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Growing energy gap

Sir - Sir Bernard Ingham is certainly right to make a case for nuclear replacement ([Opinion, September 29](#)). But surely the emerging energy crisis is a little bit broader. We need a debate about the future of conventional energy sources such as coal and gas, too. The Cabinet Office's Performance and Innovation Unit claimed in 2002 that 50 per cent of our electricity generating plant will need replacing by 2020 and 75 per cent by 2030. Yet this is clearly not happening.

Indeed, almost all the rhetoric and action has been for renewables, which cannot hope to produce power on that scale. That's why Britain has a fast-growing energy hole.

The Economic Research Council is the only think tank to produce non-partisan studies on all nuclear, conventional and renewable options for the UK. If the lights aren't going to go out, decisions will have to be made - pronto.

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