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Foreword

The RT Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Eighty years ago, Commander Guy Gibson led the RAF’s 617 Squadron in a series of spectacular raids during World War 2, becoming immortalised as the Dambusters. As we can see across the globe, danger continues to exist in today’s world and defence is vitally important to our nation’s safety and prosperity.

As brave Ukrainians confront Russian aggression on our European continent, British industry is aiding and abetting their fightback. From our anti-tank weapons and Javelins to our battle tanks and combat and logistics vehicles, our capabilities have helped hold back the Russian tide. Meanwhile, our Storm Shadows and uncrewed sea systems have enabled Ukraine to open up a corridor in the Black Sea. In each of 2022 and 2023 we committed £2.3 billion in military support. Next year we increase that amount by £200 million to £2.5 billion.

In addition to leading the international response to aggression, the UK is deterring it as well – spending more than £71 billion over the next 10 years on our submarines and Atomic Weapons facilities to gain a strategic advantage.
Our continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent has kept this nation safe for more than 54 years and now we’re building a new generation of Dreadnought class boats to protect our nations for the future.

This publication also tells the story of great partnerships. From North Africa to North America, from the Middle East to East Asia, Britain is projecting a global presence and remains the partner of choice for nations across the world. As we prepare to mark the 75th year of NATO’s founding, our commitment to the Alliance is stronger than ever.

Above all, this booklet uses numbers to tell the incredible story behind our whole force. Defence employs more than 400,000 people, extending to every corner of the United Kingdom. We spent £52.8 billion on defence in 2022/23, rising to £54.2 billion in 2023/24. For 2024/25, our core budget of £51.7 billion combined with assumed additional funding from the Treasury Reserve including for support to Ukraine, means our total defence budget is expected to be £55.6 billion. This is an increase of around £1.4 billion (1.8% in real terms) compared to 2023/24 and more in cash terms than ever before.

And our brave personnel – our Regulars and Reserves – remain our greatest asset. Our sailors are deployed across the oceans protecting precious sea lanes. Our submariners are out of sight but never out of mind. Our Royal Marine Commandos are ever ready to act at a moment’s notice. Our soldiers are protecting NATO’s flanks from Russian advances, and our pilots are on guard to protect our air space and that of our allies.

While our people will always be at the heart of what we do, this booklet is a powerful reminder that numbers can help tell the story.
Defence spending

In 2022/23:
MOD expenditure totalled £52.8 billion.
£20.3 billion was spent on capital investments in equipment and infrastructure.

Defence spending in nominal terms, 2011/12 – 2022/23

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23.
MOD Departmental Resources 2023.
2022/23 breakdown of MOD spending

MOD spending £52.8 billion

- Service Personnel £11.4 billion
- Personnel £13.8 billion
- Civilian £2.3 billion
- Equipment Support £8.2 billion
- Resource £32.5 billion
- Other Resource £5.5 billion
- Infrastructure £5 billion
- Other Capital £9 billion
- Single Use Military Equipment (SUME) £9.2 billion
- R&D £2.1 billion

The UK continues to set a high priority for defence by continuing to deliver our commitments on the world stage, investing in equipment to enhance our capabilities and in our people who remain the strength of defence.

The UK has met the NATO commitment to spend at least 2% of national GDP on defence every year since its introduction in 2006.

The UK also continues to meet NATO guidelines of at least 20% of Defence Spending being on equipment.

The Spring Budget 2023 provided an extra £5 billion in cash for defence and national security over the next 2 years, and £2 billion per year in subsequent years up to 2027–28.

The UK has the fourth largest defence budget in the world.

**Top 15 defence budgets, 2022 (US $ billions)**

1. United States 766.6
2. China 242.4
3. Russia 87.9
4. UK 70.0
5. India 62.2
6. France 54.4
7. Germany 53.4
8. Japan 48.1
9. Saudi Arabia 45.6
10. Iran 44.0
11. South Korea 43.0
12. Australia 33.8
13. Italy 31.1
14. Canada 24.6
15. Brazil 23.0


1 Based on the IISS definition of ‘defence’. This will differ to governmental departmental budgets (such as the MOD spending figure on page 6).
Where we spend our money

The MOD spent £25 billion with UK Industry, the equivalent of £370 per person, in 2022/23.

Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry, 2022/23.
MOD spending with UK industry went to a variety of industry groups, including:

- **£6.15 billion** on technical, financial services and other business
- **£5.50 billion** on shipbuilding and repairing
- **£2.09 billion** on weapons and ammunition
- **£1.94 billion** on aircraft and spacecraft
- **£1.80 billion** on construction

Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry, 2022/23.
The MOD supported a total of 406,000 jobs in the UK in 2021–22. This is the equivalent of one in every 70 UK jobs. This comprised of:

130,000 direct jobs with UK industry, supported through MOD expenditure.

