



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Strategy 2030

Interim Statement

This interim strategy statement covers the transition from the previous to our next strategy which we expect to publish later in the year. This follows the Prime Minister's announcement of a Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce, which is intended to drive faster, cost-effective delivery in both civil and defence nuclear, whilst maintaining safety standards.

Our 2020-2025 Strategy

Over the past five years, we have successfully delivered excellent outcomes from our strategy.

Dutyholders have benefited from our enabling approach in supporting safe and secure delivery of desired goals and outcomes. Notable achievements include:

- establishing a new UK safeguards regime
- granting of the Sizewell C (SZC) nuclear site licence
- AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield's move to routine attention
- enabling new nuclear projects by establishing early engagement for vendors and developers
- establishing our innovation hub and applying the first nuclear regulatory sandbox anywhere in the world
- working effectively with Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited (DRDL) and MoD to enable the successful early permissioning of nuclear submarine docking to support the delivery of national priorities
- completion of the HPRI000 Generic Design Assessment (GDA)
- at Sellafield, we successfully enabled continued remediation of the site, the progress of high hazard and risk reduction projects, and influenced major improvements in security upgrades, seeing retrievals from all four high hazard/high risk legacy facilities
- We are proud that the UK's nuclear regulatory system is recognised as being one of the most flexible in the world. Internationally, we informed and influenced global standards and regulatory approaches and maintained trust and confidence of the international community in the UK's regulatory regime.

We have been at the forefront of international harmonisation, signing a trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to collaborate on the assessment of

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) and Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) designs.

Internally, we have implemented organisational improvements, to remain a modern regulator and attractive employer. We progressed our digital strategy following the successful separation of our IT networks from HSE and have increased our organisational security maturity and resilience. We saved significant costs through the delivery of our estates strategy and made big strides towards embedding an efficiency mindset.

Responding to the sector-wide demand for skills, we broadened our recruitment approach, and established internal staff development programmes via our Academy.

We are proud to have a well-established Gender Equality Network and have improved

our mentoring programme, as well as regular leadership events to strive towards a culture that lives by its values.

Through regular surveys, we have seen stakeholder trust and confidence in ONR remain consistently high throughout the strategy period. Stakeholders have a high level of confidence in our ability to deliver our mission, recognising us as a highly professional and independent regulator.

Crucially, we have also made progress within the strategy period on how consistent and proportionate our licensees and authorised sites consider our regulation.

Our 2020-2025 Strategy will remain in place during the transition to our next strategy, ensuring continuity as we continue to deliver our mission in the national interest.

Transition to Strategy 2030

We are clear that nuclear safety and the protection of workers and the public will remain our priority. We will also continue to invest in our people and stakeholder confidence.

Our enabling regulatory approach will continue to be an essential part of our success. We will regulate in a way that supports safe, secure, cost-effective, and efficient nuclear operations, and support deployment of new reactors and the adoption of new technologies. Underpinning how we support economic growth, we are open to innovation and new ways of working.

We will continue to work closely with domestic and international regulators and the IAEA to ensure we improve and adopt modern, efficient regulatory and business practices.

We will continue to support cost-effective regulation that adds value and provides for timely regulatory decisions that avoid unnecessary burden.

We will work to ensure the nuclear industry achieves its ambitions safely, including close collaboration with others on the assessment of reactor designs.

We know that risk-informed, well-targeted, cost-effective regulation adds value and benefits industry, which has been the mainstay of ONR's approach. The taskforce is an opportunity for an independent examination of the regulatory system for nuclear, and we look forward to the insights it will provide on how regulation can be improved. Our new strategy will be shaped by this and engagement with our stakeholders; we will consult on the draft in due course.