

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO DOUNREAY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Revised UK Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework

The revised UK policy framework was published on the 18 May 2024 and replaces Command Paper 2919, Review of Radioactive Waste Management Policy: Final Conclusions published in 1995 and a number of other documents. It updates, clarifies and consolidates a number of policies into a UK-wide policy framework. It sets out clearly those policies that are pursued jointly by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations and any separate policies that apply in any one nation. The revised policy framework and response to the consultation exercise can be found at the following link;

[Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/managing-radioactive-substances-and-nuclear-decommissioning)

Review of Scotland's Higher Activity Waste Policy

The Scottish Government places great importance on the need to address Scotland's radioactive waste legacy and is committed to the safe, secure and responsible management of waste with care for people and the environment. Our policy framework for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW) is set out in a [2011 Policy](#) and [2016 Implementation Strategy](#).

The [Implementation Strategy](#) committed the Scottish Government to reviewing this policy framework no more than 10 years from 2016. We have now commenced this review, the anticipated timeline for which is set out below:

- Commence review – mid 2024
- Hold a public consultation – early 2025
- Issue a revised Policy document – late 2025

To inform this review and development of the public consultation we are inviting your initial views on the issues, as previously communicated. If you would like to share your thoughts in writing, we would ask that these be sent to oli.smith@gov.scot.

Scottish Government Ministerial Changes

Mairi McAllan MSP is now on a period of maternity leave until early 2025, and so Gillian Martin MSP has taken up the role of [Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy](#) in her absence which includes responsibility for our work on Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning.

Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management Survey

The 2016 Implementation Strategy identifies that we will *identify public attitudes and societal concerns in Scotland of the topic of radioactive waste management*. In January this year, public attitudes were surveyed in an online questionnaire and the results of this survey are now available online. Included in the publication is a short summary of some of the key findings for ease of reference:

[Radioactive Waste Management - Public Attitudes Survey for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

The survey explored four key areas:

- Knowledge of radioactive waste management
- Attitudes towards radioactive waste management
- Priorities in radioactive waste management
- Decision-making in radioactive waste management

As we review the 2011 Policy, the insights provided by this survey will help to inform our approach and appreciation of the issues to address, alongside the range of other engagement and development work we already undertake.

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government