A Guide to the 2026 National Risk Register

Understanding the most significant threats and hazards facing the UK and the path to national resilience.

HM Government

Contents

A changing risk landscape

The 2026 National Risk Register (NRR) is the public facing articulation of the risks facing the UK and its interests overseas. Building resilience to these risks needs a shared effort between government, local communities, businesses and individuals. The NRR takes a “transparent by default” approach to inform that collective effort, as part of a national conversation about risks and preparedness.

To stay ahead of volatile and interconnected threats, the government continues to assess national risks and its preparedness levels as part of a dynamic process. The NRR is updated at appropriate intervals to ensure that planners are able to work with the latest data. The changes in this edition of the NRR not only reflect changes in the risk landscape and our improved understanding of the risks we face; but changes as a result of the government’s efforts to strengthen UK resilience, prevent and deter threats.

Recent developments have required additional focus in several areas:

- **human health:** COVID-19 pandemic remains the most significant risk to have occurred within the last few years. The NRR therefore prioritises planning for future pandemics, including unknown pathogens or “disease X”. These are assessed with a catastrophic impact score and a 5–25% (4) (High) likelihood, assuming a symptomatic infection rate of up to 50% of the population.
- **national power outage:** This remains a low likelihood but catastrophic level risk that can trigger a rapid “domino effect” across other utilities, such as water, communications, and transport. This edition incorporates learning from the 2025 cascading voltage surge that caused major power outages across Spain and Portugal.

- **water:** Further assessment of the 'water infrastructure failure or loss of drinking water' risk has led to an increase in impact to 5 (catastrophic impact). This change is driven by further analysis indicating much more significant effects on essential services than previously anticipated. A new risk has also been added to explore a 'cyber attack: water infrastructure', to reflect learning from reported cyber attacks targeting the water sector.
- **technology and AI:** Technological and AI capability advancements have helped to make us the most interconnected and mobile we have ever been, but they have made us all reliant on technologies and systems that have vulnerabilities. This is reflected in a new risk 'digital resilience failure', building on lessons from the global IT outage in July 2024, and two new risks focused on data infrastructure (one focused on a cyber attack and the other on disruption). The government also continues to monitor how current and emerging AI capabilities impact the risks in the NRR. For example, for cyber attacks, AI can automate the process of launching cyber-attacks, making them faster, more efficient and lower the barrier for entry.
- **persistent terrorist and state threats:** The UK faces a period of intensified strategic competition and persistent terrorist and state threats. In this edition of the NRR, a number of the state and terrorist risks assessments have been strengthened by further evidence on the impact and likelihood of the potential risks.
- **new and emerging areas (interference):** A new risk added to the NRR to explore threats to democracy and potential interference.
- **new and emerging areas (essential services):** The risk landscape is being reshaped by new operational and system-wide pressures. This edition includes new risk entries for significant disruption to the Criminal Justice System and accidental damage to the National Gas Transmission Network. These additions reflect a high-priority focus on the potential for sudden strain on essential services.

However, we cannot perfectly predict how risks will unfold. For this reason, the UK prepares for the common consequences that many risks share, such as disruption to essential services and potential human health impacts, regardless of their cause. To remain ready, the government maintains core capabilities like national stockpiles and expert response teams that can protect society during any emergency.

This guide accompanies the NRR aiming to demystify the methodology, spotlight risks and situate the NRR within the local context and wider resilience picture. For a comprehensive overview refer to the NRR itself.

Significant risks

All of the risks listed in the NRR are realistic possible manifestations which would have a national impact. The following is the list of the most significant risks that the UK faces, based on likelihood and impact.

