

Investigating the UK nuclear weapons programme

Chair's report



Ukraine and nuclear threats

2022 saw the veiled but shocking threat of use of nuclear weapons from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine in February. This brought possession of nuclear weapons and all the issues around use, threat of use and disarmament into the fore and our work feels more essential than ever.

A surge of media interest followed our quote in the Guardian on Ukraine and nuclear threats and we were also interviewed on LBC.

In August at the long-awaited 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York, after two years' delay due to Covid, the states-parties disappointingly failed to reach consensus on the conference's outcomes. This has only increased our resolve to continue working towards nuclear disarmament by providing factual information to the movement.

**NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
ARE BANNED!
WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN
FOR BRITAIN?**

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
became international law in January 2021
— Rebecca Johnson

Achievements

At the start of the year, marking the coming into force of the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW), we were pleased to see the publication of the new explainer report by Dr Rebecca Johnson, 'Nuclear weapons are banned! What does this mean for the UK?'. Congratulations to Rebecca and thanks go to staff members Trish Whitham and David Cullen who contributed to the project alongside their regular work. During the year NIS also completed two major projects and hosted three well attended and topical webinars creating debate and

discussion and providing detailed information on the UK's nuclear weapons programme – full details overleaf. Finally, in December a video update to our 2019 report 'Trouble Ahead' was published giving a comprehensive overview of developments on the UK's nuclear weapon upgrades.

Core work

Throughout the year alongside the project work we continued with our core work investigating, monitoring and reporting on UK nuclear weapons activities. We also continued to contribute to projects and meetings with other organisations in the sector including British Pugwash, Arms Control Association, CND, ICAN, Acronym, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) NGO Forums.

People

Dr Tim Street joined the Ainslie Archive team providing valuable guidance and assistance. In December Nancy MacKeith stood down from the board due to other commitments but continues to support NIS in other ways. We were pleased to recruit two new board members with very complementary skills and connections who will be announced after the March 2023 board meeting.

Funding

We were delighted to be awarded funding from the Network for Social Change for a new data management project which will help us to provide a speedy, accurate and up to date information service. We were also very grateful to receive awards from new and regular funders (see financial report). Many thanks to all who have contributed to this work.

Ailsa Johnson, Chair, Nuclear Information Service

Webinars



We were very grateful for the contributions from all speakers: Janet Fenton, Nick Richie, Rob Edwards, Kate Hudson, Tom Unterrainer, Shannon Bugos

Nuclear weapons, the Ukraine conflict and beyond

We considered the position of nuclear weapons in the world today. Introduced by Peter Jenkins, British Pugwash, with Shannon Bugos of the US based Arms Control Association and Tim Street.

Extreme Circumstances

The webinar discussed our latest report with David Cullen, Kate Hudson, CND and Nick Ritchie, with over 70 parliamentarians, academics and campaigners.

The Sword of Damocles – The life and work of John Ainslie

Janet Fenton, Scottish CND, Journalist, Rob Edwards, Tom Unterrainer, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and friends celebrated the first tranche of the late nuclear weapons researcher's archive uploaded to our website

Browse all our webinars at www.youtube.com/c/nuclearinfo

Projects

We continued with our regular work: collaborating with partner organisations and gathering and sharing information on our website, newsletters and social media. As well as this we concentrated on two big projects –

Extreme circumstances: the UK's new nuclear warhead in context

Most of the year was spent intensively working on this very detailed major report. It was researched and written by David Cullen supported by Trish Whitham, Ailsa Johnson and our academics Dr Nick Ritchie and Dr Tim Street as well as a host of expert reviewers. Many thanks to all contributors. We provided printed reports to select MPs, libraries and organisations. The report is available from our website and hard copies can also be ordered.



David, Trish, Duncan and Tobi with report

Ainslie Archive

John Ainslie Archive project

This project began in Spring 2021 led by Trish Whitham, and is expected to complete in Summer 2023. Thanks to generous funding we were able to hire archive team members Ellis and Tim who have undertaken the painstaking work of scanning, categorising and uploading.

The archive is available to browse and search now as a work-in-progress with new documents being added weekly and a user guide on the way.

Several archive reports will be published in *Bairns not Bombs* by Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

www.nuclearinfo.org/library

Financial activities

Balance sheet

	2022	2021
Current assets		
Bank accounts – current	12,365	37,564
– deposit	50,190	23,398
Cash in hand	-	-
	62,555	60,962
Debtors and prepayments	583	583
	63,138	61,545
Current liabilities		
Accruals	(875)	(500)
Creditors	(2,922)	(2,440)
Net current assets	59,321	58,605
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	9,782	10,465
Restricted funds	49,559	48,140
Total funds	59,341	58,605

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022	2021
Income				
Grant: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	45,000	45,000	50,000
Grant: Network for Social Change	-	19,840	19,840	18,633
Grant: Ainslie Archie	-	12,321	12,321	6,700
Legacy Fund	-	170	170	2,360
Donations	1,316	-	1,316	1,624
	1,316	77,331	78,647	79,317
Expenditure				
Staff costs	2,203	58,322	60,525	54,986
Training	-	109	109	-
Travel	-	752	752	38
Office costs	32	10,816	10,848	8,468
Board expenses	-	601	601	286
Volunteer expenses	-	455	455	860
Projects/events	-	4,857	4,857	1,682
	2,235	75,912	78,147	66,320
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	(919)	1,419	500	12,997
Investment income	291	-	291	231
Taxation	(55)	-	(55)	(44)
Net movement in funds	(683)	1,419	736	13,184
Balances brought forward at 1 January	10,465	48,140	58,605	45,421
Balances carried forward at 31 December	9,782	49,559	59,341	58,605

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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