

Hello I'm Richard Waite, acting CEO of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

If you're a regular visitor to our website, you'll know that we're here to oversee the decommissioning and clean-up of our civil nuclear sites across the UK.

We're focused on dealing with a complex legacy of buildings, facilities and materials that date back to the 1940's, 50's and 60's.

It's sometimes a bit daunting when you realise that we're responsible for the largest environmental restoration programme in Europe.

At the heart of what we do is safety, both in terms of how we carry out our business, and how we make safe and dispose of some of the most hazardous materials around.

We're now also developing the UK's waste management infrastructure for the benefit of our own, and future generations.

With an almost £3bn programme of work in place this year, it is also vital that we are focused on value for money.

We report openly and regularly as to how we are spending public funds, and the progress we're making towards decommissioning and clean - up of our 19 sites across the UK.

That's why every year we produce an annual report which is now available on our website.

I hope it gives you some sense of how we're progressing.

So what has the NDA actually done?

Well, we've made real progress in decommissioning and hazard reduction.

Our annual report lists the immense amount of work that's currently going on throughout our sites.

We're managing our costs - in our first 4 years we've made efficiency savings in excess of £500 million.

These savings have been ploughed back in to decommissioning and clean-up.

We're maximising our income with increased electricity generation and disposal of surplus land.

The more income we can generate, the more we can offset the cost of decommissioning and clean-up to the UK taxpayer.

That becomes more challenging for us in future years as more of our stations come off-line for decommissioning.

We've restructured our industry and we now have private sector expertise running most of our sites.

One of the big challenges for us, as you might expect, is managing high hazards in terms of radioactive waste.

That means we sometimes direct funding into priority areas where those high hazards need to be managed.

We are increasingly focused on delivery and performance.

Our wide and varied programmes of work not only display the breadth and complexity of what we do, but they also provide a clarity that allows us to better measure our performance, and that of our contractors.

Showing clearly how we deliver against these programmes will be even more important in future years as the pressure on public finances becomes even greater.

Anyway, rather than try to mention everything we're doing, please watch our DVD and read our report.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the NDA, our partners and stakeholders, who have worked so hard over the past 5 years in helping us get to where we are today.

I hope when you read the report it gives you a sense of what we've achieved in a fairly short space of time.

I'd also be interested in any comments you may have.

You can write to me direct at the e-mail address below, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have, or respond to any of your comments.

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