



# Nuclear Safeguards Bill Fact Sheet

## Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA

January 2018

### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – Existing Safeguards Agreements

The IAEA is the world's nuclear inspectorate, carrying out safeguards verification activities across the world as part of a global effort on non-proliferation. The global non-proliferation regime is underpinned by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT does not require the UK, as a nuclear weapons State, to agree safeguards agreements with the IAEA. However, the UK has voluntarily agreed two safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): a Voluntary Offer Agreement (VOA) and an Additional Protocol (AP).

The VOA and AP are trilateral agreements between the IAEA, UK and Euratom. The UK's fulfilment of its current obligations under those agreements relies on the UK's membership of the Euratom. Further information on this can be found in the Bill fact sheets on the IAEA and Euratom.

### IAEA – New Safeguards Agreements

As a result of the UK's withdrawal from Euratom the UK's current safeguards agreements with the IAEA and Euratom will become ineffective. As such the UK is seeking to conclude new agreements with the IAEA that follow the same principles as our current ones.

It is anticipated that the key change will be the shift to a bilateral, rather than trilateral, agreement. The Government has committed to ensuring that nuclear safeguards arrangements will be robust and as comprehensive as those of the existing Euratom regime, exceeding that which is required under our current international agreements.

### IAEA and UK negotiations

In September 2017 the UK began formal discussions with the IAEA to conclude the new bilateral safeguards agreements.

The discussions, which began in September, have been constructive and fruitful, and substantial progress has been made.

It is expected that these new agreements will be put to the IAEA Board of Governors for ratification in 2018.

