

**Government Decontamination Service  
Remediation and Decontamination Related Issues**

**Why contact the GDS?**

- The GDS can offer free advice and guidance to support those responsible for decontamination and/or remediation following a CBRN Incident.
- GDS services are available on request (can be requested by Central Government, Emergency Services or Responsible Authorities who may be specified by statute or, in the case of a private body or company, may be the owner/agent of a building, location or asset ).
- GDS can offer advice on:
  - Remediation options (including whether or not to decontaminate and what alternative options are available);
  - Capability, capacity and availability of specialist CBRN decontamination contractors in terms of decontamination of the built and open environment, infrastructure and transport. They may, if invited to do so, be able to offer other resources to assist in the site clearance process e.g. monitoring and sampling;
  - Support (and facilitate where necessary) the contractual relationship between the Responsible Authority (or Agent) and specialist CBRN decontamination contractor(s) through a Framework where agreed terms, conditions and pricing schedules are already in place.

**To assist and support, the GDS will need to establish:**

- The specifics and extent of contamination (What, where, how much, fixed or mobile?)
- To obtain site plans (both street and buildings –with services where possible) and rendezvous/strategic holding areas for Framework Suppliers to bring kit/staff forward to
- Who is responsible for managing the remediation process will they accept responsibility for the cost of a specialist CBRN decontamination contractor – if not, who will?

**Other related issues:**

- Has the contamination been contained to prevent further spread?
- Have forensic investigations been completed by the police and specialist teams (GDS specialist suppliers can assist in this process if requested) and the site handed over for remediation?
- Has a Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) been set up and has a decision to decontaminate been taken? – prioritisation of work and resources may be required. (GDS Science Team may assist with technical remediation options and can feed information into the remediation / decontamination strategy / Science and Technical Advice Cell (STAC) / Strategic Co-ordination Group)
- What site security is in place if the police cordon is removed?
- Has waste management and legislation (regulatory impacts / exemption orders) been considered? i.e. ownership, packaging, transport, disposal or storage. A strategy will be required and finance options considered;
- Consider who is responsible for costs: Local / Central Government, Insurance (consider contacting Association of British Insurers).

**The Decontamination Process:**

- Specific sampling and monitoring is carried out to inform the decontamination strategy;
- Consider inviting specialist suppliers to RCG / STAC for detailed advice on decontamination strategy;
- RCG and STAC agree decontamination and waste strategy (includes agreed end point, planning to prioritise workloads, cost estimation, decisions on decontamination technology, disposal routes and monitoring processes).
- Once engaged, the specialist GDS contractor(s) will, in accordance with decontamination strategy, provide a plan which will include method statements and risk assessments;
- Decontamination carried out (various methods may apply);
- Post decontamination (clearance) sampling carried out;
- Final clearance given by RCG / Clearance Committee;
- Completion report provided.

