

QUESTIONS POSED BY SOS

REDACTED MATERIAL

Has any nuclear power station ever been built on time and without public subsidy anywhere in the world?

Different countries have different approaches to energy policy. What is important is that any new nuclear power stations in the UK would be proposed, developed, constructed and operated by the private sector, who would meet decommissioning and waste costs.

If pressed

Governments almost invariably have had some involvement in their national energy markets for strategic reasons. Public support for generating sources of all kinds, not just nuclear, has been a prominent feature around the world. This has been the case even when technologies had not required public support. The UK is leading the way in liberalising its energy market, and technologies like nuclear which have hitherto been commissioned solely in the public sector will in future have to be financed by the private sector.

Background on construction times

The only previous nuclear build in the UK was under state ownership. The most recent example is Sizewell B, which started commercial operation 7 years after construction commenced.

Construction of the Finnish EPR started in 2005 and is expected to become operational in 2009.

In Asia construction times have tended to be around four years. For example the new-generation 1300 MWe Japanese reactors which began operating in 1996 and 1997 were built in a little over four years.

REDACTED MATERIAL