



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Richard Harrington MP  
Minister for Business and Industry

Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy  
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[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis)

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

Dear Colleague,

**RE: Outcome of Government response on revised requirements for radiological protection**

I wanted to write to you on the outcome of our joint consultation<sup>1</sup> with the Ministry of Defence and the Health and Safety Executive, on proposals which build on Great Britain's already robust arrangements for radiological emergencies. The Government response will be published on Monday 22 October. I am writing to you as a Member for a constituency who may be interested in this consultation response.

The UK has benefited from more than 60 years of clean and safe nuclear-generated electricity. The Government is committed to the safe and successful future of our nuclear and radiological sectors which provide a valuable contribution to our economy and our society.

Our civil nuclear, defence nuclear, and radiological sites are operated to the highest safety standards, as is the transport of radiological material. All are independently regulated to the highest standards to ensure they are safe, secure and environmentally sound.

The UK has well developed emergency response arrangements. However, we are committed to continuous improvement in our preparedness.

I intend to bring forward legislation in December and also early next year to implement these conclusions; copies of the draft legislation will be set out on the consultation web page. I will also place a copy of the Government response in the library for interested colleagues reference and review, alongside a copy of this letter.

The key changes we are making include:

- **Standardised assessment:** we will be requiring a standardised approach to the assessment of a sites hazards based on scientific analysis. This will improve consistency and transparency and build on our already robust approaches.
- **Outcome focused regulation:** The new regulations will be outcome focused and empower local authorities in making emergency arrangements. Existing detailed

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-requirements-for-radiological-protection-emergency-preparedness-and-response>

emergency planning zones will be determined jointly by operators and local authorities using the standardised assessment.

- **Introducing outline planning zones:** As well as existing detailed emergency planning zones, we are introducing higher level outline planning zones as a means to plan for much less likely events including unforeseen emergencies.

The regulations will have a 12 month implementation timeframe attached from the point they complete their parliamentary process. We have worked closely with industry and local authorities across Great Britain in developing our approaches. I am also writing to all local authorities on publishing the outcome of our consultation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

**RICHARD HARRINGTON MP**  
Minister for Business and Industry