

# Emergency Services to be Better Equipped for CBRN Incidents

New software developed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and licensed to Riskaware by Ploughshare Innovations will allow emergency responders and military commanders to respond more effectively to chemical and biological incidents and in turn reduce the risk to the public and save lives.

Called the Hazard Assessment Simulation and Prediction (HASP) Suite it accurately models how hazardous materials released in towns, cities and open areas disperse. This will help emergency responders by predicting how any Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threat will spread and allow them to manage a response to help contain the threat and protect the population.

Developed over two decades, the HASP Suite provides hazard predictions in urban environments in a matter of minutes, greatly improving upon previous models. It also takes into consideration the interactions between indoor and outdoor dispersion and as well as estimating the source parameters, such as location, discharge time, and the amount of substance released.

The HASP Suite will be available as a standalone product from Riskaware from June this year. It will also be available in a next generation CBRN information management system, known as EuroSIM CBRN.

John Bishop, Managing Director from Riskaware said:

The HASP Suite is an excellent capability and we are both proud and excited to be taking it to market. It will also support our goal to transform Riskaware's business from being a CBRN prediction software developer into a truly global company in CBRN information management.

Ploughshare's CEO, James Kirby, said:

We are pleased another Dstl innovation will be made available to industry and one which will improve the operational effectiveness of teams facing CBRN threats. This deal further demonstrates how Ploughshare maximises the MOD's investment in Science & Technology by delivering capability to front-line services.

[More information on Dstl Intellectual Property available for licence through Ploughshare Innovations.](#)

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## [Animal medicines improvement notice: Charles CBD Therapies, South Tyneside](#)

The following contravened Regulation 4 (Placing a veterinary medicinal product on the market) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

- The advertisement of CBD products for use in animals via the [ccbdtherapies.co.uk](http://ccbdtherapies.co.uk) website

The improvements required are:

- The company must remove all material that has been highlighted to them from the [ccbdtherapies.co.uk](http://ccbdtherapies.co.uk) website

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## [“Positive step for LGBT inclusion” as RSHE guidance published](#)

The importance of children learning to respect each other from the earliest age has been underlined by the Education Secretary Damian Hinds, as the government publishes the final guidance for schools on relationships, sex and health education.

Stonewall has welcomed the “real, positive step forward for LGBT inclusion in England’s schools” as the Department for Education publishes [guidance](#) to help ensure children have the knowledge they need to grow up healthy, happy and safe.

It comes ahead of the introduction of compulsory relationships education for primary-age pupils and compulsory relationships and sex education (RSE) for secondary-age pupils, and compulsory health education for all pupils in state-funded schools from September 2020.

Following a speech to launch School Diversity Week 2019 last night, Mr Hinds has also committed to convening an expert group to support the effective implementation of these new subjects in schools. This group will include teaching unions such as the NAHT, sector experts, representatives of faith groups, parents and young people.

Education Secretary, Damian Hinds said:

At the heart of preparing children for life in modern Britain is making sure that they understand the world they are growing up in. It is a world that is different from 20 years ago, when this guidance was last updated, and this is a significant step that will help young people to look after themselves and each other.

A wide range of views were expressed during the public consultation, and I believe the guidance strikes the right balance. Our new guidance is clear that children should leave school having learnt about LGBT relationships.

Children will of course find out about all sorts of things, including the diversity of our society, anyway – the question is where and how is it best to do so – in class, on the internet, or in the playground. I would strongly encourage schools to discuss with children in class that there are all sorts of different, strong and loving families, including families with same-sex parents, while they are at primary school.

There is no reason why teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist cannot be done in a way that respects everyone.

Ruth Hunt, Chief Executive, Stonewall said:

The new Relationships and Sex Education guidance is a real, positive step forward for LGBT inclusion in England's schools. By teaching about LGBT families in primary Relationships Education and building on this work in secondary Relationships and Sex Education, schools are helping prepare young people for life in 21st century Britain. Teaching about the diversity that exists in the world means children from all families feel included and helps every child and young person understand that LGBT people are part of normal, everyday life.

