placed to support at a local level. Some studies on the physical and psycho-social health effects of flooding are ongoing. The results of this work will inform any further work in preparing for any subsequent event. In particular a framework needs to be developed centrally and guidance on what monitoring is required disseminated to the local level.</p>
76	<p>IC 75 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that communication strategies during recovery need to be agreed at the outset by all recovery coordinating groups and focus on reassurance, advice and progress.</p>	<p>The Government's National Recovery Guidance includes advice for LRF's and LA's on what a good multi-agency Recovery Plan should cover, this includes communication strategies, which are important to reassure the community and help minimise the impact of emergencies on people and their families.</p>
77	<p>IC 76 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities should coordinate a systematic programme of community engagement in their area during the recovery phase.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>

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78	<p>IC 77 – The interim conclusion Review is that central government recovery coordinating groups established from the outset emergencies and in due course should be formal handover from crisis machinery to the recovery coordinating group – normally the minister of the lead government department for recovery.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees with this interim conclusion. The <i>Concept of Operations</i> is currently under review and will look at central government arrangements for the transfer of lead role and responsibilities from response to recovery phase.</p>
79	<p>IC 78 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that Communities and Local Government should have lead responsibility within central government for coordinating recovery from wide area flooding emergencies.</p>	<p>The Government is giving further consideration to this recommendation. The arrangements for the role of lead departments for recovery are under currently review within Government.</p>
80	<p>IC 79 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that roles and objectives of those in central government responsible for recovery should be developed on the basis of the model employed during the recovery from last summer’s floods, and that these standing arrangements should be set out in the <i>Concept of Operations</i> (CONOPS) for central government’s response to emergencies.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government is currently reviewing the <i>Concept of Operations</i> and is looking at arrangements for central government response for recovery.</p>
81	<p>IC 80 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that the central government guidance to local responders – <i>Emergency Response and Recovery</i> – should be updated to reflect the new formalised arrangements for recovery.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government is reviewing <i>Emergency Response and Recovery</i> from the summer onwards, and will take into account the new formalised arrangements for recovery.</p>
82	<p>IC 81 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that all Local Resilience Forums should plan, train and exercise on the basis of the recently published <i>National Recovery Guidance</i>.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>

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83	<p>IC 82 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities should have a clear plan for harnessing voluntary and community resources during the recovery phase.</p>	<p>Agree with some reservations. Government supports the IC but suggest that the issue of resilience and response is built into local discussions and negotiations around relationships with the voluntary and community sector, for example through Local Compacts. The Government will raise this issue with the Commissioner for the Compact for consideration in their work plan.</p>
84	<p>IC 83 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that for recovery from emergencies spanning more than a single local authority area, the Government Offices should enable coherence and coordination, if necessary, between recovery operations in different local authorities.</p>	<p>Agree. In practice, this is already part of the role GOs play during both the response and recovery phases - <u>facilitating</u> co-ordination across boundaries - including by supporting the work of the Regional Civil Contingencies Committee where appropriate. The Government will consider the role of GOs further as part of the revision of non-statutory guidance Emergency Response & Recovery.</p>
85	<p>IC 84 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that the Local Government Association and Government Offices should develop arrangements to provide advice and support from organisations experienced in recovery to areas dealing with recovery from an emergency.</p>	<p>The Government is considering protocols for mutual aid arrangements between local authorities across the country for use in both the response and recovery phases, in work between CCS/LGA/GOs and LAs.</p>
86	<p>IC 85 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that there needs to be an agreed framework – including definitions and timescales – for local-central recovery reporting, and that this should be included in all relevant government guidance.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government agrees that there should be a common understanding between responders at central and local level on the type of information that will be required to support recovery activity, the means by which it will be obtained, and the frequency with which it will be shared. This should be communicated in relevant generic guidance and Lead Government Departments' plans while recognising that specific requirements will inevitably need to be refined in the light of circumstances at the time.</p>
87	<p>IC 86 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the costs of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should revisit their reserves and insurance arrangements in light of last summer's floods.</p>	<p>Agree. The Government would like local authorities to be effectively prepared for the costs of possible future emergencies, and specifically to reassess whether they have struck the right balance between self-insurance and taking out insurance from insurance companies.</p>

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88	<p>IC 87 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that central government should have pre-planned rather than ad hoc arrangements to contribute towards the financial burden of recovery from the most exceptional emergencies.</p>	<p>The Government has established pre-planned arrangements and funding commitments to provide financial assistance for the initial response to an emergency, in the form of the Bellwin scheme - with annual guidelines on the normal criteria published on the DCLG website. Every major emergency is different and requires an appropriate response from Government to support recovery. Any extension of pre-planned arrangements for response to include recovery would need to avoid the risk of distorting local decision making and local incentives to insure and maintain necessary reserves.</p>
89	<p>IC 88 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that any future model for financial assistance should be designed to minimise unnecessary expenditure and maximise value for money for public finances collectively, rather than singularly for central or local government.</p>	<p>The Government agrees in principle with the need to minimise unnecessary expenditure and maximise value for money as far as possible in any funding arrangements. However, fixed pre-planned funding arrangements may not automatically lead to improved targetting or value-for-money for any spending.</p>
90	<p>IC 89 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that the arrangements for distributing any financial assistance during the recovery phase should be transparent and equitable.</p>	<p>The Government agrees in principle with the need for transparency and equity as far as possible in any funding arrangements. The schemes offered last summer were logical and reasonable for their intended assistance to those that most needed it. We are considering how financial assistance arrangements could be made simpler and therefore more transparent.</p>
91	<p>IC 90 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that aims and objectives for the recovery phase should be agreed at the outset by recovery coordinating groups to provide focus and enable orderly transition into mainstream programmes when multi-agency coordination of recovery is no longer required.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>
92	<p>IC 91 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that recovery coordinating groups should make early strategic decisions about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities during and after recovery.</p>	<p>Agree. Recovery Coordinating Groups are the strategic decision making bodies for the recovery phase and existing guidance suggests establishing a Business and Economic Recovery Group to support affected businesses and to devise an economic recovery strategy, which should include longterm needs and opportunities. However, it might not be possible, in all circumstances for early decisions to be made.</p>

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93	IC 92 – The interim conclusion of the Review is that recovery coordinating groups should evaluate and share lessons from both the response and recovery phases to inform their planning for future emergencies.	Agree.