



Scottish Government 'Preparedness Review' on nuclear weapon convoys



Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary
NFLA Scotland Forum seminar, September 2019



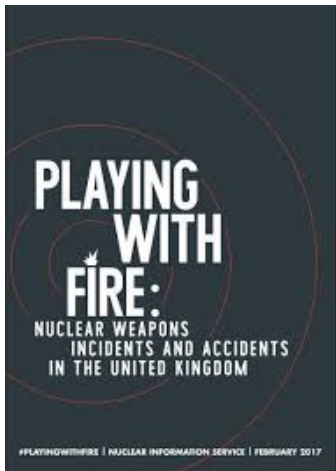
Agenda

- **The concerns over nuclear weapon convoys**
- **The push to get the Scottish Government to look at the issue**
- **Core points of the Scottish Preparedness Review**
- **Identified gaps in the report and other concerns**
- **Other issues with nuclear transport – NFLA report**
- **Nukewatch Scotland comments – over to David / Jane**





Nuclear convoys – ICAN / NIS / Nukewatch



- 3 detailed and alarming reports ALL should read
- 22 ‘significant’ incidents with such transports
- Surrounded in secrecy – no LA / FS notifications and so no pre-planning
- Convoys go close to large cities and lots of vulnerable buildings / populations
- Exercise scenarios highlight real risks and communication problems
- “Accidents happen – its not if, but when”
- Councils not providing public information
- Scottish Government review welcomed by NFLA



Convoys – Local Authority concerns

- **There needs to be greater engagement beyond the LAESI guidelines**
- **A major incident would impact heavily on Councils, but they get no pre-notification and are generally slower to react**
- **Most EPOs are security-cleared**
- **Local Authorities should look at providing the public with relevant information with other agencies**
- **Increased MOD secrecy raises concerns – is there something to hide?**





Scottish Government Preparedness Review



- Review comes from Nukewatch / MSP pressure
- Develop by HMICS with Solace / Inspectorates
- Contacted all core emergency responders
- Concluded 'strong plans' for safe convoys in place
- Good cooperation between agencies
- 'Fine tune' 14 areas of improvement
- Minister welcomed report
- NFLA welcome report and glad it has been done
- Areas of improvement are more extensive than tone of the report suggests?





Areas of improvement (1)

- **PHE – radiation emergency put strains on available resources**
- **Ambulance Service – challenge to source radiation equipment**
- **Ambulance / LA / Fire – not pre-informed of convoys by MOD**
- **Food Standards – would be a strain on existing resources**
- **Marine Scotland – clarify protocols for ‘safe collection, storage and transport of samples’**
- **Fire Service – a number of emergency procedures had still be ‘finalised’ including operational guidance & intelligence sharing**
- **Police Scotland – criticised for only ‘verbal briefings’ for officers prior to convoy movement**
- **Police - lack of clarity over sharing sensitive information**
- **Councils – wider participation in training & exercises**





Areas of improvement (2)



- These ‘improvements’ only come out of public pressure
- How do these improvements get audited to check they are done?
- Public information – the balance between ‘warning’ & ‘alarming’ needs to be considered – but then will the public be told at all of the risks of convoys / nuclear transports?
- Public surveys show people want to know about them – ICAN report 67% did not know of them, 47% concerned
- Generic public information should be given on convoys by Councils / emergency responders
- Important to know that nuclear transports go past and through large urban areas





Next steps for NFLA

- **Talk with Nukewatch / sympathetic MSPs over next steps**
- **Write to Scottish Government over the planning gaps**
- **Write to HMICS etc over public information issues**
- **Generate a debate in local Council EPUs over generic information and nuclear transports**
- **Link in with changes to REPPiR at nuclear sites – including Faslane, Aldermaston and Burghfield**
- **Clarify who gets invited to exercises and trained in Councils on convoys / nuclear transports**





Executive Summary of report

- **Independent review of nuclear transports to clarify role of Councils in an emergency incident is needed**
- **Concern over defence transports with aging equipment & lack of specialist staff**
- **Scottish Government review welcomed but more needed**
- **NDA should review their transport strategy**
- **ETW's for Scotland should increase from 1 to 2**
- **Transports are going rapidly up not down**
- **While accidents remain low, the risk remains high**
- **IT IS THE PUBLIC WHO ARE PUT AT MOST RISK FROM SUCH AN ACCIDENT**





Over to Nukewatch Scotland...

