

COMARE – Annual Report 2016

1. Membership

Professor Catharine West, Professor Peter Marsden and Mr Ian Robinson completed their terms of office. Professor Paul Pharoah, Dr Peter Riley and Dr David Sutton joined the committee, and Ms Helen Warner and Professor Ray Kemp were appointed to the committee as lay members.

2. Meetings held

Main committee:

113th meeting – 15th March

114th meeting – 20th July

115th meeting – 22nd November

Subcommittees and working groups:

7th Contaminations Working Group – 14th March

8th Contaminations Working Group – 21st November

1st MPS(DXA) Subcommittee – 25th November

3. Publications

COMARE's 17th Report – 'Further consideration of the incidence of cancers around the nuclear installations at Sellafield and Dounreay' was published on the 30th September with a press launch held at the Science Media Centre. The report presents a comprehensive review of the incidence of leukaemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and other cancers among young people around the Sellafield and Dounreay nuclear installations, updating COMARE's previous work. It also includes an analysis of the incidence of thyroid cancer in northwest England, an update on cancer risk from radiation exposure to children in the vicinities of Sellafield and Dounreay, a review of paternal preconceptional irradiation and consideration of population mixing in relation to childhood leukaemia.

4. Progress on work programme

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. 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 has been established to respond to this request and the first meeting was held on 25th November. 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 2016 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 2016 the Authorisations Working Group (AWG) responded to one consultation from the EA on an application for changes to the existing environmental permit to dispose of radioactive wastes held by Devonport Royal Dockyards Ltd (DRDL).

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 22nd November 2016.