

Prepared remarks

IRGC expert workshop: Public sector
governance of emerging risks
17-18 September, Lausanne

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY



EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



Living With
Environmental Change
LWEC

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

www.cranfield.ac.uk

Simon Pollard and Fiona Lickorish
Centre for Environmental Risks and Futures

s.pollard@cranfield.ac.uk
www.cranfield.ac.uk/sas/risk

Changing landscape



How it's changing

Transformation in government

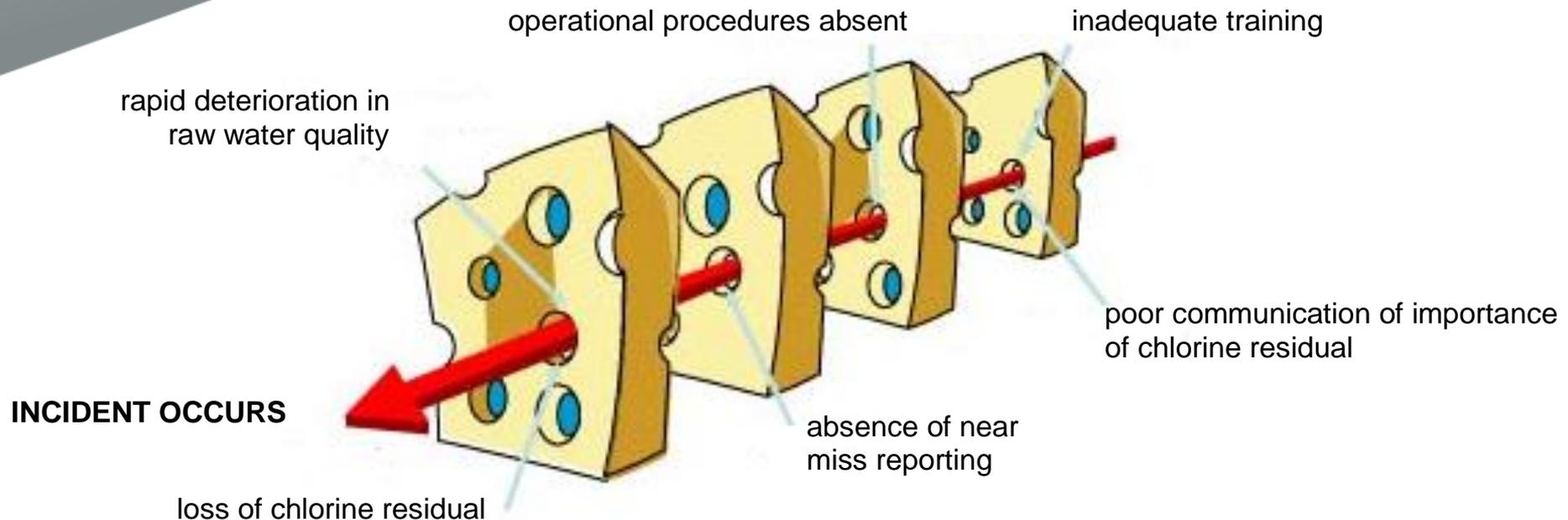
- **Risk sharing** and apportionment (e.g. biosecurity on farms with respect to animal disease)
- **Reduced public funds** for managing residual risk (e.g. prioritising policy risk in the long term)
- **Managing more risk, responsibly** (opportunity management within the public sector; not recklessness)
- **Beyond compliance** and self-regulation (e.g. 'nudge', voluntary agreements and 'earned recognition')
- **Localism** (US/UK), devolved risk governance and enhanced risk management maturity
- The **red-tape challenge** agenda

How it's changing

Transformation in the firm [...]

- As above, and also:
- **Raised expectations** of risk governance and Board oversight, Board behaviour (foreseeability complications), shareholder scrutiny
- **Evidence** for corporate claims of responsibility
- **The rise of the chief risk officer/group risk manager**
- **Environmental risks as mainstream**
- **Networked / systemic risk** remains poorly understood
- **'Outsourced' risks** re-categorised as a core threat

[...] and an improved
systemic understanding



Latent flaws lie dormant - “if you don’t actively manage risk, it doesn’t go away, it just builds up”.