- **Pandemic -** the COVID-19 pandemic remains one of the most significant risks to have materialised with recent years. A future pandemic caused by an as-yet unknown pathogen remains one of our most significant risks (56).
- **Water infrastructure failure and loss of drinking water -** water is essential for daily life, from drinking and cooking, to sanitation and healthcare. It can be interrupted for a variety of reasons from accidental damage (38) to deliberate cyber attack.
- **National power outage -** most power cuts are short-lived and local, but longer outages over a wider area are possible, as we have seen in other countries. A national power outage would have a significant impact on systems reliant on electricity and their users (25a). Natural gas is a crucial fuel source that is used to heat homes and businesses, shortfalls or disruption to gas supply can also have significant impacts (26).
- **Conflict and global instability -** we are entering a period of global competition and instability in which we are likely to face indirect and potentially direct confrontation with adversaries, the intensification of strategic competition. Although some highly sensitive areas are not published or individually listed in the NRR, it does include a range of related scenarios which would have a direct impact on the UK or the UK's interests. The following risks are some highly impactful examples:
  - Conventional attacks on infrastructure (10)
  - Deliberate disruption of UK space systems and space based services (64),
  - Nuclear miscalculation not involving the UK or its allies (65)
  - Conventional attack on the UK mainland or overseas territories; attack against a NATO ally or deployed UK forces; and attack against a non-NATO member requiring UK assistance are described in Chapter 4 of the NRR.
- **Terrorist and state threats -** Alongside the intensified strategic global competition, the UK continues to face persistent terrorist and state threats. These include:
  - Terrorist attacks in publicly accessible locations (3)
  - CBRN attacks - (7, 8, 9)

- **Digital failure -** There are a number of accidents and systems failures risks in the NRR. These risks substantially disrupt essential services, businesses and individuals reliant on these technologies and systems. National disruption to data infrastructure (41) and digital resilience failure (42) are highlighted on the right.
- **Space based services -** With greater reliance on infrastructure in orbit, disruption to space services whether deliberate (64), accidental (22) or natural hazards such as severe space weather (49) poses a greater threat to UK national security.
- **Flooding -** Flooding can have a devastating and long-term impact on people's lives. Around 6.3 million properties, homes and businesses in England are in areas at risk of flooding from one or more sources, the NRR includes three flooding risks - tidal, fluvial and surface water (53a, 53b, 53c).
- **Low temperatures and snow -** Low temperatures and heavy snowfall pose a significant threat to human welfare, essential services and the economy. This can include disruptions to transport services, school closures and power cuts (52).
- **High temperatures and heatwave -** Climate change means that extreme heat has become more likely in the UK, with this trend expected to continue over the coming decades. Summer 2025 was the warmest on record. Hot weather can place strains on water and energy networks, road and rail transport, and health and fire services (51).
- **Cyber -** The government prepares for a wide variety of cyber attacks. Cyber attacks have the potential to cause substantial disruption across the UK (11).
- **Outbreak of emerging infectious disease** (57) - Such as the Ebola and hantavirus outbreaks. The government also prioritises planning for a wide range of human, animal and plant diseases.

The NRR includes 87 standalone risks, and 8 linked scenarios for a total of 95 risks. For a full breakdown of all NRR risks please refer to the document itself.

Impact		1 <0.2%	2 0.2-1%	3 1-5%	4 5-25%	5 >25%
Catastrophic	5	7, 27, 28		25a	38, 56	
Significant	4	21	23, 37, 58a	9, 10, 26, 51, 53a, 53b, 53c, 65	22, 41, 42, 49, 52, 57, 64	3
Moderate	3	17, 19, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 58c	54	4, 12, 24, 25b, 30a, 43, 46, 47, 55, 58b, 58d	11, 39, 45, 50, 59b, 60, 62	30b, 48
Limited	2	18, 29, 36	5, 16, 40, 44	20, 61, 63	2, 8, 13, 14	6, 59a
Minor	1				1, 15	

Likelihood

How risks are identified and measured

Using a set of standardised scales and terminology ensures that every risk in the NRR is assessed in the same way. This consistent approach allows resilience practitioners and businesses to compare different threats accurately and prioritise their actions.

What is a ‘reasonable worst-case scenario’?

Effective planning requires looking beyond the most likely outcomes. Reasonable worse-case scenarios (RWCS) represent the worst plausible version of a risk, after excluding highly unlikely extremes. Using this model allows for preparations that are both proportionate and effective.

