



# The Society for Radiological Protection

## Draft memorandum to the Privy Council Office

December 2002

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## Summary

The Society for Radiological Protection ("the Society" or "we") was founded as a learned society in 1963. Over the past 40 years we have developed into a professional society with international recognition. The Society became a registered charity in 1973. The role of the Society is, briefly, to promote the science and art of radiation protection, to disseminate knowledge and encourage relevant education, and to promote high professional standards, to the public benefit. We are the second largest radiation protection society in the world, exceeded only by the US Health Physics Society. 87% of the Full Members are qualified to at least first degree level. The Society is governed by a Council with a majority of elected members; the Council appoints a range of committees to undertake specific functions. There are topical subject groups and geographically regional groups. The Society employs professional administrative services and is in a strong financial position.

We pride ourselves on the quality and availability of our scientific meetings, workshops and seminars, organised over the whole range of radiation protection and covering topical issues. We have organised six international symposia. We have published the *Journal of Radiological Protection* since 1981, which is now an internationally respected, refereed Journal with international editorial board and contributors, covering all aspects of radiation protection. We have also a regular, topical newsletter; and an active website with email discussion group. We run a number of student bursaries and other award schemes to support education, excellence and international activities. We pursue an active educational role through our meetings programme and topic groups, workshops, student support, bursaries and mentoring. We have fostered professional matters by our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme which is the only open UK scheme covering radiation protection. We provide administrative services to RPA 2000, a limited company, to undertake assessments of radiation protection advisers, for which purpose it is recognised by the Health and Safety Executive.

The Society has frequent dealings with Government on consultation documents. On behalf of Government we facilitate workshops to promulgate new regulations. We are also consulted on appointments to specialist committees sponsored by Government. Internationally, the body for radiation protection professionals is the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) whose UK Associate Society we are. We support other international initiatives, for example in relation to standards.

The extent of the pre-eminence of the Society is reflected in our acceptance in the UK as the authoritative professional body over the broad field of radiation protection, and our international recognition as IRPA Associate. This is underpinned by the quality and availability of our educational programme and our Journal, as well as our professional support to members of the profession through our CPD scheme, promulgation of standards and role in assessment of professionals.

The grant of a Charter would provide formal recognition in the UK of the Society's role, and confirm the standing of radiation protection as a profession. This would be of public benefit in providing assurance that there is a body with recognised authority and subject to an appropriate degree of Government control in relation to its standards.

## **(a) The history of the Society**

This is presented as a chronology. The key events are highlighted in bold.

- 1963 **Founded as "The Society for Radiological Protection, The United Kingdom Section of the Health Physics Society" on 8 May**  
Approved by the Board of Directors of the US Health Physics Society.  
The first scientific meeting  
The Newsletter began
- 1965 **Renamed "The Society for Radiological Protection", the formal connection with the US Health Physics Society was dissolved on 31 December**
- 1966 The first international symposium
- 1968 A constitution was adopted
- 1969 The appointment of Honorary Fellows began
- 1973 **The Society became a registered charity, number 264337**
- 1978 The first teach-ins/workshops were held
- 1978 The Founders' Prize for, preferably younger, workers in radiological protection, was established
- 1979 The Society awarded the first Certificate of Professional Competence in Operational Health Physics
- 1981 The Society's *Journal of Radiological Protection* was first published
- 1982 The first student bursary
- 1985 First assisted Government in the development and implementation of statutory regulations relating to radiation protection
- 1993 A professional administrator was engaged  
The first awards of the Society's scholarship scheme covering full course fees.
- 1996 Developed the first National Vocational Qualifications standards in radiation protection, accredited by the National Council for Vocational Qualifications on 7 April 1997
- 1997 The first two regional groups, Scotland and North West England, were set up  
The Continuing Professional Development Scheme started
- 1998 **Affiliated to IRPA, the International Radiation Protection Association, as the UK Associate Society**  
The regional groups held their first scientific meetings  
The website went live
- 2000 RPA 2000, set up by the Society in conjunction with collaborating societies, was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee to assess the competence of radiation protection advisers. Its directors include members of the Society, which provides administrative services to the company.

RPA 2000 was recognised by the Health and Safety Executive as the first assessing body for assessing radiation protection advisers under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999

*NVQs in Occupational health and safety Practice: Radiation Protection Routes at levels 2, 3 and 4*, written by the Society, was published

The email discussion list was started

2002 Code of Conduct approved in ballot of members

## **(b) The Society's role**

The role of the Society is expressed in our objects as set out in the Society's Rules (<http://www.srp-uk.org/srprules.pdf>).

"The objects of the Society are, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and elsewhere,

(a) to promote and advance the science and art of radiological protection and allied fields,

(b) to promote, advance and disseminate, to the public advantage, knowledge of radiological protection and allied fields,

(c) to encourage, support, promote and advance education and learning in radiological protection and allied fields,

(d) to promote and encourage, to the public advantage, high scientific, educational, regulatory and professional standards in radiological protection and allied fields,

(e) to encourage, assist, support, join, associate with, participate in or be represented in other societies, associations or organisations having any activities or objects relevant to any of the objects of the Society,

(f) to receive monies, gifts, subscriptions and other income, to obtain and use loans or financial guarantees, to invest monies and funds in premises, lands and mortgages in lands and in any way allowable by law, and in particular the Charities Acts, to Trustees, to establish and manage trusts and funds, to provide prizes and grants and to manage, use, loan and disburse monies, property, funds and other assets, for the promotion, support and advancement of any of the objects of the Society, and

(g) to do any such other lawful things and undertake any such other lawful activities as may be proper and expedient or conducive to promoting and advancing any of the objects of the Society."

We set out to achieve our objects in a number of ways through:

holding high quality and topical scientific meetings, seminars and workshops;

publishing an internationally recognised journal, a members' newsletter and various leaflets;

providing an extensive website, including educational material, and an email discussion group devoted to radiation protection;

operating a professional development scheme and taking a leading role in the development of NVQs in radiation protection and in the radiation protection adviser certification process;

responding to relevant Government consultation documents and providing assistance to Government Departments by organising meetings;

being the UK Associate Society to the International Radiation Protection Association;

linking with other societies with an interest in radiation protection, both in the UK (Partner Societies) and abroad;

providing grants and awards to support the career development of radiation protection students and professionals and to recognise achievement in radiation protection; and

continually reviewing our objectives and strategies in the light of developments and experience.