A further 79,000 indirect jobs supported through industry supply chains.

Direct employment of 143,000 service personnel, stationed in the UK, as of April 2021.

Direct employment of 54,000 civilian personnel in the UK, as of April 2021.

Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Supported Employment, 2021–22.
Note: Excludes indirect jobs with industry as regional data is not available.

Source: MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry, 2021/22.
The MOD works closely with our strategic suppliers to assess risks to supply chain and maintenance of defence capabilities. The top five suppliers to MOD in 2022/23 were:

- **BAE SYSTEMS**: £4,560m
- **BABCOCK**: £2,416m
- **QINETIQ**: £986m
- **AIRBUS**: £979m
- **ROLLS-ROYCE**: £934m

We have committed to spending £288.6 billion on the Equipment Plan over the next ten years.\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nuclear Enterprise</strong></td>
<td>£71.5bn</td>
<td>All submarines and Atomic Weapons Establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Defence Digital</strong></td>
<td>£28.6bn</td>
<td>Ensuring defence has the latest IT systems and services available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ships</strong></td>
<td>£24.8bn</td>
<td>e.g. Fleet Solid Support Ships and Type 26,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Type 31 and Type 32 Frigates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land equipment</strong></td>
<td>£17.8bn</td>
<td>e.g. Ajax, Boxer and Challenger 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weapons</strong></td>
<td>£14.4bn</td>
<td>e.g. air defence weapons, air and land launched missiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air support</strong></td>
<td>£14.4bn</td>
<td>e.g. A400M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combat air</strong></td>
<td>£17.2bn</td>
<td>e.g. Future Combat Air Systems (FCAS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Helicopters</strong></td>
<td>£10.9bn</td>
<td>e.g. Merlin, Apache, Chinook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integrated battlespace</strong></td>
<td>£6.8bn</td>
<td>Air traffic management and multiple small programmes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MOD Equipment Plan 2023-2033.

\(^2\) Additional funding of £34.5bn for nuclear and £9.4bn non-nuclear was held centrally for equipment as at the end of financial year 22/23.
Full Time UK Armed Forces\(^3\) and Civilians as of 1 October 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Royal Navy/Royal Marines</td>
<td>29,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>73,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF</td>
<td>28,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilians</td>
<td>61,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>192,760</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Reserves 2020 Trained Strength\(^4\) as of 1 October 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Reserves</td>
<td>2,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserves</td>
<td>24,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF Reserves</td>
<td>2,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,920</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MOD Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics (QSPS) 1 October 2023; MOD Biannual Civilian Personnel report October 2023

\(^3\) Defined as Military Full-Time Trained Strength (RN/RM and RAF), Trade Trained Strength (Army)

\(^4\) FR20 includes Volunteer Reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves and those Volunteer Reserves serving on Full-time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC)
As of 1 October 2023, there were over **26,130** current civilian and military apprenticeships being undertaken.\(^5\)

- **12,780** current Army apprenticeships
- **7,240** current Naval Service apprenticeships
- **4,180** current RAF apprenticeships
- **1,930** current civilian apprenticeships

The MOD sponsors five cadet forces in schools and the community with a total of **135,290** cadets as of April 2023.

Nearly **500** schools have cadet units, with Government ambition to increase school cadet numbers to **60,000** by 2024.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts, 2022–23

\(^5\) Apprenticeship numbers include those on agreed breaks in learning, which accounts for around 3,300 of the total on-scheme numbers.
The top ten professions in the MOD civilian workforce (FTE, as of 31 March 2023) include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Operational delivery</td>
<td>10,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Science and engineering</td>
<td>7,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>6,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Project delivery</td>
<td>5,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>4,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Digital, data and technology</td>
<td>2,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>2,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>2,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1,415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Civil Service Statistics, 2023
The MOD is committed to developing a more inclusive culture within defence, and a diverse workforce at all levels, with representation of both women and ethnic minority groups on an upward trajectory over the last five years. As of October 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MOD civilian personnel</th>
<th>UK regular forces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female representation</td>
<td>45.6% (Up 0.7 percentage points since last year)</td>
<td>11.7% (Up 0.3 percentage points since last year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic minority representation (excluding white minorities)</td>
<td>6.5% (Up 0.4 percentage points since last year)</td>
<td>10.6% (Up 0.7 percentage points since last year)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MOD Diversity Dashboard: October 2023, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics: October 2023
Global networks

Our regular forces are also stationed all around the world projecting a global presence.

UK Regulars comprise Full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.

Personnel deployed on operations and temporary assignments are shown against their permanent stationed location. As such, figures for locations such as in North Africa/Middle East and South Atlantic exclude large numbers of personnel deployed in those locations.

