LLW / ILW boundary wastes (BW; Figure 1) can be defined as a fraction of LLW and ILW that has potential to be practically managed as LLW, but the presence of a concentration of specific radionuclides prohibits or significantly challenges its acceptability at existing and planned LLW facilities. To enable management as LLW these wastes may require treatment or a period of decay storage [1]. Waste management decision making pertaining to BW is complex owing to the variability in waste disposal options and the differing consequences for the waste consignor and the UK nuclear sector in the choice of waste management strategy. To support waste consignors with decision making relating to BW, guidance has been developed in conjunction with waste producers, to provide a decision making framework.

The individual factors which should be considered when undertaking decision making are summarised in Figure 2. More detail on these factors, and a collection of resources to aid decision making can be found in [1].

The decision making methodology developed as a result can be found in Figure 3. This enables identification, prioritisation and resolution of key decision making factors for the management of BW. In addition, the use of this model represents a step forward in the consideration and adoption of the “disposal by safety case” concept, which is particularly pertinent to BW. This approach enables consideration of a wider range of waste management options and thus enabling the optimised use of national disposal capacity.

Further information, including details of a FY17/18 boundary waste inventory assessment can be found in [1].