

Annual report 2019



NIS Nuclear
Information
Service

Chair's report

2019 was a busy year for the staff, board members and volunteers of NIS, all working together against a background of uncertainty, both nationally and internationally.

In April we launched our report *Trouble Ahead: Risks and Rising Costs in the UK Nuclear Weapons Programme*, the culmination of 16 months of intensive teamwork. At the launch of the report in the Palace of Westminster, the room was packed with an audience of ex-military, MPs, NGOs and academics. *Trouble Ahead* was widely discussed in the mainstream press and provides a vital reference for government, parliamentarians, think tanks, journalists, academics, NGOs and the public. During 2019, NIS continued further research into the issues raised in the report and will continue to do so in 2020.

During 2019, we took further opportunities to network and serve as an information point for other NGOs in the field, but also to nurture contact with the local emergency planning authorities, journalists, politicians, our funders, regulatory bodies and the public. We worked on FOI requests and supported a FOI tribunal case regarding the MOD's lack of accountability and non-disclosure.

At the AGM in June, we said goodbye to a long-standing board member and recent chair, Paul Harper, and I was elected as Chair. Our thanks to Paul for his work and commitment to NIS over many years. Owing to family commitments, Di McDonald, a highly respected board member and inspirational founder of NIS, was replaced as Deputy Chair by Kirsten Bayes.

In 2020 we will be using our 20 year anniversary to further publicise our work on social media and with the mainstream media. We will co-operate with other NGOs in the field, with policy makers, regulators and academics, and with supportive MPs to reach out to the government and to the new intake of MPs. The changing national and international situation provides both



Staff, volunteers and board members at the House of Commons report launch in April.

challenges and opportunities for NIS. Certainly with people becoming more aware of threats to our planet and their responsibility for the earth's well-being, we hope there will be a heightened awareness of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. NIS intends to contribute to that debate.

We are very grateful to have been awarded a further grant for the next three years from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We have also received grants from the Marmot Trust and the H B and L B Cadbury Trust. We are grateful to the many individual supporters of NIS who, we know, are beset with requests to donate to many causes, but who enable us to continue our work of information gathering and dissemination. We will continue to seek a variety of funders so that in 2020 we can continue to research the nuclear weapons programme, promote transparency and accountability, improve safety, support campaign groups, work with the media and decision makers, and make a contribution towards achieving nuclear disarmament.

We are always pleased to hear from you with information, queries and suggestions.

My thanks to the staff, board members, company secretary and volunteers for their tireless work and dedication.

Ailsa Johnson
Chair, NIS Board of Directors 2019

The year in review



David Cullen (left), NIS Director, and the panel at report launch.

New report: 'Trouble Ahead'

The first four months of 2019 were spent finalising the new report; 'Trouble Ahead: Risks and Rising Costs in the UK Nuclear Weapons Programme'. The report highlights risks, delays, costs and some of the interdependencies within the nuclear weapons programme and was widely covered in the press including The Times, The Telegraph and several naval publications. Findings were presented to parliamentarians, academics and campaign groups and we continue to offer briefings and hard copies. Updates to the report are planned for 2020.

Outreach and collaboration

Throughout 2019 we worked closely with CND, contributing to freedom of information requests, publishing responses and presenting at several CND local group meetings and events. We also contributed to regular 'No Trident Replacement' meetings, and the Office for Nuclear Regulation NGO Forums.

We attended The Student and Young Pugwash Conference and presented at Abingdon Peace Group meeting, Action for Peace Festival, Nuclear Awareness Group meetings and liaised with Royal United Services Institute, ICAN, BASIC, Nukewatch and Nuclear Free Local Authorities. We also met with the emergency planners for West Berkshire and Reading to discuss Atomic Weapons Establishment emergency preparedness.

Team news

2019 saw two new volunteers and two new board members join NIS, strengthening our skills base and increasing our ability to investigate, monitor and report on the UK nuclear weapons programme.

In June we held a staff and board strategic planning day for 2020 onwards with support from external members from British American Security Information Council and British Pugwash. An outline work plan for the next three years emerged including a project investigating the nuclear warhead replacement programme and new information updates to our *Trouble Ahead* report.

Other work

We were able to start a long-planned project to redesign a more user-friendly website with easier access to all our reports and information as well as a new searchable document library – launching in 2020.

NIS supported Peter Burt's Information Tribunal on the MOD's refusal to release its recent annual nuclear armed submarine safety reports. Full details of the tribunal, key documents and witness statements are on our website. A ruling is expected in 2020.

Funding

Much of this work went into preparing a new funding bid to Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for 2020–2022 based on the project work identified in the strategy day. We were delighted and very grateful to be awarded another three years of project funding. However, as the grant decreases in the second and third years, fund-raising will now be a higher priority in this period and we have outsourced our book-keeping to a local professional to enable the staff team to focus more on this.

We are all looking forward to increasing our visibility and achieving further progress in 2020, our 20th anniversary year!

Financial activities

Balance sheet

	£	£
	2019	2018
Current assets		
Bank accounts – current	10,725	9,317
– deposit	22,829	33,800
Cash in hand	42	36
	33,596	43,153
Debtors and prepayments	583	1,313
	34,179	44,466
Current liabilities		
Accruals	-	(407)
Creditors	(2,610)	(2,244)
Net current assets	31,569	41,815
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	4,142	5,589
Restricted funds	27,427	36,226
Total funds	31,569	41,815

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	2019	2018
Grant: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	53,000	53,000	53,000
Grant: Greenpeace Environmental Trust	-	-	-	7,000
Grant: Martin Ryle Trust	-	-	-	750
Grant: HB and LB Cadbury Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-
Grant: Marmot Charitable Trust	-	2,500	2,500	-
Donations	1,156	-	1,156	3,135
	1,156	56,500	57,656	63,885
Expenditure				
Staff costs	1,903	48,595	50,498	49,345
Fees	443	1,185	1,628	375
Training	-	133	133	-
Travel	-	818	818	777
Office costs	-	7,879	7,879	8,322
Board expenses	516	623	1,139	950
Volunteer expenses	-	454	454	602
Projects/events	-	5,612	5,612	2,808
	2,862	65,299	68,161	63,179
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	(1,706)	(8,799)	(10,505)	706
Investment income	320	-	320	322
Taxation	(61)	-	(61)	(61)
Net movement in funds	(1,447)	(8,799)	(10,246)	967
Balances brought forward at 1 January	5,589	36,226	41,815	40,848
Balances carried forward at 31 December	4,142	27,427	31,569	41,815

Support our work

Nuclear Information Service (NIS) is a not for profit, non-government organisation 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 grant providers who have helped to fund our work.

We rely on donations to fund our work and any legal costs. If you would like to help support our work please visit our website.

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