

General Election Campaign 2024

NIA Political Engagement

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Nuclear Industry Association**



About the NIA

- The NIA is the trade association for the UK's civil nuclear industry
- We support over 275 member companies across the supply chain to ensure more nuclear power is deployed across the country for a safer, cleaner future; one which is better for industry and the environment
- Our priority is to ensure NIA members are central to delivering the UK's nuclear opportunity, by offering the highest level of support to develop their business and improve commercial performance
- We engage with the public, media and political spheres to promote better understanding of nuclear energy and its role within a low carbon energy mix, responding to Government consultations, producing publications, newsletters and briefings
- We facilitate business groups and meetings, along with organising large scale events and conferences



Purdah

- The government continues to govern and ministers remain in post during general elections.
 - But the election could lead to a change in government so there will be restrictions on what the government can do. This period is known as ‘Purdah’ and formally takes effect when Parliament is dissolved.
- Decision making is meant to be delayed until after the election unless unavoidable or if delaying will be detrimental to national interest or waste public money.
- The restrictions apply to civil servants for their own activity, but also what they may be asked to do by ministers.
- The main ones include:
 - Focus on visiting labs, industrial sites and workshops
 - Ministers to “observe discretion” in initiating new policy or action of “a continuing or long-term character”
 - Government activity should not compete with the election campaign – including the activities of public bodies (such as GBN)
 - Government resources are not allowed to be used for party political purposes
 - Ministers need to ensure that the political impartiality of the civil service is maintained
- Contact NIA’s Head of Policy: laila.ahmed@niauk.org.uk

Current Political Landscape

- We are working on the assumption of an incoming Labour government
- They are looking for first '100 days' ideas
- We would need to change our positioning on what to say about nuclear – e.g.
 - Shift from energy security to emphasis on job creation, skills development and spreading of opportunities in areas across UK that need them
 - Emphasis on continuing new build rollout – SMRs, next GW project
- Target Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) for engagement, not just the incumbent representative for your constituency
- NIA members can view the latest analysis of the General Election via:
<https://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/homepage.html>
- Contact NIA's Public Affairs Manager: jon.woodburn@niauk.org.uk

What Candidates Like

- New or interesting information about issues they care about
- How you can address the political challenges that their Party faces
- Political reasons are levelling up the country by providing good jobs, investing in deprived areas, and delivering energy security.
- NIA members can answer those political challenges and will provide civil nuclear with the necessary political support
- Local jobs stories, especially about apprentices and graduates
- Photo opportunities, especially with apprentices and graduates
- Clear requests: they always ask, “So how can I help?”

How to Approach Your Candidate

- To find your current MP/Constituency name: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>
- To find your local Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate: <https://vote.labour.org.uk/results>
- Find the MP and Candidate for your home and work address. Use the postcode for both
- If you cannot find their contact details email jon.woodburn@niauk.org with your postcode who will find it for you
- Email and say who you are and why they should care (e.g. a local business doing interesting work, an expert on an issue they care about)
- Say what you want, how they can help and why you need their attention during the election
- Importance to support a local business (can offer a site visit and speak to local constituents)
- Lobby them on the importance of new nuclear (use NIA messaging and NIA Manifesto)
- Sign the NIA Manifesto, ask them to join the Nuclear Energy APPG in the new Parliament, convey needing nuclear for energy security, revitalising industrial capability, achieving net-zero/climate targets
- Use the NIA's 'How to write to your MP' cheat sheet on how to contact candidates

What to say about nuclear

- Nuclear is our only clean, reliable, sovereign electricity source. No nuclear = no Net Zero
- Energy security: sovereign power, cutting gas imports by 9 billion cubic metres in 2022
- Reliability: predictable, all-weather generation
- Affordability: nuclear fleet provides below market price, especially compared to prevailing baseload price
- Carbon saving: nuclear fleet displaces 15 million tonnes per year and has lowest lifecycle carbon of any power source
- Jobs: especially in coastal Britain, at £100,000 GVA per worker, twice national average
- You know this better than anyone, so talk about it!

NIA Objectives

- Use the NIA's 2024 Election Manifesto Objectives
- Getting Sizewell C to a Final Investment Decision by the autumn of 2024
- Building a fleet of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) across the country and a third large-scale station at Wylfa on Anglesey to help rebuild industrial Britain
- Making the UK the best place to deploy advanced nuclear reactors
- Increasing the UK's world-class sovereign fuel manufacturing capability to encourage our allies to maximise their use of UK and Western fuel
- Selecting a suitable site in a supportive and willing community for a Geological Disposal Facility to provide a safe and long-term solution for the disposal of higher-activity nuclear waste

NIA Objectives - Devolved

- Scotland
 - Allowing new nuclear power stations to be built at nuclear sites in Scotland, as well as in England and Wales, starting at Torness and Hunterston
 - Life extension of Torness Nuclear Power Station for as long as safely possible
 - Aligning Scottish decommissioning policy with the rest of UK
- Wales
 - Another large-scale nuclear station at Wylfa after Sizewell C, with UK Government support to ensure the project gets built
 - Advanced nuclear development at Trawsfynydd
 - Maximising the work for the Scottish and Welsh supply chain on nuclear projects in the rest of the United Kingdom

Arranging Site Visits

- Candidates love visiting sites for “hard-hat” photo opps or photos with apprentices/employees
 - Focus on visiting labs, industrial sites and workshops
 - Ensure a C-Suite or Senior representative meets the candidate on site
- Be clear on the timing, location and duration of visit
- Set out a clear agenda, directions, ID requirements, etc. to assistants well in advance
- Candidates won't do a visit if they can't take and post photos
- Outline photo opportunities and any rules for sharing photos
- Be clear in advance if and where they can record a short video
- Identify good photo opportunity locations and make sure everyone is a willing participant
- **Share the 2024 NIA Manifesto for them to sign**
- Post about the visit on social media

Thank you



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