

COMARE Subcommittees, Subgroups & Working Groups 2025

COMARE Subcommittees

Type of group	Subcommittee
Name	Cardio- / Cerebro-vascular Effects Subcommittee (CCES)
Date established	February 2021
Ongoing or time-limited	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of a causal association between cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease and low level radiation exposure, and to inform COMARE of the health implications for the UK population and further research priorities.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide advice to the DHSC on the cardiovascular and cerebrovascular health implications for the UK population from defined low-level radiation exposure. 2. To review the available evidence of an association between low level radiation exposure and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease – including epidemiological, mechanistic and biological studies for both medical and occupational exposures which would fall within a defined low-level dose range.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
Members	Professor F de Vocht (Chair) Dr J Barrett Professor J Harrison Dr M Hill Dr C Martin Dr R McNally Professor P Pharoah Dr K Raj
Assessors	DHSC
Meeting format	Online meetings
Meeting frequency	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
Output	Report to be submitted to DHSC

Type of group	Subcommittee
Name	Light and Health Subcommittee (LAHS)
Date established	April 2025
Ongoing or time-limited	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of the health issues associated with artificial light, and to inform COMARE on the need for further review</i>
Remit	1. To review the available evidence regarding the impact of artificial light on human health and determine what is known and what further information is required to provide evidence-based guidelines regarding the impact of artificial light on human health within the built environment.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
Members	Professor R Foster (Chair) Dr C Westcott (Lay member) Dr M Little Professor R Lucas Professor T Erren Professor S Peirson Dr P Lewis
Assessors	DHSC WG UKHSA
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online and in-person meetings
Meeting frequency	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
Output	Report to be submitted to DHSC

Type of group	Subcommittee
Name	UV Sunbed Subcommittee
Date established	July 2025
Ongoing or time-limited	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to the four UK health departments
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence of the health impact of UV artificial tanning devices in the UK, and to inform COMARE on the need for further research and review.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the 13th COMARE Report recommendations against more recent guidance and reiterate the recommendations accordingly. 2. Review the level of implementation of the recommendations across the UK. 3. Review COMARE's position regarding a potential total ban on sunbeds.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
Members	<p>Professor L Rhodes (Chair) - <i>retired</i></p> <p>Professor B Diffey (Co-chair)</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr C Martin</p> <p>Dr R Kemp</p> <p>Dr N Cridland</p>
Assessors	<p>DHSC</p> <p>SG</p> <p>WG</p> <p>DoH NI</p> <p>UKHSA</p>
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online meetings
Meeting frequency	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
Output	Report to be submitted to the four UK health departments

Type of group	Subcommittee
Name	Cancer Risk Subcommittee
Date established	December 2025
Ongoing or time-limited	Time limited – completes on the submission of a report to DHSC
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE on the available evidence on cancer risks from low doses and/or low dose rates of ionising radiation, comment on likely implications in terms of international recommendations and protection practice, and inform the Committee on the need for further research and review.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the available evidence from key epidemiological studies, referring to the forthcoming UNSCEAR review and more recent publications (from 2020), assessing the potential impact of confounding and other types of bias on results. Consider implications in terms of ICRP estimates of risk and detriment, with emphasis on risk estimates relevant to the UK population. To include: judgements on dose-response relationships, the effect of dose and dose rate on risks, and difference in risk between males and females and with age at exposure. 2. Review key experimental studies informing on biological mechanisms of radiation action in the initiation and promotion of cancer, referring to the UNSCEAR (2021) review and more recent publications. 3. Comment on implications for current UK protection practices and legislation, including reliance on LNT and ALARP, and the adequacy of protection using dose quantities as currently defined.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts + assessors
Members	<p>Professor A Berrington de Gonzalez (Chair)</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr G Heyes</p> <p>Dr S Terry</p> <p>Professor M Toledano</p> <p>Dr M Little</p> <p>Professor S Bouffler</p> <p>Professor R Wakeford</p> <p>Professor M Van Tongeren</p>
Assessors	DHSC
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online meetings
Meeting frequency	Held as required – usually 2-3 per year
Output	Report to be submitted to DHSC

