



Preparing For The Unthinkable & The Uncertain

Lord Toby Harris, Chairman, National Preparedness Commission

Monday, 04 April 2022, 16:00 BST



A Word From Today's Chairman

Professor Michael Mainelli
Executive Chairman
Z/Yen Group





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Today's Agenda

- 16:00 – 16:05 Chairman's Introduction
- 16:05 – 16:25 Keynote Presentation – Lord Toby Harris
- 16:25 – 16:45 Question & Answer



Today's Speaker

Lord Toby Harris
Chairman
National Preparedness
Commission





**NATIONAL
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COMMISSION**

PREPARING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE AND THE UNCERTAIN

4TH APRIL 2022

**LORD TOBY HARRIS
CHAIR**

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION



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Nobody expected the Spanish Inquisition!





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LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES

Dec 2019	First human cases of COVID detected in Wuhan, China
Jan 2020	Britain formally leaves the EU
Mar 2020	WHO declare a pandemic; UK begins first lockdown
May 2020	UK deaths from COVID pass 30,000
Dec 2020	UK deaths from COVID pass 60,000
Jan 2021	UK deaths from COVID pass 100,000
Feb 2022	Russia invades Ukraine





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THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

Aim: to promote better preparedness for a major crisis or incident

46 Commissioners: prominent figures from public life, business, academia and civil society – first meeting in November 2020

Context: we are living in a world that is increasingly volatile and unstable

Key questions:

- What should we prepare for?
- How much preparedness is enough?
- How do we finance the necessary investment?



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GLOBAL BRITAIN IN A COMPETITIVE AGE – MARCH 2021

THE INTEGRATED REVIEW OF SECURITY, DEFENCE, DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY

- A comprehensive ‘National Resilience Strategy’
- Based on ‘a whole-of-society’ approach, involving individuals, businesses and organisations
- Making every level of government, every organisation and every community more resilient can create a sort of ‘herd immunity’ for a society better able to address future global crises
- Every household and individual has to play a part
- “We are all in it together”



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HOW PREPARED ARE YOU IN YOUR OWN HOMES?

Three questions:

- Do you have a powerful – working – torch?
- Do you have a wind up radio?
- Do you have enough bottled water at home to sustain your household for a week (that's two litres per person per day)?



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SOME GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- Climate change:
 - more extreme weather events at home and abroad
 - parts of the world becoming uninhabitable, driving huge movements of refugees, shortages of food and water, impact on global supply chains, political instability
- Increased competition for natural resources
- Changing world order
- Failure to invest adequately in maintenance of critical infrastructure
- Reliance on ever more complex and interconnected systems
- Dangers of cascade collapse





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Being better prepared for the unexpected and investing sufficiently in preparedness and resilience, when so much is uncertain, is hard. Our minds are not programmed to respond to novel risks and complex challenges.

- Easier to respond to risks we can visualise or have experienced.
- Optimism bias.
- Hard to make sound judgements about how much to invest in low likelihood/very high impact risks.
- Confirmation bias.
- Group think.
- And **NIMTO**: 'not in my term of office'



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Kotoku Wamura, Mayor of Fudai 1947-1987





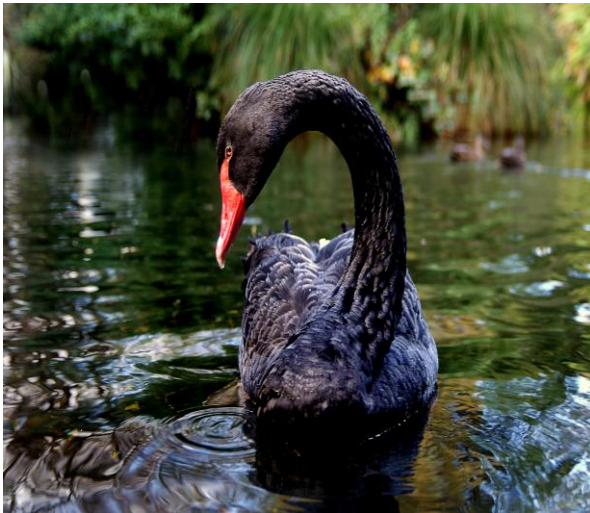
Ten Commission reports

- Independent Review of the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act and its Supporting Arrangements (March 2022)
- The Data Sharing Imperative: Lessons from the Pandemic (January 2022)
- Enhancing Warnings (January 2022)
- Partnering with a Purpose (November 2021)
- State Protection Gap Risk Management – Financial Foundations for Resilience (October 2021)
- Learning that Can Save Lives (September 2021)
- Response to the Call for Evidence from the Integrated Review (September 2021)
- Resilience Reimagined (March 2021)
- Lessons from the Millennium Bug (February 2021)
- Building Better Resilience (December 2020)



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A TAXONOMY



Black swan



Black jellyfish



Black elephant





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9TH AUGUST 2019

Near simultaneous outages at two large power stations



Source: C4 News



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Robert Baden-Powell

SCOUTING FOR BOYS

The Original
1908 Edition





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President John F Kennedy





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Comments, Questions & Answers





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Thank You For Listening

Forthcoming Events

- Tue, 05 Apr (10:00-10:45) Future Of Reserve Currencies – The Myth Of Safe Assets
- Wed, 06 Apr (13:30-17:15) British Isles Share Plans Symposium 2022
- Tue, 12 Apr (11:00-11:45) Art Verses Analytics: Can Art Enable You To See More?
- Wed, 13 Apr (11:00-11:45) Authorised Push Payment Fraud Innoculation

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Watch past webinars <https://www.youtube.com/zyengroup>