As Team Leader for the Radiation & Residues Team at the Food Standards Agency I am responding on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.

The Food Standards Agency is responsible for assessing food safety aspects of radioactive discharges from nuclear sites. We would routinely do this with the use of computer modelling of likely dispersion of radioactive discharges from a nuclear site then calculating the likely quantities of these radionuclides that will end up in foods, followed by the application of various factors to calculate a potential radiological dose to high-rate food consumers living close to the site.

The FSA has invested significant resources over many years to make our dose assessments as realistic as possible. If this design of reactor were to be considered for a specific site in the future then we would undertake a dose assessment based on the specific site as part of the permit application process. However, currently this is not possible as the NIA are looking at generic design aspects without site specific parameters. Therefore our considerations have been kept to reviewing the generic design.

The NIA state that the doses will all be below the constraints. In principle this is acceptable to the FSA and as such we are content for the Secretary of State to grant the justification request.