Background

Some emergencies have characteristics, which will require a national dimension of response to be invoked. It is necessary to plan for a range of diverse emergency scenarios, which could require a national level response, and over 50 such scenarios are identified in this Annex to the *Strategic Emergency management: National Structures and Framework (SEM)* document.

The lead government department has the mandate and responsibility to coordinate all national level activity for its assigned emergency types. The lead government department role includes risk assessment, planning and preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. This Annex A sets out the lead government department for each of the emergency types identified. Support Department/Agency responsibilities are also assigned.

The lead government department, working with the designated support government departments and agencies, is responsible for the coordination of the 'whole of government' approach to specified emergencies, during the emergency management cycle.

Review Period

Annex A is reviewed under the following conditions:

- Within 3 months of the completion of the National Risk Assessment process
- Within 3 months of a recommendation of the GTF or a Subgroup of the GTF on foot of work completed on relevant strategic emergency management policy documents.
- Within 1 month of the coming into force of legislation involving transfer of Ministerial functions or change in department naming conventions or, no later than 6 months after the completion of government formation talks.
- Within 6 months of the publication of a specific recommendation in an after-action report following a national level emergency response.
- Within 6 months of a lead government department amending a scenario specific emergency plan.

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
01[1]_01[2]	**Department of Agriculture Food and, Marine (01)**	**Infectious Diseases (Animal and plant) e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza, other 'exotic' diseases**	HSE role relates to zoonotic diseases; infectious animal diseases with a human health dimension.
01_02	**Department of Agriculture Food and, Marine**	**Contamination of Animal Feedstuffs**	The principal support roles are "incident dependent". This also applies to many other emergency/incident types and would be a matter for the LGD to decide.
01_03	**Department of Agriculture Food and, Marine**	**Food safety incidents in food processing plants**	The lead between DAFM and DH would be dependent upon the type of incident and needs to be clarified between the two LGDs on a case-by-case basis.
01_04	**Department of Agriculture Food and, Marine**	**Volcanic Eruptions impacting on Ireland leading to a Food Production Crisis**	

[1] Lead Government Department number
[2] Incident number

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
01_05	Department of Agriculture Food and, Marine	**Food contamination impacting on Public Health**	
02_06	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (02)**	**Tsunami - Monitoring and Warning**	Local Authority is the Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management for coordination of onshore response. DIAS has a seismographic monitoring role.
02_07	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Earthquake – Monitoring & Warning**	Principal responders would be lead agencies as per Framework for Major Emergency Management for responding to earthquake impact. DIAS has a seismographic monitoring role.
02_08	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Energy Supply Emergency (Electricity/ Gas)**	

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
02_08	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Oil Supply Emergency**	
02_10	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Nuclear Accidents/Incidents/Events Abroad as described in the National Plan for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Exposures)**	DCEE is the LGD for the National Plan for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Exposures, which sets out the activation measures and steps in place for a national response to nuclear emergencies abroad.
02_11	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Severe Space Weather Events (Primarily impacting energy supply or power transmission and distribution**	
02_12	**Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment**	**Dam inundation due to failure or breach**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. OPW is responsible, per Government Decision (Sept 2004), in respect of flood risk identification, mitigation and awareness DSP Support Role under Humanitarian Assistance Scheme.

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
03_13	**Department of Finance (03)**	**Payments Systems Emergencies**	The Central Bank and the NTMA have a role in a payment emergency individually, in line with their mandates, and as members of the Financial Stability Group. The Central Bank has a statutory objective to ensure that payment, settlement, and currency systems are safe, resilient and efficient and that access to such systems is not restricted. Its role also includes engaging with supervised firms that are affected, and other stakeholders, including European overseers for payment systems. The NTMA's role includes ensuring the Exchequer's ability to have sufficient funding for payments.
04_14	**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (04)**	**Any Emergency Overseas, affecting Irish Citizens.**	EU Civil Protection Mechanism and Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) may also apply.
04_15	**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**	**Emergency incidents requiring humanitarian assistance in disaster management (Outwards)**	Where Irish Aid provides humanitarian assistance and responds to international requests.

