

Respondent Details	
Name:	Professor Sir David King
Organisation:	Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

Please select the category below which best describes who you are responding on behalf of.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business representative organisation/trade body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity or social enterprise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large business (over 250 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium business (50 to 250 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Micro business (up to 9 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small business (10 to 49 staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union or staff association
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe): University

The consultation document sets out the Government's proposed approach to the longer term management of the UK's plutonium stocks for public scrutiny and consultation. Comments on any aspect of this issue are welcome, but the key questions posed in this consultation are:

No	Question
Q1	Do you agree that it is not realistic for the Government to wait until fast breeder reactor technology is commercially available before taking a decision on how to manage plutonium stocks?
Response	Agree. There is currently an opportunity to develop a holistic approach to nuclear power - combining the assessment of backend legacy materials with the opportunities offered by new-build development. The challenge is to seize this opportunity, maximising value for the UK, creating jobs, improving non-proliferation, reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy security and addressing the long term management of nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel.
Q2	Do you agree that the Government has got to the point where a strategic sift of the options can be taken?
Response	Agree. Over recent years, policy development in the UK has focused increasingly on new-build, including its radioactive waste and spent fuel management. However, there has not been similar attention paid to nuclear materials management, especially plutonium management. This has resulted in parts of the UK nuclear sector being set for the '2003 nuclear end game' mission than the '2011 renaissance'.
Q3	Are the conditions that a preferred option must in due course meet, the right ones?
Response	Agree. By taking the preliminary policy view that the best prospect of delivering a long-term solution for plutonium management is through the reuse as MOX fuel is correct and could potentially save the government purse several billion pounds.
Q4	Is the Government doing the right thing by taking a preliminary policy view and setting out a strategic direction in this area now?
Response	Agree. The do nothing option is actually not an option and will just increase cost for the UK government.

Q5	Is there any other evidence government should consider in coming to a preliminary view?
Response	Yes. The Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment published a report on 29 th March entitled a low carbon nuclear future: Economic assessment of nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel management in the UK. http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/reports/
Q6	Has the Government selected the right preliminary view?
Response	Yes. For further details please read our report. http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/reports/
Q7	Are there any other high level options that the Government should consider for long-term management of plutonium?
Response	<p>There are three options the UK Government should consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversion of plutonium into MOX fuel for new build reactors, treating the spent AGR fuel as waste for disposal. 2. Conversion of plutonium into MOX, reprocessing of spent fuel in a refurbished THORP, and using separated uranium, and plutonium as fuel for new-build reactors. 3. As option 2, but with continued reprocessing of UK or overseas fuel in the refurbished THORP and recycling the separated plutonium and uranium as fuel.