



**nuclear**  
**information**  
**service**

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



## CHAIR'S REPORT

In 2013 Nuclear Information Service (NIS) made significant progress with its core work, monitoring and reporting the risks and costs of the UK's nuclear weapons programme.

In the Spring we were very grateful once again to be awarded a grant by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to support our work over the next three years. The funding included provision for a new post allowing us to give greater prominence to our research work and continue to strengthen our governance and capability.

In the early summer we participated in the NGO response to the government's Trident Alternatives Review. We met with the group of local councillors reviewing the role of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Local Liaison Committee and published our Annual Scorecard on progress against recommended reforms to the Committee.

Media interest was good during the year particularly on our response to the AWE fire court hearing and an emergency exercise at Aldermaston. We also submitted a number of Freedom of Information requests and were able to increase our online presence, publish a number of papers and deliver a series of presentations to local and specialist groups.

We highlighted shortfalls in emergency planning arrangements at nuclear sites and continue to engage in useful dialogue with the Office of Nuclear Regulation and other opinion formers and key stakeholders.

At the close of the year the Board was very pleased to appoint veteran nuclear campaigner Pete Wilkinson as Director, allowing Peter Burt to focus on research and, we hope, significantly strengthening the organisation for 2014 onwards.

Trish Whitham  
Chair, NIS Board of Directors, 2013

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

### MONITORING THE ATOMIC WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

Shining a spotlight on activities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is a key area of work for NIS, and 2013 was a busy year for us in this respect. In May AWE plc was convicted at Reading Crown Court of an offence under Health and Safety legislation following a fire at AWE Aldermaston in 2010, and we reported the case comprehensively and provided background information and context to national media covering the story.

We also worked with the Guardian newspaper to expose major structural corrosion issues in the A45 uranium components building at AWE Aldermaston, which had resulted in a halt to processing operations in the building.

Partly because of concerns over such issues, the Office for Nuclear Regulation announced in its annual report for 2013 that the Atomic Weapons Establishment would be the subject of enhanced regulatory attention over the next two years. We briefed local media and councillors on the significance and implications of this decision.



Improving openness and transparency at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is an important long term goal for NIS. In 2012 we published 'Opening the Gates', a report on standards of community liaison at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, and at the end of 2013 we published the first of what will be a series of annual progress reports reviewing how the Establishment is doing in addressing concerns that we have highlighted. During the year we also met with a subgroup of the AWE Local Liaison Committee to discuss plans for reform of the Committee.

## RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

During 2013 we continued our work to highlight the costs and risks of the UK's nuclear weapons programme. We prepared a briefing analysing the results of the government's Trident Alternatives Review and advised the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament on the content of their report 'The Real Alternative', published to coincide with the Trident Alternatives Review report.

Our work using the Freedom of Information Act over the year focused largely on safety and risk issues and during 2013 we investigated and published material on a reactor leak on board the nuclear-powered submarine HMS Tireless, the underwater collision which took place between Trident submarine HMS Vanguard and French nuclear weapons submarine Le Triomphant in 2009, and delays to the launch of the new Astute class submarine Artful. We also worked with the Sunday Herald newspaper to question a decision by the Office for Nuclear Regulation not to bring the Trident nuclear weapons arsenal at Coulport under the civil nuclear regulatory regime following privatisation of operations at Coulport.

We also marked the 30th anniversary of the NATO 'Able Archer 83' Cold War nuclear exercise by publishing historical papers demonstrating concerns that the Soviet Union believed the exercise was, in fact, preparation for a real life nuclear attack.

## WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS

During the year NIS once 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 2013 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 preparing Freedom of Information requests about nuclear transport, and we worked with Nukewatch to expose in the national media difficulties that emerged during the 'Senator 2011' nuclear emergency exercise which took place to simulate the response to an accident involving a nuclear warhead convoy in Scotland.

In November we assisted NAG with media work to highlight shortfalls in the 'Aldex 2013' nuclear emergency exercise at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.



NIS Director Peter Burt speaking alongside UK and French Ambassadors at the 2013 NPT PrepCom meeting

## REACHING OUT

NIS regularly enters into dialogue with government bodies, regulators, and nuclear industry stakeholders with the aim of advancing openness and transparency in the nuclear sector. We are an enthusiastic participant in the Office for Nuclear Regulation's NGO Forum, and during the year also met with ONR inspectors responsible for regulating the Atomic Weapons Establishment. We also began dialogue with the Department for Energy and Climate Change as representatives of a broad coalition of NGOs with the aim of improving nuclear emergency planning arrangements.

We submitted written evidence to an enquiry by the the House of Commons Defence Committee on deterrence, to consultation by the Department of Energy and Climate Change on radioactive waste management, and to the BASIC Trident Commission.

This year we were represented at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva and gave a presentation alongside the British and French Ambassadors to the conference about the UK-France 'Teutates' Treaty which allows co-operation on nuclear warhead science. We also gave presentations at the British International Studies 'Global Nuclear Order' conference and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland) conference on nuclear emergency planning.

## NIS PERSONNEL

During the year we said goodbye to Deborah Wilson, our Technical Assistant, and to long-standing Board member Evelyn Parker. We welcomed Tim Street and Steven Hendry as new members of the Board of Directors, and at the end of the year appointed Pete Wilkinson to take over the role of NIS's Programme Director. We are grateful to Chris Burden and Martin Carr for giving us their services as volunteers during the year.

### YEAR IN NUMBERS

34,794 Website page views

707 Tweets

605 Email subscribers

520 Twitter followers

310 Facebook followers

29 Freedom of Information requests and 9 appeals

22 Parliamentary Questions drafted in assistance to MPs

10 press releases published

8 Editions of our NIS Update newsletter

7 Blog postings and 7 video blogs

5 Presentations to local groups

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2013	2012
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Grants	-	44,664	44,664	48,730
Donations	601	-	601	1,525
Payments for services	715	-	715	220
	1,316	44,664	45,980	50,475
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff fees	331	25,375	25,706	38,313
Travel	384	1,513	1,897	1,154
Office costs	25	7057	7082	6740
Projects	-	1,916	1,916	1,737
	740	35,861	36,601	47,944
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	576	8,803	9,379	2,531
Investment income	387	-	387	354
Taxation	(77)	-	(77)	(71)
Net movement in funds	886	8,803	9,689	2,814
Balances brought forward at 1 January	1,554	39,288	40,842	38,028
Balances carried forward at 31 December	2,440	48,091	50,531	40,842

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 2014.

## BALANCE SHEET

	£	£
	2013	2012
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank accounts - current	20,717	11,068
- deposit	35,751	35,397
Cash in hand	90	82
	56,558	46,547
Debtors	75	-
	56,633	46,547
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accruals	(6,025)	(5,634)
Creditors	(77)	(71)
Net current assets	50,531	40,842
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	2,440	1,554
Restricted funds	48,091	39,288
Total funds	50,531	40,842

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 to the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, the Marmot Charitable Trust, the Cheney Charitable Foundation, and a number of private donors who provided funding for project work during 2013.

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 <http://nuclearinfo.org>.



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