

Birmingham Policy Commission II



The Policy Commission on 'Nuclear Energy: What Does the Future Hold?' was the second in a series of Commissions established by the University of Birmingham.

Launched with a debate at the Liberal Democrats Party Conference in September 2011, this forward looking Commission evaluated the role of nuclear power generation beyond the present horizon, exploring technical, environmental, political, sociological and economic factors.

The Commission, chaired by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** (<http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/lords/philip-hunt/26663>), examined:

- the arguments for and against nuclear power as a future energy generating technology
- the role that nuclear energy will have in twenty to thirty years time and what technology is required
- the factors that determine the economic viability of nuclear energy
- what drives public opinion on nuclear energy and whether public understanding of the energy sector needs to be enhanced
- the extent to which the research base in the United Kingdom is sufficient to support current and future nuclear generation technologies

The Commission published **its findings and policy recommendations** (</research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/reportlaunch.aspx>) in July 2012.

Learn more about this Policy Commission -

- **[Read the Policy Commission report \(/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/reportlaunch.aspx\)](/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/reportlaunch.aspx)**
- **[Find out who the Policy Commissioners were \(/staff/profiles/policy-commissions/nuclear/index.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/policy-commissions/nuclear/index.aspx)**
- **[Listen to Professor Martin Freer introducing the Commission launch debate \(/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/podcastfreer.aspx\)](/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/podcastfreer.aspx)**
- **[Read comment pieces written by members of the Commission \(/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear-updated/comment-pieces.aspx\)](/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear-updated/comment-pieces.aspx)**

Latest events

- **[Policy Commission Report launch \(/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/reportlaunch.aspx\)](/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear/reportlaunch.aspx)** Launch of the Commission final report and its recommendations, Westminster (July 2012)
- **["Nuclear Energy in the UK: What does the future hold?" \(/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear-updated/publicdebate.aspx\)](/research/impact/policy-commissions/nuclear-updated/publicdebate.aspx)** A public debate hosted by the University of Birmingham (March 2012)
- **["What should be the role of nuclear power in a secure future energy supply?" \(http://www.lunarsociety.org.uk/26th-january-2012-discussion-securing-our-future-energy-supplies/\)](http://www.lunarsociety.org.uk/26th-january-2012-discussion-securing-our-future-energy-supplies/)** A public presentation by Professor Martin Freer at the Lunar society (January 2012). Read a **[summary of the discussion \(PDF - 89.0 KB\) \(/Documents/research/SocialSciences/EnergylectureLunarSociety.pdf\)](#)** and view the **[presentation \(PDF - 12.5 MB\) \(/Documents/research/SocialSciences/EnergylecturePPLunarSociety.pdf\)](#)**.

This Policy Commission was led by **Professor Martin Freer** (</staff/profiles/physics/freer-martin.aspx>).

For further information about the Birmingham Policy Commissions, or if you would like to make a contribution to the Commissions' work please contact –

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