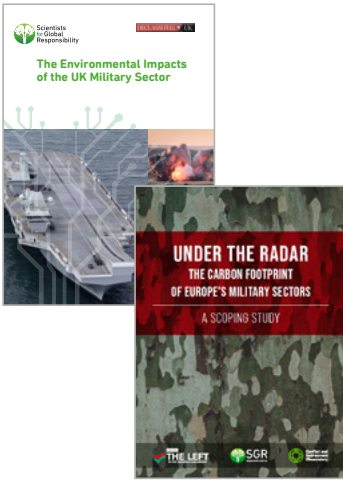


Scientists for Global Responsibility

Annual Report 2020-21



Part of the campaign awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.



Front Cover Photos (L-R): Prof Alice Larkin speaking at SGR's 2020 online conference; Declassified UK article summarising SGR's new report on UK military carbon emissions

Design: the Argument by Design - www.tabd.co.uk

STAFF

Executive Director:
Dr Stuart Parkinson

Assistant Director:
Andrew Simms

Education Director:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Office Manager:
Vanessa Moss,¹ Dr Emily Heath²

Responsible Science Campaigner:
Dr Liz Kalauger³

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

Chair:
Dr Philip Webber

Vice Chair:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Treasurer:
Alasdair Beal CEng⁴

Committee Members:
Steve Ballard
Dr David Hookes
Liam Killeen⁵
Dr Paul Marchant CStat⁶
Simon Reed
Dr Gillian Smith CEng

¹ until 31 January 2021

² from 1 January 2021

³ from 1 October 2020

⁴ until 18 November 2020

⁵ from 27 February 2021

⁶ until 7 November 2020

**Reporting period:
March 2020 to
February 2021
(inclusive)**

SUMMARY

The UK's death toll due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been very high – largely due to a poor response by government. Yet, in November 2020, in the midst of the 'second wave' of infections, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the largest increase in military spending for 70 years, almost entirely focused on new weapons systems, while areas like health-workers' pay and overseas aid were curbed. As a case of the misallocation of funds for technology and science, this is a very striking example – and highlights the importance of SGR's mission this past year.

Our key achievements over the reporting period:

- We published two new in-depth reports examining the climate impacts of the military – one focused on the UK and one looking at EU nations. The British report gained a great deal of exposure via social media and was viewed over 8,000 times online, while the European report received widespread international media coverage. Both reports have already been used by politicians to argue for reductions in military carbon emissions.
- We launched a new 'Science oath for the climate' to amplify the impact that scientists and engineers can have on the scale of the response to the climate emergency.
- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, we worked with other campaign groups to call for a socially just and environmentally sustainable

recovery. Our conference this year moved online and focused on these themes – especially making links with the climate emergency. Our series of blogs on the crisis gained a high level of online interest, and we carried out research into industrial conversion which took place during the pandemic.

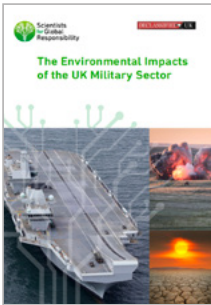
- We worked with peace groups to highlight the injustice of the UK government's massive increase in military spending, and achieved a lot of social media interest.
- We began a new education project promoting 'Globally Responsible Careers'. This complemented our other STEM education projects, Science4Society Week and One Planet – One Life, which moved online this year.
- Our upgraded website reached even larger audiences, with over 64,000 page-views during the reporting period – a 14% increase over the previous year.
- Our campaigning and education work also covered issues including nuclear arms, coal mining, and new weapons technologies.

We would like to thank our membership, our trust funders, and individual donors – all have been essential in SGR's successes. We also thank our staff and volunteers who worked very hard during the year.

Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
Philip Webber, Chair

PROJECTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MILITARY



During the reporting year, SGR published two new, ground-breaking reports on the climate impacts of the military. In May 2020, working with Declassified

UK – a group of investigative journalists – we published *The environmental impacts of the UK military sector*. This provided, for the first time, an in-depth, independent assessment of the UK military’s carbon footprint – including direct and indirect emissions. We followed this up, in February 2021, with *Under the radar: the carbon footprint of Europe’s military sectors*, which carried out a similar analysis for EU countries. This report was co-produced with the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) and funded by the Left group in the European Parliament. The lead author of both reports was Stuart Parkinson. The reports have generated a great deal of interest and the findings have been widely used by campaigners and politicians. For example, the UK report has been viewed over 8,000 times via the Declassified UK website, and a video summary of this report has been viewed over 15,000 times on Twitter. The EU report was launched via a webinar featuring MEPs from

Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, and attracted national media coverage in at least five countries (see p.6). We also input to an oral inquiry on the subject carried out by the UK Parliament’s Environmental Audit Committee. Stuart Parkinson also spoke at an international webinar attended by representatives from defence ministries and arms corporations, while Gillian Smith spoke at a webinar organised by a local peace group. SGR’s data has also been used in a best-selling book, *How bad are bananas? The carbon footprint of everything* and by numerous campaign organisations.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CAMPAIGN

In autumn 2020, SGR launched a new ‘Responsible Science’ campaign, building on several of our recent reports and initiatives. Its focus is on the climate emergency, and it aims to encourage change at a system level and an individual level. Key within the campaign is a new ‘Science oath for the climate’ which attracted more than 130 signatories – including over 40 professors – during the reporting period. The signatories – scientists, engineers and academics who study or otherwise work on climate change – commit to personal behaviour change and to calling out policy shortcomings related to the climate emergency. To coincide with the launch, five of the signatories had a letter published in *The Guardian*. Another part of the campaign focuses on UK professional engineering

and science organisations – and their financial links to fossil fuel and arms corporations – building upon our 2019 report, *Irresponsible Science*. The focus of the work during the reporting period was on updating the original investigation to see which professional bodies had taken steps to reduce or cut their links – and which had not. This project is funded by the Martin Ryle Trust, and we recruited a new campaigner, Liz Kalaugher, to carry out the work.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the UK in early 2020, SGR rapidly responded with several activities. Although the organisation did not have the medical expertise to inform directly on spread of the disease, we put together a series of blogs on the broader implications for society of this global crisis – which attracted over 1,500 web-page-views during the reporting year. Meanwhile, the idea of a just and sustainable recovery was a theme for our annual conference (see p.4), and a focus for campaigning with other groups, including Build Back Better, Green New Deal, and the Rapid Transition Alliance. Andrew Simms spoke on these ideas at several online events, including a local government conference on the climate emergency, and webinars organised by Extinction Rebellion and the Forward Institute. Stuart Parkinson spoke at a Cambridge University online conference, while Philip Webber spoke at a Citizen Assembly Network webinar. Stuart also undertook some research on the industrial conversion which took place during the pandemic – in particular, examining the UK ventilators

programme. This led to two webinar presentations and an article in the *Responsible Science* journal.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS THREAT

SGR's work on nuclear weapons continued during the year, with particular focus on the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings (August 2020), and the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (January 2021). Philip Webber updated our online resource, *Nuclear weapons: a beginner's guide to the threats* – which proved very popular (see p.6). Our work was also quoted in new/ updated reports by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Don't Bank on the Bomb, and circulated widely on social media. SGR also signed several open letters to policy-makers and the media calling for more disarmament.

GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE CAREERS

In September, thanks to grants from the Martin Ryle Trust and Scurrah Wainwright Charity, SGR began a new project to provide careers support and advice to students at university and school. The project builds on our successful ethical careers programme, run during the 2000s, by producing updated and expanded web-based materials. These will cover key ethical issues related to careers in science and technology, a self-assessment questionnaire, and a series of career case studies. We will be launching a new section of the website containing these materials later in 2021. This project is being carried out by Jan Maskell.

PROJECTS (CONT.)