Stonewall was founded 30 years ago in response to Section 28 – the crushing legislation that banned schools from 'promoting homosexuality'. Teachers were effectively stopped from talking about same-sex relationships and properly supporting students who may have been questioning their sexuality. It was a dark era that we promised never to be repeated. This guidance is a historic achievement that will change the way LGBT families, people and relationships are taught. We look forward to working with our network of primary and secondary schools to build on this good practice, and we hope to see LGBT inclusion strengthened even further when the guidance is next updated in 2022.

Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the NAHT, said:

The Secretary of State has now made it abundantly clear that it is appropriate to teach primary-age children that there are different kinds of relationships, and that not every family is the same.

As the Secretary of State has said, it is important that from the earliest age children learn to have respect for each other and to know that everybody is equal. We agree that diversity and equality are a matter of fact and a matter of law and learning about equality and diversity is not optional.

The Secretary of State has strongly encouraged every primary school to continue what they are already doing – to teach about relationships in an inclusive way. Today's statement is a clear signal to schools, that when it comes to talking to pupils about the different kinds of families and relationships they may encounter in their lives, it's a question of 'when' and not 'if'.

We will continue to work alongside the schools where we have seen protests and objections, to help everyone involved restore a peaceful and productive teaching and learning environment. Dedicated public servants faithfully discharging their duty have an absolute right to feel confident and safe, pupils should never have to walk past noisy and aggressive protests on their way to school.

Making health education universally compulsory and updating relationships and sex education guidance for the first time since 2000 will ensure young people are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of a modern world, both on- and offline.

From September this year, early-adopter schools will begin teaching the new content, to support schools across the country as they do so the Department for Education will shortly publish details of a working group to offer insight into the introduction of the guidance ahead of the nationwide roll-out in 2020.

The Department for Education will also provide schools with ongoing support as they prepare to teach these subjects, including explanatory guides for parents published today.

At primary age, the new guidance will mean children will learn about healthy relationships in an age-appropriate way, plus other topics, including:

- how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect,
- that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life and why simple self-care – like getting enough sleep and spending time outdoors and with friends – is important,
- the importance of staying active, and recognising the early signs of physical illness – ensuring pupils understand how mental and physical health are linked, and
- age-appropriate online safety – including what to do if they come across things they are uncomfortable with, the importance of respect for others

even when posting anonymously, and the risks of talking to people on the internet that they don't know in real life.

At secondary, pupils will build on topics taught at primary age with a range of new content to ensure young people know how to look after their physical and mental health, including:

- what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like and what makes a good friend, colleague and successful marriage or committed relationship,
- ensuring pupils can spot the signs of common mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression in themselves or others,
- At the appropriate time, developing intimate relationships and making safe, informed and healthy choices,
- how to discuss emotions accurately and sensitively,
- the impact of alcohol and drugs on physical and mental health, and how to access professional help, and
- online safety topics, including the serious risks of sharing private photos, the impact of viewing explicit or harmful content – including how to report it and get support – as well as how the internet can sometimes promote an unhealthy view of sex and relationships.

The new guidance was published alongside the regulations for these subjects, which passed through parliament earlier this year, and was developed following an extensive call for evidence and three-month consultation on the draft regulations and guidance.

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## **[District Level Licensing in Kent supports sustainable development](#)**

Chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, today (25 June) visited Kent's [District Level Licensing scheme](#) which brings together wildlife conservation with crucial development.

District Level Licensing is an innovative new approach to the conservation of newts developed by Natural England. Barratt Homes' [Chilmington Green Development](#) is the very first development in Kent to join the scheme – an exciting milestone for the project.

Once complete, Chilmington Green will include over 5,500 new homes, four primary schools, land for community and leisure use, open green space, local recycling facilities, and associated utilities and infrastructure. Natural England has worked closely with developer Barratt Homes and ecological consultant Bakerwell to bring part of this development into the District Level Licensing scheme. Payment into the scheme by Barratt Homes has funded six new ponds which have been strategically placed to join up and expand existing newt habitats and help make the species population more resilient

and healthy.

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England said:

I'm delighted to see district level licensing happening on the ground, at a landscape scale. This exemplifies how we want to work in the future.

Here in Kent we are working with businesses such as Barratt Homes to use licensing in a positive way that helps the environment. It's great to see them responding so quickly and enthusiastically to our innovative new scheme.

