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| ONR Policy  Strategic Prioritisation Regulatory Intelligence Tool (SPRINT) Policy |



ONR Policy

Strategic Prioritisation Regulatory Intelligence Tool (SPRINT) Policy

**Policy owner** – Technical Director

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**Approved by:** Technical Director on behalf of Regulatory Lead Team

**Issue:** 1

**Published:** October 2024

**Next scheduled review:** October 2027

**Document reference:** ONR-RD-POL-003

**Record reference:** 2024/0043136

Revision commentary

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| Issue | Description of update(s) |
| 1 | New policy document which sets out how ONR will use SPRINT to prioritise regulatory activities and resource. |

# Introduction

## Purpose

ONR is responsible for delivering its mission and five regulatory purposes in a complex and evolving environment. Prioritisation of activities and supporting resource must align with the Regulators’ Code [1] and Regulators’ Growth Duty [2].   
To *Modernise the Way We Work* (ST4), ONR is maximising our use of intelligence and data in decision making. ONR has created the Strategic Prioritisation Regulatory Intelligence Tool (SPRINT) to inform regulatory resource decisions.

SPRINT is a multifactorial framework that presents comparative ranking for ONR’s regulatory activities. It is based on other UK Government multifactorial frameworks[[1]](#footnote-2) and our corporate strategy. It combines safety or security considerations with the potential for ONR to influence the risk and regulators’ growth duty.

This policy states how ONR will use SPRINT to prioritise regulatory activities and resource.

## Scope and applicability

This policy applies to any resource decisions for regulatory activities included in the SPRINT results in tables 1 to 3.

It applies to ONR’s Regulatory Leadership Team’s (RLT) decisions on:

* Prioritisating regulatory activities.
* Aligning regulatory resource to regulatory priorities.
* Redeploying regulatory resources from one activity to another.
* Targeting governance and oversight of resource allocation.

RLT use this policy to deliver ONR’s regulatory strategy and priorities in alignment with its terms of reference [3] and a constrained headcount. It may inform decisions to increase the headcount. Any decision to increase headcount must consistent with ONR’s corporate governance framework [4].

ONR Heads of Regulation and Heads of Profession use this policy to indicate the relative priority of regulatory activities and to inform individual reallocation decisions.

All ONR inspectors use this policy as an indicator to inform their risk-informed and targeted engagements (RITE).

# Policy

ONR uses the multifactorial framework, SPRINT, to indicate regulatory priorities for strategic regulatory decisions.

Figure 1 – SPRINT factors.

RLT has weighted these factors based on their relative significance. ONR produces results for SPRINT on an annual basis. Appendix 1 contains the details behind each sub-factor.

## Responsibilities

The following responsibilities are for annual and strategic use of SPRINT.

* The RLT is responsible for:
  + Approving and implementing the SPRINT policy.
  + Annual approval of SPRINT factors, weights and results.
* The Director of Regulation for Technical Directorate is responsible for:
  + Maintaining a capability and documentation to deliver SPRINT.
  + Reviewing and ensuring update of the SPRINT results before annual planning .
  + Consulting with regulatory teams on SPRINT factors and results.
  + Providing assurance[[2]](#footnote-3) to RLT that regulatory directorate is using SPRINT results to inform effective and efficient regulatory decisions.
* Directors and Deputy Directors of Regulation to use SPRINT to inform their strategies and challenge resource demands.
* Heads of Regulation and Heads of Profession use SPRINT to inform their regulatory resource decisions and inform annual planning and resource demands.

## Implementation

All users must use these principles when they use SPRINT to inform their decisions:

**Principles for using SPRINT results:**

1. SPRINT is the aggregate regulatory priority from the balance of risks. Users must consider topic areas, specific issues and other relevant nuances on a case-by-case basis.
2. SPRINT informs decisions about regulatory resource deployment. Users must also consider other relevant factors to make decisions.
3. Heads of Regulation and Heads of Profession should use:
   1. SPRINT in their resource deployment discussions.
   2. The Deployment Policy for the Regulatory Directorate to assess Inspector suitability and development [5].
4. ONR’s Enforcement Policy Statement has priority for allocating resource to investigations or enforcement decisions [6].

The Technical Directorate will routinely monitor deployment and give RLT assurance that regulatory directorate is effectively using SPRINT.

ONR will annually update SPRINT factors, regulatory activities and results. Copies of these results will be made stored in CM in the following folder **4.1.1.158.**

# Appendix 1 – SPRINT factors

## Inherent hazard

* **Nuclear safety**: Ranking based on total radiological material inventory and potential for criticality.
* **Nuclear security**: Ranking based on total radiological material inventory and physical protection system assessment outcome.
* **Nuclear site health and safety**: Ranking based on potential for multiple fatality, operational experience, number of people on site, constructure activities and [control of major accident hazards (COMAH) regulations](https://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/index.htm) assessments [7].

## Dutyholders’ management of hazard

* Ranking of ONR’s assessment of regulatory attention levels [8].

## Potential for regulatory influence on risk

* Regulatory teams’ qualitative judgement of the limits of regulatory activity to influence the inherent hazard and dutyholders management of the hazard.
* Combined ranking drawn from additional actions that could be delivered, based on a theoretical ‘best efforts’ basis to influence risk through design and operations.

## Enabling growth

* ONR’s ability to support or inhibit growth as outlined in the [Regulators’ Code](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code) [1] and UK Government’s [Growth Duty Statutory Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/growth-duty) [2].
* Ranking based on a qualitative judgement of regulatory supporting infrastructure, encouraging competition and developing new technology.

# References

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| [1] | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, “Regulators' Code,” 2014. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f4e14e2e90e071c745ff2df/14-705-regulators-code.pdf. |
| [2] | Department for Business & Trade, “Growth Duty: Statutory Guidance - Refresh,” May 2024. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66476caebd01f5ed32793e09/final\_growth\_duty\_statutory\_guidance\_2024.pdf. |
| [3] | ONR, “ONR-GOV-TOR-002 - Regulatory Leadership Team (RLT) - Terms of Reference (TOR)”. |
| [4] | ONR, “ONR-GOV-FW-001 - Corporate Governance Framework”. |
| [5] | ONR, “ONR-RD-POL-001 - Deployment Policy for the Regulatory Directorate”. |
| [6] | ONR, “Enforcement Policy Statement,” [Online]. Available: https://www.onr.org.uk/media/mtrbcsv3/onr-enf-pol-001-onr-enforcement-policy-statement-1.docx. |
| [7] | HSE, “Control Of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH),” [Online]. Available: https://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/background/comah15.htm. |
| [8] | ONR, “ONR-GEN-GD-013 - Guidance on the assignment on Dutyholder attention levels”. |

1. Examples include the National Audit Offices’ [Performance measurement by regulators](https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Performance-measurement-by-regulators.pdf) and UK Government guidance for [Use of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis in options appraisal of economic cases](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-supplementary-guidance-use-of-multi-criteria-decision-analysis/use-of-multi-criteria-decision-analysis-in-options-appraisal-of-economic-cases). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This refers to ONR’s line management assurance (tier 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)