How it's changing (3)

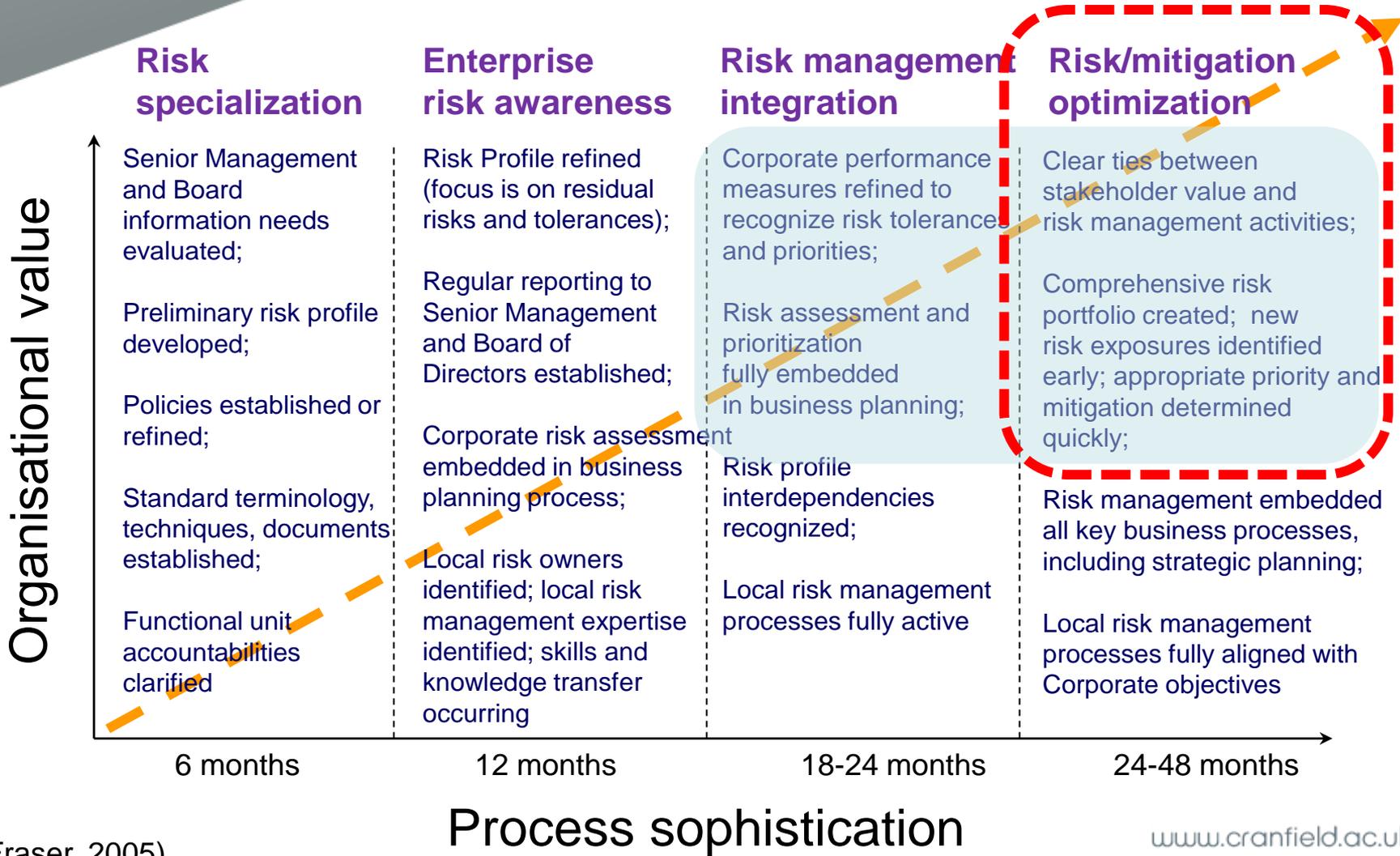
Risk and the citizenry

- **New risks**, new risk managers
- Making our own arrangements (e.g. flood risk management)
- **Risk literacy** and NGOs, and then
- Dealing with **experts** and expertise (advocacy and evidence)
- **Local fora**, participation
- Politicization of risk