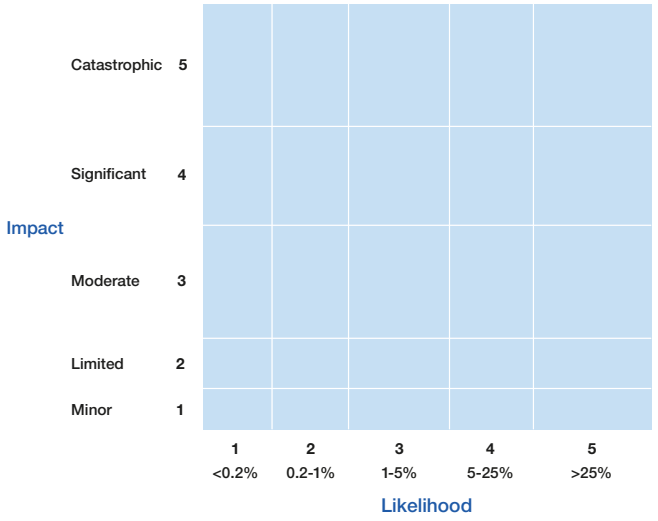
Expert challenge

Expert challenge is a vital part of our process and keeps our planning grounded in reality. Risks are reviewed by panels of experts from industry, local level, charities and academia, as well as subject matter experts within government. This deliberate inclusion of a wide range of voices helps us avoid groupthink by incorporating different perspectives and providing a more comprehensive view of the landscape.

The risk matrix: impact vs. likelihood

The NRR plots risks based on two primary scales (see the diagram below):

- **likelihood:** The chance of a risk occurring within a set timeframe. For non-malicious risks we think about the chance of this occurring in the next five years. Meanwhile, malicious risks such as cyber attacks are assessed over two years because malicious threats can change much more quickly.
- **impact:** The scale of potential harm. Driven by the most severe consequences across seven dimensions; human welfare, essential services, economic, behavioural, security, international order, and environmental.



Types of risk

To plan effectively, the government divides risks into two key categories:

Acute risks: Discrete, time bound events that require a sudden emergency response. Examples include a major fire, a flood, or a terrorist attack. The impact of acute risks is assessed on a 1-5 scale. Catastrophic risks are rated a 5 and assessed to have the biggest impacts, such as large numbers of casualties and fatalities, and high economic costs.

Chronic risks: Continuous, long term challenges that gradually erode the economy, security, or way of life over many years. Examples include climate change, the evolving impact of artificial intelligence and antimicrobial resistance. These challenges are widespread and ongoing, so the government uses a separate methodological approach to assess them, as outlined in the Chronic Risks Analysis. During every NSRA and NRR update, risk owners must also evidence how chronic risks — as set out in the Chronic Risks Analysis, including risks such as AI, climate change and reliance on global supply chains – manifest in, interact with and exacerbate acute events.

Spotlight risks

The NRR includes information about a wide range of threats and hazards. The examples below represent six risk areas where proactive planning and robust continuity measures by the public and private sector – with particular roles for owners and operators of critical national infrastructure (referred to as CNI below), and the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) – will significantly improve national resilience. The preparedness actions listed below are non-exhaustive and should be seen as examples of potential actions, they should be taken forward where relevant.

These examples support an ‘all-hazards’ approach. By building readiness through the lens of specific scenarios and common consequences, we increase the country’s collective ability to anticipate, respond to, and recover from any disruptive emergency.

While this guide focuses on strategic and operational actions for professionals, further guidance for the public on how to bolster personal readiness for these and other risks can be found at the Prepare website.

Spotlight risk 1: the “disease X” pandemic

“Disease X” is a term used by the World Health Organization to describe a potential future pandemic caused by an as-yet unknown pathogen. Pandemics occur when a novel disease emerges and spreads quickly worldwide because the population lacks natural immunity.

Potential impacts:

- **widespread illness:** The reasonable worst-case scenario in the NRR assumes 50% of the population falls ill; however it is possible that the percentage could be higher or lower depending on the exact nature of the pathogen.
- **pressure on care services:** Health and social care services would face significantly increased demand for several years as they manage the immediate response.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Review business continuity plans to manage prolonged staff absences and potential international supply chain disruption.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Support the national effort by providing insights on impacts, assisting with vaccine rollouts, providing practical care for patients, and ensuring vital health messages reach every community.

Spotlight risk 2: threats from states and our home defence

As outlined in the National Security Strategy, the UK is currently facing an era of "radical uncertainty" characterised by persistent threats from states. These persistent sub-threshold threats increase the likelihood that the UK could be pushed rapidly into crisis and conflict. Home Defence is an additional layer of defence, security and resilience focused on the alignment between military and civilian effort to protect the UK mainland in the lead up to and during periods of conflict or heightened hostility.

