

# COMARE – Annual Report 2017

## 1. Membership

Professor Mark Pearce and Professor Richard Wakeford completed their terms of office. No new members joined the committee in 2017.

## 2. COMARE Meetings

*Main committee:*

116<sup>th</sup> meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March  
117<sup>th</sup> meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July  
118<sup>th</sup> meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> November

*Subcommittees and working groups:*

9<sup>th</sup> Contaminations Working Group – 15<sup>th</sup> March  
10<sup>th</sup> Contaminations Working Group – 20<sup>th</sup> November  
2<sup>nd</sup> MPS(DXA) Subcommittee – 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
3<sup>rd</sup> MPS(DXA) Subcommittee – 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
4<sup>th</sup> MPS(DXA) Subcommittee – 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
3<sup>rd</sup> MPS(IR) Subcommittee – 10<sup>th</sup> April

*ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMARE REPRESENTATIVES:*

BEIS NGO forum – 12<sup>th</sup> September

BEIS consultation event on proposed amendments to the regulation of radioactive substances and the regulation of radioactive contaminated land as part of the UK transposition programme for the 2013 Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

## 3. Progress on work programme

*SUBCOMMITTEES:*

*Interventional Radiology Issues*

COMARE was asked by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to produce advice on issues concerning radiation doses from interventional radiology in the UK. A subcommittee has been established to respond to this request. The subcommittee requested information from various sources and is in the process of reviewing the results.

*DXA Scanning Issues*

COMARE was asked by the Department of Health and Social Care 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 was established to respond to this request and

held three meetings during 2017. Their findings were presented to the main committee for review at the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once approved by the main committee, a report will be submitted to DHSC and it is anticipated that this report will then be published by COMARE.

#### *WORKING GROUPS:*

##### *Contaminations*

The Contaminations Working Group (CWG) met twice in 2017 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 2017 the Authorisations Working Group (AWG) responded to one consultation from the Environment Agency on an application for a permit variation made by Sellafield Limited.

#### **4. Requests for advice**

In November 2017, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) formally requested that COMARE update the analysis of cancer incidence around Dalgety Bay, which formed part of the 15<sup>th</sup> COMARE report. COMARE is working with the Information Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland on progressing with this request.

#### **5. 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 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.
- COMARE kept a watching brief on the progress of commissioning an epidemiological study to investigate any association of thyroid cancer incidence with Sellafield discharges, in particular associated with the Windscale nuclear reactor fire in 1957, using the Cumbrian birth cohort. This study was proposed in recommendation 3 of the 17<sup>th</sup> COMARE report.
- COMARE instigated the surveillance of childhood cancer incidence around nuclear installations in Great Britain by the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU).
- COMARE responded to the BEIS consultation on transposing the public exposures and justification aspects of the 2013 Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive (2013/59/EURATOM).