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
05_16	**Department of Health (05)**	**Pathogen of pandemic potential and Other Public Health Emergencies**	
05_03	**Department of Health**	**Food safety incidents in food processing plants**	The lead between DAFM and DH would be dependent upon the type of incident and needs to be clarified between the two LGDs on a case-by-case basis.
05_04	**Department of Health**	**Volcanic Eruptions impacting on Ireland Leading to a public Health Emergency**	

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
05_05	**Department of Health** *(Lead between DH and DAFM depending on the incident type and its impact).*	**Food contamination impacting on Public Health**	.
05_17	**Department of Health**	**Biological Incident**	HSE Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. DH will act as LGD where the incident is primarily a public health emergency. DJHAM is the lead Department and AGS is the lead Agency (regardless of the agent) where terrorist/malign involvement is suspected, sometimes referred to as a Malign CBRN incident The initial assumption, and subsequent changes in lead and supporting roles, both at agency and lead department level, will be subject to the assessment of evolving indicators and will be agreed under the procedures laid down in the Framework for Major Emergency Management.
06_18	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (06)**	**Incidents Involving Hazardous Materials** (Including in transit)[3]	Local Authorities are the Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. DJHAM is the lead Department and AGS is the lead Agency (regardless of the agent) where terrorist/malign involvement is suspected, sometimes referred to as a Malign CBRN incident. Likely handover to Local Authority (Chem., Rad) or HSE (Bio) if it transpires that there is no terrorist involvement. Should the incident occur at sea, the lead may pass to DT.

[3] Hazardous Materials: One definition is: any solid liquid or gas that can harm people, other living organisms, property, or the environment. Hazardous materials may be flammable, toxic, corrosive, oxidizer, asphyxiant, an allergen, or may have other characteristics that make them hazardous in specific circumstances. They would also include items that are dealt with separately for convenience on this table, such as: radioactive materials, explosives, and bio-hazardous materials.
Operators coming within scope of the 'Seveso III' Directive [implemented as the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015] - by virtue of the quantity of dangerous substances present - have a duty to take all necessary measures to prevent/mitigate major accidents to human health and the environment. For sites with a higher threshold of dangerous substances (which is more than half of those notified), this requires the operator to prepare a safety report and an internal emergency plan. External Emergency Plans for these establishments, for the actions to be taken offsite in the event of a major emergency at the establishment, are required to be prepared and tested by the Local Competent Authorities (LCAs).

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
06_19	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Environmental Pollution**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. Should the incident occur at sea, the lead may pass to DT and IRCG.
06_20	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Severe Weather** *Severe Weather may need to be defined and* further broken down into component parts, such as: *Storms/High Winds* *Snow/ice* Prolonged Low Temperatures	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. IRCG also has statutory powers re movement of shipping in and out of harbours & anchorages during severe weather. DSP has a Support Role under Humanitarian Assistance Scheme
06_21	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Flooding**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. OPW is responsible, per Government Decision (September 2004), in respect of flood risk identification, mitigation and awareness. (Ref Government Decision S180/20/10/0996). Note: OPW agreed to transfer the functions and responsibilities in relation to coastal protection and coastal flooding on 1 January 2009 from DAFM. DSP Support Role under Humanitarian Assistance Scheme.

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
06_22	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Major impacts on water services, quality, infrastructure or supplies** *(link to No 30 below)*	Statutory role and responsibility of Uisce Éireann introduced Since 1st January 2014.
06_23	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Fire**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per the Framework for Major Emergency Management.
06_24	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Landslide Response**	
06_25	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Building Collapse/Accidental Explosions**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management with likely handover to AGS when rescue phase completed.
06_12	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Dam inundation due to failure or breach**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. OPW is responsible, per Government Decision (Sept 2004), in respect of flood risk identification, mitigation and awareness (as per No 24 Above) DSP Support Role under Humanitarian Assistance Scheme
06_26	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Water Supply Contamination impacting on Public Health**	Potentially all Government Departments/Agencies may be affected and involved, because of the potential widespread impact of such a scenario.

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
06_27	**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage**	**Emergency Incidents requiring humanitarian assistance in disaster management (Inwards)** *(Trigger Mechanisms for EU Host Nation Support, the EU Solidarity Clause, the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements and other international support mechanisms where they need to be addressed)*	DFAT will provide a supporting role in facilitating international contacts where appropriate. The EU Civil Protection (Emergency Response Coordination Centre) mechanisms may also apply.
07_28	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (07)**	**Emergencies involving Explosive Ordinance** *(Conventional or otherwise and regardless of provenance)*	
07_29	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration**	**Terrorist incidents**	DJHAM lead role is incident dependent.
07_30	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration**	**Public Order/Crowd Events** *(Including sports grounds emergencies)*	AGS lead agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. In the Recovery Phase, AGS has a role in the investigation of an incident where appropriate.
07_31	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration**	**Emergencies Abroad with the result of mass inward population displacement**	DSP – Support role in administration of Direct Provision Allowance on behalf (DJHAM) to persons resident in the Direct Provision accommodation system DSP – support in administration of SWA in appropriate cases