Potential impacts:

- **hybrid threats:** State actors may target the UK through non-traditional means, such as large-scale cyber-attacks on power grids, the physical sabotage of undersea cables, energy pipelines and transportation, to disrupt essential services.
- **national resolve:** Tactics aimed at undermining our democracy, eroding public trust and creating divisions in communities through the spread of disinformation and the malign use of social media.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Organisations should take steps to protect themselves against the risks. They should ensure they have an understanding of their supply chains and dependencies, and consider how their security and emergency plans would work if several different emergencies—like power and water outages—happen at the same time.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Work with government and local partners to bring communities together to build resilience. Mobilise community networks to provide practical help and ensure that support reaches all people affected by the crisis.

Spotlight risk 3: water supply interruptions or outages

Water is essential for daily life, from drinking and cooking, to sanitation and healthcare. We may face interruptions to this supply for several reasons, ranging from routine maintenance and accidental damage to deliberate cyber attacks on supply systems. The impact depends on how many people are affected and how long it takes to restore the service.

Potential impacts:

- **sanitation and health:** Loss of water and wastewater services poses immediate public health risks.
- **impact on essential services:** The scale of the impact could create pressure on many essential services, for example schools, hospitals, and care homes will struggle to function without water. They may remain operational if they receive support via water tankers or bottled water.
- **support challenges:** If outages impact hundreds of thousands of customers, or occur over weeks and months, the standard response processes may become overwhelmed. Evacuation of impacted populations to areas with water may be considered.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Understand the minimal water needs of your business/population to help develop contingency plans.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Help communities and individuals to be prepared and mobilise volunteers to support in response.

Spotlight risk 4: power outage (national or local)

Most power cuts (or electricity outages) are short-lived and local, but longer outages of several days can occur with regional or national impacts. The UK's electricity network is highly resilient but, whilst highly unlikely, a total failure is still possible. Such a failure would lead to a sudden disruption of critical services, far more severe than a typical local cut.

Potential impacts:

- **total system failure:** Consumers without backup generators lose power instantaneously and without warning.
- **cascading impacts:** Rapid failure of water and sewage, fuel distribution, and communications networks.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Ensure that critical sites have functional backup generators and audit supply chains for dependencies in delivery systems that require constant power.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Provide essential humanitarian aid and welfare support to help communities – particularly vulnerable people – cope during the immediate aftermath of a loss of power.

Spotlight risk 5: terrorist incident

The threat of terrorism in the UK continues to evolve. Attack methods vary and can include the use of vehicles, knives, explosives, or fire. Regardless of the method used, these incidents involve a deliberate intent to cause harm in public spaces. Previous incidents include the 2017 London Bridge attack, the 2025 Manchester synagogue attack and the 2026 Golders Green attack.

Potential impacts:

- **high impact:** These incidents can result in multiple fatalities, casualties, and significant psychological impact.
- **impact on local infrastructure:** Investigations and physical damage to transport infrastructure, such as tunnels, can cause prolonged closures and disrupt communities and businesses during the recovery period.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Organisations should review security measures, internal risk registers, and staff training. For example, public-facing sites should ensure that staff are trained to support others in the event of a lockdown and update local emergency plans to account for the evacuation of those with mobility issues.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Use established community networks to ensure that aid reaches all people who need it after an attack. Coordinate with government, local and national partners, such as the Dedicated Support hub for Victims and Survivors of Terrorism, to provide victims and their families with welfare services and practical help.

Spotlight risk 6: major flooding

Significant flooding can result from overflowing rivers, coastal storms, rising groundwater or intense rainfall that overwhelms drainage systems. The Environment Agency estimates that 6.3 million properties in England are currently at risk, a figure that could rise to 8 million by 2050 due to climate change.

Potential impacts:

- **large area of impact:** A major flood event could impact a very large number of residential properties, businesses and infrastructure across multiple regions. The reasonable worst-case scenario for river flooding assumes an event lasting two weeks in a large urban area, leading to the loss of essential services like electricity and telecommunications for several weeks.
- **vulnerability:** Factors such as age, mobility, and financial status – including living in poverty or renting – significantly impact the ability to evacuate or protect a property. These circumstances often lead to a lack of funds for flood defences or restricted rights to modify buildings, such as installing door barriers or moving power sockets higher. Emergency services and local partners prioritise support for those at risk of being disproportionately impacted.