Over the last 60 years the population of Great Crested Newts (GCN) in the UK has declined dramatically which is why the species is protected under UK and EU law and it is an offence to disturb the species or pond habitat without a licence.

While 80% of the UK's ponds are currently in a poor state, a total of 68 new ponds in Kent have now already been created and restored by landowners under the District Level Licensing scheme, doubling those available when the scheme first launched in February.

District Level Licensing is much simpler than the traditional site-based mitigation approach to licensing. It allows the impact of a development to be compensated for at a landscape or whole local authority area scale. Through the scheme, developers in Kent can make a conservation payment which will cover the upfront creation or restoration of ponds in areas away from the development.

85% of the payments from developers under this scheme goes directly towards creating, looking after and monitoring places for GCN to live, in stark contrast to the traditional approach. These areas, mapped by Natural England, represent the best places for newts to thrive and habitat created here will be maintained and monitored for 25 years.

As a result, GCN benefit from an overall increase in hunting and breeding grounds which should lead to an increase in their population over time.

Paul Kitchingman, Operations Director at Barratt Kent said:

We are pleased to be working in partnership with Natural England and leading wildlife organisations at Chilmington Green, to implement Kent's first District Level Licensing agreement.

This innovative scheme could provide the housebuilding industry with an alternative offer that can both enhance ecological habitat and species protection, whilst enabling developers to rise to the government's challenge of delivering new homes at pace.

Protecting nature and the local environment is a key priority for us and we are excited to be working at the forefront of such a pioneering scheme with Natural England.

Under District Level Licensing, survey work and habitat creation is carried out in advance of development enabling it to commence sooner. Developers gain a high degree of certainty prior to starting work as they will know in advance which areas they can and cannot build on, ultimately reducing delays and disruption to building schedules.

Following the launch of District Level Licensing this year in [Kent \(February\)](#) and [Cheshire \(March\)](#), four developers have committed to investing a collective £200,000 to reduce the ecological impacts of their developments on newts, and attracting interest from developers for very small to very large schemes.

[District Level Licensing is now available across twenty-three Local Planning Authorities](#), and over the next twelve months will be expanded to reach the goal of rolling out the scheme to more than 150 Local Planning Authorities by 2020.

Funds from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and contributions from developers in Kent, including Berkley Homes, Pentland Homes, Quinn Estates and Redrow and Barratt Homes Kent, have been used to help implement the scheme, and Natural England have worked with a range of partners that have helped to launch the schemes.

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## [British company appointed lead consultant for Tarbela hydropower project](#)

Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner to the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Simon Penney, visited the Tarbela Dam on Monday, only days after UK Company Mott MacDonald was appointed as lead consultant for the Tarbela 5th Extension hydropower project.

Earlier in the morning he visited Minister for Water Resources Muhammad Faisal Vawda to discuss greater collaboration between the UK and Pakistan in meeting Pakistan's future water resource and hydropower ambitions.

The appointment follows the successful commissioning of Tarbela 4, where Mott MacDonald was also lead consultant. The project is being delivered by the Water and Power Development Authority of Pakistan (WAPDA).

Tarbela power station, situated below the largest earth-filled dam in the world, has been steadily developed since it was originally commissioned in 1976. The aim of the extension is to increase seasonal power supply in Pakistan to meet increasing demand for electricity.

Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner Simon Penney said:

I am delighted that a flagship British company like Mott MacDonald is playing such a valuable role in supporting the delivery of an important project that will deliver energy to thousands of people, and congratulate WAPDA on progress to date. I would like to see more UK companies supporting Pakistan in meeting its future energy needs.

Mark Gill, Pakistan power sector leader for Mott MacDonald, said:

We are excited to continue our involvement with the Tarbela project. Our design innovation on Tarbela 4 increased the power supply by 47 per cent. Similarly, our designs for Tarbela 5 have increased power by a further 10 per cent. We are proud that our work will connect new opportunities for energy reliance and sustainability in Pakistan.

**For more information:**

For updates on the British High Commission and the Chevening Programme, please follow our social media channels:

Contact  
British High Commission  
Islamabad  
tel. 0300 500 5306