

# Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board

## Terms of Reference and Ways of Working

This document sets out the terms of reference and ways of working for the Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board (NIRAB).

### CONTEXT

The establishment of NIRAB was a policy commitment in the Government's Nuclear Industrial Strategy published in March 2013<sup>1</sup>. The aim of NIRAB is *"to ensure that public R&D programmes are aligned to support industrial and energy policy, and to maximise synergy across different aspects of the nuclear sector, including fusion and the NDA portfolio"*

NIRAB is established in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance as a "temporary" advisory board, by Ministerial appointment, for a period of up to three years in duration.

The dedicated expert secretariat for NIRAB will be provided by the Nuclear Innovation and Research Office (NIRO), hosted within NNL.

## Terms of Reference

### NIRAB'S ROLE

- To advise Ministers, Government Departments and Agencies on issues related to nuclear research and innovation in the UK
- To oversee a regular review of the nuclear research and innovation capability, portfolio and capacity in the UK and, in doing so, assess progress against the objectives set out in the Nuclear Industrial Strategy
- To support the development of new specific research and innovation programmes in the UK underpinning priority policies including energy policy and industrial policy, including developing business cases for such activity
- To foster greater cooperation and coordination across the whole of the UK's nuclear research and innovation capability, portfolio and capacity and help NIRO to act as a repository of R&D knowledge
- To oversee the development of an international engagement strategy (both bilateral and multilateral) for nuclear research and innovation in the UK

NIRAB does not have responsibility for managing or delivering R&D programmes or for directing or managing R&D budgets.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-industrial-strategy-the-uks-nuclear-future>

## THE CHAIR

The role of Chair of NIRAB is independent of Government. In addition to chairing the main meetings of NIRAB the Chair may be called upon to represent the Board in discussions with other key stakeholder such as Ministers, Parliamentary select committees and attending some meetings of the Nuclear Industry Council to discuss R&D issues.

## MEMBERSHIP OF NIRAB

Members are invited to join NIRAB, by Ministerial decision, for a period of up to three years. With the exception of the Chair, appointments will be unfunded. Further appointments to, or removals from, the Board may be made by the Minister, on the advice of the Chair and officials from DECC and BIS.

The membership of NIRAB covers a range of sectors in order to provide credible, authoritative and expert advice:

- Public bodies who engage in research, including the UK's national nuclear fission and fusion laboratories
- Universities with significant research centres and programmes, and who are able to represent the wider academic nuclear research interest
- Companies who conduct or fund significant innovation and research programmes and are representative of the key elements of the UK nuclear fuel cycle
- Representatives from other advisory bodies with significant interests

Members will be individuals with the credibility and position to best represent their fields. Members are chosen to provide a cross section of sectoral and subject expertise. Members are appointed as individuals and are expected to represent the interests of their sectors rather than just their employer.

## OBSERVERS AND SUPPORTING STAFF

The Government Chief Scientific Advisors, Research Councils, NDA, TSB and ONR will be represented at NIRAB meetings as Observers rather than full Members and will participate fully in NIRAB meetings. Government officials from BIS, DECC and GO-Science may also attend as observers.

By agreement with the NIRAB Chair, other participants may be invited to attend meetings as observers to provide support and information.

## Ways of Working

### MEETINGS

It is anticipated that NIRAB will meet up to four times per year. As far as is reasonably possible Members will not deputise attendance.

### SUB GROUPS

NIRAB may convene sub-groups to carry out specific workstreams as necessary. Sub-group participation is not limited to NIRAB members or their organisations, and will be at the request of NIRAB.

### RELATIONSHIP TO NIRO

NIRO will act as the delivery arm of NIRAB by:

- Providing secretariat support and analytical capacity
- Carrying out gap analysis in order to inform NIRAB's advice to Government on R&D programme priorities
- Coordinating nuclear innovation and R&D activity and communications within and between Government and industry
- Producing business cases to support NIRAB recommendations to specific nuclear R&D
- Producing an annual report and other reports, as required, under the guidance of NIRAB