



David Grant  
request-740684-70736f57@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202100184164  
Your Reference: Preparedness in the event of a catastrophic cyber attack

23 April 2021

Dear David Grant,

## **REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)**

Thank you for your request dated 24 March 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

### Your request

You asked

- 1. Does the Government have a plan for coping with the consequences of a major cyber-attack?**
- 2. To put the question more brutally does the Government have a plan to feed people if there is no electricity, no water and no means of communication?**
- 3. If you do not have such a plan do you intend to create one?**
- 4. If you do not intend to create one please say why not?**
- 5. If you do have a plan is it accessible to the public?**
- 6. If it is not accessible to the public, why not?**
- 7. Have any bunkers been prepared for the aftermath and have any key Government officials been designated as meriting a place in the bunker? If so, which ones?**

### Response to your request

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



## **1. Does the Government have a plan for coping with the consequences of a major cyber-attack?**

The Scottish Government does not have a plan specifically for coping with the consequences of a major cyber attack due to an 'all-risks' approach as in the answer to question 2 below.

## **2. To put the question more brutally does the Government have a plan to feed people if there is no electricity, no water and no means of communication?**

The preparation and response to emergencies is underpinned by The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 ("the Act") and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 ("the Regulations"). These regulations form the legal basis for emergency preparedness in Scotland. The Act seeks to minimise disruption in the event of an emergency and to ensure that the UK is better prepared to deal with a range of emergencies and their consequences.

This legislation outlines the key organisations responsible for ensuring the effective management of emergencies in Scotland. These are category 1 responders (including local authorities, police, fire, ambulance and health boards) and category 2 responders (including electricity operators, gas suppliers, Scottish Water and Health and Safety Executive).

The Act and the Regulations place a number of legal duties upon Category 1 responders. For more information on responders and their legislative duties please see the following chapter of Preparing Scotland - [Preparing Scotland - Chapter 2 - Legislation](#)

Resilience in Scotland takes an 'all-risks' approach and is based on the doctrine of Integrated Emergency Management (IEM). Whilst emergencies can be caused by a wide range of factors, the effects will often share identical or similar consequences.

The aim of IEM is to develop flexible and adaptable arrangements for dealing with emergencies, whether foreseen or unforeseen and regardless of cause. It is based on a multi-agency approach and the effective co-ordination of those agencies. It involves Category 1 and Category 2 responders (as defined in the Act) and also the voluntary sector, commerce and a wide range of communities.

More information on Scotland's approach to preparing for and responding to civil emergencies can be found at [Preparing Scotland: Philosophy, Principles, Structure and Regulatory Duties](#)

## **3. If you do not have such a plan do you intend to create one?**

Please refer to question two.

## **4. If you do not intend to create one please say why not?**

Please refer to question two.

## **5. If you do have a plan is it accessible to the public?**

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Please refer to question two.

**6. If it is not accessible to the public, why not?**

Please refer to question two.

**7. Have any bunkers been prepared for the aftermath and have any key Government officials been designated as meriting a place in the bunker? If so, which ones?**

No.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Shirley Rogers - Director of Organisational Readiness, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG - [OrganisationalReadiness@gov.scot](mailto:OrganisationalReadiness@gov.scot). Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Robbie Harrison  
**RES : Risk and Essential Services**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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