An acceleration of an established agenda

One research response

Corporate risk governance



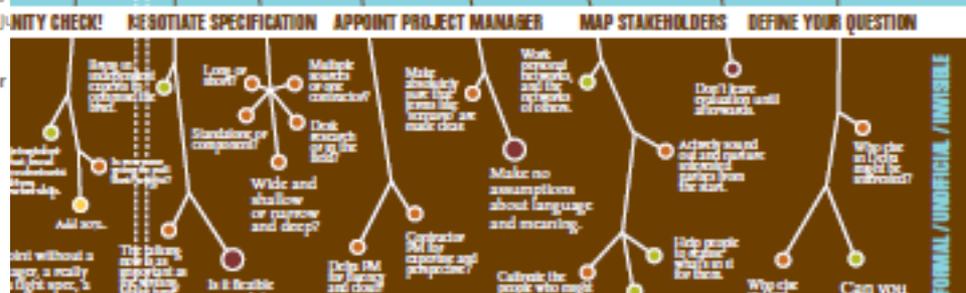
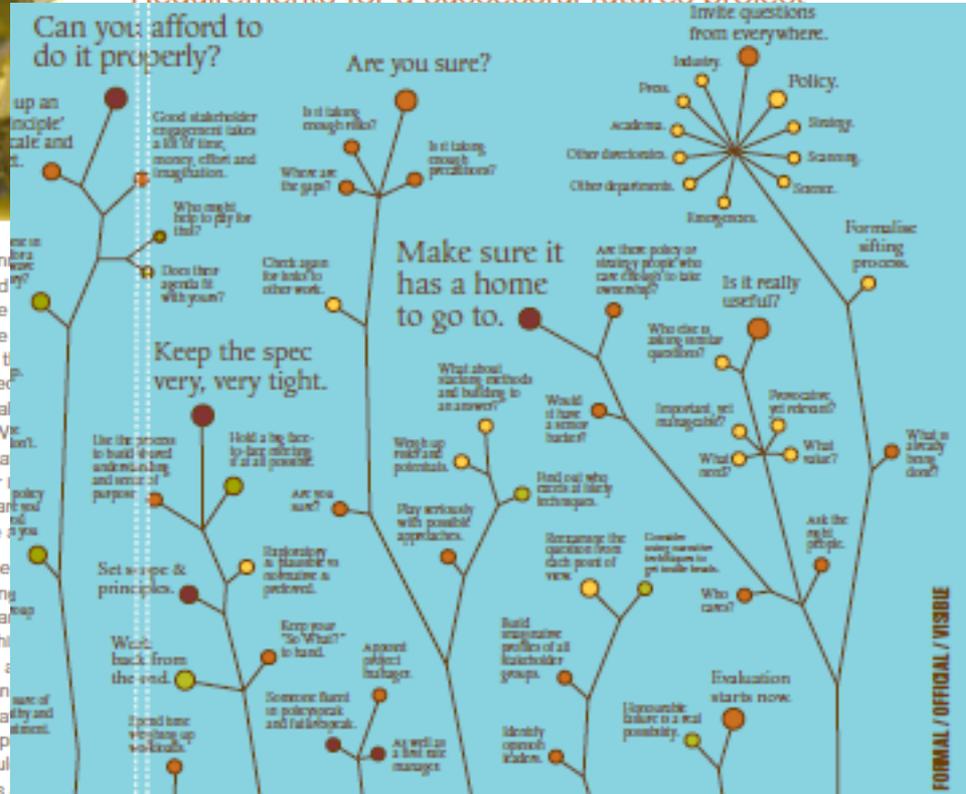
(after Fraser, 2005)

Some remarks for 'Deputy heads' of policy



The uses of discomfort

Requirements for a successful futures project



"What about a horizon scan advisory group, what should be doing? I think that should be uncomfortable group for the people for whom it talks, because it should always be sceptical and should always be asking, 'What does that fit together? Is that a story that is coherent, or is it a story made up of a particular prejudices?' which we have seen."

"In this territory as I assume of others, people come along with pre-made visions and they are not really prepared to see anything other than their own vision, so one of the jobs of a horizon scan advisory group would be that they would get this sort of stuff presented to you and they would be there asking hard questions and making people really think about what they are saying."

Scientist and SAC member

- Good risk business
- Use risk to account for residual risk
- 'golden thread'
- Expect to be at a high level – the
- Risks and plus creat
- You will be people.
- Get a trusted risk champion and use them.

es
petite,
ng
or
e policy
niques
er your