We have adopted a code of professional conduct for our members.

These activities are described in more detail in sections (e), (f) and (g).

### **(c) Membership, management and finance**

#### **Membership**

The number of members of the Society stood at 1841 at 23 July 2002. The Society is the second largest radiation protection society in the world, exceeded in size only by the US Health Physics Society.

We estimate that our membership includes some 75% of the eligible field.

The Society does not match the Privy Council Office's criterion for size (ie "normally --- 5000 members or more"). We could not do so because the eligible field for membership is about half that figure.

#### *The increasing size of membership*

Membership, excluding International Members nominated by a Partner Society, during the period 1992 to 2001 showed an annual rate of increase of 2.5 per cent. The category of membership International Member was introduced during this period.

#### *Membership by grade*

The breakdown of members by grade is set out in table 1.

**Table 1.** Membership by grade as at 23 July 2002

Category of membership	Number	Full Members
Honorary Fellows	16	16
Fellows	50	50
Members	1019	1019
Graduate Members	62	-
Associates	89	-
Student Associates	20	-
International Members nominated by a Partner Society	556	-
Affiliate Members	29	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1085</b>

*International Members nominated by a Partner Society*

Partner Societies nominate individuals from their members who thereby become International Members of the Society and members of the International Radiation Protection Association. Partner Societies are those with some or all members that have an interest in the International Radiation Protection Association that have entered into an agreement with the Society. They are: Association of University Radiation Protection Officers, British Institute of Radiology, British Nuclear Medicine Society, Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, Institute of Radiation Protection, Royal College of Radiologists, College of Radiographers.

**Management organisation**

The executive and governing body of the Society is a Council. This comprises no more than 25 persons of whom no more than five may be persons who are not eligible to be Full Members of the Society. The Council always includes the following, as eligible Full Members of the Society:

- The President;
- The President-Elect;
- The most recent available Past President;
- The Secretary;
- The Treasurer;
- At least six elective Council members.

The Council is not only the representative and executive body of the Society, it is also its judicial body. Voting members of the Council are the Trustees of the Society in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Acts.

The Council is responsible for defining the management arrangements of the Society. Specifically, the Council appoints, and provides terms of reference for, any necessary

committees, panels, representatives, delegations or other subsidiary bodies. Unless otherwise determined, the President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer are entitled to attend and vote in all committees and panels. The Council, subject to any provisions of the Regulations of the Society, normally appoints the Chairman of each committee, panel and delegation and normally determine how long committees, panels and delegations shall exist, their rules, for what periods their members shall serve, and how and when they shall report. Committees and panels, unless otherwise directed by the Council, as well as the Council may similarly set up sub-committees, sub-panels and working parties.

Currently, all committees, boards and groups are established directly by Council and report to Council either directly or through the Secretary. These existing bodies comprise the following.

*Committees and boards*

Awards Committee

Communications Committee

Electoral Committee

Finance Committee

International Committee

Journal Board

Membership Committee

Rules Committee

Qualifications and Professional Standards Committee

Events Committee

Strategic Planning Committee

*Sectorial committees*

Radiation Protection in Medicine

Radiation Protection in Research and Teaching

Radiation Protection in the Nuclear Industry

Radiation Protection in Non-Nuclear Industries

*Topic groups*

Practical Radiation Protection

Regulations, Legislation and Standards

*Regional groups*

Scotland

North West England

South West England

Terms of reference for the committees and board are given in a schedule to the Rules of the Society.

Administrative support to the Society is provided by a professional organisation, Tessa Berry Associates.

The role of the topic groups is to arrange meetings and workshops, and to gather and disseminate information relating to their specific areas of interest. The main role of the regional groups is to arrange meetings and workshops for members within their geographical areas. The roles of the various committees and board are indicated by their titles and are set out more fully in other sections of this document.

The Society had a principal role in the setting up of an organisation for certification of radiation protection advisers in the UK called RPA 2000. RPA 2000 is constituted as a separate company limited by guarantee and, therefore, stands outside the above arrangements.

## Finance

The Society has conformed to the requirements of charity law since it became registered as a charity on 23 January 1973. The Society's financial position and financial management strategy are set out in the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2001 (<http://www.srp-uk.org/trustees01.doc>). The position for the last four accounting years is summarised in table 2.

**Table 2.** Summary of the Society's financial position for the last four accounting years.

Year	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Net movement in funds <sup>1</sup> £	Balances c/f at 31 December £
1998	106,093	119,236	(6,328)	159,742
1999	239,629	201,656	41,253	200,995
2000	129,438	137,384	(4,577)	196,418
2001	149,189	166,264	(22,473)	173,945

We held an international symposium in 1999 which resulted in a (planned) injection of funds.

The Society's financial management strategy for 2001 was as follows:

1. Subscriptions: Subscriptions shall be set to cover the budgeted costs of the Society less other net income and interest accruing.
2. Investments: The Society shall hold investments equivalent to at least one year's management and administration expenses and the potential deficit in the event of an unsuccessful international symposium.
3. Scientific meetings: In general, the principal scientific meetings shall be self-financing. Smaller more focused workshops etc. could be run at a loss.
4. Journal: It is expected that the Journal is to be self-financing.
5. Advertising: Must never run at a loss, and should generally supplement the Society's income.

<sup>1</sup> Including other recognised gains and losses on investment assets

6. Financial neutrality: Over the course of a cycle (defined as the period between profit-generating international symposia), the target is to achieve financial neutrality, that is, net expenditure shall equal the cash injection received from each symposium. The expenditure shall be on items prioritised by Council who shall also determine the annual expenditure over the cycle.

The budget for 2003 is £167,100 as set out in the Treasurer's Report for 2001 (<http://www.srp-uk.org/treasurer01.doc>).

#### **(d) Qualifications for membership**

##### **Qualifications of Full Members**

As at 23 July 2002, 87% of the Full Members were qualified to at least first degree level in a relevant discipline, 51% to at least MSc level and 22% to PhD level.

##### **Qualifications required for membership of the various grades**

The academic and other qualifications required for membership of the various grades, as set out in the Society's rules (<http://www.srp-uk.org/rules.pdf>), are given below.

##### *Summary*

The qualifications required for membership are summarised in table 3.

