



SPECIFICATION

CPD/004/117/132

1. Introduction

MHCLG is the lead government department for assessing the risks to the built environment in the UK from earthquakes, responding to their consequences, and helping communities recover should a serious one occur.

In order to do this, MHCLG needs access to specialist advice as part of the Government's risk assessment process, and immediate advice on the impacts of earthquakes as soon as they happen. As this service is not available within MHCLG's own staff, an invitation to provide the department with a specialist seismic monitoring and information service is being made.

2. Background

Almost every week, seismic events are reported to be felt somewhere in the UK, with on average 150 large events detected worldwide and analysed every year. A small number of these prove to be sonic booms or are spurious, but a larger proportion are natural or mining-induced earthquakes often felt at intensities which cause concern and, occasionally, some damage.

MHCLG is lead government department for the response and recovery for earthquakes which impact upon the built environment. This means that MHCLG's Secretary of State may be called upon at any time to chair a meeting in the Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) and coordinate the Government's response. He needs to be able to draw on advice based on scientific evidence, therefore, to assess whether central government needs to take action to help local responders. In addition, the department needs to be able to offer advice to local resilience forums who are concerned about the potential impacts of earthquakes in their area.

Although the risk of devastating earthquakes is low in the UK, the Government also needs to keep an annual assessment of whether this remains the case.

3. Objectives

- Government to be able to assess the risks of future earthquakes which may impact on the built environment.
- Government to be notified of earthquakes, with scientific analysis of the impacts, and for advice to be given at short notice to enable strategic decisions to be made on the scale and type of response needed.

4. Scope

The contractor must be able to notify MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division of seismic activity 24 hours a day, and be able to provide advice on the impacts of earthquakes not only in the UK but around the world. In addition, the contractor must be available to be contacted 24 hours a day, in order to answer any questions Ministers may have on current or potential future impacts.



5. Deliverables/Outputs and Performance Measures

- Notification to MHCLG of seismic events (including confirmation of other events which might be incorrectly perceived as seismic events such as sonic boom etc.) by email within 2 hours of any event with information about the time, location, magnitude and a description of any actual and likely effects.
- An annual report detailing all seismic activity and any implications.
- The provision of scientific advice to be used as part of the Government's bi-annual risk assessment process to enable consideration of the risk of a significant event occurring which has the potential to be beyond local emergency responders ability to manage.
- In the event of a significant seismic event, provide scientific and technical analysis and advice as necessary to be used by officials and Ministers to make decisions. This will include the attendance at meetings and briefings as required.

6. Contract Management Arrangements

The Contract will managed by MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division. A meeting to discuss seismic activity, and the work undertaken under this contract, will take place at least once a year.

7. End of contract

The contract will run for three years.