



nuclear  
information  
service

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



## CHAIR'S REPORT

During 2015 Nuclear Information Service faced significant challenges and a certain amount of upheaval, but we continued to make headway in our mission to expose the safety and management problems which dog the UK's Trident nuclear weapons programme.

In June our Director, Pete Wilkinson, left the organisation and we decided to continue operating for an interim period with just two staff members. Also in June we were given three months' notice to quit our office due to redevelopment, requiring us to find and move to new premises at short notice. We have

now moved into a comfortable new office among friends at the Reading International Solidarity Centre in Reading.

In the meantime our day-to-day work continued, and our research on problems with the 'Project Pegasus' enriched uranium facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston formed the basis of a major feature in the 'Sunday Herald' newspaper. Our analysis and reporting on allegations of poor safety standards on board Trident submarines from submariner William McNeilly developed into a national news story.

A major collaborative research project with the Nuclear Education Trust on British military attitudes to nuclear weapons and disarmament bore fruit in the summer when we published the study's findings at a launch

attended by, among others Jeremy Corbyn MP, Julian Lewis MP, Admiral Lord West, and Major General Patrick Cordingley.



*Reading Mayor Cllr Sarah Hacker officially opens NIS' new office in December 2015.*

We were grateful to receive financial support from the Greenpeace Environmental Trust, allowing us to organise two strategy planning workshops for NGOs working on Trident issues and the broader movement

against nuclear weapons to plan and co-ordinate work leading up to the vote on Trident replacement in Parliament in 2016.

Also on Trident, we collaborated with the 'Philosophy Tube' YouTube video channel to make a video targeted at young adults about the moral issues relating to Trident nuclear weapons and we hosted our first student intern from the

University of Reading Giorgio Yong, who prepared a research paper for us on how the UK could contribute to NATO without Trident nuclear weapons.



*Our new office is based within Reading International Solidarity Centre.*

During the year we also received a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust to produce a report examining an alternative future for the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE). Work on this commenced in the last quarter of the year and the report is due to be published during 2016.

In November the Nuclear Information Service Board of Directors and staff participated in a planning workshop to assess how to respond in the longer term to the challenges arising during the year and plan our work for the next three years.

We welcomed Dr Ben Whitham (right) as a new member to the Nuclear Information Service Board of Directors, who brings his experience in research work and International Relations to the organisation.



NIS is very grateful for the continued financial support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and from our many supporters.

Steve Hendry  
Chair, NIS Board of Directors 2015

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

## REPORTS

### MILITARY ATTITUDES STUDY

A study undertaken jointly by NIS and Nuclear Education Trust highlighted a diverse range of views drawn from interviews with ex-services personnel, both in favour of and opposed to nuclear weapons. "The military are split on this issue as never before", the director of a defence think-tank told the study team.

The report, 'British Military Attitudes to Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament', is available to download from our website and was launched at Portcullis House in June. The meeting gave all sides of the debate the opportunity to consider each other's views first hand and take part in useful discussions. Jeremy Corbyn summed it up as "people with wildly different views on nuclear weapons sat round the table in respectful fashion and had a very well-informed debate - a very useful morning."



*Major General Patrick Cordingley addresses the meeting.*

### WHAT NATO NEEDS FROM BRITAIN



Our intern, Giorgio Yong, an Italian undergraduate at the University of Reading's Department of Politics and International Relations, researched and wrote this paper during a 3 month student placement. Giorgio was supported and mentored throughout by NIS staff and external experts.

The paper evaluates the functions of NATO and the limitations of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons programme in defence of modern threats. It analyses various approaches for sustaining security against contemporary geopolitical, technological and strategic threats. Giorgio presented his paper at a seminar on 'The British bomb and NATO' hosted by the Nuclear Education Trust at Portcullis House, Westminster in December.

All reports and the NATO presentation are available to download from our website.

### WORKING WITH PARTNERS

In addition to our joint work with the Nuclear Education Trust and Nukewatch, in February we hosted a Trident Strategy meeting for the entire UK Peace & Disarmament movement.

The full day workshop enabled all groups to share plans, create a timeline and brainstorm joint strategies, tactics and ideas for the period leading up to the 2016 Trident vote in parliament. This was attended by 43 people from 30 different organisations and received very positive feedback.

The feedback called for a follow up meeting which was held in June with a similarly interesting session and among other results led to the formation of an ICAN-led joint project - The Nukes of Hazard - a nuclear convoy awareness programme involving several different groups. It was agreed this movement momentum would be continued via the regular NTR (No Trident Replacement) group monthly meetings which we continue to contribute to.



*Some of the participants at the first Trident Strategy Day.*

In October Peter Burt and Trish Whitham led a packed and enthusiastic workshop at the CND annual conference, 'Using the Legal Arguments', the handout from this session with links to all the legal issues of nuclear weapons is available on the website in the 'Legal' section.