**Table 3.** Summary of the qualifications required for membership of the various grades

Class of membership		Summary of qualifications required
	Honorary Fellows	of high distinction, or has rendered distinguished service
Full Members	Fellows	appreciable professional responsibility for 10 years
	Members	a degree in science or engineering and four years' professional experience including radiological protection, or a mature candidate
Graduate Members		a degree in science or engineering and one year's experience in radiological protection
Associates		sufficient technical knowledge to benefit from participation in the Society's activities
Student Associates		studying medicine, science or technology
International Members		eligible for membership of IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association)
Affiliate Members		an organisation having interests in radiological protection

##### *(A) Honorary Fellows*

Honorary Fellows shall be chosen from persons of high distinction in public life or in their chosen professions or vocations, or from persons who have rendered distinguished service to radiological protection or allied fields or to the Society for Radiological Protection or to associations or organisations with which the Society is, or has been, connected.

*(B) Fellows*

A Fellow, if he or she is to be admitted as such, must have the following qualifications:

- (i) have been a Member, under subscription, for a period of at least five years, and
- (ii) have held a position of appreciable professional responsibility in radiological protection normally for a period of at least ten years. Such a position is broadly equivalent in responsibility and experience to the posts of: Unified Grade 7 in the Civil Service, Principal Scientific Officer, Principal Physicist, Senior University Lecturer, Principal Engineer, or any post above these levels.

*(C) Members*

The basic requirements for admission as a Member are defined by the following seven key attributes:

- (i) have reached or passed his or her twenty fifth birthday,
- (ii) basic scientific understanding, including a knowledge of scientific method,
- (iii) numeracy,
- (iv) knowledge of basic radiation physics, biological interactions of radiation and radiation protection philosophy,
- (v) satisfactory knowledge of the relevant regulatory framework for radiological protection,
- (vi) ability to communicate scientific knowledge in a written report or paper,
- (vii) at least four years' recent experience in a field with a significant radiological protection content involving the application of professional judgement or interpretation of varied and non-routine radiological data.

There are two possible routes to admission as a Member as follows.

*Route 1. Graduate professional*

An individual who has a pass-level degree in science or engineering or other graduate or post-graduate standard or a nationally recognised qualification, of a standard recognised by the Council, together with at least four years' professional experience which includes a demonstrated systematic knowledge of radiological protection for example by means of a record of training and experience.

*Route 2. Mature candidate*

An individual who:

- (a) normally has a minimum age 35,
- (b) normally has at least 15 years' experience in a field which involves significant radiological protection content, of which at least 7 years must be directly involved in essentially full time radiological protection work, 4 years of which must be at professional level,
- (c) has demonstrated a systematic acquisition of knowledge of radiological protection,
- (d) has submitted a technical report or professional diary,
- (e) has been interviewed where necessary by the Membership Committee.

The age and experience as at (a) and (b), above may be reduced to take account of a candidate's existing academic and professional qualifications, subject to the Council's satisfaction that the candidate complies with the basic requirements for admission as defined.

*(D) Graduate Members*

A Graduate, if he or she is to be admitted as such, may be an individual who:

- (i) is not qualified for admission as a Full Member of the Society,
- (ii) fulfils the requirements of regulation 11, namely that a Graduate Member may be admitted provided that he or she has a science or engineering degree or other graduate or post-graduate standard or a nationally recognised qualification, of a standard recognised by the Council, together with at least one year's experience in radiological protection not necessarily at a fully professional level.
- (iii) shall have satisfied the Membership Committee that his or her admission is conducive to the objects, interest and character of the Society.

*(E) Associates*

An Associate, if he or she is to be admitted as such, may be an individual who:

- (i) is not qualified, or accepted, for admission as a Member of the Society,
- (ii) fulfils the requirements of regulation 13<sup>2</sup>,
- (iii) shall have satisfied the Membership Committee that his or her admission is conducive to the objects, interests and character of the Society.

*(F) Student Associates*

A Student Associate, if he or she is to be admitted as such, shall be an individual who satisfies the requirements of regulation 13 (footnote 2) and of bylaw 5.5 (which is the section *Associates* above) and shall be engaged to the satisfaction of the Membership Committee in full-time or sandwich course studies, approved by the Membership Committee, in medicine, science, technology, or other subjects related to radiological protection and allied fields, leading to a graduate or graduate equivalent qualification. Other full-time studies, full-time professional or vocational training following qualification, or a period of full-time post-graduate study, of national service, of voluntary overseas service or of voluntary social service may, at the discretion of the Committee, be accepted as a full-time student activity. The Committee shall be provided by the applicant with a statement confirming his or her student status and a letter of recommendation, containing the information required by bylaw 6.1, and both signed by the applicant's tutor, teaching department head or other supervisor.

*(G) International Members*

International Members are either nominated members of Partner Societies or consenting members of the Society and must be eligible for membership of IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association).

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation 13. Associate Members. This category of membership is open to those who are engaged in, have an interest in or are studying radiological protection, or those whose admission would be of value or otherwise desirable to the Society in promoting or advancing any of its objectives and activities. Applicants should have sufficient technical knowledge to be able to benefit from participation in the Society's activities. Associate Members who are full time students shall be admitted as Student Associates.

#### *(H) Affiliate Members*

An Affiliate Member may be a corporation, association or other organisation engaged in, or having interests in, radiological protection or allied fields. Admission as an Affiliate Member shall be in the interests of the Society and of its character and public image.

### **(e) The Society's achievements**

#### **Scientific meetings, workshops, seminars**

The Society organises scientific meetings, workshops and seminars. Normally we organise four scientific meetings a year at least one of which is outside London. In addition we run smaller workshops and seminars from time to time. Details of those for those since April 1999 are as follows:

- 1999 Five one-day seminars (Health and Safety Executive/Society 'roadshows')  
The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) Health and Safety Commission Consultative Document, Bristol, London, Glasgow, Preston, Llandudno  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventrep.html>
- One-day scientific meeting and half-day tour  
Non-ionising Radiation - Optical Hazards, Loughborough
- One-day scientific meeting  
Impact of New Legislation on Radiation Protection, London
- Five one-day seminars on the implementation of the new Ionising Radiations Regulations, Chilton, Oxfordshire, Glasgow, Manchester, London, Cardiff
- 2000 One-day scientific meeting  
Land Remediation—Liabilities and Practicalities, London
- Two-day scientific meeting, exhibition and Annual General Meeting  
Measurements and Metrology—Theory and Practice, Cambridge
- One-day scientific meeting and half-day tour  
Surface and Airborne Radioactive Contamination, Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston
- One-day scientific meeting  
Dosimetry, Biology and Risks, London
- 2001 One-day scientific meeting  
The Radioactive Substances Act & Exemption Orders, London
- One-day workshop arranged on behalf of RPA 2000  
Radiation Protection Adviser Certification Workshop, London
- Three-day scientific meeting, exhibition and Annual General Meeting  
Health Physics Instrumentation and Analytical Techniques, Edinburgh
- One-day scientific meeting & half-day tour  
Social & Political Implications of Communicating Risk, Daresbury Laboratory, Warrington  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventjun01.html>

