

**A workable solution must combine both good science and public confidence.**

This issue is not just about science, even though CoRWM is using the best available scientists to examine the technical aspects of this issue. There are complex ethical and social issues, and the public and stakeholders must also have the opportunity to give their views – on the nature of the problem, on the criteria we use to evaluate options and on the options themselves. An essential part of CoRWM's job is to inform and engage the public. No solution can work if it does not enjoy public confidence, not least because it is unlikely to gain political endorsement without it. Issues need to be considered such as:

- Public perceptions regarding the future of technology and society.
- Attitudes to potential trade offs between for example the desire to minimize waste transport and the desire not to use all existing sites as long-term waste management sites.
- Ethical questions, especially the question of 'fairness'.

**The need to secure both these elements means that CoRWM has developed a unique process including scientific input and wide ranging public and stakeholder engagement. That process is one that is continually being improved.**

This is a complex matrix of issues. To handle it, CoRWM has had to develop a process to bring together the best scientific thought and active public and stakeholder engagement.

CoRWM is consulting widely using a variety of methods. Open public meetings have been held up and down the country; CoRWM itself travels to different cities for its plenary meetings which are held in public and open to all; Citizen Panels have been established to ensure views reflective of those in the country are captured; and discussion packs have been produced to encourage wider public thought and debate.

Coupled with this is the need for rigorous scientific and expert input. CoRWM has established 7 panels of experts to assess how each of the short listed options perform against key criteria and subject to independent peer review. In addition, the scientific work is under independent review by a panel of leading scientists reporting to Professor Howard Dalton RFS, Chief Scientist to DEFRA. CoRWM is also advised by a quality assurance panel that includes Professor Geoffrey Boulton and Professor Brian Wynne.

In this way, CoRWM ensures that it continually improves its processes under review and evaluation from the best experts in their respective fields.



Other Messages

**CoRWM's remit**

Sound bite
CoRWM is advising the UK Government on the best options for the long-term management of radioactive waste.
CoRWM is independent, impartial and operates without preconceptions. It includes members from a wide range of backgrounds.
Once CoRWM has made its recommendations it is up to Government to decide what to do next.
CoRWM will not suggest locations. Its job is to suggest how waste should be managed, not where.
Irrespective of whether we build more nuclear power stations we need to deal with the waste we already have.
CoRWM's work does take account of the possibility of waste created by more nuclear stations. However, CoRWM does not have a view on whether this is desirable or not.



**About CoRWM's membership**

Sound bite
CoRWM is considering the scientific and social issues as a whole, listening to the best experts and widest range of public and stakeholder views.
CoRWM is using the best advisers in their fields — but CoRWM's own members also have expertise in nuclear physics, radiation protection, environmental law, economics, sociology and other specialisms.
CoRWM's issues are very broad and this is reflected in the wide range of expertise among members. They include a founding member of Greenpeace, a Board member of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, a former senior military officer and the former head of Health and Safety at Amersham Plc. Four are Professors and two have relevant doctorates.
CoRWM's members come from across the UK and understand many of the issues on the ground from the Highlands of Scotland to Wales and Southern England.



**Use of science**

**Sound bite**

Since the House of Lords report, CoRWM has significantly boosted its scientific input. We hope their Lordships will recognise this.

CoRWM is using the best experts available to examine in detail some of the key issues relating to the options. Examples include security, safety and cost.

To answer its remit, CoRWM must find solutions that are sound technically and inspire public confidence.