## OUTREACH

As well as strengthening relationships and sharing skills within the UK peace and disarmament movement and publishing two new reports we were able to commission a You Tube video specifically targeted at young people. The Philosophy Tube has a large youth following and our sponsored episode written by the philosophy student presenter Olly Lennard, 'Should Britain Keep its Nuclear Weapons?', discusses the ethics of holding nuclear weapons. The video has had over thirteen thousand views and continues to attract comment and discussion.

We continued to use Facebook, Twitter and Flickr as outreach mechanisms and are gradually increasing engagement with diverse audiences through these - there are plans to further develop these activities in 2016 and a new communications strategy is being developed. We worked with local and national press and gained significant coverage in national and local media and also gave several presentations to other groups.

## YEAR IN NUMBERS

Website page views: 56,724

Tweets: 468

Email subscribers: 1521

Facebook followers: 529

FOI requests: 18

FOI appeals: 3

Parliamentary Questions drafted  
in assistance to MPs: 28

NIS Update newsletters: 3

Specialist briefings: 2

Blog articles: 7

Youtube video uploads: 5

Presentations given: 9

Work on a new relationship management database and a web resource library is expected to be completed in 2016 and will contribute to effective outreach

In December we invited representatives from a broad range of local groups to our office opening event where we displayed some of our work and provided refreshments. The office was officially opened by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Sarah Hacker, who cut a ceremonial ribbon and addressed the gathering, supporting our work and commenting that it was good to have an organisation such as NIS in Reading to balance the information available on nuclear weapons.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2015

| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT                | £                  | £                | £             | £             |
|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2015          | 2014          |
| <b>Incoming resources</b>                     |                    |                  |               |               |
| Grant from JRCT                               | -                  | 52,570           | 52,570        | 53,070        |
| Grant from JRRT                               | -                  | 8,605            | 8,605         | -             |
| Grant from Greenpeace                         | -                  | 3,700            | 3,700         | -             |
| Donations                                     | 1,463              | -                | 1,463         | 1,446         |
| Payments for services                         | 598                | -                | 598           | 906           |
|   | <b>2,061</b>       | <b>64,875</b>    | <b>66,936</b> | <b>55,422</b> |
| <b>Resources expended</b>                     |                    |                  |               |               |
| Staff costs                                   | 598                | 54,329           | 54,927        | 47,722        |
| Fees  | -                  | -                | -             | 902           |
| Training                                      | -                  | -                | -             | 1,000         |
| Travel  | -                  | 1,318            | 1,318         | 2,042         |
| Office costs                                  | 1,325              | 7,265            | 8,590         | 8,988         |
| Board expenses                                | -                  | 655              | 655           | 420           |
| Volunteer expenses                            | -                  | 614              | 614           | 421           |
| Projects                                      | 300                | 3,653            | 3,953         | 391           |
|   | <b>2,223</b>       | <b>67,834</b>    | <b>70,057</b> | <b>61,886</b> |
| Net movement in funds before interest and tax | (162)              | (2,959)          | (3,121)       | (6,464)       |
| Investment income                             | 373                | -                | 373           | 393           |
| Taxation                                      | (75)               | -                | (75)          | (79)          |
| Net movement in funds                         | 136                | (2,959)          | (2,823)       | (6,150)       |
| Balances brought forward at 1 January         | 3,918              | 40,463           | 44,381        | 50,531        |
| Balances carried forward at 31 December       | 4,054              | 37,504           | 41,558        | 44,381        |

NIS's finances remained in good health over the year thanks largely to grant funding we received from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and careful budgeting. The Trust is continuing to support our work during 2016.

| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>       | £             | £       |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------|
|                            | 2015          | 2014    |
| <b>Current assets</b>      |               |         |
| Bank accounts - current    | 4,014         | 4,890   |
| - deposit                  | 41,754        | 41,109  |
| Cash in hand               | 185           | 215     |
|                            | <b>45,953</b> | 46,214  |
| Debtors and prepayments    | 853           | 215     |
|                            | <b>46,806</b> | 46,429  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b> |               |         |
| Accruals                   | (248)         | (243)   |
| Creditors                  | (5,000)       | (1,805) |
| Net current assets         | <b>41,558</b> | 44,381  |
| <b>Funds</b>               |               |         |
| Unrestricted funds         | 4,054         | 3,919   |
| Restricted funds           | 37,504        | 40,462  |
| <b>Total funds</b>         | <b>41,558</b> | 44,381  |

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 organisation. Working to create 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 all our donors who provided funding for project work during 2015.**

**We rely on donations to fund project work and legal costs. If you would like to help support NIS you can donate online by PayPal, bank transfer or by cheque - visit [www.nuclearinfo.org/donate](http://www.nuclearinfo.org/donate)**

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