

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Seann-ghaisgich
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
Keith Brown MSP



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Edward Mountain MSP
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Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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18 November 2022

Dear Convener

UK Government's Amendment of the List of Categorised Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004

I am writing to you to inform you of the UK Government's plan to bring forward secondary legislation to amend the list of categorised responders under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) to include the Meteorological Office and the Coal Authority as General Category 2 responders.

Evidence gathered from a wide range of local responders, during the 2022 CCA Post Implementation Review Report (PIR), indicated that there were gaps in the list of categorised responders under the CCA. The CCA PIR published on 29 March 2022, committed to the inclusion of the Meteorological Office and the Coal Authority as Category 2 responders which will provide these organisations with a duty to co-operate and share information with Category 1 and 2 responders under the CCA.

Legislating to categorise the Meteorological Office and the Coal Authority as General Category 2 responders would fully integrate them into emergency response structures and processes and facilitate their engagement with other categorised responders.

As the functions of the Meteorological Office and the Coal Authority are reserved, the UK Government are progressing this change and amending the list of General Category 2 responders. However, I am writing to you for awareness regarding this change as these two organisations carry out functions in Scotland.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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The Statutory Instrument to categorise the Meteorological Office and the Coal Authority has been scheduled to be considered by UK Parliament. Pending parliamentary scrutiny and approval, it is expected that the agencies will be categorised early in the New Year. The order will apply to Scotland, as the CCA does.

I look forward to being able to share further updates and information with you and your committee members as this work progresses.

KEITH BROWN

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