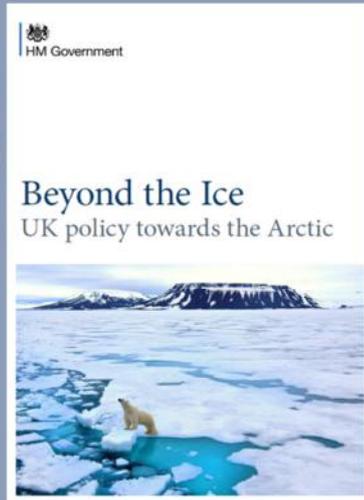


How to support UK policy towards the Arctic



*Christine Kelly,
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*Foreign and
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UK's Arctic Policy Framework

HM Government

Beyond the Ice
UK policy towards the Arctic



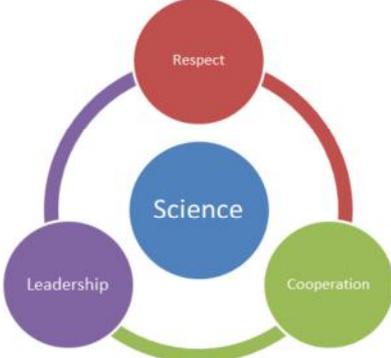


- *Projecting global influence;*
- *Protecting people and the environment;*
- *Promoting prosperity.*

> Supported by three principles:

- > **Respect;**
- > **Leadership;**
- > **Co-operation,**

and driven by **science**.



In 2018 the HMG published its second iteration of its Arctic Policy Framework.

This edition “Beyond the Ice” details the We recognise that Arctic stewardship rests with the Arctic States and the indigenous peoples of those States, and continue to support their efforts to ensure a sustainable future for the region. As such, *Beyond the Ice* set out the UK’s approach towards the Arctic based upon the three central principles of respect, cooperation and appropriate leadership. However, as the Arctic’s nearest neighbour we have legitimate interests in the region

“work towards an Arctic that is safe and secure; well governed in conjunction with indigenous peoples and in line with international law; where policies are developed on the basis of sound science with full regard to the environment; and where only responsible development takes place”

To support this vision we engage with the Arctic 1-1 with individual states and through multilateral mechanisms, such as the Arctic Council.



But why do we care about what happens in the Arctic. There are three main reasons, climate, environment and the economy.

Temperatures are rising twice as fast in the Arctic as over the rest of the world. Arctic sea ice is shrinking rapidly and changes to the Arctic Ocean are now thought to have the potential to affect European weather and climate. While reduction in sea-ice cover mean long sought after sea routes to and from Asia are becoming increasingly ice-free for more days making the potential for new shipping routes a viable option.

It is relatively easy to picture the consequences for the UK of melting sea ice, environmental damage and new commercial opportunities, we are after all the Arctic's nearest neighbour.

So we care not just the our sake but for the global consequences of Arctic change.



- Influencing international governance structures in support of key UK arctic interests – security; commercial; environmental; and scientific
- Coordinating across Whitehall to continually develop UK policy towards the Arctic – BEIS; DfT; Defra; FCO and MoD
- Engaging Parliament and other influential stakeholders – House of Lords; Environmental Audit Committee; APPG on Polar Regions; Arctic Circle high profile delegation of MPs, business leaders and scientists

Arctic Council and its Working Groups



ACAP

- Pollutants
- Mercury
- Hazardous waste

AMAP

- Ocean acidification
- Climate change
- Ozone depletion

CAFF

- Ecosystem
- Biodiversity
- Migratory species

EPPR

- Search and rescue
- Oil spills
- Radiation

PAME

- Marine Protection
- Marine traffic systems
- Arctic shipping
- Marine litter

SDWG

- Socio-economics
- Human health
- Cultural heritage
- Adaptations

Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP)

OBJECTIVE

To **prevent** adverse effects from, **reduce**, and **ultimately eliminate** pollution of the Arctic environment

EXPERT GROUPS

POPs and mercury
Hazardous Waste
Indigenous Peoples
Contaminant Action prog.
Short Lived Climate Pollutants

Products include

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

OBJECTIVES

To **monitor** and **assess** the status of the Arctic region with respect to **pollution** and **climate change**

To **document** levels and trends, pathways and processes, and effects on **ecosystems** and **humans**, and **propose actions** to reduce associated threats for consideration by governments

To produce sound **science-based, policy relevant assessments** and public outreach products to **inform policy and decision-making** processes

Products include

Arctic Council Working Group



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

OBJECTIVE

To address the **conservation of Arctic biodiversity**, and to **communicate** its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to **promote practices** which **ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources**

EXPERT GROUPS

CAFF Flora Group
Circumpolar Seabird Group
Circumpolar Biodiversity
Monitoring Programme
Circumpolar Protected Areas

Biodiversity Congress 2018

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the prevention, preparedness and response to **environmental** and other **emergencies, accidents and search and rescue**

EXPERT GROUPS

Marine Environmental
Response
Search and Rescue

Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOSPA_

Prevention of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

OBJECTIVE

To address **policy** and **non-emergency pollution prevention** and **control measures** related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities

EXPERT GROUPS

Arctic Marine Shipping
Ecosystem Approach to Management
Arctic Marine Pollution
Marine Protected Areas
Resource Exploration and Development

Arctic Council Working Groups



Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

OBJECTIVES

To propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to **advance sustainable development** in the Arctic

To protect and enhance the **environment and economies, culture and health** of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities

To improve the **environment, economic and social conditions** of Arctic communities as a whole

Human health;
Sustainable economic activities and increasing community prosperity;
Education and cultural heritage, inc. IP language
Management of natural, inc. living resources
Adaptation to Climate Change
Infrastructure development

Arctic Council Task Forces



Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane

- To periodically assess progress of the implementation of the Arctic Council's Framework for Action on Black Carbon and Methane, and to inform policy makers from Arctic States and for participating Arctic Council observers

Task Force on Improved Connectivity in the Arctic

- To compare the needs of those who live, operate, and work in the Arctic with available infrastructure, and work with the telecommunications industry and Arctic Council Economic Council to encourage the creation of a required infrastructure with an eye towards pan-Arctic solutions

Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation

- To consider future needs for strengthened cooperation on Arctic marine areas as well as mechanism to met these needs
- To make recommendations on the nature and scope of any such mechanisms

UK's Arctic Contributions



- UK **scientific, technical and policy** engagement in key Arctic Council Working Groups and Taskforces;
- Global **Arctic Conference** engagement: Arctic Circle; Arctic Futures; Arctic Science Ministerial.
- **Science and Innovation Network** 90 officers across 30 British embassies globally facilitate collaboration between research communities;



Being one of the original Observers to the Arctic Council we have attended each of the Ministerial meetings since inception. We strongly support the Arctic Council and the role it plays in convening the Arctic States. Given that we do not have a seat at the table this meant that our role often involves nudging States towards our interests in the margins of a meeting or through having UK experts providing technical assistance in the Working Groups.

UK scientific and technical engagement: Remember I mentioned the Titanic, well the UK insurance industry has been a leader in ensuring that shipping best practice is followed in Arctic operations and worked closely with the Arctic Council and its working groups to develop the Polar Code which came into force on 1 January 2017 that ensure safe shipping in Arctic areas.

But the UK's Arctic credential are supported by our presence at conferences and forums that debate the future of the Arctic.

Arctic Conferences: in 2016 Nicola Sturgeon the First Minister of Scotland gave a key note speech about the climate at the Arctic Circle Assembly

Thank You and Questions?



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beyond-the-ice-uk-policy-towards-the-arctic>