Science4Society (S4S) Week 2020 – which took place 7th–15th March – was curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Nevertheless, a few activities did take place. The competition this year was entitled TRASH – Take Responsibility And Show How – and entrants were tasked with looking at different ways in which they could reduce pollution and other environmental impacts. The winner was Jeslyn Vijeyanathan, aged 12. Jan Maskell developed a new activity pack for teachers and students to complement the competition, and it covered carbon footprints, water footprints, home energy, travel, food, waste, and air quality. This is now available to download from the S4S website along with more than 50 other teaching resources – see www.s4s.org.uk



SGR's project delivering workshops on climate change to children in the Morecambe Bay area was put on hold during much of 2020 due to COVID-19-related school closures. Only one school was able to participate online in the autumn term.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CONFERENCE

For our 2020 conference, we moved to an online format due to the pandemic – running two panel sessions in November, the second including our AGM. The title for the conference was *Transition now: recovering from COVID-19, will responsible science and technology be tools of rapid change?* and it was chaired by Andrew Simms.

With a particular focus on using lessons from the current crisis to tackle the climate threat, speakers included: Prof Alice Larkin, University of Manchester; Prof Julia Steinberger, University of Leeds; Prof Bill McGuire, University College London; Jess Worth, Culture Unstained; Dr Lucy Gilliam, Transport and Environment; Prof Nick Robins, London School of Economics; Dr Phil Johnstone, University of Sussex; Dr Alice Bell, Possible; and Dr Stuart Parkinson from SGR.

Over 60 people attended each of the two sessions.



Prof Julia Steinberger, Dr Phil Johnstone and Dr Alice Bell speaking at SGR's 2020 online conference

OTHER CAMPAIGNING

SGR's other campaign activities during the reporting year have mainly focused on the UK government's defence and security review, and tackling the climate emergency.

In November 2020, the UK government announced an increase in military spending over the next four years of £24 billion – the highest annualised rate for 70 years. This announcement shocked many, both because other budgets, such as overseas aid, were being cut due to the economic crisis, but also because it pre-empted the formal publication of the 'Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy':*

Earlier in the autumn, SGR – along with many peace organisations – had submitted a response to the government's public consultation on the Integrated Review – hoping to head off a more militaristic policy shift. Once the spending announcement was made, SGR joined in the immediate criticism via our social media channels, and took part in a number of other activities in the weeks that followed:

- Stuart Parkinson worked with the UK branch of the Global Campaign on Military Spending, speaking on military v climate spending at a webinar – and turning the presentation into a short briefing for campaigners;

- Stuart spoke at two other webinars – one organised by the Green Party and the other by London Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) – on the risks of new weapons technologies, while Philip Webber spoke at a national CND webinar on the importance of tackling the roots of insecurity;
- SGR continued to support other peace campaign networks on 'killer robots' and arms conversion.

Concerning our other campaign activities on the climate emergency – at an overarching level, we co-signed numerous open letters to policy-makers calling for much stronger action, especially in the run-up to the COP26 negotiations. At a more local level, we continued to support the campaign against the proposed huge new coal mine in Cumbria – with Stuart Parkinson speaking against the mine at a council planning committee meeting in the autumn. The campaign has since achieved national media coverage, leading to the government giving in to pressure to hold a public inquiry. Meanwhile, SGR also joined the new Scotland-focused '100% renewables' campaign, with Keith Baker speaking at the launch. SGR also submitted an objection to proposals for the expansion of Leeds-Bradford Airport.

* This came out in March 2021, after the end of the period covered by this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

SGR WEBSITE

SGR's website continued to be one of the main ways we communicate with the world, but its importance increased as face-to-face contact was curbed during the pandemic. There were 64,000 page-views during the reporting period, a 14% increase on the previous year. By far the most popular output was a 2016 article, *The industrialisation of war: lessons from World War I*, which was viewed over 12,000 times. The most popular outputs published during the reporting year were: *Nuclear weapons: a beginner's guide to the threats* (viewed nearly 1,700 times); *Turning delusion into climate action – an interview with Prof Kevin Anderson* (viewed nearly 1,100 times); and the *Science oath for the climate* (viewed over 900 times).

