



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR LONDON

LONDON RESILIENCE TEAM

Riverwalk House, 157 – 161 Millbank, London, SW1P 4RR

To: London Cat 1 and 2 responders

**SUMMARY BRIEFING – 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum on 14 July 2005.**

An extraordinary meeting of the Forum was held in order to take stock of the response to the 7 July bomb attacks in London, the continued threat and community cohesion, identify gaps, lessons and tasks and make arrangements for longer term co-ordination of London recovery management work.

Threat and current situation

1. An oral brief to the Forum by the MPS and others present.

Situation Update

2. Key London agencies involved in the response to the incidents in London on 7 July, including the Emergency Services, the transport sector and local authorities, provided a brief situation update from their individual perspectives.

Mortuary – LRRF (05) 18

3. The incident Coroner, Dr Paul Knapman briefly went through how the decision to use the resilience mortuary was reached. The London Resilience Mass Fatality Plan was activated by the Coroners having taken advice of the key agencies involved in the response. The plan had been previously agreed by the Forum at the March 2005 Forum LRRF meeting.

Family Assistance Centre – LRRF (05) 19

4. It was reported that the Family Assistance Centre was established for all those affected by the events of 7<sup>th</sup> July – including relatives and friends of those who had died, or were still missing, and survivors, whether or not physically injured. It aimed to provide an integrated multi-agency response, in the form of a secure and private focal point for the provision of assistance from a range of professional and voluntary services. This was in addition to existing local support arrangements.

Floral Tributes

5. Arrangements for the laying of floral tributes were being administered and co-ordinated by the local authorities under Westminster City Council's leadership.

#### London Bombings Appeal Fund – LRRF (05) 20

6. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July the Mayor announced the intention to set up an appeal fund in response to the bombings in London. It was decided to establish a charitable company limited by guarantee. The objects of the charitable company were to relieve sickness or disability, whether physical or mental, of victims of the disaster and their dependants; to relieve financial need among the victims of the Disaster, including families and dependants of those killed or injured; and to support such other charitable purposes as the Trustees shall consider appropriate. The British Red Cross put in place arrangements for collecting donations to the fund.

#### Community Cohesion – LRRF (05) 21

7. Following the incidents on 7 July a number of strong unifying messages had been made by Ministers, the Mayor and Police. Government Office for London had set up a clear reporting network, liaising with London Boroughs in order to identify any possible community tensions. It was agreed that community cohesion was an on-going issue, with a great deal of work going on across London. The situation had remained calm and this had been helped by responsible media reporting and the Muslim Communities' clear rejection of terrorism.

#### Immediate Lessons & Action

8. As well as providing a current situation update, agencies also set out their initial lessons learnt. These will be brought out in more detail by the subsequent debrief processes being arranged by the agencies.

#### Arrangements for Incident Debrief – LRRF (05) 22

9. This paper set a proposed timetable and process for the comprehensive formal debrief ahead of the next full LRRF. It was agreed that a workshop would be arranged for late September to bring the conclusions and actions from the various agency debriefs together into a single report and set of recommendations, ready to be submitted for the LRRF's approval at its next meeting on 12 October 2005.

#### Recovery Management Issues & Arrangements – LRRF (05) 23

10. This paper considered the arrangements for continued senior level multi-agency co-ordination when the transition from incident management to recovery management took place. It was agreed that a "Gold Recovery Group" should be convened, with senior level representation from the London Boroughs directly involved in the incident response, MPS, GLA, TfL, LRT and DCMS and with a hand over at the appropriate time from the Police-led Gold Co-ordinating Group.

#### Co-ordinating Media Communications

11. All the agencies had been involved in providing information to the News Co-ordination Centre (NCC) set up in the immediate aftermath of the incidents on 7 July. Pre-agreed procedures and protocols for the NCC had worked well, with the Centre working closely with the media to disseminate information to the public. From a communications perspective there had been a high degree of co-ordination between central government and the London Resilience Partnership.

Any other business

12. The resilience of the mobile phone network in the immediate period after the incidents on 7 July was raised as an issue. It was agreed that LRT would prepare a paper on the issue for the next LRRF.

LRT  
August 2005