Example preparedness actions:

- **CNI and wider Private Sector:** Organisations should consider risk of flooding to their operations including impact on wider dependencies and supply chains. For example, food and housing providers should partner with local authorities to guarantee immediate access to essential food supplies and temporary housing.
- **Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector:** Collaborate with local authorities to design and deliver support packages for vulnerable residents. Mobilise volunteers to offer practical help during evacuations and stay involved to guide communities through the recovery phase.

The geography of risk: local priorities

Where the National Becomes Local

While the NRR provides the strategic overview of risks impacting the UK, the local level is often where the response happens. Resilience is built from the ground up through 38 Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) across England, and with equivalents in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs)

LRFs are regional multi-agency partnerships that bring together emergency services, local authorities, and health providers to coordinate resilience efforts.

LRFs are responsible for producing Community Risk Registers (CRRs). These are not generic lists, but tailored blueprints for the specific geographic, industrial, and social needs of your local area. For example, planning for risks within a coastal community will have different considerations to a metropolitan hub.

Find Your LRF: You can find the contact details and website for your area's LRF on the official GOV.UK directory – Local resilience forums: contact details.

The geography of risk: local priorities

The following table is illustrative of how the NRR applies to your local area. While every CRR consistently ranks flooding, water supply interruption, outages, pandemic preparedness, terrorism and severe weather as high priorities, this table includes content from the LRF partners across England and demonstrates some examples of wider resilience priorities based on local infrastructure and the local risk landscape.

Detailed information and risk registers for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland can be found immediately below this table.

LRF	Features of the geographic area	Example local resilience priorities
	north-west	
Cheshire	Industrial zones, national transport hubs and national energy assets.	Safety and resilience management of energy assets and industrial zones. Reliability of motorway infrastructure and West Coast Mainline corridors.
Cumbria	Rural landscapes, mountainous areas and national energy assets.	Community resilience to common consequences, developing resilient public telecommunications, natural hazards, and satellite system (GPS) resilience.
Greater Manchester	High-density urban environment, post-industrial sites and infrastructure/complex topography.	Strengthening public safety, climate resilience, infrastructure preparedness and community readiness through coordinated partnership planning.
Lancashire	Industrial areas, mixed rural areas, urban districts and maritime infrastructure.	Safety management of industrial areas, nuclear safety, maritime safety and pollution prevention and coastal tourism resilience.
Merseyside	Transport infrastructure and densely populated urban districts.	Safety management of major transport hubs, prevention of illegal waste sites, urban drainage resilience, and public safety during large-scale events.
	north-east	
Cleveland	Small geographic area including a mixture of rural, industrial zones and urban areas, rural uplands and valleys (susceptible to flooding).	Complex risk environment where industrial and environmental hazards intersect with vulnerability and geography, requiring multiagency planning and targeted community resilience.
County Durham and Darlington	Mixed urban centres and dispersed rural uplands; historic and heritage assets; strategic national road and strategic rail links.	Strengthening resilience across urban and rural communities, managing severe weather and wildfire risk, animal disease impacts, and continuity of essential services.
Northumbria	Mixed rural-urban landscape, extensive coastline, and international gateway.	Safety management of transport hubs, coastal protection from north sea surges, and wildfire prevention in rural moorlands.

LRF	Features of the geographic area	Example local resilience priorities
	Yorkshire and Humber	
Humber	Industrial estuary, coastline, rural swathes and urban landscapes.	Safe industrial zones and refineries, maritime security and response, protecting coastal areas, urban drainage resilience, livestock heath, and resilient communities.
north Yorkshire	Rural landscapes, coastal tourist communities and military infrastructure.	Enabling resilient communities within rural and urban communities, safety management of military aviation activity, and maritime environmental protection.
south Yorkshire	High-density urban centres, major transport corridors, and interconnected river valleys.	Public safety at high-capacity urban venues, transport network infrastructure resilience, and urban and river valley drainage resilience.
west Yorkshire	Urban centres, rural valleys and moorlands.	Public safety at high-capacity urban venues and events. Wildfire prevention and management, and drainage resilience.
	west Midlands	
Staffordshire	Upland terrain, rural farmland, industrial towns, and major transport (road and rail) corridors.	Agile detection and intervention to mitigate known and emerging hazards, protecting vulnerable people, sustaining local interdependent critical systems and communication to enable civil resilience.
Warwickshire	Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites and Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR) sites.	Kingsbury Oil Terminal (COMAH), Coventry Airport – (EV) battery gigafactory project (DSEAR), M40/M6 transport corridors, high tourist numbers to Stratford Upon Avon.
west Mercia	Rural landscapes and large agricultural base.	Livestock health protection, landscape instability in World Heritage Ironbridge gorge areas, rural wildfire prevention and mining legacy.
west Midlands	Densely populated urban districts, major transport hubs and regular major public events.	Public safety management in urban centres and transport hubs, urban drainage resilience, transport network reliability, and public safety at large events.