MEDIA

Again, we received a large level of media coverage during the reporting period. This year we focused on working with high profile independent outlets and European organisations, and so were able to gain more visibility via social media and international media than before. For example, a video summary of our new report, *The environmental impacts of the UK military sector* (see p.2) – made by *Declassified UK* – gained over 15,000 views via Twitter. The work also received a brief mention in *The Sunday Times*. Meanwhile, our report on the EU's military carbon footprint (see p.2) was covered in: *El Salto* (Spain); *La Libre* (Belgium); *NRC* (Netherlands); *Público* (Portugal); and *Sveriges Radio* (Sweden).



A letter on our 'Science oath for climate' was published in *The Guardian*. *The Ecologist* featured an

article by Stuart Parkinson on the financial links between the fossil fuel and arms industries and professional science bodies. The journal, *The Environmental Scientist*, featured an article by Jan Maskell on our project, 'One Planet – One Life' (see p.4). Our work was also covered in a range of other specialist outlets including: *Science*; *Physics World*; *Research Europe*; *Extinction Rebellion Global Newsletter*; *Climate News Network*; *Media Lens*; *Morning Star*; and *The National*.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE JOURNAL

The 2020 issue of the *Responsible Science* journal was published after the end of the reporting year – so that it could include analysis of key new UK government policies on the military and climate change.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We continued to run two email lists – SGRforum and SGRupdate – as well as using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube to promote our activities. Including social media accounts run by staff and committee members, at year end, we had about 19,000 followers through these channels.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICE

STAFF

Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director, Andrew Simms as Assistant Director, and Jan Maskell as Education Director. In January 2021, Vanessa Moss retired from the post of Office Manager after six years – we thank her for her valuable contribution. We welcomed Emily Heath as she took over this role. In October 2020, Liz Kalaugher started in the newly created post of Responsible Science Campaigner. We thank all our staff for their hard work, especially as they adapted to the changed working environment during the pandemic.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The NCC – chaired by Philip Webber – continued to provide oversight of SGR’s activities. In November, Alasdair Beal, stepped down as Treasurer due to ill-health – shortly after the AGM. We thank him for all his work over the nine years that he was in the role – and wish him better health. We also thank Paul Marchant who stepped down this year after eight years on the NCC. A full list of NCC members is given on the inside front cover. Many thanks to the NCC for all the effort and expertise they provide for the organisation.

OFFICE MOVE

In September, SGR moved offices to: 2 West Road, Lancaster LA1 5PG. This new office space is in central Lancaster – meaning it can be accessed easily by staff using walking, cycling or public

transport – and is in a renovated, highly-insulated building which makes use of solar energy for electricity and heating. These factors mean that SGR’s carbon emissions and other environmental impacts – already very small – will be even smaller.



New staff, Emily Heath (top, Office Manager) and Liz Kalaugher (Responsible Science Campaigner)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SGR's finances for this reporting period (from March 2020 to February 2021 inclusive) improved significantly – thanks especially to a large increase in grant income. This has been particularly important in helping the organisation's resilience during the major economic downturn due to the pandemic.

A detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure is shown in the tables and figures.

Total income grew by over 60% compared with the previous year mainly due to an impressive 170% increase in grant income. For project work, we received: a grant of £22,375 from The Martin Ryle Trust for our Responsible Science Campaign; grants of £7,375 and £5,000 from The Martin Ryle Trust and Scurrah Wainwright Charity respectively for our Globally Responsible Careers project; a grant of £4,750 from Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund for One Planet – One Life; and £2,535 from Declassified UK for our work on Climate Change and the Military. We received grants towards core costs this year from the UK government's COVID-19 business relief scheme (£10,000), The 1970 Trust (£4,950), and The Martin Ryle Trust (£4,787). Income from membership subscriptions fell slightly – but was offset by an increase in donations. Income from the annual appeal fell significantly – but this was mainly due to administrative delays

OVERALL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Balance on 01.03.20	£22,652
Income	£86,077
Expenditure	£56,037
Income minus expenditure	£30,040
Balance on 28.02.21	£52,693

NB All figures rounded to nearest pound

Income (£)	2019–20	2020–21
Membership subscriptions	£19,681	£18,700
Membership appeal	£7,711	£3,907
Grants	£22,452	£61,771
Donations	£757	£1,625
Conference income	£2,668	£0
Sales of publications	£119	£36
Interest	£34	£38
Total	£53,422	£86,077

NB All figures rounded to the nearest pound; totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

leading to a higher proportion being banked in the following financial year. Conference registration income fell to zero as we held free online events instead of an in-person meeting due to the pandemic (see p.4). At the end of the reporting period, we had nearly 690 members. We are very grateful to all who supported SGR's work this year.