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
07_32	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration**	**Malign CBRN Incidents**	The Department of Justice is the Lead Government Department and An Garda Síochána is the lead Agency in responding to a malign CBRN incident. The HSE and the Local Authority (Authorities) will play a supporting role. The Defence Forces will also provide support through its role in 'Aid to the Civil Power'. The DoD and the DAFM may also play supporting roles, as will other agencies as required. Each Government Department/Agency will participate fully in the inter-agency coordination arrangements for the response.
07_33	**Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration**	**Cyber Emergency NCSC**	The National Cyber Emergency Plan (NCEP) sets out the national approach for responding to cyber security emergencies. Under the NCEP, the NCSC is the LGD for cyber incidents and will chair the NECG on behalf of DJHAM.
08_34	**Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (08)**	**Communications Services Emergency**	If the root cause of a Communications Services Emergency is a malicious cyber incident, the NCSC will lead the response in accordance with incident type 37. If it's a malicious cyber incident DJHAM becomes the LGD, but otherwise, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport is LGD.
08_35	**Department of Culture, Communications and Sport**	**Broadcasting Services Emergency**	
08_11	**Department of Culture, Communications and Sport**	**Severe Space Weather Events impacting on Telecommunications**	

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
09_36	**Department of Transport (09)**	**Aircraft Accident**	Local Authority Lead Agency per Framework for Major Emergency Management, with likely handover to AGS when firefighting/rescue complete.
09_37	**Department of Transport**	**Emergency Incidents at Airports**	
09_38	**Department of Transport**	**Aviation Security/Incident** *(Including Terrorist incidents - actual or attempted hijacking or other terrorist activity at an Irish airport or in Irish airspace.)*	
09_04	**Department of Transport**	**Volcanic eruptions Abroad Impacting Air Travel**	

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
09_39	**Department of Transport**	**Incidents Involving Hazardous Materials** at Sea	
09_19	**Department of Transport**	**Environmental Pollution** *at sea*	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management. Should the incident occur at sea, the lead may pass to DT and IRCG
09_40	**Department of Transport**	**Incidents Requiring Search and Rescue** at sea	
09_41	**Department of Transport**	**Ferry and Other Shipping Incidents**	

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
09_42	**Department of Transport**	**Marine and Coastal Pollution**	On-shore impact. Lead may pass from DT to DHLGH or DCEE as circumstances dictate
09_43	**Department of Transport**	**Marine emergency impacting offshore** *such as a fire, explosion on-board a ship or rig.*	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management for coordination of onshore response.
09_44	**Department of Transport**	**Railway Accident**	Local Authority Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management with likely handover to AGS when rescue phase complete.
09_45	**Department of Transport**	**Major Accident on National & Non-national Roads and/or Infrastructure** *(incl. bridges, tunnels etc.)*	AGS Lead Agency as per Framework for Major Emergency Management (except when hazardous materials are involved, the local authority is the lead agency).

No	Lead Government Department (LGD)	Emergency/Incident Type	Remarks
09_46	**Department of Transport**	**Major Incident at Transport Hub** *Including ports, airports, critical motorway intersections, major rail and bus stations.*	Support roles would be incident dependent.
10_47	**Department of the Taoiseach (10)**	**Emergencies requiring the convening of Cabinet or the establishment of a Cabinet Committee to oversee the national strategic response**	Lead is incident dependent.
11_48	**Incident Dependent (11)**	**Disruptive industrial action**	Depending upon the type of industrial action and impact, DOT and/or the Chair of the GTF would decide upon who will take the lead.
11_49	**Incident Dependent**	**Disruption to Critical Supply Chain**	The sector impacted will determine which Lead Government Department is responsible.

Table of Acronyms used in 'Annex A: Roles and Responsibilities of Lead and Support Government Departments/Agencies'

Acronym	Title	Acronyms	Title
AGS	An Garda Síochána	**DJHAM**	Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear	**DSP**	Department of Social Protection
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	**DOT**	Department of the Taoiseach
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment	**DT**	Department of Transport
DOD	Department of Defence	**GTF**	Government Task Force on Emergency Planning
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	**HSE**	Health Service Executive
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	**NTMA**	National Treasury Management Agency
DH	Department of Health	**OPW**	Office of Public Works
DIAS	Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies	**ERCC**	Emergency Response Coordination Centre (EU Civil Protection)
NCSC	National Cyber Security Centre	**LGD**	Lead Government Department
IRCG	Irish Coast Guard	**NECG**	National Emergency Coordination Group
GTF	Government Task Force		