One-day scientific meeting & exhibition  
Recent Legislation: Achievements and Future Challenges, London  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventoct01.html>

2002 One-day scientific meeting  
Depleted Uranium, London  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventjan02.html>

Five one-day seminars (Health and Safety Executive /Society 'roadshows')  
The Implementation of REPPiR, Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public  
Information) Regulations, Bristol, London, Glasgow, Preston, Llandudno  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/reppir2a.pdf>

Two-day scientific meeting, exhibition and Annual General Meeting  
The Changing Role of the Radiation Protection Professional, Cardiff  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventapr02.html>

One-day scientific meeting & half-day tour  
Radio Wave Exposures—A Cause for Concern? BAE Systems, Preston  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventjun02.html>

One-day scientific meeting  
Internal Dosimetry, London  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventoct02.html>

#### *Co-sponsorship*

The Society co-sponsors meetings with other bodies, for example:

2000 Radiochemistry and Radiological Protection, London, with the Royal Society of  
Chemistry

2002 The UK Radiological Congress (UKRC), a joint congress between, the British  
Institute of Radiology, the College of Radiographers, the Institute of Physics and  
Engineering in Medicine and the Royal College of Radiologists, the most recent being  
the UK Radiological Congress 2002, Birmingham  
Web: <http://www.ukrc.org.uk/>

#### **International symposia**

The Society has organised six international symposia on radiation protection. They are:

1966 1st International Symposium, Bournemouth,  
Radiological Protection of the Worker by Design and Control of his Environment

1974 2nd International Symposium, Aviemore,  
Radiation Protection—Philosophy and Implementation

1982 Six-day 3rd International Symposium, Inverness,  
Radiological Protection—Advances in Theory and Practice

1989 Six-day 4th International Symposium, Malvern,  
Radiation Protection—Theory and Practice

1994 Five-day 5th International Symposium and 17th IRPA (International Radiation  
Protection Association) Regional Congress, Portsmouth,  
Radiological Protection

- 1999 Five-day 6th International Symposium, Southport, Achievements & Challenges: Advancing Radiation Protection into the 21st Century Programme: <http://www.srp-uk.org/servsouth.html>, proceedings: <http://www.srp-uk.org/srpdrom/contents.html>

#### *Co-sponsorship*

The Society co-sponsors international symposia with other bodies, for example:

- 2001 Three-day International Conference on Radiation Dose Management in the Nuclear Industry, Windermere, with British Nuclear Energy Society
- 2002 Three-day 4th International Conference on Health Effects of Low-Level Radiation - Oxford, with British Nuclear Energy Society  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventsep02bnes.pdf>
- Four-day European International Radiation Protection Association Congress 2002: Towards an harmonisation of radiation protection in Europe, Florence, with the Italian Society for Radiation Protection  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/members/irpaeur2002.pdf>
- Five-day 20th L H Gray Conference Radiation Cancer Analysis and Low Dose Risk Assessment: New Developments and Perspectives (Ede, the Netherlands)
- 2003 Four-day Radiation Protection Symposium of the North West European Radiation Protection Societies, Utrecht, with the Netherlands Society of Radiological Protection  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/eventutrecht2003.html>

#### **Publications**

The publications of the Society include:

*Journal of Radiological Protection* a well-respected refereed journal, which has an international editorial board and international contributors, covering all aspects of radiological protection, published quarterly, in print and online, for the Society by Institute of Physics Publishing. The Journal publishes articles on all aspects of radiological protection, including non-ionising as well as ionising radiation. Fields of interest range from research, development and theory to operational matters, education and training. The very wide spectrum of its topics includes: dosimetry, instrument development, specialised measuring techniques, epidemiology, biological effects and risk and environmental impact assessments. Articles are classified as: paper, review, note, practical matter article, opinion article, memorandum and letter to the editor. The Journal also contains news and information including meeting reports, reviews of books, reports and software and meeting notices. See <http://www.iop.org/EJ/S/UNREG/journal/0952-4746>.

*Special issue of Journal of Radiological Protection: Proceedings of the 20th L H Gray Conference Radiation Cancer Analysis and Low Dose Risk Assessment: New Developments and Perspectives (17-21 February 2002, Ede, the Netherlands)*

*Website* <http://www.srp-uk.org> a mine of information having extensive links to other related sites. One section of the site is open to all while the other is for members only. Table 4 shows the site map.

*Bibliography of Radiation Protection Legislation, Regulations and Standards* online at <http://www.srp-uk.org/servbiblio.html>

*SRP Newsletter* published three times a year for members, in print and online.

*Occupational Health and Safety Practice: Radiation Protection Routes Levels 2, 3 and 4 (NVQ 3043/4) Incorporating: Guidance notes for assessors and candidates Underpinning knowledge questions Guidance on answers Additional guidance on practical work.* This publication was completed for (sic) the Qualifications and Professional Standards Committee of the Society (who are the sole authors) as an aid to assessors and candidates involved in achieving the National Vocational Qualification in Occupational Health and Safety through the Radiation Protection Practice route. This document is published on their behalf by the City & Guilds of London Institute. The document may also be accessed on the Society's website at <http://www.srp-uk.org> Issued: May 2000. (This publication is not the NVQ standard itself.)

*Continuing Professional Development.* A set of procedures and forms in a folder to provide a record of CPD in radiological protection. Available from the SRP administrative office. Also online at <http://www.srp-uk.org/cpdrecord.doc>

*A Career in Radiation Protection (leaflet)* in print and online.  
<http://www.srp-uk.org/servcare.html>.