Expenditure was broadly similar to that of the previous reporting year, although this masked significant variations in some areas. For example, COVID-19-related restrictions led to our conference being moved to an online format – significantly reducing these costs (see p.4). The restrictions also led to a reduced level of work on the One Planet – One Life project (see p.4). Salaries for core staff fell slightly due to some internal re-organisation. The delay in publication of the 2021 issue of *Responsible Science* journal to the next financial year also reduced costs this year. Likewise, some other expenditure varied due to bills being paid just before or just after year end. The relationship between project income and expenditure was also complicated by the fact that some funders paid their grants upfront and others in arrears.

Taking account of all these factors, SGR entered its new financial year with a healthy bank balance. However, much of this balance is restricted to specific project work,

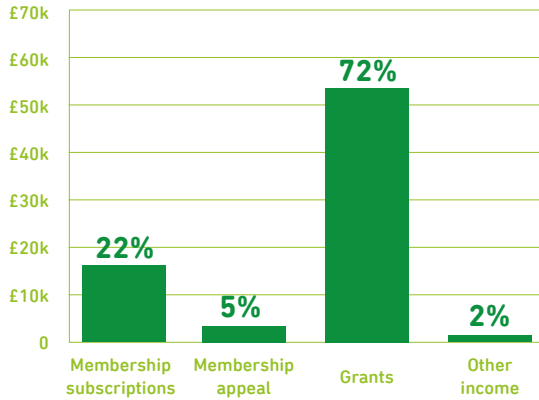
Expenditure (£)	2019–20	2020–21
Core wages and NI	£32,844	£30,555
Rent, insurance and utilities	£3,380	£2,664
Recruitment	£814	£490
<i>Responsible Science</i> Journal	£2,585	£1,044
Conference, AGM and annual report	£3,252	£1,422
Other core costs	£5,783	£3,789
One Planet – One Life project	£7,348	£3,360
Website redesign/ upgrade project	£956	£0
Globally Responsible Careers project*	£750	£1,125
Responsible Science campaign*	£1,585	£5,596
Climate Change and the Military project	£242	£5,992
Total	£59,538	£56,037

NB All figures rounded to the nearest pound; totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

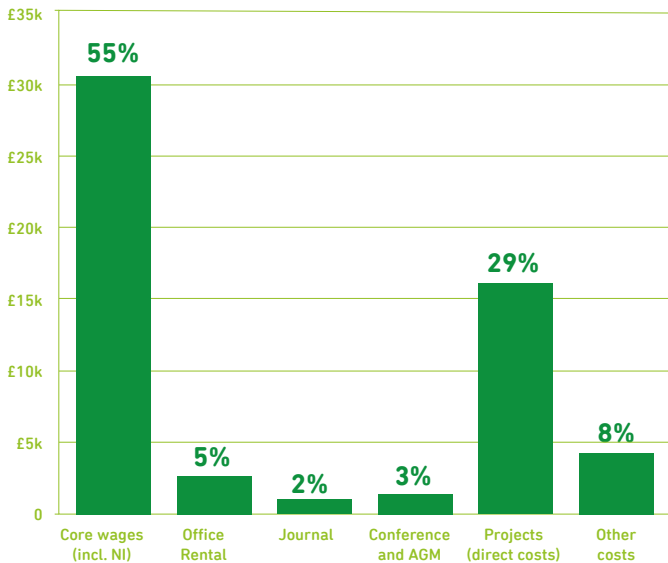
* These activities were titled differently in the 2019-20 annual report.

while the pandemic is continuing to markedly impact the funding outlook. As ever, our finances continue to depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors.

INCOME 2020-21



EXPENDITURE 2020-21



SGR
responsible science

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