LRF	Features of the geographic area	Example local resilience priorities
	east Midlands	
Derbyshire	Urban centres, rural uplands/valleys and critical water assets.	Severe weather (flooding and wildfire prevention) and emergency preparedness of critical industrial sites and infrastructure including regional reservoirs and dams.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	High-density urban environment, mixed rural areas, strategic transport and logistics corridors and major air freight hub at East Midlands Airport and a nationally significant manufacturing base.	Managing impacts of severe weather, industrial incidents, fuel disruption and pressures on vulnerable populations and critical local transport networks.
Lincolnshire	Low-lying coastline, Fenlands, major agricultural economy and tourism.	Coastal response to north sea surges, response to coastal pollution, public awareness of the risk landscape (Lincolnshire includes rural areas with some isolated communities).
Northamptonshire	Rural landscape and densely populated towns with a major sporting centre.	Safety management for M1 and A14 corridor, management of flood and wildfire risk and oversight of Silverstone circuit and sporting venues.
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	Lowland flood plains, mixed urban and rural infrastructure with key transport links.	Water level management and drainage, infrastructure and transport network resilience, and digital (cyber) resilience.
	east of England	
Bedfordshire	Rural landscapes, strategic transport corridors and aviation hub.	River catchment and surface water resilience, reliability of the north-south transport corridors, safety management of London Luton Airport.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Below-sea-level terrain and major agricultural zones.	River and coastal flood protection for low-lying land, and agricultural disease management.
Essex	Extensive coastline, transports hubs and critical gateway infrastructure across rural and urban concentrations.	Coastal surge and urban flooding protection and response, aviation and port safety management, and industrial site hazard mitigation.
Hertfordshire	Busy road networks and complex inland waterways.	Management of high-volume traffic routes, safety of science, technology and industrial sites, and flood protection for homes near rivers and canals.

LRF	Features of the geographic area	Example local resilience priorities
Norfolk	Extensive and low-lying receding coastal landscape, complex inland waterways, peripheral and isolated agricultural and touristic county.	Coastal surge protection, surface water resilience, severe weather management, maritime pollution prevention, service continuity and safety for local and tourist population.
Suffolk	Coastal national energy assets including national significant infrastructure projects (Sizewell C/Sealink), major agriculture, tourist economy and major global trade gateway.	Coastal surge protection, severe weather management, animal diseases, safety and resilience of critical/new infrastructure projects and fuel supply chain.
	south-west	
Avon and Somerset	Critical road networks, industrial and lowland flood plains.	Management of high-volume traffic routes, resilience of industrial sites including lithium-ion and river and coastal protection for low-lying land.
Dorset	Coastal tourism, rural landscape and maritime.	Coastal landscape safety and stability, rural community resilience and widespread wildfire prevention.
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	Military, agriculture and tourism.	Resilience of coastal transport infrastructure, isolated communities and transient populations, as well as safety of nuclear and chemical sites.
Gloucestershire	River corridors, water ways, mix of urban and rural environments, and busy road networks.	Fluvial and river flood protection, safety at large-scale public events and resilience of key local infrastructure.
Wiltshire and Swindon	Military, rural and science hubs.	Resilience to severe weather transport infrastructure disruption and defence including safety management of high-security sites.
	south-east	
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Coastal, urban and rural mix, and significant transport infrastructure (road, rail, maritime, ports, airports).	Risks impacting our diverse communities and vulnerable populations. Climate change intensifying natural hazards. Technologically dependent communities heightening some impacts.
Kent and Medway	International transport hub and energy infrastructure.	Stability of national utility networks and safety management of international transport links.

