



Nuclear Non-Governmental Organisation Forum – Terms of Reference

Purpose

- The purpose of the Forum is to provide a regular opportunity for representatives of nuclear-interested Non-Governmental Organisations to have direct access to Government policy and engage with decision makers including Ministers. The intention is to:
 - provide a collaborative and deliberative atmosphere where nuclear issues can be discussed in an open and transparent manner;
 - ensure policy-makers have access to the full range of evidence and perspectives;
 - inform NGOs on Government priorities and workstreams.

Scope

- BEIS officials will provide briefings and seek views on emerging policies across the full range of nuclear directorate activity. NGO representatives will engage and provide constructive challenge with additional evidence and perspectives.
- NGO representatives can initiate and present papers on research that they have completed and raise questions to be considered during policy formulation. BEIS officials will engage with the evidence and will consider it alongside all evidence when formulating policy options for Ministers.
- All parties need to be aware that this Forum is one of many sources of evidence that are taken into consideration when formulating policy. BEIS officials are not empowered to negotiate policy at the Forum, but they will treat all evidence seriously and assess it alongside all other evidence.
- To help focus long-term engagement, both parties should aim to agree a forward agenda of issues to be discussed.

Principles

- The Co-chairs insist on the mutual respect of all speakers.
- The Co-chairs will agree a public record of the meeting.
- All parties should be aware that the role of civil servants is to provide objective and impartial advice to the Government of the day. This involves analysing all sources of evidence before providing Ministers with policy options.
- All parties should be aware that the role of NGOs, in this meeting, is to provide broader evidence and perspectives on the range of nuclear issues and policies
- BEIS will meet the travelling costs of participants including the provision of refreshments. This is restricted to return standard class rail travel. *Numbers will be regularly reviewed. Interest groups are encouraged to coalesce around issues and rotate representatives at the forum.*



Secretariat

- The Secretariat will act as an integral liaison between the BEIS and NGO members. This will include:
 - supporting the Co-chairs;
 - developing the forward agenda;
 - arranging the logistics for meetings;
 - supporting the processing of expense claims.

Membership

- The Co-chairs should agree on opening up membership to any new members. Attendees at the meeting should be limited to a manageable size from each side. The Co-chairs should agree in advance who will be allocated a place at the forum.

Frequency

- Meetings will be held three times each year.