



# nuclear information service

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



## CHAIR'S REPORT

2014 was a mixed year for NIS but has proved to be a successful one despite a slow start. It began with the completion of a process initiated many months previously to appoint a Director in order to allow the work of NIS to expand. The appointment of Director was made in January of 2014 when Pete Wilkinson, a founding member of Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace UK, joined NIS as Director.

Despite the significant change to the NIS status quo, some positive and important projects achieved varying measures of completion and progress during the year. All the elements of the programme around the examination of how the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) use universities in controversial, nuclear weapons-related research were completed successfully with a launch of the report, 'Atoms for Peace?', at the University College London. NIS's second goal for 2014, the research report on the renewal of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement, was completed on time and

published and provided evidence to help MPs press for a debate on the matter in Parliament.

NIS continued its pressure on the AWE to reform its Local Liaison Committee (LLC) structure to allow a much wider and more diverse representation of the local community to participate in its deliberations. This contributed to pressure on AWE to publish its own proposals for LLC reform that have so far been limited and far from satisfactory. NIS has also discussed with the Environment Agency matters relating to the fate of the now defunct Pangbourne pipeline that carried waste from AWE to the Thames. The matter is now under review by Ministry of Defence officials at senior level.

NIS also worked with CND to examine more radical disarmament alternatives to those emerging from the Trident Commission, which saw life as the report 'Against the Tide'.

NIS has continued to provide well-researched, accurate and highly valued information for use by other organisations via its website throughout the year as its core tasks. This has included monthly updates on events, news and stories associated with the world of nuclear weapons, radiation issues, international conferences, particularly those relating to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the humanitarian impacts of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as a number of 'blogs' covering the political aspects of nuclear weapon development and deployment in the UK, radiation and health issues and the proliferation of nuclear weapons linked to the spread of civil nuclear technology. NIS has met its obligations to monitor nuclear weapons activities at the AWE and Burghfield sites, tracking the refurbishment of the AWE sites as they gear up for the new warhead development.

NIS staff have been regularly involved in dialogue with government agencies, particularly the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). They have also contributed to consultation on the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Dismantling Project.

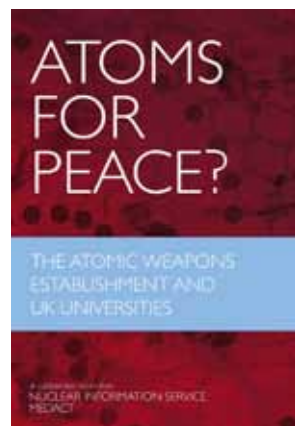
NIS has enjoyed continued financial support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and from its supporters. In 2014, NIS initiated the re-organisation of its considerable library of documents which includes a large number passed over from other disarmament organisations and is an on-going project which will take a year to complete but which will be, once completed, a highly prized and valuable resource for the peace and disarmament movement.

Steve Hendry  
Chair, NIS Board of Directors, 2014

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

With continued funding for its core work from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Nuclear Information Service (NIS) has made steady progress towards its identified goals in 2014. The appointment of a Director in January 2014 required a considerable period of 'settling in' and readjustment as the organisation looked ahead to a potentially busy and possibly turbulent period through the remainder of 2014, the Scottish referendum on independence on the 18<sup>th</sup> September with its huge potential implications for Trident, the run-up to the general election in May 2015 and the Trident Main Gate decision planned for 2016. This crowded and important period of time for the peace and disarmament movement justified a re-assessment of NIS's activities and a good proportion of 2014 was spent in deciding where its focus should be. This re-assessment did not, however, prevent NIS's core work from forging ahead and in the early months, NIS published its report on the questionable connections between AWE research and UK universities. The report was launched at a well-attended event at University College London alongside a set of ethical criteria for use by researchers in deciding to undertake work funded by the nuclear weapons sector.



NIS's review of the UK-US Mutual Defence Review was also published and, in collaboration with CND, a back-bench debate was sought unsuccessfully on the issues identified. Reports on Labour Party attitudes to Trident and the commentary on the BASIC Trident Commission were also published on time and to some acclaim. After careful consideration, NIS's AWE work on pursuing transparency and openness was scaled back on the grounds that setting up a parallel site stakeholder group, while an admirable objective, would be too labour-intensive for the gains it might achieve. Nevertheless, AWE-focussed work has been intensified in the areas of cataloguing the accidents and near-misses in the nuclear arms sector and, most importantly, examining the sorts of future services and activities which

could be provided by AWE in a post-nuclear weapons world. Such a future now appears increasingly likely within a handful of years if the momentum created at the Vienna 'humanitarian consequences' conference held in December 2014 is continued and if the current more than 100 supporting countries calling for a nuclear weapons ban continues to grow in number. Additional funding for two major NIS reports covering these aspects - the risks of possessing nuclear weapons and the alternative future for AWE - is being sought and work on the reports is already underway.

Towards the end of 2014, a great deal of NIS effort went into the preparing of a movement-wide workshop designed to encourage NGOs to examine how best to co-ordinate and collaborate on Trident renewal in the wake of the Scottish referendum result and the imminent general election. This took place in February 2015 and is in the process of being followed up with a second meeting.