*RPA 2000 - The Certification of Competence in Radiation Protection Practice - Protocol.* The procedures contained in this document were written by the Society. Online at <http://www.srp-uk.org/rpa2000/protocol.pdf>

*Report RPA Certification Workshop*, London, 1 March 2001, a report on a workshop arranged by the Society for Radiological Protection on behalf of RPA 2000. It contains the visual aids used by the presenters, a paper circulated to those attending and a summary of the ensuing discussion. Online at <http://www.srp-uk.org/rpawshop.pdf>

*Email discussion list archive* at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srp-uk>.

**Table 4.** A site map for the website (<http://www.srp-uk.org>)

**HOME PAGE**

RPA 2000

IRPA ethics forum

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Chartered Status

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Risk from Internal Emitters)

NHS - Making the Change: A Strategy for the

Professions in Healthcare Science

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Bibliography of Radiation Protection Legislation,

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NVQ in Radiation Protection

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Support - Bursaries, Educational, Career Break,

Under 35, Ad hoc, Prizes, Overseas

SRP Recruitment Service

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Radiation Protection Advisors inc report on RPA

Certification Workshop, 1 Mar 2001

Consultation Documents

New Legislation

Southport '99: 6th International Symposium

Report, Review, Proceedings, Pictures

ICRP Activities & Progress

Depleted uranium

NRPB report - ELF Electromagnetic Fields and

the Risk of Cancer - Sir Richard Doll

Criticality accident at Tokaimura Japan on 30

September 1999

Pictures from - Cardiff 2002, Edinburgh 2001,

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## **Responses to consultations**

The Society is consulted on a regular basis by Government Departments and leading scientific or technical organisations for our views on new legislation, good practice guides and health and safety issues in the radiation protection and allied fields. Over the last three years we have provided responses on the following topics:

A New Duty to Investigate Accidents - Health and Safety Executive Discussion Document; February 1999

Consultation by the International Commission on Radiological Protection on control of low-level radiation exposure, Roger Clarke, Journal of Radiological Protection, Vol 19 No 2 June 1999

Revision of Arrangements under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Consultation Paper; June 1999

Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Modifications) Regulations and the Amendment of the Health and Safety at Work Approved Code of Practice - Health and Safety Commission Consultative Document; June 1999

Proposals for the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations - Health and Safety Commission Consultative Document; June 1999

The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations 1999 - Department of Health Consultative Document; June 1999

Proposal for Revised Radiation Pass Book - Health and Safety Executive Consultative Paper; July 1999

RSA3 form: Application for Authorisation to Accumulate and Dispose of Radioactive Waste under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 - Environment Agency Consultation; August 1999

Consultation on the Implementation of Article 42 of EC Directive 96/29 Euratom - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Aviation Group; August 1999

Revitalising Health and Safety - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Consultative Document; September 1999

Proposals for Draft Guidance on Outside Workers - Health and Safety Executive Guidance; October 1999

Employee Consultation and Involvement in Health and Safety - Health and Safety Executive Discussion Document; February 2000

The Radioactive Substances (Basic Safety Standards)(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 and The Radioactive Substances (Basic Safety Standards)(England and Wales) Direction 2000 - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Consultative Document; March 2000

UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges 2001-2020 - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Consultative Document; July 2000

Good Practice Guide - IPEM Medical and Dental Guidance Notes for Ionising Radiations Regulations; September 2000

Regulating Higher Hazards; Exploring the Issues - Health and Safety Executive Discussion Document; November 2000

Discharges of Radioactive Waste to the Environment; Principles for the Assessment of Public Doses - Environment Agency Consultative Document; February 2001

Selection, use and maintenance of portable monitoring instruments - Health and Safety Executive information sheet; Ionising Radiation Protection Series No 7, April 2001

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs consultation document "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" 12 September 2001

European Commission's Proposal to Introduce Legislation Controlling Radioactivity in Foodstuffs - Food Standards Agency Consultative Document; September 2001

Proposals for Packaging, Labelling and Carriage of Radioactive Materials by Rail Regulations 200- - Health and Safety Executive Consultative Document; October 2001

Pulsed Field Statement - International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Consultative Document; December 2001

Measurement Good Practice Guide - National Physical Laboratory; December 2001

Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 - Guidance on Portable Nuclear Moisture/Density Gauges in the Construction Industry; February 2002

Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 - Guidance on Appropriate Designation of "Classified Workers"; February 2002

Consultation on new Health Protection Agency: Amending the Radiological Protection Act 1970, the National Health Service Act 1977 and other legislation to create a health protection agency, Department of Health, 2002

### **Email discussion list**

The Society's email discussion list *Radiation protection in the UK* (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srp-uk>) completed its first year of operation in October 2001 with a membership of 520 and 487 postings. The list provides a new forum for communication between radiation protection professionals. Anyone may join the list. Posted messages are distributed directly to the list, giving speed of response and spontaneity. They are archived as web pages. Postings have covered a wide variety of topics. They have included announcements of meetings, events, new publications and new equipment, news, discussion, requests for information and advice, replies, and offers of surplus equipment. The Health and Safety Executive took account of discussion on the list in the review of its statement on radiation protection advisers.

The breakdown of membership by domain of email address shows a broad membership from the education, government, industry, medicine and research sectors. Some 84% of the list members are based in the UK, assuming that the non-national domains contain the same proportion of UK members as the other domains. Of the UK domains, the academic contains the largest number of members, followed by the National Health Service and 'companies'. It is evident that the provision of the list supports the primary function for which the Society is constituted, to promote and advance radiation protection. The list is administered by members of the Society.

## **Code of conduct**

The Code of Conduct (<http://www.srp-uk.org/aboutconduct.html>) drafted by the Society applies to members of the Society at all grades whenever they are exercising their professional expertise. The code has been supplied to the International Radiation Protection Association as an example that other societies may wish to follow.

## **Professional development scheme**

The Society's Continuing Professional Development Scheme (<http://www.srp-uk.org/servcpd.html>) was established in 1997. It is open to members and non-members. Its aim is to help people in the radiation protection profession to recognise and record their personal professional growth and demonstrably maintain their competence. It can be used as a personal aid to planning an individual's future professional development, as a guide to employers on maintaining a professional radiation protection service, and as a tool for obtaining re-certification as a radiation protection adviser under the Regulations. The scheme requires participants to earn points for activities they carry out which develop them professionally. Participation in the scheme is voluntary. As at 30 September 2002 there were 306 registered participants.

