



## An interview with the newly appointed Director of ippr, Nick Pearce

**ippr:** You are returning to ippr after three years as Head of Policy at Number Ten Downing Street – what motivated you to come back?

**Nick Pearce:** ippr has always been at the forefront of progressive thinking in Britain and its role has never been more important than it is today, when fresh ambition and new ideas are so needed. I am delighted to be able to lead the organisation in that task. It's a great opportunity for us.



A good think tank needs strong intellectual leadership, combined with rigorous research and an understanding of how policymaking really works. I hope I can supply all of those. It is also great to be able to work in partnership with ippr's new Chair, James Purnell, who, of course, also has extensive experience of government and a deep knowledge of public policy.

**ippr:** What are the main challenges for ippr over the coming years?

**Nick Pearce:** We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink and renew progressive ideas. That will be our most important challenge. We need to reach across all the big issues facing our country: the future of our economy, public service reform, climate change, and democratic renewal. In each of these areas and more, we will undertake new research projects and set out new policy agendas.

**ippr:** What scope is there for working with the coalition government?

**Nick Pearce:** Well, ippr is central to progressive thinking in the UK and I want to ensure that we are open, pluralist and creative in doing that. Where the coalition government is taking forward good ideas, we will want to engage with it and to supply thinking to help shape policy. ippr has always advanced broadly liberal arguments on home affairs and constitutional change, so the new administration's agendas on criminal justice reform, strengthening civil liberties and reforming the political system are of particular interest to us.

*Nick Pearce joins ippr as Director on 6 September 2010.*