

This is an extract from the Department of Defence Annual Report 2006

The Emergency Planning Objective:

"To promote the coordination of emergency planning functions across all Government Departments and other key public authorities and to oversee the emergency planning process in general."

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) is a civil/military Office within the Department of Defence supporting the Minister as Chairman of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning. The Government Task Force met on seven occasions during 2006. The Task Force is the top-level structure providing policy and direction and which coordinates and oversees the emergency planning activities of government departments and public authorities.

In 2006 the main issues addressed by the Task Force included: avian flu and the potential threat of an influenza pandemic, the preparation of the Public Information and Awareness Campaign on Emergency Planning and the development of the National Emergency Coordination Centre.

The Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG) on Emergency Planning met on nine occasions during 2006. The Task Force charges this Working Group with carrying out specific tasks and developing particular aspects of emergency planning. A key area of activity during 2006 continued to be the ongoing development of the oversight function in order to improve and develop the process and to increase public confidence in emergency planning.

The fifth confidential Annual Report on Emergency Planning was presented to Government in December 2006

The Emergency Planning Objective

Strategies	Performance Indicators	Current Status
<p>To foster a more proactive approach to the conduct of emergency planning by interacting with key players in other Government Departments and key public authorities</p>	<p>Promotion of a facilitative climate and development of greater confidence in the emergency planning process</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To provide the necessary supports to the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, chaired by the Minister for Defence, and the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Establishment and maintenance of an emergency planning contact programme through regular meetings of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning and the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Seven meetings of the Government Task Force and nine meetings of the Inter-Departmental Working Group were held in 2006</p>
<p>To oversee the emergency planning arrangements in Government Departments and public authorities under their aegis</p>	<p>Regular meetings and active pursuit of the issues arising</p>	<p>The main issues the Task Force considered during 2006 included Avian Flu, Flu Pandemic, the development of a Public Information Campaign, the establishment of a National Emergency Coordination Centre and the Review of the Framework for Coordinated Response to Major Emergency.</p>

	<p>Provision of regular reports to Government</p>	<p>The fifth confidential Annual Report on Emergency Planning was presented to Government in December 2006.</p>
<p>Adoption of assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement of the emergency planning functions within Government Departments and other key public authorities</p>	<p>Regular reviews and validation of Government emergency planning and response arrangements through formal annual oversight programmes</p> <p>Fourth oversight cycle to be completed by end of 2006</p>	<p>The mechanisms to drive the oversight process were further refined and developed in 2006.</p> <p>The oversight process involved a series of bilateral meetings between the Office of Emergency Planning and the key Government Departments with lead or support roles in the emergency planning process.</p> <p>The oversight process was completed and the outputs informed a significant part of the confidential Annual Report to Government on Emergency Planning</p> <p>The review of the oversight process resulted in the</p>

		refinement and improvement of the process. Ongoing review will further develop the process in future years
<p>To provide Strategic Emergency Planning Guidance (SEPG) to Government Departments and other key public authorities aimed at achieving effective management of the emergency planning process</p> <p>(The first such Guidance document was issued in December 2004)</p>	<p>Regular review will identify any further guidance that requires development by the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Emergency Planning, which will issue as appropriate</p>	<p>This is an ongoing area for review and development and the SEPG will be reviewed in 2007 in the light of the new "Framework for Major Emergency Management in Ireland"</p>