

Dr. Richard Wakeford



Richard Wakeford received a BSc in physics and a PhD in sub-nuclear physics from the University of Liverpool, UK. He worked for British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) for almost 30 years before taking early retirement in 2006; for much of this time he specialised in the risks posed by radiation, particularly low-level exposure, and he has written and lectured extensively on the subject. In 1994 he received the Founder's Prize of the UK Society for Radiological Protection for "contributions of distinction to radiological protection". In 2006, Richard was appointed Visiting Professor in Epidemiology at the Dalton Nuclear Institute of The University of Manchester, UK, and since 2012 has been Professor in Epidemiology at the Institute of Population Health of The University of Manchester. Since 1997 he has been Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Radiological Protection, and is also a member of the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Cancer.

Richard was a member of the UK Government's Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters (CERRIE) during its existence from 2001 to 2004, and is presently a member of the UK Government's independent expert advisory Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE), of the European Commission's Expert Advisory Group established under Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, and was a member of the Subgroup on Human Radiosensitivity of the Advisory Group on Ionising Radiation (AGIR) of the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA, now Public Health England). During 2009-2013 he served as a member of Committee 1 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), and is a member of the UK delegation to the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

In 2011, Richard was a member of the UK Government's Scientific Advice Group for Emergencies (SAGE) for the Japan Nuclear Incident and was a member of the World Health Organisation's Health Risk Assessment Working Group examining the risks to health from the Fukushima accident. His statement to the Japanese people on the risks to health from the Fukushima accident is available at the website of the Japanese Government's Cabinet Secretariat. Richard is involved in studies that directly examine the risks to health of low-level exposure to radiation, including nuclear industry workers (internal as well as external exposures), medical exposures and natural background radiation.