

Comments on Ofgem's Strategy Consultation document on RIIO-ED1

OFGEM's questions

1. What are your views on our proposals for network resilience?
2. Do you think that our proposals cover the right areas or are there other areas you think we should be considering?

DECC's Comments

DECC welcomes the inclusion of a chapter on Resilience in the RIIO-ED1 Strategy consultation. We believe it is important that the focus of resilience activities are aligned with those risks set out in the National Risk Assessment / National Risk Register, as outlined in the National Security Strategy. In this regard we would make the following points:

1. DECC's definition of resilience, in line with the UK's Domestic Resilience Strategy, is "being prepared for emergencies and able to respond, endure and recover from emergencies of all kinds".
2. A number of key risks have been acknowledged in the strategy consultation document, including Black Start, flooding, and high impact, low probability risks generally, however this should not be considered an exhaustive list. The National Security Strategy has the strategic objective of ensuring a secure and resilient UK, setting out clear priorities for work.
3. The National Risk Assessment, done annually, with a five year forward look, assesses risks that may result in domestic civil emergencies. The National Security Risk Assessment assesses risks to the UK's national security with a 5-20 year forward look. The National Risk Register, an UNCLASSIFIED, version of the National Risk Assessment identifies key threats and hazards for organisations to consider when developing resilience plans and strategies. The January 2012 edition is available at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/national-risk-register>.
4. In October 2011, the Government published "Keeping the Country Running: Natural Hazards and Infrastructure." This guide supports infrastructure owners and operators, emergency responders, industry groups, regulators, and government departments, to work together to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure and essential services. Further information on this guide is available at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/keeping-country-running-natural-hazards-and-infrastructure>