LRF	Features of the geographic area	Example local resilience priorities
Surrey	Rural heathland, urban districts, international and regional travel.	Heathrow/Gatwick proximity, major road congestion (M25/M3/M23/A3), extreme weather events and heathland fire prevention.
Sussex	Maritime, international travel hubs and rural heathland.	Coastal resilience, transport hub disruption, wildfire prevention, severe weather impacts, infrastructure disruption, and seasonal population pressures.
Thames Valley	Strategic transport, defence, rural and urban populations and iconic locations.	Risks affecting our communities, including vulnerable people, arising from factors such as adverse weather, public safety, infrastructure and increasing reliance on technology.
	London	
Greater London	Global financial, central government and densely populated environment.	High-rise residential safety, food supply integrity, financial system resilience, international and national transport hub and public safety in crowded places.

While the table above provides a snapshot of local priorities in England, detailed resilience planning is managed across the whole of the UK. Further guidance for the public on how to bolster personal readiness for these and other risks can be found at the Prepare website. To ensure the most effective response, regional priorities and CRRs for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are maintained through their respective devolved frameworks.

You can access specific preparedness advice and CRRs for these areas via the following links:

Northern Ireland

- **preparedness advice:** Please visit the NIDirect government services website for official guidance on being ready for emergencies in Northern Ireland.

Wales

- **local risks:** Residents can find localised advice and risk information through their specific Welsh LRF websites.

Scotland

- **preparedness advice:** The Ready Scotland website provides comprehensive information on preparing for and responding to emergencies affecting Scotland.
- **local risks:** You can find detailed Community Risk Registers for Scotland to understand the specific threats identified in your local area.

Why preparation is a shared responsibility

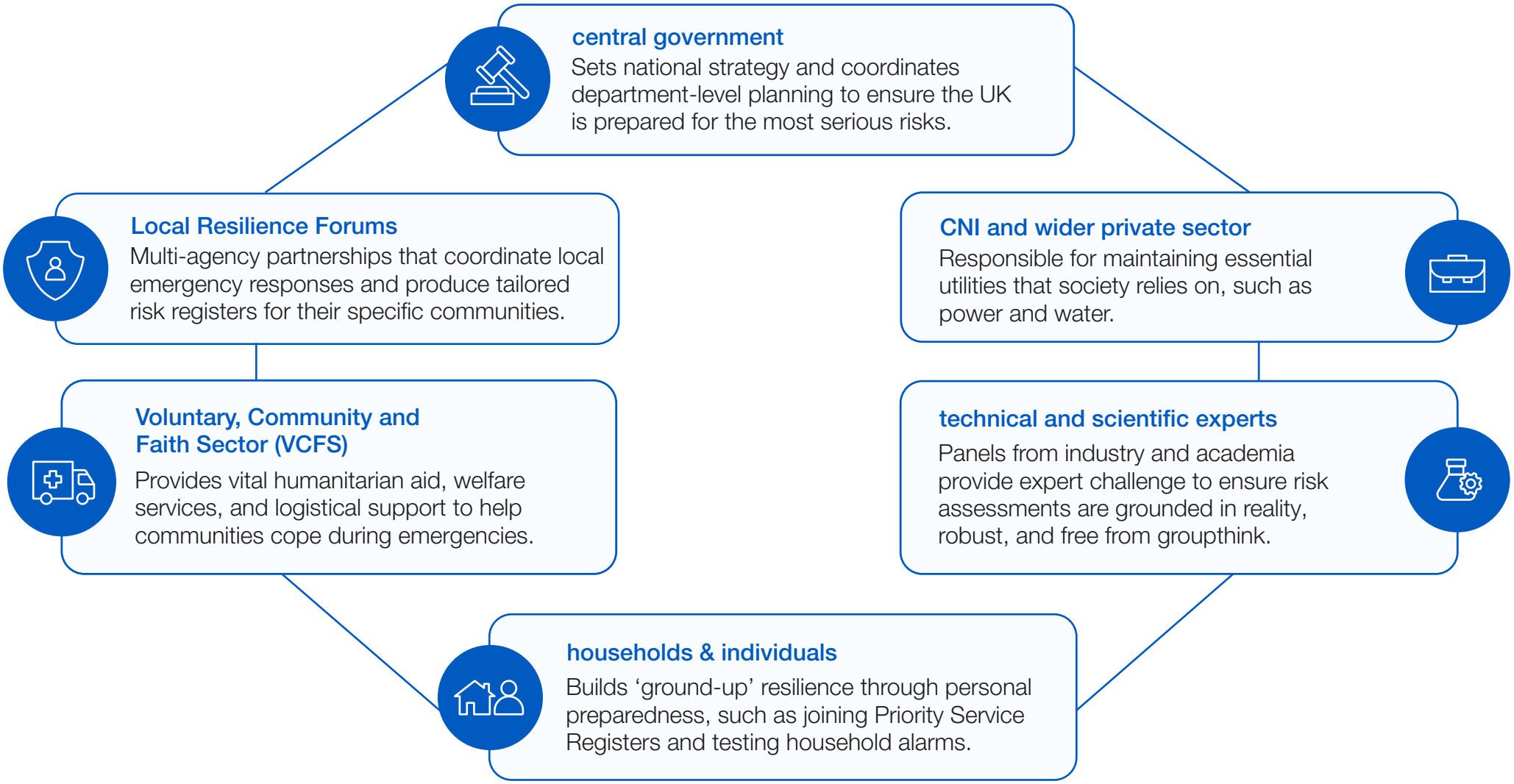
The risks outlined in the 2026 NRR are significant, but they are not inevitable. Resilience is a national endeavour that relies on a combination of robust government coordination and the proactive responsibility of every individual, business, and community. It is particularly important for owners and operators of CNI to ensure continued delivery of the essential services that underpin UK society and way of life.

