National Radiation Safety Committee and Subcommittees

The National Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC) is a statutory committee established in 2007 under SI478 (2002) and is tasked with advising the Director General (DG) of the Health Service Executive (HSE) on matters pertaining to medical ionising radiation exposure. The committee consists of no more than 10 members, appointed by the DG for a period not exceeding five years. The NRSC is required to meet twice a year at a minimum.

The Roles of the NRSC include the following:

- Advise the DG, HSE, as appropriate, on measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of patients, the general public or persons employed in radiological installations.
- Receive and review clinical audit and inspection reports.
- Publish an annual report.
- Receive reports on radiation incidents as required and advise where appropriate.
- Gather lifetime data on equipment and an assurance that each piece is recorded as being maintained.
- Issue guidance documents where applicable.
- Review relevant new clinical risk practices to ensure that the exposure and outcome for the patient is in line with international best practice and advise where appropriate.
- Monitor radiation dose diagnostic reference levels as established by Irish Medical and Dental Councils.
- Establish annual radiation dose exposure levels of the population in cooperation with Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring.
- Any other appropriate matters that may arise.

Membership of the National Radiation Safety Committee:

**Mr. Pat Harvey, Chair**, Harwyn Management Consultants. Former Chief Executive Officer, North Western Health Board.

**Mr. Paddy Gilligan**, Chief Medical Physicist and Registered Radiation Protection Advisor, Mater Private Hospital; UCD Associate Clinical Professor; Chair, National Population Dose and Optimisation Subcommittee.

**Dr. David Fitzpatrick**, Consultant Radiation Oncologist, St. Luke’s Hospital, Dublin and St Luke’s Radiation Oncology Centre, Beaumont Hospital. Member of the Faculty of Radiologists, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Chair, National Radiotherapy Subcommittee.

**Dr. Andrew Bolas**, Deputy Principal Dental Surgeon in Sligo/Leitrim; Lecturer in the Dublin Dental School; Chair of the National Dental Radiation Subcommittee.
Mr. Fintan Bradley, Chief Physicist, Medical Physics Department, Cork University Hospital.

Ms. Tanya Kenny, Manager, Radiation Protection Regulation, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring.

Mr. Paul Lynam, Chief Executive Officer, Whitfield Clinic and Council Member of the Independent Hospitals Association of Ireland.

Mr. Sean Egan, Head of Healthcare Regulation, Health Information and Quality Authority.

Ms. Louise Diamond, Radiography Services Manager, University Hospital, Waterford.

Dr. Mary T. O’Mahony, Director of Public Health, Cork.

Dr. Rachel Ennis, Consultant Radiologist, Faculty of Radiology.

SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE NRSC

There are three subcommittees of the NRSC – the National Population Dose and Optimisation Subcommittee; the National Radiotherapy Subcommittee; and the National Dental Radiation Subcommittee. Each subcommittee is chaired by a member of the NRSC and updates on the work undertaken by each subcommittee, on behalf of the NRSC, are provided by the chairperson at each NRSC meeting.

National Dental Radiation Subcommittee

The National Dental Radiation Subcommittee reports to and assists the NRSC, as requested, on assessing relevant clinical practices to ensure that the exposure and outcomes for patients are in line with international best practice. This subcommittee advises the NRSC on relevant issues, such as radiation dose reference levels, incident reports, guidance documentation and clinical audit. The committee should consist of a maximum of 12 members, appointed by the NRSC for a period not exceeding three years.

Membership:

Dr. Andrew Bolas, Chair; Deputy Principal Dental Surgeon Sligo/Leitrim; Lecturer in Dublin Dental School.

Dr. Eamon Croke, Dentist, Molesworth House, Dublin 2.

Dr. Terry Farrelly, Dentist, Roscrea, Co Tipperary.

Dr. Niamh Galvin, Assistant National Oral Health Lead, Tralee General Hospital, Kerry.
Mr. Paddy Gilligan, Chief Medical Physicist and Registered Radiation Protection Advisor, Mater Private Hospital; UCD Associate Clinical Professor; Chair, National Population Dose and Optimisation Subcommittee.

Mr. Maurice Quirke, Dental Surgeon, Member of the Irish Dental Association.

Ms. Tanya Kenny, Manager, Radiation Protection Regulation, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring.

National Radiotherapy Subcommittee

The role of this committee is to assess relevant new clinical practices in radiotherapy to ensure that the exposure and outcome for the patient is in line with international best practice. The committee consists of a maximum of 10 members, appointed by the NRSC for a period not exceeding three years.

Membership:

Dr. David Fitzpatrick, Chair; Consultant Radiation Oncologist, St. Luke’s Hospital, Dublin and St Luke’s Radiation Oncology Centre, Beaumont Hospital. Member of the Faculty of Radiologists of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Mr. Fintan Bradley, Chief Physicist, Medical Physics Department, Cork University Hospital.

Ms. Colette O’Connor, Manager, Radiation Protection Regulation, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring.

Ms. Catriona McDonald, Manager of Operations, Chief Radiotherapist, UPMC Whitfield Cancer Centre, Waterford.

Ms. Catherine McKenna, Radiation Therapy Services Manager (RSM), St. Luke’s Hospital Dublin; Member of the Radiographers Registration Board; RSM chair on the Council of the Irish Institute of Radiographers and Radiation Therapists.

Ms. Bernadette Moran, Radiographic Advisor to MERU.

National Population Dose and Optimisation Subcommittee

This committee has responsibility for assessing radiation dose to the population, advising on optimisation and establishing diagnostic reference levels for common radiological procedures. The committee consists of a maximum of 14 members, appointed by the NRSC, for a period not exceeding three years.
Membership:

Mr. Paddy Gilligan, Chief Medical Physicist and Registered Radiation Protection Advisor, Mater Private Hospital; UCD Associate Clinical Professor; Chair, National Population Dose and Optimisation Subcommittee.

Ms. Noeleen Cunningham, Radiation Protection Regulation, Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring.

Ms. Liz Darcy, Clinical Specialist Radiographer, Wexford General Hospital, Wexford.

Dr. Shane Foley, Radiography Programme Coordinator, University College Dublin.

Dr. Neill O'Donovan, Consultant Radiologist, South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork.

Ms. Mandy Lewis, Principal Physicist, Radiation Protection Advisor, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Physics advisor to MERU (January to May).

Mr. Tom Heary, Principal Physicist, Radiation Protection Advisor, Beaumont Hospital. Physics advisor to MERU (June to December).

Mr. Brendan McCoubrey, Radiation Safety Officer, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

Dr. Peter Wright, Specialist in Public Health Medicine.

Prof. Michael Maher, Consultant Radiologist, Cork University Hospital, Cork.

Ms. Bernadette Moran, Radiographic Advisor to MERU.

Dr. Lesley Malone, Radiation Protection Advisor, Faculty of Radiologists, Trinity College Dublin.

For further information, please see Terms of Reference.