



nuclear  
information  
service

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# CHAIR'S REPORT

The major focus of 2018 was research and writing for a new report by David Cullen, working with a project team to uncover the emerging costs and risks of nuclear weapons



modernisation. The 60 page report, entitled 'Trouble Ahead: Risks and Rising Costs in the UK Nuclear Weapons Programme' (published April 2019), is aimed particularly at MPs for whom cost is a major factor in determining their position on nuclear weapons, as well as the public and NGOs who will also be concerned about emerging risks. The work on this report extended throughout the year and into 2019.

The Board congratulates the project team, consisting of staff, volunteers and board members, on their ground-breaking work investigating, researching, writing and producing this important and influential new report over so many months. The report is downloadable from the website.

This year our founder and Chair of the Board, Di McDonald, stepped down at the AGM in June owing to other commitments and I was elected Chair, Di McDonald was elected Vice Chair. We are grateful for the contributions made by Dr Ben Whitham over three years, who resigned from the board in September owing to relocation. In September, Henrietta Wilson and Kirsten Bayes were

welcomed as new Board members, each bringing skills, networks and track records to enhance and strengthen NIS's capacity for the future.

NIS Board and Staff appreciate the confidence shown in us by our funders Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and are very grateful to Greenpeace Environmental Trust, The Martin Ryle Trust and Rethinking Security from whom we received extra funds. It is also encouraging to be able to report a big increase in individual donations.

2018 was a very intensive work year which will inform our strategy and work plan for the next three years.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Paul Harper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Harper, Chair  
NIS Board of Directors 2017

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

## LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

As part of our early promotions for the forthcoming new report we held a fringe meeting with Rethinking Security at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool in September in order to preview the report and raise our profile amongst Labour MPs.

Our breakfast meeting 'National Security and Nuclear Weapons: Risks and Opportunities for Labour' was advertised on the conference website and in the widely used conference app, promoted via Facebook and Twitter and hundreds of flyers were given out around the conference.

David Cullen, NIS Director was joined on the panel by Paul Ingram of BASIC and Celia McKeon of Rethinking Security, Chaired by NIS Director, Dr Tim Street. We had a full session of Labour members at eight o'clock in the morning and were pleased with the level of awareness generated for NIS and the increased prominence of nuclear weapons issues at the conference.



*Left to Right, Paul Ingram, Celia McKeon, David Cullen, Dr Tim Street*

## OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Throughout the year we extended our network and developed connections by contributing to and attending a wide variety of events where we were able to promote NIS's work and collaborate with partners. These included the Helensburgh CND conference, the RUSI Project on Nuclear Issues conference, Lush Summit, Southern Region CND meeting and AGM, a rally at AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) to mark the 60th anniversary of the Aldermaston to London march, and a Nuclear Free Local Authorities seminar. We also had a first meeting with the Head of Communications at AWE.



*David Cullen and Trish Whitham (centre) with Lush staff*

We attended The World Transformed and Labour Party Conference sessions, a Nuclear Education Trust report launch, a joint event with Reading Peace Group, ICAN UK planning meetings, a Kings College London seminar on nuclear safeguards after Brexit, WILPF UK's annual conference, Nuclear Awareness Group meetings and the monthly No Trident Replacement meetings with CND and partner organisations.

A visit was made to Faslane Peace Camp and also to Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, where we organised a workshop monitoring radiation levels around AWE led by NIS board member Dr Ele Carpenter of Goldsmiths University. We also had a stall in our local Lush store where we were able to engage interested shoppers in our work and received donations. We met twice with our local Labour MP Matt Rodda and with Fabian Hamilton MP.

We attended the book launch of 'Security Without Nuclear Deterrence' making connections with the author Commander Robert Green and also with another former nuclear submarine commander, Robert Forsyth, who then wrote a blog for us 'The Case Against UK Trident: A Naval Officer's Perspective'. We also continued to contribute to the ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation) NGO forums.

## NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Alongside our new report project we continued to gather information through news monitoring, FOI requests (16 submitted), parliamentary questions and local knowledge. In February we reported on the AWE application to increase discharges and submitted a detailed response to the Environment Agency's consultation on AWE's application to increase radioactive discharges by over 2000%.

We provided our usual news service via four NIS Updates and other mailings to our subscribers. We updated the website and our social media with important stories, produced a new information leaflet on our work and made progress on the new library area of the website.

## PRESS WORK

We maintained our 24/7 media response service and NIS was quoted in local and national press including the Sunday Times and Observer. Our work was also highlighted in newsletters and articles from other organisations including Scientists for Global Responsibility, The Ferret and Open Democracy. We reported on the tougher action threatened on the ongoing safety issues at AWE by the Office for Nuclear Regulation, the Observer headlined the story 'UK nuclear warhead plant warned: 'Improve safety or shut down''. We also reported on the MOD refusal to publish its annual safety reports from its internal regulator.

Finally, we attended and reported on the court hearings and the sentencing at Reading Crown Court for AWE's prosecution by the ONR for a non-nuclear related health and safety failure resulting in injury, where they were fined £1million plus costs.

**The new report 'Trouble Ahead' can be downloaded at [www.nuclearinfo.org/article/new-report-trouble-ahead](http://www.nuclearinfo.org/article/new-report-trouble-ahead) hard copies available on request.**

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2018

## BALANCE SHEET

	£	£
	2018	2017
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank accounts - current	9,317	9,186
- deposit	33,800	33,478
Cash in hand	36	129
	<b>43,153</b>	<b>42,793</b>
Debtors and prepayments	1,313	600
	<b>44,466</b>	<b>43,393</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accruals	(407)	(145)
Creditors	(2,244)	(2,400)
Net current assets	<b>41,815</b>	<b>40,848</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	5,589	7,244
Restricted funds	36,226	33,604
Total funds	<b>41,815</b>	<b>40,848</b>

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.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2018	2017
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	53,000	53,000	53,000
Grants from Greenpeace Environmental Trust	-	7,000	7,000	-
Grant from Martin Ryle Trust	-	750	750	-
Grant from Nuclear Education Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Grant from Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	3,572
Donations	3,135	-	3,135	1,331
	<b>3,135</b>	<b>60,750</b>	<b>63,885</b>	<b>59,403</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff costs	2,797	46,548	49,345	47,882
Fees	-	375	375	1,365
Training	-	-	-	449
Travel	-	777	777	686
Office costs	-	8,322	8,322	7,303
Board expenses	-	950	950	624
Volunteer expenses	-	602	602	715
Projects/events	2,254	554	2,808	4,631
	<b>5,051</b>	<b>58,128</b>	<b>63,179</b>	<b>63,655</b>
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	(1,916)	2,622	706	(4,252)
Investment income	322	-	322	356
Taxation	(61)	-	(61)	(71)
Net movement in funds	<b>(1,655)</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>(3,967)</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 January	7,244	33,604	40,848	44,815
Balances carried forward at 31 December	<b>5,589</b>	<b>36,226</b>	<b>41,815</b>	<b>40,848</b>

**Nuclear Information Service (NIS) is a not for profit, non-government organisation (NGO) working to create public awareness and promote debate on nuclear weapons and related safety and environmental issues.**

**We are grateful for the generous support received from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and all our individual donors and small grant providers who helped to fund our work through the past year including Greenpeace Environmental Trust and the Andrew Ryle Trust.**

**We rely on donations to fund project work and legal costs. If you would like to help support our work you can donate by PayPal, bank transfer or send a cheque - please call, email or visit [www.nuclearinfo.org/donate](http://www.nuclearinfo.org/donate) for further details.**

**We also welcome enquiries and new information - you can contact us by phone, email or post as below.**

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