

Name: Linda Rogers

Party: Wales Green Party

Constituency: Ynys Mon ( standing only for the North Wales Regional List)

Q1: What are your views on nuclear weapons, and in particular, if elected, would you be prepared to sign this Pledge?

I would urge anyone who supported nuclear weapons to listen to the stories told by the survivors of the horrific attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as I had the privilege to do when attending the ICAN conference in February 2020. Historically, those in support of nuclear weapons have opposed their unilateral abolition on the grounds that we can only "safely" disarm in a multilateral context. It is to our complete shame that UK government now claims that the TPNW threatens the NPT. I will be calling on the UK government to attend future UN treaty meetings as observers, and am confident that the mounting support for the treaty will create a culture that no longer allows for the acceptance of these weapons of mass destruction. However, we have not much time. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists show we are 100 seconds to midnight on the nuclear clock, as near as we have ever been. Both the US and UK are investing billions in new and upgraded nuclear weapons, and we are now no longer simply talking about their use as "deterrents". The Iran nuclear deal is becoming dangerously close to being abandoned, creating the conditions for an escalation of war in the Middle East, and the prospect of the use of nuclear weapons. I would certainly sign the Pledge.

Q2: Would you support measures to ensure that the Senedd pension fund has no investments in companies involved in nuclear weapons production?

Historically, one of the most encouraging and effective tools in campaigns has been divestment. Organisations such as Don't Bank on the Bomb, and the Peace Tax Seven/ Conscience have shown how we can act to hit industry and consciences. It is encouraging to note that large scale investors are beginning to divest from oil. I am hopeful that these same investors may soon see, as the TPNW takes increasing effect, that investment in nuclear weapons is also to put money into an industry with no future. People need to be made aware that their pension funds are being used for such destructive ends, and I would support measures to ensure the Senedd has no such investments.

Q3: Would you support a Senedd policy of prohibiting the transporting, stationing or deploying of nuclear weapons in Wales, in Welsh air space, and in Welsh coastal waters?

The inclusion of the banning of the stationing or deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of treaty ratifiers, is a massive development. It prevents the strategic exploitation of these territories by the nuclear weapons owning states. This creates great holes in the ability of the owning states to manoeuvre. It was truly shocking when Carwyn Jones announced that Wales would welcome Trident to Wales, in the eventuality that Scotland would no longer harbour the submarines. For too long Wales has been the military playground for UK government. Apart from the immorality of being complicit in the use of nuclear weapons, any country allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed or deployed on their territory are immediately a target. The transporting of nuclear weapons is kept

secret from the residents who live en route, but are far from secret to the intelligence of other countries at this time of hacking and increasing cyber attacks. Yes, I would support this policy.

Q4: How would you react to any proposal for new nuclear power generation in Wales?

It is an amazing development that, following the advice from the Planning Inspectorate that the Development Consent Order for Wylfa Newydd be declined (the PI was concerned about the project's impact on the local economy, housing stock and the Welsh language, as well as failure to meet United Nations biodiversity standards), the Senedd is keeping open the prospect of the project by attempting to buy up the land. Nuclear power used to sell itself on being cheap, then safe, then essential for baseload. Now the industry is saying it can be flexible, with the use of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors, the costs and dangers of which will be equivalent to the large plants. The money and infrastructure dedicated to nuclear power continuously undermines the work needed to build the truly flexible, smart systems needed to meet our goals to combat climate change. And we don't have the time to wait for the nuclear industry to build itself a new way to sell itself. Historically, the nuclear industry is an industry trying to create a reason to exist. So, why does it exist? Rolls Royce has made it clear that it serves to subsidise the nuclear weapons industry. The negotiations around the enrichment of uranium fuel in the Iran nuclear deal reveal the links between the civil and nuclear industries, and we now know that the reason for the building of Calder Hall, Britain's first nuclear power station, was for the production of weapons-grade uranium. I strongly oppose any new nuclear build in Wales. I have been a member of PAWB (Pobl Atal Wyfa B) for more than twenty years.

Q5: How would you react to any proposal for storing nuclear waste in Wales?

At a meeting of CORWM in North Wales, I challenged the MSs present who, on the one hand, supported the building of new nuclear power at Wylfa, yet raised strong objection to hosting the Geological Disposal Facility, which is the proposed answer for the disposal of high level nuclear waste. Any new build will produce levels of nuclear waste that will have to be stored on site, for up to 140 years, as it is too hot to transfer to any depositary. We would then be responsible for its long-term disposal, a legacy for future generations that flies in the face of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, Wales - but responsible we would have to be. I support the Scottish policy of managing higher activity nuclear waste in near-surface facilities, as near as possible to the site where the waste was produced.