

NIS Nuclear
Information
Service

Investigating the UK nuclear weapons programme

Annual report 2023

Chair's report



In December Ailsa Johnson stepped down as Chair and was thanked for her exemplary service and support. I was honoured to be elected to the role as interim Chair until the next AGM.

Achievements in 2023

At a time of increased global tensions and threats of nuclear weapons use, NIS has continued to investigate and report on the UK nuclear weapons programme and related issues. 2023 was another very productive year for NIS thanks to the dedication and expertise of our staff, office volunteers and board members.

In January a survey of our peace movement partners identified a need for five new briefings. We will research and publish briefings on: Devonport nuclear dockyard; the UK / US Mutual Defence Agreement; Faslane and Coulport; Rolls-Royce nuclear sites; and BAE Systems, Barrow. We also began planning outreach work for the local areas around nuclear weapons sites, starting with Devonport in Spring 2024.

Our two-year project to digitise the archive of the nuclear researcher John Ainslie was completed and the documents accepted by the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. A public event at the library to showcase these historic documents and work of John Ainslie is planned in partnership with Scottish CND. The complete archive and video highlights can be found on our website.

We completed our new nuclear weapons sites database thanks to funding from the Network for Social Change. The database is enabling us to record and quickly retrieve details of past and current events, greatly improving the efficiency of our nuclear information service.

In October 2023 we held a strategy development day with board members and staff, focusing on the next five years. A draft strategy was produced, including some new work on the links between climate change and nuclear weapons, as well as further research on UK nuclear colonialism and new parliamentary work.

A well-attended webinar, followed by a live event, was held in November on

the legacy of UK nuclear colonialism. Speakers outlined the impacts of uranium mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UK nuclear bomb testing in Nevada and the Pacific island of Kiritimati. All our webinars and videos are on our YouTube channel.

Core Work

Over the year we continued our core work of researching and reporting on the UK nuclear weapons programme, including increasing costs and risks. Our followings on social media via X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn have increased, as have visits to our website and downloads of our reports and briefings. NIS was quoted in media outlets including: the Daily Mail, the Guardian, NPR, and The Ferret. Our recent reports are available in the House of Commons Library and are regularly cited in House of Commons Research Briefings to MPs.

Collaborations

Throughout the year we have continued to work with, and provide information to: academics, parliamentarians, journalists, and peace movement partners. We attended Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) partner meetings, and Office for Nuclear

Regulation NGO Forum meetings, where David Cullen is taking on the role of co-chair in 2024. We provided a panellist for a CND webinar in August and we continue to liaise with regional CND groups. We are also supporting Nukewatch with nuclear convoy data management.

Board

NIS welcomed four new board members in 2023: Dr Olamide Samuel; Janet Fenton; Giulia Gigliotti and Commander Robert Forsyth (Retd.). These new members contribute to the diversity of the board, provide complementary skills, and strengthen our governance.

Funding

We are grateful to all our funders (see financial report) and especially the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust who support much of our organisational costs. However we will still need to seek extra funding next year to finance project work.

I look forward to supporting NIS to achieve its goals, and thank our staff, volunteers, board members, all our supporters, and funders for enabling this crucial work.

Dr Tim Street
Chair

Strategy development



Left to right: Dr Olamide Samuel, Di MacDonald, Duncan Barnet, David Cullen, Robert Forsyth, Trish Whitham, Janet Fenton, Kirsten Bayes and Dr Tim Street with Ailsa Johnson on video call.

A five year strategy development session in October, expertly facilitated by the Rhizome Co-operative, included all eight board members and both staff members. The day enabled us to give time and thought to our objectives, evaluate our current position and plan for the future as well as developing as a team and welcoming our new board members.

We reviewed our work and achievements from the past five years against objectives and noted learning points. Looking ahead, we discussed opportunities and shared ideas to develop our strengths and core work: investigating and reporting on the UK nuclear weapons programme. We also identified some important new project work and an outline plan for the next five years was agreed. As always, our workplan includes the space and ability to be creative and respond swiftly to changing circumstances in politics and the nuclear disarmament field.

Project work



Ainslie Archive

The two-year project to digitise the entire archive of nuclear researcher John Ainslie was completed and can be browsed in the archive section of our website along with a link to video highlights. The work was funded by grants and many individual donors. The documents have now been accepted as a special collection for safe storage at The National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Nuclear Sites Database

Our new nuclear sites database was completed and populated with historic data. As an ongoing project it will be used to record new events, activities and information as it happens, enabling fast retrieval to support and enhance our nuclear information service.



Devonport Briefing

A new briefing on Devonport nuclear dockyard was published in December and can be downloaded from the reports section of our website, hard copies available by emailing office@nuclearinfo.org. The briefing outlines the current operations, future plans and the issue of dismantling and disposal of all the retired submarines stored there.

Financial activities

Balance sheet

	2023	2022
Current assets		
Bank accounts – current	3,420	12,365
– deposit	40,043	50,190
Cash in hand	-	-
	43,463	62,555
Debtors and prepayments	583	583
	44,046	63,138
Current liabilities		
Accruals	(500)	(875)
Creditors	(1,923)	(2,922)
Net current assets	41,623	59,321
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	8,072	9,782
Restricted funds	33,551	49,559
Total funds	41,623	59,341

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.

Note: Restricted funds support NIS's educational aims and are supported through grant funding. Unrestricted funds are spent on work which may not qualify as charitable such as political work or legal costs.

We rely on individual donations to fund some specific project work.

If you would like to help support our work you can donate by PayPal, bank transfer or cheque, or by leaving a legacy. Visit www.nuclearinfo.org/donate

Income and expenditure account

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
Income				
Grant: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	66,980	66,980	45,000
Grant: Network for Social Change	-	-	-	19,840
Grant: Greenpeace Environmental Trust		4,287	4,287	-
Grant: HT and LB Cadbury Charitable Trust		2,000	2,000	-
Grant: Ainslie Archive	-	2,000	2,000	12,321
Legacy Fund	-	500	500	170
Donations	1,216	170	1,386	1,316
	1,216	75,937	77,153	78,647
Expenditure				
Staff costs	3,595	70,597	74,192	60,525
Training	-	-	-	109
Travel	-	506	506	752
Office costs	23	17,404	17,427	10,848
Board expenses	-	723	723	601
Volunteer expenses	-	501	501	455
Projects/events	-	2,214	2,214	4,857
	3,618	91,945	95,563	78,147
Net movement in funds before interest and tax	(2,402)	(16,008)	(18,410)	500
Investment income	854	-	854	291
Taxation	(162)	-	(162)	(55)
Net movement in funds	(1,710)	(16,008)	(17,718)	736
Balances brought forward at 1 January	9,782	49,559	59,341	58,605
Balances carried forward at 31 December	8,072	33,551	41,623	59,341

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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