Category 2 Responder Community

Background
During FY1112 consultation was carried out looking at developing a Reach Strategy for the engagement of Cat 2 Responders with the National Severe Weather Warning Service.

The consultation in FY1112 looked at how to get NSWWS messages out to Cat 2 Responders and how we captured who they were. There is no defined list of Cat 2 Responders.

Discussions were had with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Local Government Association, Southern Water and the Cat 2 South forum. There was no clear way forward with this consultation. Therefore, it was decided that this consultation should continue in FY1314 as part of the series of emergency responder workshops held across the UK during May and June 2013.

Details
The PWSCG Secretariat was present at all of the nine workshops and overall around 350 responders were in attendance, approximately 27% of these were Cat 2 Responders. Of the Cat 2 responders 3% represented telecommunications, 21% represented utilities, 7% transport, 63% health and HSE and 7% represented the voluntary sector.

After taking to various Cat 2 Responders it became clear that they:
- Received and signed up for the services available to Cat 1 Responders e.g. Hazard Manager
- Felt like they were being included in consultations and thought about during weather events
- Support Cat 1 Responders at the LRF level, where they also gain access to other information such as that given directly by the Met Office Civil Contingencies Advisor
- Had the same issues and problems with Hazard Manager and NSWWS as Cat 1 Responders
- Were not requesting any services specifically for Cat 2 responders

Conclusions
There is little evidence of a requirement from the Cat 2 community for a specific set of PWS outputs tailored to their needs. With their primary engagement being via the LRFs and with the PWS having extensive reach into these for a through the Civil Contingencies Advisors, it is felt that the current services are sufficient.

The diverse range of Cat 2 responders that attended the emergency responder workshops in Summer 2013 does demonstrate the complexity and size of the community. There is therefore a requirement for the PWS, through the Met Office and the PWSCG, to keep under review the needs of this community. This should be carried out through the normal activities of the Advisors and the PWSCG.

Recommendation
It is therefore recommended that Cat 2 Responders are not provided with a separate service. They should continue to be informed by the services already available and considered in any responder reach campaigns.