

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: DEVELOPING A RADIOACTIVE WASTE ADVISERS SCHEME

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Introduction

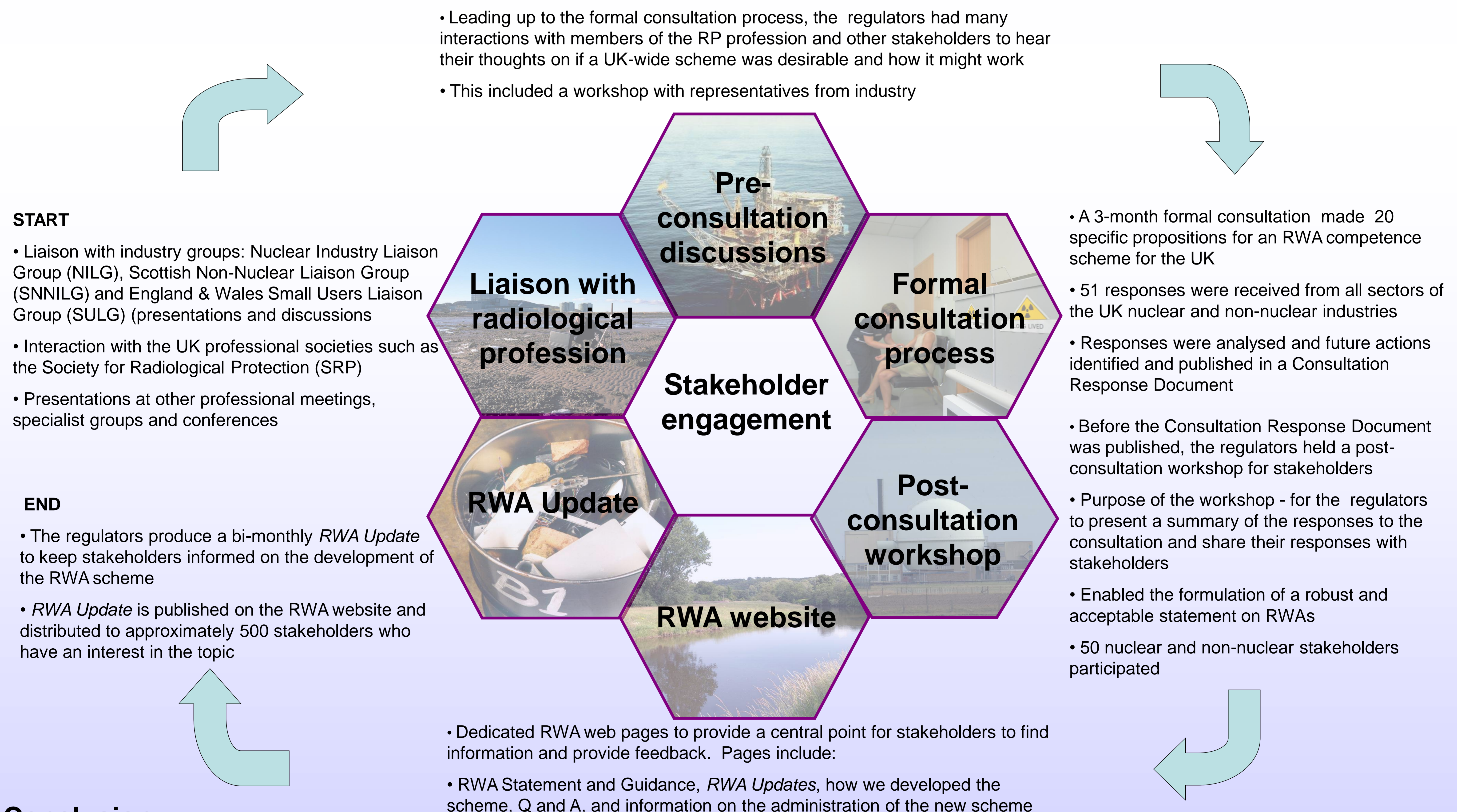
UK environmental regulators (Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Environment Agency) have implemented a scheme for recognising the competence of advisers to employers who accumulate and dispose of radioactive waste. This function has been performed by members of the radiation protection (RP) profession for many years without a formal competence scheme in place so it was important to involve them in the development of the scheme to ensure their engagement with it.

Background

The European Basic Safety Standards Directive (96/29/EURATOM) requires employers to appoint “qualified experts” to advise about work with radioactivity that may affect people and the environment. In the UK qualified experts advising on radioactive waste management are now called “Radioactive Waste Advisers” (RWAs).

The environmental regulators implement the requirement for qualified experts through appropriate conditions in permits issued under their radioactive waste legislation. However, each regulator used different conditions and provided different advice and guidance on compliance with requirements for qualified experts. Regulators worked with stakeholders to create a UK-wide system to recognise the competence of RWAs that is run by the profession and overseen by the regulators.

Stakeholder Engagement



Conclusion

- May 2011: UK environmental regulators published a Statement to provide information on expectations of Radioactive Waste Advisers and how a UK-wide scheme will be implemented for the recognition of RWAs.
- Statement includes an RWA Syllabus of required competences.
- Level of stakeholder engagement of the process welcomed and commended by the RP profession, radiation employers and others who have been involved.

More at:

www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/radioactive_waste_advisers.aspx