## **Certification of radiation protection advisers**

Legislation<sup>3</sup> lays down matters in respect of which an employer must consult a radiation protection adviser. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) specifies criteria of competence for such advisers in *HSE statement on radiation protection advisers* (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/hthdir/noframes/state.htm>). RPA 2000 is a limited company, set up by the Society in conjunction with collaborating societies, recognised by the Health and Safety Executive to undertake the task of assessing individuals who wish to be radiation protection advisers and providing certification. RPA 2000 is the only organisation that currently offers this service to all individuals practising in the United Kingdom.

## **Certification in specialist areas**

RPA 2000 also examines the competence of those practising and/or advising on radiation protection in specialist topic areas of ionising radiation control (for example personal monitoring, environmental control, instrument testing, etc.) and the use of non-ionising radiation (for example lasers, ultrasound, etc.). In such situations, a separate certificate is issued specifying that particular specialisation.

## **Award schemes**

The Society finances and advises suitable UK and overseas candidates in their development within the radiological protection field under the following schemes:

*The Bursary Award Scheme.* The Society offers two bursaries each year to students wishing to undertake MSc level studies at a British university. These studies should include a substantial component relating to protection (occupational and/or environmental) from ionising or non-ionising radiations and lead to a degree of MSc or equivalent, preparatory to a career in radiation protection or a closely related area of work. The bursaries are:

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<sup>3</sup> The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (<http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si1999/19993232.htm>)

*the SRP Scholarship* which covers the full course fees plus a grant towards living expenses (£5,500 outside London, £7,000 for London); and

*the SRP Studentship* which covers the full course fees plus a sum of £500 which is intended for purchase of books and other study materials.

The Society appoints a mentor to help, advise and encourage each bursary holder.

*The Educational Support Scheme* to encourage individuals from the UK and overseas to enhance their capabilities and realise their full potential in the field of radiation protection.

*The Career Break Scheme* - members only - to assist members returning to work after a career break.

*The "free places for under 35's" scheme* at scientific meetings and conferences etc.

*Ad hoc applications by individuals*, normally for one off funding for attendance at Society or other radiological protection events.

*The Jack Martin Prize* for excellence in MSc and PhD theses, or in the presentation of information at the Society's international symposium, of value £1000. The award is generally made biennially.

*The overseas standards support scheme* for aiding participation of appointed UK expert representatives in the development and formulation of European and international standards and guidance.

#### **(f) The Society's educational role**

The Society's contribution to the education of our members and of non-members includes our:

- scientific seminars
- workshops (often in conjunction with other organisations, for example Government Departments/Agencies in relation to proposed developments)
- regional meetings
- international symposia
- email discussion group
- the *Journal of Radiological Protection* (which has an international Editorial Board and international contributors)
- working groups (for example Regulations, Legislation and Standards) which develop sources of information (for example bibliography of radiation protection legislation, regulations and standards and speaking notes and a presentation for the use of members who give talks to the public and schools)
- Continuing Professional Development Scheme
- support, particularly financial and mentoring, in development within the radiological protection field (Bursary Award Scheme, Educational Support Scheme, Career Break Scheme (members only), free places for under-35s at scientific meetings and conferences, ad hoc applications from individuals, and special awards or prizes)
- significant contribution to development of revised S/NVQ (Scottish or National Vocational Qualifications) in radiation protection practice (for example, we developed draft National Vocational Qualifications standards in radiation protection in 1996, which were accredited by the National Council for Vocational Qualifications on 7 April 1997)
- careers leaflet

Our meetings etc are open to both members and non-members and reduced fees are available for students and unemployed people. There is a reduced membership subscription fee for students. Members are eligible for discounts on some external publications and events.

Much of the information is on our website (<http://www.srp-uk.org>). Relevant items include:

- information on our own and other events (meetings, conferences etc)
- FAQs about radiation and radioactivity and the opportunity to ask a question (and be given an answer)
- summaries of articles in *Journal of Radiological Protection*
- information on the Continuing Professional Development Scheme
- the bibliography of legislation, regulations and standards
- links to many other relevant websites, including alerts to significant developments such as proposals from Government and others, and
- information on the financial and advisory support offered, for example bursaries etc (as above)

## **(g) The Society's dealings with Government and international links**

### **Dealings with Government**

The Society has frequent contact with Government Departments on relevant issues. Contact takes a number of forms. Most often in the recent past, it has taken the form of requests by Government Departments for comment on consultation documents concerning forthcoming legislation or regulation. Recent examples of importance have been: from the Health and Safety Executive on the draft Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999; from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (now the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) on exemption orders to be issued under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993; and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs consultation document "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely". To provide responses to consultation documents such as these the Society usually convenes groups of appropriate members, and the responses are approved by Council prior to submission to Government Departments.

The Society worked with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to produce revised national occupational standards in radiation protection. The standards are for practitioners, radiation protection workers and regulators. The new standards are the benchmarks of good practice, capturing the skills and knowledge needed to perform activities to a nationally agreed standard. HSE has recognised these standards and the S/NVQs based on them as an appropriate qualification for radiation protection advisers under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999. The Society had a very considerable influence on the development of the revised standards. We believe that we were the primary if not the sole consultee on these standards. The standards are contained in *Health and Safety Standards* by the Employment National Training Organisation 2002, available on CDROM. We also had a significant input into the previous NVQs from about 1995, and created the idea of three levels of knowledge, which were adopted completely into *HSE statement on radiation protection advisers* (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/hthdir/noframes/state.htm>).

<http://www.empnto.co.uk/>

In addition to responses to consultation, we collaborate with Government in providing information on new legislation/regulation for both our members and non-members. For

example, we worked closely with the Health and Safety Executive and Department of Health in promulgating the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 and Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000, facilitating a number of workshops held at regional venues. At these workshops the Health and Safety Executive and Department of Health were able to explain the new Regulations to radiation protection professionals and, in return, obtain informed comment.

We liaised with Government in furthering the proposals in the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 in connection with professional qualifications and the introduction of certification for radiation protection advisers. The Health and Safety Executive requires to recognise assessing bodies for those who wish to be radiation protection advisers, and liaised with us on the way this should operate. Subsequently, we were instrumental in setting up a limited company (called RPA 2000) for the purpose of certifying prospective radiation protection advisers. We provide the administrative base for RPA 2000.

We are also consulted by Government Departments on appointments to specialist committees. Recently, examples have been requests from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for members of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee and the radioactivity Small Users Liaison Groups in England/Wales and in Scotland.

