

National Centre

for Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation

The role of nuclear energy in supporting a global drive towards net zero is increasing, with significant growth in the diversity of nuclear technology, innovative applications and proposed deployments.

The UK is committed to demonstrating leadership in the responsible use of nuclear materials and technology and considers of paramount importance the continued strengthening of an effective global safeguards and security regime.

Nuclear security and non-proliferation, underpinned by science and technology

The UK's National Centre for Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation has been established to deliver the cutting-edge expertise, authoritative advice and technical solutions needed to support the peaceful use of nuclear materials and technology around the world.

Led by the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), alongside partners across government, research bodies and industry, the National Centre ensures an integrated approach to security and safeguards and the continued enhancement of UK capabilities within an evolving global landscape.

Delivering on...

Nuclear Security:

Ensuring the UK stays at the forefront of securing nuclear and other radiological materials by effectively managing domestic and global risks.



Nuclear Forensics:

Ensuring the UK has a national nuclear forensics capability able to identify the nature and origin of nuclear and radiological materials.



Nuclear Safeguards and Non-Proliferation:

Ensuring the UK and international authorities are equipped to detect and deter the misuse of nuclear technology and materials in current and future fuel cycles.



Emergency Preparedness and Response:

Ensuring the UK has technically robust emergency procedures and arrangements in place to respond to nuclear and radiological events.



Enabling domestic and international nuclear policy

The National Centre provides independent and science-based expertise to help inform UK policy and its support for international programmes. This includes the UK's commitment to the strengthening of the global safeguards regime.

The National Centre will make an essential contribution to enabling UK policy by:

- Providing independent, authoritative advice required to underpin the development of current and future nuclear power programmes designed to meet the UK's commitment to achieving net zero and strengthening energy security.
- Maximising the value and impact of skills, culture, and capabilities residing in both the civil and defence nuclear enterprises through enhanced cooperation, as envisaged in the Integrated Review of Foreign Policy and Defence.
- Understanding the implications of developments in global nuclear power programmes, including new and novel reactor systems, associated fuel cycles and deployment scenarios, on UK national security and other foreign policy interests.
- Stimulating world-leading research required to underpin nuclear programmes, ensuring that new and emerging technologies are effectively secured and safeguarded.

One central, integrated approach to UK capability

A Steering Committee, chaired by the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), provides policy steer to guide and support the work of the National Centre.

Further expert support is provided by a Technical Advisory Committee, to ensure the National Centre's work remains at the forefront of global efforts in the field.

Working with the National Centre

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