

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) Response to Welsh Government Call for Evidence: Review of Current Policy on the Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste

CoRWM welcomes the Welsh Government's decision to consider whether to review its current policy on HAW disposal and to issue this call for evidence.

Question 1: Should the Welsh Government review its current policy on HAW disposal?

CoRWM agrees that, given the reasons stated in paragraph 18 of the Call for Evidence, now is an appropriate time for the Welsh Government to review its current policy on HAW disposal.

Question 2: CoRWM carried out extensive work before recommending geological disposal in its report in 2006, and confirmed that recommendation in 2013. In the light of this, if the Welsh Government reviews its current policy, should it limit its consideration of disposal options for HAW to geological disposal?

As noted in the Call for Evidence, CoRWM confirmed its support for geological disposal as the best long term management option for HAW in July 2013 and this is still the case.

Question 3: If the Welsh Government should consider disposal options other than geological disposal, what should these be?

It is CoRWM's view that geological disposal, supported by a robust programme of interim storage, is currently the only feasible disposal option for most HAW.

Question 4: Do you have any other comments on the Welsh Government policy for the disposal of higher activity radioactive waste?

CoRWM thinks that it is extremely important for the Welsh Government to clarify its position on radioactive waste management so that it can play a strong role in the development of policy at the UK level.

CoRWM welcomes the Welsh Government's decision to consider reviewing its policy and is keen to support any subsequent policy development in so far as this is within its remit of advising Government and scrutinising work undertaken. CoRWM's proposed Work Programme for 2014-15 has already allocated 20 per cent of its resources to Wales but, depending on the involvement required, further support may be required.