This “whole-of-society” approach is built on deep partnerships, where we recognise our vital roles in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.

The power of collective readiness

When communities take steps to prepare, they act as a force multiplier for national resilience. By managing what they can at home and with those around them, those in a position to do so reduce the immediate demand on frontline services. This ensures that emergency responders and limited resources can be prioritised for those who may need more support or who are in the greatest need. This collective effort is vital to ensure that the national resilience system remains strong enough to protect everyone when it matters most.

For further guidance, resources, and advice on bolstering personal and household readiness, visit the Prepare website.


central government
Sets national strategy and coordinates department-level planning to ensure the UK is prepared for the most serious risks.
Local Resilience Forums
Multi-agency partnerships that coordinate local emergency responses and produce tailored risk registers for their specific communities.
CNI and wider private sector
Responsible for maintaining essential utilities that society relies on, such as power and water.
Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)
Provides vital humanitarian aid, welfare services, and logistical support to help communities cope during emergencies.
technical and scientific experts
Panels from industry and academia provide expert challenge to ensure risk assessments are grounded in reality, robust, and free from groupthink.
households & individuals
Builds ‘ground-up’ resilience through personal preparedness, such as joining Priority Service Registers and testing household alarms.

Redefining vulnerability

Vulnerability is not a fixed label; it is dynamic and depends entirely on the context of a crisis. The NRR demonstrates that emergencies can act as an amplifier, both creating vulnerabilities and worsening existing inequalities, such as, social, health, or financial challenges. For example, a sudden loss of power can put any individual at risk, while a heatwave creates unique challenges for residents in high-rise buildings, who may not consider themselves "vulnerable" in daily life.

To ensure no one is left behind, the government has developed:

- **independent expert panel:** A specialist panel has been established through the NSRA Expert Advisory Programme, to consider how risks may create new vulnerabilities, or worsen existing inequalities.
- **guidance:** New guidance has been shared across government and emergency planners to better identify and support those most at risk, ensuring emergency plans are tailored to meet the specific needs of groups that may be more likely to be disproportionately impacted.
- **secure data tools:** Advanced mapping tools have been developed for central government to identify exactly where residents may require enhanced support during different crisis scenarios.

Sustaining the conversation

Ensuring the UK's resilience against the risks we face is a whole of society endeavour. While the UK government provides strategic leadership and central coordination, the front line of our civil protection relies on the active participation of local responders, businesses, and the public. When the private sector secures supply chains and individuals enhance their personal readiness, they are more resilient to the risks we face, improve national security and directly reduce the impact of emergencies.

This "whole-of-society" approach ensures that during whole-of-system crises, national resources can be targeted with maximum efficiency toward those most vulnerable and to protect our way of life.

We encourage you to explore the NRR, engage with local practitioners, and share these stories of preparedness to help build a more resilient nation.

HM Government