

seems sensible as passive prevention is the most effective means of reducing the radon risk over time. The required standby sump is a precaution but this requires the householder to be aware of the risk, to test and then to activate the sump if the radon levels are high. Then to test afterwards to ensure the sump is working.

4. **Alex Grassick (CCC)** queried if regulations governing BER assessments could be modified to include a radon measurement. **Stephanie Long (RPII)** remarked that this had been noted when the RPII looked at how radon and conveyancing was handled in other countries. Sweden had linked radon to the BER however most EU countries had not done this.
5. **Paul Clarke (MCC)** asked if radon could be included in the health warnings on packets of cigarettes or could the RPII not recommend to government to address testing and remediating all households of smokers and households in high radon areas? **Ann McGarry (RPII)** noted that this could get very confusing as there are different categories of “smokers”. For example: an active smoker, ex-smoker and a passive smoker each have a different radon risk of developing lung cancer. No country mentions radon on cigarette packets for this reason. The RPII’s message is all houses should take the radon test irrespective of the smoking status of the occupants.
6. **Eugene Monaghan (All Clear Radon)** queried if there had been any progress with the National Radon Strategy? **Úna Ní Dhubhghaill (DEHLG)** commented that the RPII in cooperation with the HSE wrote a Joint Position Paper (JPP) on radon which was published in April. The JPP recommended the setting up of an expert group to drive the development of the strategy. The JPP was acknowledged by Government and Minister Gormley requested and received a briefing on the document. With the general situation with the deteriorating economy the expert group has not yet been formed but she added much of the ground work has been done. However, it remains the desire of the DEHLG to move forward with the strategy development. **Ann Mc Garry (RPII)** added the development of a national radon strategy is a priority for the RPII who will progress areas of work to feed into the strategy development. One such area is radon remediation which is not within the RPII’s expertise. She commented that a professional grouping in the area of remediation made up radon remediators would benefit the strategy development.
7. **Siobhan Mc Carthy (Cork County Council)** queried if radon detectors could be sold in a department/hardware store such as Woodies or Homebase? **David Pollard (RPII)** said that this is possible, however, if the customer misinterprets the instructions they may not carry out the measurement correctly which could give them an inaccurate measurement. **James Mc Laughlin (UCD)** added that radon detectors are sold in shops in the USA using heat sealed packaging.
8. **James Mc Laughlin (UCD)** asked if the focus group was not a random representation of the general public. **Anne Marie Dillon (Millward Brown Lansdowne)** explained that those who participated in the focus group were selected because they had some knowledge of radon which was needed for this survey. However, she did state that this research could be brought further by ringing/interviewing 1000 people.
9. **Kay O’Connor** asked what was the approval mechanism for radon measurement services? **Stephanie Long (RPII)** explained that accreditation under ISO 17025 is required for measurements carried out in workplaces and that to be listed on the RPII’s website a radon measurement service must source their detectors from a accredited radon measurement laboratory. She added there were no equivalent regulations governing radon measurement in homes.
10. **Enda Kennedy (University College Cork)** wondered what is the basis for the map and wondered if a higher resolution radon map that would include geology be of benefit for example to the

construction industry? **Stephanie Long (RPII)** advised that the map was based on a survey of over 11000 radon measurements in homes across the country. She added that a report of the survey is available on the RPII's website.

11. **Tim O' Neill (Necoflex)** asked if any contact had been made with RIAI, the Institute of Engineers or Surveyors. He added that by educating the building designers it might be possible to ensure correct installation of membranes and installation of approved membranes. **David Fenton (RPII)** agreed that building professionals are key to ensuring low indoor radon levels. He welcomed the suggestion to work with these bodies and was hopeful that something could be done with them in 2011.

12. **Mike Shiel (Galway County Council)** remarked that currently the need for radon remediation was more common than prevention because of very low number of new houses being built. He added that if high radon concentrations were found in local authority houses would DEHLG continue to fund remediation. It was noted that DEHLG would fund remediation in these cases. **David Pollard (RPII)** agreed that prevention and remediation are two separate things but advised that even in the present economic situation, prevention and building control remained very important elements of a national radon control strategy.