A list of our contacts with Government Departments and Agencies is given in table 5. Radiological protection is a broad interdisciplinary topic, such that there is no single Department with main policy interest. However, our most frequent contacts are with the Health and Safety Executive (in relation to protection of the workforce), the Department of Health (in relation to medical radiation protection) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (in relation to protection of the public from radiation in the environment and of the environment itself).

**Table 5:** Contacts between the Society and Government Departments and Agencies

Government Department/Agency	Main policy interest	Main official contact for the Society
Health and Safety Executive	Radiation protection of the workforce	Mrs Wendy Bines OBE FSRP Head of Ionising Radiation Policy Unit Rose Court 2 Southwark Bridge London SE1 9HS wendy.bines@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Department of Health <sup>4</sup>	Radiation protection in medicine	Mr Steve Ebdon-Jackson DH Wellington House 135 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG. steve.ebdon-jackson@doh.gsi.gov.uk

<sup>4</sup> Affiliate Member

	Radiation protection of the public	Dr Hilary Walker DH Skipton House 80 London Road London SE1 6LW hilary.walker@doh.gsi.gov.uk
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Radioactivity in the environment	Mr Richard Wood Head of Radioactive Substances Division Ashdown House 123 Victoria Street London SW1E 6DE richard.wood@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Environment Agency	Agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for regulation of radioactivity in the environment	Dr. Joe McHugh MSRP Head of Radioactive Substances Division Rio House Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4UD j.mchugh@environment-agency.gov.uk
Scottish Executive	Environmental radiation protection in Scotland	Ms Elizabeth Gray Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department Area 1-J(N) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ elizabeth.gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Agency of the Scottish Assembly, parallel responsibilities in Scotland to those of EA in England/Wales	Mrs. Julie Tooley MSRP SEPA Erskine Court Castle Business Park Stirling FK9 4TR julie.tooley@sepa.org.uk
Department of Trade and Industry	Industrial uses of radioactivity including (particularly) power generation	Ms Nancy Lawton MSRP DTI Nuclear Industries Directorate 1 Room 159 1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET nancy.lawton@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Ministry of Defence	Radioactivity and nuclear power in defence systems	Mr Fred Dawson MSRP Head of Health Physics Directorate of Defence Health and Safety Policy <sup>5</sup> Room 213 St Giles Court St Giles High Street London WC2H 8LD dsefpol-hdhp@defence.mod.uk
Department of Transport	Transport of radioactive materials	Mr Clive Young Transport Radiological Adviser Radioactive Materials Transport Division, Zone 2/33 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR clive.young@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Food Standards Agency	Protection of food	Dr Richard Burt Head of Radiological Protection and Research Requirement Division Aviation House 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6NH richard.burt@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Welsh Assembly Government	Environmental radiation protection in Wales	Dr Havard Prosser Environmental Science Advisor Welsh Assembly Government Room 109 Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3 NQ havard.prosser@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Health and Safety Executive (Northern Ireland)	Occupational radiation protection in Northern Ireland	Mr. Rowland Jones, HSE (NI) 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast BT6 9FJ rowland.jones@detini.gov.uk

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<sup>5</sup> Affiliate Member

Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)	Environmental radiation protection in Northern Ireland	Mr. Ken Ledgerwood MSRP EHS(NI) Calvert House 23 Castle Place Belfast BT1 1FY ken.ledgerwood@doeni.gov.uk
National Radiological Protection Board	Centre of advice on radiation protection	Prof. Roger Clarke FSRP Director, National Radiological Protection Board Chilton Didcot Oxon OX11 0RQ roger.clarke@nrpb.org.uk

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## International links

### *International Radiation Protection Association*

The principal body for radiation protection professionals internationally is the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) (<http://www.irpa.net/>). National societies of radiation protection professionals are designated as IRPA Associate Societies. The rules of IRPA permit only one Associate Society per country and we are the UK Associate Society. The definition of our Partner Societies and the provision of our International Committee allows other individuals and groups with an interest in radiation protection to participate in the activities of IRPA.

IRPA provides a forum whereby international contacts and co-operation are facilitated in the on-going work of ensuring the protection of human health and the environment from the hazards associated with ionising and non-ionising radiations, thereby facilitating the exploitation of radiation and nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind.

We contribute to the work of IRPA through annual subscriptions and support for our Members who undertake IRPA activities, whether as members of the IRPA Executive or in organising and scientific programme committees for IRPA international and regional congresses. We also support specific initiatives of IRPA. For example, we have developed, and administer on behalf of IRPA, the 'IRPA Ethics Forum' (<http://www.srp-uk.org/irpaethics/index.html>), an internet forum for members of IRPA. The purpose of this forum is to review all relevant existing codes of ethics and to develop a set of principles that could be adapted by individual IRPA Associate Societies for their specific requirements.

In addition to the above, we fund attendance at IRPA Congresses. Such funding covers both delegates from the UK and delegates from overseas, particularly from countries where funding is limited for such activities. Such countries may either have existing IRPA Associate Societies or have a local society that aspires eventually to become an IRPA Associate.

### *Other*

However, our international activities are not limited to those undertaken in support of IRPA. We provide financial support for our members and other suitably qualified individuals to attend meetings at which international standards relevant to radiation protection are debated and defined. For this, we have recently made awards to attend International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) committees. Also, we enter into bilateral arrangements with overseas

societies as appropriate. Thus, for example, we provided financial support to the South African Society for organisation of its Congress, and we are making arrangements to provide copies of the *Journal of Radiological Protection* free to radiation protection professionals in Argentina.

We nominated two individuals to give papers at Congresses of the Romanian Society.

We regularly donate copies of every new issue of *Journal of Radiological Protection* to about 85 libraries on the Developing Countries Library Programme.

### **(h) The extent to which the Society is pre-eminent in its field of radiation protection**

The Society's main field of activity is radiation protection. Radiation protection professionals come from a wide range of backgrounds. This reflects (i) the diversity of uses of ionising and non-ionising radiations; (ii) the ubiquity of natural sources of such radiations; (iii) long-term research interests in the physical interactions and biological effects of such radiations, and (iv) public concerns over the potential impacts of such radiations on human health and the environment. In addition, there will be circumstances in which radiation protection is an important, but secondary, component of an individual's professional activities. In such circumstances, it would be unreasonable to expect that all individuals with a professional interest in radiation protection would be associated with a single society. Nevertheless, we include within our membership a substantial proportion of all UK professionals whose work includes a large component of radiation protection. For those professions where radiation protection is an important part of an essential parent discipline, we provide facilities through the Partner Society arrangement (see section (c)) for involvement in international activities and other liaison relating to radiation protection.

