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Science and Technology Select Committee
Committee Office
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House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

From the Treasurer and Vice-President Sir David Wallace CBE FRS
27 February 2007
Our ref: 08/07

Royal Society's submission to the Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into radioactive waste management

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Committee's inquiry into radioactive waste management. As you are aware the Society has a long standing interest in the development of radioactive waste management policy and the work of CoRWM.

Please find enclosed two documents: a letter that we recently sent to Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir Howard Dalton; and a copy of our January 2006 report 'the long-term management of radioactive waste: the work of CoRWM'.

Our January 2006 report recommends the need to set up an independent post-CoRWM body to continue the process of developing a radioactive waste management strategy. This body will need a much greater scientific and technical capacity than CoRWM but should also maintain the processes of societal and stakeholder engagement. Our letter to Defra highlights that it is not clear what the reconstituted CoRWM's role would be in relation to the other institutions involved in developing and implementing policy, particularly with respect to the Government's plans for stakeholder and public engagement. We also express concern about the haste with which the process is moving forward.

We are happy to explain these issues in more detail to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact the Society if this is needed or if you require any additional information.

Enc.

Letter to DEFRA CSA, Prof Howard Dalton FRS from the Royal Society
Royal Society report (2006) *The long-term management of radioactive waste: the work of CORWM*