In summary, then, the NIS focus is gradually turning outwards to the larger picture and away from its historic concentration on AWE, although that establishment will still feature at the heart of NIS attention. NIS has an exciting programme of work over 2015 and will emerge as a key contributor and facilitator for peace and disarmament movement strategies over the coming critical period in which globally important decisions will be made and which will determine the shape of the world we hand on to our children.

## YEAR IN NUMBERS

In 2014, NIS achieved the following:

44,074 website page views

554 Tweets

1510 email subscribers

668 Twitter followers

435 Facebook followers

25 Freedom of Information requests  
and 15 appeals

22 Parliamentary Questions drafted  
in assistance to MPs

9 editions of our NIS Update  
newsletter and 1 specialist briefing.

10 blog posts

7 Youtube videos

6 presentations to local groups

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

NIS is an initiating member of CND's Rethink Trident initiative and continues to be active in the No Trident Replacement group that meets monthly. NIS has successfully and productively collaborated with the Nuclear Education Trust and has again provided support and assistance to other non-government organisations with similar aims to ours - Nukewatch, the Nuclear Submarine Forum, and the

Reading-based Nuclear Awareness Group (NAG). In 2014, Nukewatch continued their work to monitor movements of UK nuclear weapons, tracking warhead convoys throughout the year. NIS assisted in monitoring and reporting on convoy movements and assisting Nukewatch where necessary and appropriate.

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

NIS is currently undertaking a complete reorganisation of its database and the ways in which we reach our core support base. Plans are now being developed to make far greater and more effective use of social media in particular. During the course of the year, we participated in NGO forums with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Office of Nuclear Regulation and had a meeting with the Environment Agency over the fate of the redundant Pangbourne pipeline running from the AWE site to the Thames. NIS personnel are nominated NGO representatives charged with negotiating with the DECC at senior level on matters related to nuclear emergency planning, a matter which directly impacts the host community around AWE. NIS emailed its existing, pre-re-organisation database late in 2014 and raised over £500 from that mail out. Other individual donations in 2014 amounted to a further £1446. We thank all our supporters for their generosity throughout the year.

## PERSONNEL

During 2014, NIS were delighted to welcome Forum for the Future's Jonathon Porritt as a Patron and while we reluctantly said goodbye to Nick Ritchie as a Director, we were pleased to retain his contact with NIS when he joined Jonathon as NIS's second Patron. Ailsa Johnson joined the NIS board while Trish Whitham resigned her position as Chair and joined the staff as Administrator. Steve Hendry took over the Chair's role.

Peter Burt took on the role of Research Manager, handing over the Director role to Pete Wilkinson.

Chris Burden and Martin Carr continued to give their unstinting voluntary support throughout the year for which NIS remains indebted.



Jonathon Porritt



Pete Wilkinson

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2014	2013
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Grant from JRCT	-	53,070	53,070	42,189
Grant from Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	1,980
Grant from Marmot Trust	-	-	-	495
Donations	1,446	-	1,446	601
Payments for services	906	-	906	715
	<b>2,352</b>	<b>53,070</b>	<b>55,422</b>	<b>45,980</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff costs	385	47,337	47,722	-
Fees	-	902	902	25,706
Training	-	1,000	1,000	-
Travel	400	1,642	2,042	1,897
Telephone	-	418	418	490
Office costs	75	9,336	9,411	6,592
Projects	327	64	391	1,916
	<b>1,187</b>	<b>60,699</b>	<b>61,886</b>	<b>36,601</b>
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	1,165	(7,629)	(6,464)	9,379
Investment income	393	-	393	387
Taxation	(79)	-	(79)	(77)
Net movement in funds	1,479	(7,629)	(6,150)	9,689
Balances brought forward at 1 January	2,440	48,091	50,531	40,842
Balances carried forward at 31 December	3,919	40,462	44,381	50,531

NIS's finances remained in good health over the year thanks largely to grant funding we received from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The trust is continuing to support our work during 2015.

## BALANCE SHEET

	£	£
	2014	2013
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank accounts - current	4,890	20,717
- deposit	41,109	35,751
Cash in hand	215	90
	46,214	56,558
Debtors	215	75
	46,429	56,633
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accruals	(1,969)	(6,025)
Creditors	(79)	(77)
Net current assets	44,381	50,531
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	3,919	2,440
Restricted funds	40,462	48,091
Total funds	44,381	50,531

Note: Restricted funds support NIS's educational goals and are supported through grant funding. Unrestricted funds are spent on work which may not qualify as meeting charitable aims.

Nuclear Information Service is a not-for-profit, non-government information service which works to promote public awareness and debate on nuclear weapons and related safety and environmental issues.

We are grateful for the generous support extended to us by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in providing our core funding, and a number of private donors who provided funding for project work during 2014.

We rely on donations to fund project work and legal costs. If you would like to help support NIS you can donate online via our PayPal account at [www.nuclearinfo.org](http://www.nuclearinfo.org).



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