

Criteria for the science and technology procurement decision process

We start from the presumption that work should be conducted by external suppliers (industry, universities and other research organisations) unless there is a clear reason for it to be done or led by Dstl.

Sensitivity criteria

The criteria described below give the circumstances under which capabilities or tasks **MUST** be retained in government.

Reason	Description
Security and Confidentiality	This capability / task requires drawing upon material that, for reasons of security, scope or commercial sensitivity , Government is not prepared to share with industry or academia at this time.
Policy formulation	The capability / task relates to, or draws upon, the detail of future policy, plans or strategy that government is unwilling to release.
Partner consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foreign government or industry partners in this work do not consent to the capability/task being undertaken outside government; AND b. there are no mechanisms in place for the necessary permissions to be set up effectively within the scope of the capability/task.
Impartiality	The capability / task relates directly to policy or strategic decisions on which government is not prepared to rely solely on advice from industry or academia.
Accountability for outcomes	The capability / task entails accountabilities for outcomes, actions or risk that must be retained within government (eg public perception, high impact or likelihood of a worst-case outcome, informing / supporting operational or tactical military decision, etc).
Effective delivery	<p>The capability / activity requires working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. with foreign governments; OR b. across UK government; OR c. with industry partners; <p>with challenges of access or complexity that cannot be overcome within the scope of the capability/task.</p>
Legal	National law , international law or Treaty obligations require that the capability / task be performed within government.

Reliable timely delivery	The capability / task is of considerable operational or political urgency that cannot be met outside government under existing arrangements for external contracting, or for which new arrangements cannot be established in the time available. Only applicable for a <i>bona fide</i> Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR).
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Capability criteria

The criteria described below give the circumstances under which capabilities or tasks may BEST be retained in government, including to achieve value for money from MOD expenditure.

The sliding scale allows the decision maker to consider the degree of benefit that might accrue by undertaking the task or keeping the capability within government. The criteria are intended to prompt wider contextual questions in determining the best place for a task to be carried out.

Only in exceptional circumstances would assessments falling in the ‘Could’ column be expected to justify work being conducted in government.

Reason	Requirement for work to be carried out in government		
	Absolute requirement (Must)	Strong requirement (Should)	Some benefit (Could)
Sustainability risk	Government will need to underwrite this capability / task with considerable investment AND there would be critical benefits (eg supply sustainability risk management) from holding it in government.*	Government will need to underwrite this capability / task with considerable investment AND there would be significant benefits from holding it in government (eg reusable assets; support to critical or strategic capability; improved risk management).*	Government will need to underwrite this capability / task with considerable investment AND there would be minor benefits from holding it in government (eg to support critical or strategic capability, to improve risk management).*
Core capability	The capability / task is key to: a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. the development of strategic capability for government.	The capability/task supports : a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. the development of strategic capability for government.	The capability/task partially supports : a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. the development of strategic capability for government.
International Research Collaboration	IRC is key to: a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. is sole means of gaining access to critical capability for UK, and	IRC supports : a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. is sole means of gaining access to desirable capability , and	IRC partially supports : a. current capability sustainment (eg intelligent customer), or b. limited access to aspects of useful capability , and

	c. Offers significant financial gearing (eg >10x UK's financial contribution)	c. Offers reasonable financial gearing (eg ~2-4x UK's financial contribution)	c. Offers some financial gearing
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* For example, owing to the absence of a self-sustaining capability outside government; the absence of further commercial exploitation routes; and / or a degree of innovation risk that there is no commercial business case to support.