The wide field of radiation protection involves a continuing exchange of views and information on all aspects of the subject (including fundamental radiobiology, epidemiology and dosimetry, as well as the more applied aspects of operational and environmental protection and the associated legislative and regulatory framework and public relations). For the last forty years, we have provided the main UK forum in which such an exchange of views and information can take place. The International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) has designated us as the UK Associate Society. Our membership reflects this diversity of interests. This diversity is demonstrated in many ways including the range and variety of our meetings, our interactions with other organisations which include those outside the Partner Society arrangements, for example the Royal Society of Chemistry and the British Nuclear Energy Society, and in the applicability of our Continuing Professional Development Scheme. This last is structured to ensure that an individual's continuing professional development can be recognised irrespective of the specific area of radiation protection with which they are involved.

The extent to which the Society is pre-eminent in its field of radiation protection, and in what respects, is illustrated by the following:

*Recognised by IRPA as the UK Associate Society*

As described above and in section (c)

*Recognised by Government Departments as the only professional body that will always be consulted on proposals covering the whole range of radiation protection issues*

As described in sections (e) and (g)

*Scientific meetings, workshops and seminars*

The extent of this programme is given in section (e). We provide the most comprehensive, relevant and topical programme in the UK for the benefit of members and non-members.

*International symposia*

These are also described in section (e), and are unique in the UK in covering the whole field of radiation protection.

*Journal covering the full range of radiation protection topics*

We publish the only journal covering the full range of radiation protection topics in the UK

*Continuing Professional Development Scheme*

We operate the only open Continuing Professional Development Scheme in Europe for radiation protection professionals.

*Email discussion list*

We provide the only email discussion list whose subject is radiation protection in the UK.

**The eligible field for membership**

We estimate that the Society has as members some 75% of the eligible field for membership.

**Overlap with other bodies**

The field of activity of the Society is radiation protection. Our activities cover the entire field. Those of no other UK society do so. The following societies are also active in the field:

*Our Partner Societies*

*Association of University Radiation Protection Officers* The field of activity is radiation protection in mainly universities and research establishments rather than the entire field of radiation protection.  
<http://www.aurpo.org/>

*British Institute of Radiology* The field of activity is clinical radiology, a component of which is radiation protection of the patient, the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.bir.org.uk/>

*British Nuclear Medicine Society* The field of activity is nuclear medicine - the use of radioactive pharmaceuticals - a component of which is radiation protection of the patient, the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.bnms.org.uk/>

*College of Radiographers* The field of activity is medical radiography, a component of which is radiation protection of the patient, the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.sor.org/>

*Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine* The field of activity is physics and engineering applied to medicine and biology; a component in this field is radiation protection of the patient, the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation

protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.ipem.org.uk/>

*Institute of Radiation Protection* The field of activity is radiation protection, with emphasis on practical aspects. The Institute has some 70 corporate members.  
<http://www.irp.org.uk/>

*Royal College of Radiologists* The field of activity is clinical oncology and clinical radiology, a component of which is radiation protection of the patient, the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.rcr.ac.uk/>

#### *Other societies*

*British Nuclear Energy Society* The field of activity is nuclear energy, a component of which is radiation protection of the staff and the public. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.bnes.com/>

*The Institute of Physics* The field of activity is physics, a component of which is the physics of radiation protection. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.  
<http://www.iop.org>

*Royal Society of Chemistry* The field of activity is chemistry, a component of which is radiation protection in radiochemistry. The wider field of radiation protection is not an activity.

#### **(i) Why the Society should be accorded Chartered status**

The work of the Society would be greatly enhanced by the grant of a Royal Charter. Radiation protection is widely recognised as a profession in its own right, as well as a professional activity of individuals whose responsibilities cover a wider area. For the last forty years, we have undertaken to promote and advance, and disseminate to the public advantage, information on, and knowledge of, the science and art of radiation protection and a large proportion of those in the UK who are involved in radiation protection at a professional level have become, and continued as, members of the Society. Our formal international recognition as the society covering the whole range of radiation protection interests in the UK exists through our position as the International Radiation Protection Association Associate Society. However, no such formal recognition exists within the UK. The grant of a Royal Charter would provide this formal recognition.

It is in the public interest that there should be an authoritative body, comprising independent professionals but with a well-defined relationship with Government, that can undertake the wide variety of inter-related activities that address our fundamental aims. In particular, the grant of a Royal Charter would:

- Demonstrate that radiation protection is a single, well-integrated, but multi-disciplinary profession. This would have the effect of raising the profile of radiation protection within the education, central and local government, industry, medicine and research sectors, for the ultimate benefit of the public;
- Give recognition to the professional status of radiation protection practitioners in the UK and facilitate this recognition in Europe and the rest of the world;

- Establish that the Society is in a position to offer authoritative statements on matters pertaining to radiation protection, for example. in responses to Government consultations;
- Encourage radiation protection professionals to become, and continue as, Members of the Society and thereby help to develop, maintain and promote standards of competence and recognise progression within the profession.
- Help the Society to regulate standards within the radiation protection profession to the ultimate benefit and reassurance of the public.

It would greatly assist the Society in its aims if it became subject to the greater degree of Government control conferred by the grant of a Charter. The Government has already acknowledged the importance of having competent professionals in this area in requiring recognition of assessing bodies for radiation protection advisers. Grant of a Charter would assist regulation of both this and the wider radiation protection profession, to standards recognised by Government. Further, the Society is already widely consulted by Government Departments on new legislation and regulation and this relationship would be enhanced by the greater degree of assurance for Government on authoritative responses from the Society. Both of these objectives are also, of course, ultimately for the public benefit.

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**Annex - Bodies consulted**

We have consulted the following bodies who may have an interest:

- Association of University Radiation Protection Officers
- British Institute of Radiology
- British Nuclear Energy Society
- British Nuclear Medicine Society
- College of Radiographers
- The Institute of Physics
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- Institute of Radiation Protection
- National Radiological Protection Board
- Royal College of Radiologists
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- RPA 2000