

COMARE – Annual Report 2015

1. Membership

Professor Alex Elliott completed 10 years as Chair of COMARE in March 2015. Dr Chris Gibson took over the role of Chair in November 2015.

Professor Wil Evans and Professor Munira Kadhim also completed their terms of office. Professor John Harrison, Dr Colin Martin, Dr Mireille Toledano and Professor Kevin Prise joined the committee.

2. Meetings held

Main committee:

110th meeting – 18th March

111th meeting – 15th July

112th meeting – 24th November

Subcommittees and working groups:

5th Contaminations Working Group – 17th March

6th Contaminations Working Group – 23rd November

3. Publications

No reports were published in 2015. Work continued on preparing the report on 'Childhood leukaemia in the vicinity of Sellafield and Dounreay' (see below).

4. Progress on work programme

Childhood leukaemia in the vicinity of Sellafield and Dounreay

COMARE established a subcommittee to update COMARE's previous reports on childhood leukaemia incidence in the vicinity of Dounreay and Sellafield. This work was commissioned by the Department of Health. Work continued towards the completion of the report and approval by the committee.

Interventional Radiology Issues

COMARE was asked by the Department of Health to produce advice on issues concerning radiation doses from interventional radiology in the UK. A subcommittee has been established to respond to this request. No meetings of the subcommittee were held in 2015, but work is ongoing. It is anticipated that this advice will be published as a report from COMARE.

DXA Scanning Issues

COMARE was asked by the Department of Health to produce advice on issues on medical radiation dose issues associated with DXA scans for sports performance assessments and other non-medical practices. A subcommittee is being established to respond to this request. It is anticipated that this advice will be published as a report from COMARE.

WORKING GROUPS:

Contaminations

The Contaminations Working Group (CWG) met twice in 2015 and considered updates on the respective beach monitoring programmes submitted from Dounreay and Sellafield, noting the particles detected at each site. The working group also followed the monitoring work and remediation programme being undertaken at Dalgety Bay.

Authorisations

In 2015 the Authorisations Working Group (AWG) responded to two consultations: an application from the LLW Repository Ltd at Drigg to carry on radioactive substances activities; a two section SEPA consultation on the MoD application for approval to transfer LLW from laid-up submarines to Rosyth Royal Dockyard Limited (RRDL) and also an RRDL application to accept and dispose of these wastes under SEPA authority.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE:

- COMARE receives annual updates from Public Health England on electromagnetic fields and radon issues. The last update was given on 24th November 2015.