

Annual report 2021



**Investigating the UK
nuclear weapons programme**

NIS Nuclear
Information
Service

Chair's report



During 2021, when several nuclear issues came to the fore, NIS worked to inform journalists, campaigners, politicians and the public through research, reports, briefings, webinars, the website and social media. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into force showing the strength of opposition from non-nuclear armed states; a new administration in the US gave hope for a new nuclear direction; the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) was renationalised; the UK announced an increase in the cap on the nuclear stockpile and continued to collaborate with the US in developing new warheads; the controversial 'AUKUS' agreement was announced with the UK, US and Australia; and the long-awaited Non Proliferation Treaty review meeting, which would address many of the issues, was postponed repeatedly due to Covid.

Activities

Throughout the year much of our work has focussed on a warhead upgrade report to be published in 2022. We also assisted with the briefing *Nuclear Weapons are Banned: What does this mean for Britain?* with Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, summarising the implications of the TPNW; we worked throughout the year with the author, Dr Rebecca Johnson, assisting with a full report to be published in 2022.

In the Summer we published *Nuclear weapon modernisation: Attitudes of non-nuclear weapon states* and hosted three well attended webinars with prominent speakers on different nuclear weapons issues, as detailed on the next pages. We began a project to digitise the vast research archive of the late John Ainslie thanks to funding from Scottish CND and friends. This will continue through 2022 and will be added to our website library.

We continued to work with other NGOs in the movement including CND, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), British American Security Information Council (BASIS), British Pugwash, Womens International League for Peace and Freedom and Acronym, and we continued



Strategy planning day



December meet-up

to attend the 'No Trident Replacement' meetings with other NGOs. We also attend the Office for Nuclear Regulation NGO Forum meetings with a wide range of anti-nuclear NGOs engaging with issues of regulatory process and compliance at the nuclear weapon sites.

People

Henrietta Wilson and Celia Beeson stepped down from the board in August due to their schedules but continue to support NIS in other ways. Nancy MacKeith, is rejoining the board after a break. Volunteer Sanem Topal, from Turkey completed her project and has begun an internship with United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs in Vienna. We welcomed two new Patrons, Dr Phil Johnstone and Dr Andy Stirling from Sussex University, whose work highlights links between nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.

In October we held a full day strategy planning session to review recent work, consider the recent nuclear weapons policy developments and prioritise our work over the coming years. The December board meeting was followed by our first get together with staff and volunteers since Covid. I would like to thank our staff, volunteers and board members for their support, commitment and extra effort in another difficult pandemic year.

We are grateful to all our funders and donors (see financial report) who are enabling us to continue this important work.

Ailsa Johnson
Chair, NIS Board of Directors

Webinars

In 2021 we hosted three public webinars during the year, enabling discussion of current nuclear weapons issues with other experts and a wide audience. These can all be watched on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/nuclearinfo.



In March we hosted a discussion on the initial findings of our nuclear weapon modernisation briefing with Dr Gry Thomasen from BASIC and Alicia Sanders-Zakre from ICAN. It was attended by around 60 and also seen later on YouTube. The full report is available to download from our website where hard copies can also be ordered.



Our second webinar in August saw over 100 register for a discussion around the new book by our board director Dr Tim Street *The Politics of Nuclear Disarmament*. This discussion included Paul Rogers (Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University), Alicia Sanders-Zakre (ICAN) chaired by Henrietta Wilson (arms researcher and lecturer at SOAS and former NIS board member) and attracted over 80 experts, campaigners and academics.



In November Dr Tim Street organised a webinar tackling nuclear secrecy, its impact on democracy and the links between the US and UK nuclear programmes. He was joined by David Cullen, Dr Alex Wellerstein, a US nuclear historian and author, and Dr Kennette Benedict of Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The webinar attracted experts and academics, over 100 registrations and many subsequent views on YouTube.

Reports and press



We provided additional research and support for an in-depth report and analysis on possible impacts of the new TPNW, published by Acronym and CND in January 2022 to coincide with the anniversary of the treaty coming into force.

Research into UN records for our briefing on non-nuclear weapon states attitudes to the 'modernisation' of nuclear weapons was completed and published in August. The briefing supports both the TPNW and our forthcoming report into the UK's new nuclear warhead to be published in March 2022.

We were able to provide background and comment to *The Observer* on the increase to the UK's warhead stockpile and *The Guardian* on the 'AUKUS' UK partnership with the US to supply Australia with nuclear powered submarines.

Financial activities

Balance sheet

	£	£
	2021	2020
Current assets		
Bank accounts – current	37,564	24,343
– deposit	23,398	23,057
Cash in hand	-	217
	60,962	47,617
Debtors and prepayments	583	637
	61,545	48,254
Current liabilities		
Accruals	(500)	(74)
Creditors	(2,440)	(2,759)
Net current assets	58,605	45,421
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	10,465	9,007
Restricted funds	48,140	36,414
Total funds	58,605	45,421

We are grateful for the generous support received from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and all our individual donors and grant providers who have helped to fund our work.

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

Income and expenditure account

	£	£	£	£
Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021	2020
Grant: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	50,000	50,000	60,650
Grant: Network for Social Change	-	18,633	18,633	-
Grants: Greenpeace Environmental Trust	-	-	-	7,000
Grant: Lush Charity Pot	-	-	-	4,000
Grant: Ainslie Archie	-	6,700	6,700	-
Legacy Fund	-	2,360	2,360	-
Small business grant	-	-	-	10,000
Donations	1,624	-	1,624	2,696
	1,624	77,693	79,317	84,346
Expenditure				
Staff costs	90	54,896	54,986	51,888
Travel	-	38	38	243
Office costs	263	8,205	8,468	13,155
Board expenses	-	286	286	322
Volunteer expenses	-	860	860	830
Projects/events	-	1,682	1,682	4,240
	353	65,967	66,320	70,678
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	1,271	11,726	12,997	13,668
Investment income	231	-	231	228
Taxation	(44)	-	(44)	(44)
Net movement in funds	1,458	11,726	13,184	13,852
Balances brought forward at 1 January	9,007	36,414	45,421	31,569
Balances carried forward at 31 December	10,465	48,140	58,605	45,421

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.

Nuclear Information Service

We are 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.

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