



Nuclear Industry Council – Summary of Meeting

22nd February, 10:30-12:00. BEIS Conference Centre, London

Attendees: Jesse Norman, John Hutton (co – chairs), Clive White (Amec Foster Wheeler), Stephen Speed (BEIS), Simon Bowen (Cavendish), Campbell Kier (DIT), Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson (EDF), Duncan Hawthorne (Horizon), Ian Forber (MoD), Paul Westbury (Laing O’Rourke), Mike Tynan (NAMRC), John Clarke (NDA), Tom Greatrex (NIA) , Gordon Bryan (NIRO), Paul Howarth (NNL), Gary Shuttleworth (NuGen), Harry Holt (Rolls Royce), Paul Foster (Sellafield), Kevin Coyne (TUSNE).

Apologies: Terry Hill (Arup/ Independent), Matt Tuck (MATOM), Rear Admiral Paul Methven (MoD), Sue Ion (NIRO), Tom Samson (NuGen), Ken Skates AM (Welsh Government).

1. Chairs’ Opening Remarks

Jesse Norman highlighted the NIC’s role in leading industry and engaging with Government. He said the reformed Council was timely given progress in nuclear over the last year and synergies the sector has with the pillars of Government’s modern Industrial Strategy, published in Green Paper form at end January.

The Minister emphasised the need for members to attend Council meetings in person in order to maintain effectiveness and credibility of the NIC.

Lord Hutton stressed the need for a close partnership between industry and government and that the NIC should be strategic and have a long-term focus.

2. Terms of Reference

Members approved the Terms of Reference,

In doing so, they underlined the important interaction and necessary distinction between the NIC; the Nuclear Industry Association’s (NIA) Delivery Group; and any working groups established to support them. The NIA confirmed that the Council would be the strategic driver, delegating work to the Delivery Group and working groups, as appropriate. Government encouraged industry members to work creatively to avoid incumbency, in line with a key part of Government’s industrial strategy narrative.

3. Industrial Strategy & nuclear sector deal

Jesse Norman set out some of Government’s high-level expectations for the potential nuclear sector deal, announced in the Industrial Strategy Green Paper. Many important issues such as skills, exports and technology should be considered, with the overarching objective of cost reduction across the industry firmly in mind. This would need to be supported by rigorous analysis and without compromising safety.



Lord Hutton said the Sector Deal would be the NIC's immediate priority and that the Council would need to work with Government to agree scope of the deal.

The group discussed the nuclear sector deal. Members considered the balance between the UK being a technology owner and services provider and acknowledged there were examples of both across the civil and defence sectors. Members agreed that any strategy for the nuclear sector should consider short-, medium- and long-term objectives.

Members also agreed that the Sector Deal and wider Industrial Strategy presented opportunities to enhance supply chain and skills outside the nuclear sector – for example in the construction sector.

Jesse Norman asked members to work with the NIA and wider industry to clearly define priorities and questions that could be used to frame proposals for a nuclear sector deal, including ideas for cost reduction.

4. Next Steps and Future Dates

Lord Hutton confirmed that the initial task for the NIC would be to clarify the scope and breadth of the sector deal and to organise industry to develop proposals that could be brought back to the Council for discussion. To deliver this work, Lord Hutton encouraged members to think about what resource they could offer to support development of the deal.

The Chairs suggested the next meeting of the NIC should follow relatively quickly and asked for a date to be found, if possible, in May.