

Annual report 2020



Investigating the UK nuclear weapons programme

NIS Nuclear
Information
Service

Chair's report



The past year has been so difficult for everyone but I am happy to report that throughout 2020 NIS has been able to continue its work unabated thanks to the determination and collaboration of staff, volunteers, supporters, friends, patrons and board members.

We continued our quality research and reporting activities throughout 2020 and published newsletters and updates which can be found on our website and social media channels.

As it was our 20th anniversary we celebrated remotely and completed some major projects and events including, a new website with a new library function, updated branding and a major webinar on the future of UK nuclear weapons. Between lockdowns we completed a planned office move to a different floor in the same building which has helped to reduce our costs by sharing some facilities. We continued to work with and support other organisations in the field including CND, Acronym Institute, British American Security Information Council (BASIC), Nukewatch and the Office for Nuclear Regulation. We completed some major funding applications to raise finance for a new UK warhead investigation in 2021.

We were very pleased to welcome a new board member, Celia Beeson, a new patron, Dr John Downer and a new research volunteer, Sanem Topal.

We were fortunate to have continuing grant funds from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust covering a substantial amount of our core costs and who also thoughtfully provided a Covid home-working grant which enabled staff to make a smooth transition away from the office and set up effective home-working systems in early March.

We were also very grateful to receive project funds from Greenpeace Environmental Trust and some very welcome smaller grants also arrived including Lush Charity Pot, SCANS and Musicians for Peace. All our individual

20TH ANNIVERSARY WEBINAR
NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DISARMAMENT:
WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

NIS Nuclear
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**JEREMY
CORBYN**



**JONATHAN
PORRITT**
Founder Director,
Forum for the Future



**KATE
HUDSON**
General Secretary,
CND



**OLAMIDE
SAMUEL**
Coordinator,
SCRAP Weapons



**DAVID
CULLEN**
Director,
NIS



**HENRIETTA
WILSON**
NIS Board Member



WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020
14:00 - 15:30 BST

  @NuclearInfo

Our anniversary webinar was well attended and we were very grateful for the support of our panellists and participants. To watch again see our YouTube channel..

donors continued to make their regular contributions. We received a very useful government Covid small business grant via the local authority which helped to plug our funding gap for the year and ensured we could continue our work through the pandemic and plan into 2021 and beyond.

Next year, alongside the new warhead project, we will be updating our Trouble Ahead report with new information on the rising costs and risks of UK nuclear weapons via video updates. We will also undertake work in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) including some research into the attitudes of non-nuclear weapon states to the modernisation programmes of the nuclear weapon states.

2021 is likely to be more challenging financially and we will be working on expanding our funding activities to include subscriptions, legacies and bequests as well as creating ways for our supporters to become more involved in our work.

We are very grateful to all our supporters and funders and look forward to another year of investigating, researching and reporting on the hidden aspects of the UK's nuclear weapons programme.

Ailsa Johnson
Chair, NIS Board of Directors

New collaborators

We are pleased to introduce and welcome three new collaborators to NIS. Their voluntary contributions bring a huge boost to the organisation's pool of expertise and reach.



Dr John Downer, Patron

John researches and teaches on matters pertaining to risk, technology and science at the University of Bristol's department of Sociology, Politics and International Studies. He primarily writes on US and UK debates around the safety and integrity of reactors and deterrence networks, and on the politics and sociology of radiological hazard assessments. His central interest is in the nature and role of expert knowledge in these debates, and the ways it is invoked by political actors.



Celia Beeson, Board Member

Celia worked for many years on Quaker projects, including the establishment of the annual Quaker Peace Lecture in Bristol. She also had considerable involvement with the Schumacher Society, particularly in organising the Schumacher Lectures. Most of her working life has been in the public and voluntary sectors in education, software development, sustainable travel, climate change, planning policy, and sustainable energy and construction.



Sanem Topal, Volunteer

Sanem is a master's student of International Relations at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. She began volunteering with NIS alongside her studies in 2020. She is interested in nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-state actors. She has undertaken a project researching the attitudes of non-nuclear states to the nuclear weapons modernisation programmes for a briefing to be published in 2021.

New briefings



Nuclear Ban Treaty

NIS was invited to contribute to a new report by CND and Acronym Institute analysing the details of the new UN TPNW and implications for the UK.

A summary of the report is published on our website and the full report is to be published later in 2021. NIS would like to congratulate everyone who has worked on the treaty and to express the hope that the occasion spurs a renewed push for the goal of both the TPNW and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): a nuclear weapon-free world.



Attitudes to Modernisation

This project analyses the statements made to Review Conferences and Preparatory Committees for the NPT, negotiations for the TPNW, and the 2016 Open Ended Working Group.

The briefing considers the extent to which modernisation programmes are contributing to dissatisfaction within the NPT and support for the TPNW. A webinar discussing the findings with speakers from International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and BASIC is on the NIS YouTube channel.

Financial activities

Balance sheet

	£	£
	2020	2019
Current assets		
Bank accounts - current	24,343	10,725
- deposit	23,057	22,829
Cash in hand	217	42
	47,617	33,596
Debtors and prepayments	637	583
	48,254	34,179
Current liabilities		
Accruals	(74)	-
Creditors	(2,759)	(2,610)
Net current assets	45,421	31,569
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	9,007	4,142
Restricted funds	36,414	27,427
Total funds	45,421	31,569

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 charitable.

Income and expenditure account

	£	£	£	£
Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020	2019
Grant: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	60,650	60,650	53,000
Grants: Greenpeace Environmental Trust	-	7,000	7,000	-
Grant: Lush Charity Pot	-	4,000	4,000	-
Grant: HB and LB Cadbury Trust	-	-	-	1,000
Grant: Marmot Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,500
Small business grant	10,000	-	10,000	-
Donations	2,696	-	2,696	1,156
	12,696	71,650	84,346	57,656
Expenditure				
Staff costs	8,005	43,883	51,888	50,498
Fees	-	-	-	1,628
Training	-	-	-	133
Travel	-	243	243	818
Office costs	10	13,145	13,155	7,879
Board expenses	-	322	322	1,139
Volunteer expenses	-	830	830	454
Projects/events	-	4,240	4,240	5,612
	8,015	62,663	70,678	68,161
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	4,681	8,987	13,668	(10,505)
Investment income	228	-	228	320
Taxation	(44)	-	(44)	(61)
Net movement in funds	4,865	8,987	13,852	(10,246)
Balances brought forward at 1 January	4,142	27,427	31,569	41,815
Balances carried forward at 31 December	9,007	36,414	45,421	31,569

Support our work

Nuclear Information Service is an independent, not-for-profit research organisation. We investigate the UK nuclear weapons programme and publish accurate and reliable information to stimulate informed debate on disarmament and related issues.

We rely on donations to fund some specific project work and any legal costs. If you would like to help support our work you can donate by PayPal, bank transfer or cheque, or by leaving a legacy www.nuclearinfo.org/donate

All of our reports are at www.nuclearinfo.org/reports or you can order free hard copies of some of our reports at <https://form.jotform.com/203293750177053>

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