

Nuclear Information Service

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BASIC Trident Commission
By email to: TC@basicint.org

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Dear Commissioners,

Nuclear Information Service would like to submit the accompanying documents as evidence to the BASIC Trident Commission.

The first document is a redacted copy of the Defence Nuclear Executive Board's risk register for the defence nuclear programme, provided to us by the Ministry of Defence in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The second document is our interpretation of the full, unredacted version of the risk register, giving our views as to the key risks which the Trident replacement programme will face over the years and decades ahead.

The two documents support the premise we have made in our previous submission to the Trident Commission, namely that remaining a nuclear weapon state poses risks and costs for the United Kingdom and that the decision on whether or not to replace Trident should be based on wider grounds than security and foreign policy arguments.

Many of the risks on the register are highly complex and will persist and evolve over the full fifty year term of the Trident replacement programme, making them difficult for the Ministry of Defence to manage.

The risk register highlights the fact that there are potentially major pitfalls ahead and that achieving the government's desired outcome for the Trident replacement programme will be a far from simple matter. In our view, the worst possible outcome would be for the next government to commit to going ahead with Trident replacement, but then fail to fully deliver the programme because of an inability to manage the significant risks involved.

We hope these documents will be helpful to the Commission, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

[signed]

Peter Burt
Nuclear Information Service