COMARE Working Groups

Type of group	Working Group
Name	Authorisations Working Group
Date established	Pre-2005
Ongoing or time-limited	Ongoing
Terms of Reference	<i>To uphold COMARE's standing commitment to advise on discharges of radioactive materials as and when applications are received for new or revised authorisations.</i>
Remit	1. To advise on draft authorisations and respond to relevant consultations and to keep the full Committee aware of its proceedings.
Membership format	COMARE members and past COMARE members
Members	Dr S McCready-Shea (Chair) Professor A Elliott Professor G Smith Professor R Wakeford
Assessors	None
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	No meetings are held. Work is completed through electronic correspondence.
Meeting frequency	N/A
Output	Updates to the full Committee Responses to consultations

Type of group	Working group
Name	Contaminations Working Group
Date established	July 2012
Ongoing or time-limited	Ongoing
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE, Government and the devolved administrations and agencies on the potential public health implications of instances of radioactive contamination of the environment. The CWG will ensure a consistency of approach in all instances and will recommend further investigations where necessary.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow progress on the respective beach monitoring programmes submitted from Dounreay and Sellafield, noting the particles detected at each site. 2. Follow progress on the monitoring work being undertaken at Dalgety Bay and on the remediation project at Dalgety Bay. 3. Monitor information about the release of radioactive leachate from the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo (MSSS) at Sellafield and plans for its remediation.
Membership format	COMARE members + past COMARE members + assessors
Members	<p>Professor D Read (Chair)</p> <p>Professor A Elliott</p> <p>Professor J Harrison</p> <p>Dr S McCready-Shea</p> <p>Professor G Smith</p> <p>Professor J Smith</p> <p>Professor R Wakeford</p>
Assessors	<p>EA</p> <p>FSA</p> <p>FSS</p> <p>NDA</p> <p>NRS</p> <p>Sellafield Ltd</p> <p>SEPA</p> <p>UKHSA</p>
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online and in person
Meeting frequency	Twice a year – usually in March and November
Output	<p>Updates to the full Committee</p> <p>Responses to consultations</p>

Type of group	Working Group
Name	EMF and Health Working Group (EAHWG)
Date established	August / September 2022
Ongoing or time-limited	Ongoing
Draft Terms of Reference (for review after 12 months)	<i>To advise COMARE on the health impacts and concerns associated with the exposure to EMFs. This includes reviewing available evidence on health effects and informing COMARE of the health implications for the UK population and further research priorities.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss and comment on the matters within the UKHSA annual update on 'EMF and health', specifically addressing any implications for public health. 2. Highlight to the Committee important published work on EMFs of relevance to public health. 3. Review and comment on the health implications for the UK resulting from the WHO review when it is published. 4. Identify research gaps on the health effects of EMFs important for the UK population.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts
Members	<p>Dr R Kemp (Chair) Professor F de Vocht Dr I Litchfield Dr Z Sienkiewicz Professor M Sperrin Professor M Toledano Dr C Westcott</p>
Assessors	None
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online meetings
Meeting frequency	A minimum of three per year
Output	Updates to the full Committee

Type of group	Working Group
Name	ICRP Recommendations Working Group (IRWG)
Date established	August / September 2022
Ongoing or time-limited	Ongoing
Terms of Reference	<i>To advise COMARE on the ICRP developments towards new recommendations, to inform COMARE of the associated health implications for the UK and also to maintain awareness of responses being formulated by other international and national groups.</i>
Remit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss and comment on output from ICRP and maintain awareness of outputs from other agencies relevant to the development of new international recommendations. 2. Provide brief synopses to the Committee of developments regarding new recommendations, including synopses of important published work. 3. Draft COMARE responses to ICRP public consultations on relevant reports. 4. Comment on any implications of proposed changes, as appropriate, for public health in the UK, in due course.
Membership format	COMARE members + formally invited external experts
Members	Dr S McCready-Shea (Chair) Professor J Harrison Dr M Hill Dr M Little Dr R McNally Professor G Smith Professor D Sutton Dr S Terry
Assessors	None
Secretariat	UKHSA
Meeting format	Online meetings
Meeting frequency	Held as required with a minimum of three per year
Output	Updates to the full Committee Responses to consultations