Our defence industry is one of the largest in the world, receiving export orders from all across the globe. The Middle East had the largest share of export orders at 34% in 2022.

The aerospace sector accounted for the largest proportion of the total value of UK defence export orders in 2022, at 64%.

*It is not always possible to relate contract information to a specific sector

Source: UK Defence Export Statistics, 2022
We have a global network of 89 Defence Attachés and Defence Advisors who deliver a broad range of Defence tasks including Defence engagement, policy advice, sales, representative duties and management of UK Defence activity within host nations on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23
International procurement

The MOD works with international partners to procure the latest cutting-edge defence equipment, ensuring good value for money and quality. In 2022–23, MOD spending on procurements through OCCAR, NETMA and FMS included:

**£138m** with OCCAR on A400M Atlas C.1 aircraft.

- UK
- Spain
- Turkey
- Belgium
- France
- Germany

£74m with OCCAR on Boxer Mechanised Infantry Vehicle.

- UK
- Lithuania
- Netherlands
- Germany

£98m with OCCAR on PAAMS Sea Viper anti-air missile.

- UK
- France
- Italy

Source: MOD Trade, Industry and Contracts, 2023
OCCAR Work Programmes
£32m with OCCAR on Maritime Mine Counter Measures

In 2022–23, £817m was spent on Typhoon FGR4 multi-role combat vehicles with NETMA, alongside three participating nations.

In 2022–23, the MOD spent £733m on FMS agreements with the US. Procuring a variety of equipment such as Apache, C17 and P-8A aircraft.

Countries listed are participating states in the procurements. In many cases, the work may take place in a different location to the identified countries.

FMS – Foreign Military Sales with US
OCCAR – Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation
NETMA – NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency
Defence activities

In 2022–23 MOD delivered **71 Military Aid to Civilian Authorities** operations, deploying over **6,716** personnel.

Over **50 years** of Continuous At Sea Deterrence

Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams performed **1,967** Conventional Munitions Disposals and **372** Improvised Explosive Devices disposals.

Quick Reaction Alert Aircraft tracked **213 National Incidents** with **4 launches** in response to potential counter terrorism incidents.

**280** personnel on deployment for UN Peacekeeping missions, including missions in Cyprus and Somalia (as of 31 October 2023).

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 22/23 and UN Peacekeeping Contributors
Support to Ukraine

The UK committed £2.3 billion in military support to Ukraine in 2022, and has sustained this into 2023. The UK has committed a further £2.5 billion in 24/25, an increase of £200 million on the previous two years.

In January 2023, the UK became one of the first allies to announce it would gift main battle tanks to Ukraine with a squadron of 14 Challenger II tanks.

The UK donated its first package of Storm Shadow missiles with long-range strike capabilities in May 2023.

In July 2023, the UK announced a further package of military support of over 70 combat and logistics vehicles.

Source: Military assistance to Ukraine since the Russian invasion – House of Commons Library (parliament.uk)
The King’s Coronation was the largest military ceremonial operation for 70 years and involved around 7,000 UK Armed Forces personnel, 33 Commonwealth nations and six British Overseas Territories.

Over 4,000 Armed Forces personnel formed the coronation procession from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace, composed of eight groups and 19 military bands. More than 1,000 members of Armed Forces personnel lined the route of the processions.

MOD Main Building was transformed into a forward mounting base for 900 personnel taking part in the ceremonial activity.

Source: MOD
Sustainability

The Greening Government Commitments set out the actions UK government departments and their partner organisations will take to reduce their impacts on the environment. The MOD continues to work towards the GGC commitments. In 2022–23:

- **27%** of vehicle fleet are Ultra Low Emission, against a 2025 target of **25%**.

- The amount of waste going to landfill was **3%**, down from **15%** in 2017-18, meeting the **5%** target for 2025.

- **37%** of waste went to recycle, up seven percentage points on 2021-22, against a 2025 target of **70%**.
Over **200+ tonnes** of Defence Information Infrastructure equipment decommissioned across **750 sites**, with less than **0.02%** of that waste going to landfill.

Defence continues to fund and deliver nature recovery projects across the estate with almost **£1.5 million** invested in over **130 projects** to improve the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

**£1 million** was invested in other biodiversity projects across the UK and overseas.

The Defence Carbon Footprint has reduced from **3.34mt CO2e** in 2021-22 to **3.13mt CO2e** in 2022-23.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts, 2022–23
We have made progress in delivering our defence commitments to sustain strategic advantage through science and technology in 2022-23.

- **£2.05 billion** spent on Frascati defined research and development.

- The Defence and Security Accelerator allocated over **£49 million** across 249 projects, of which 56% were with small and medium-sized enterprises.

- UK Space Command has achieved initial operating capability of over **500** personnel.

Source: MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23
Defence estate

The MOD owned 232,200 hectares of land and foreshore in the UK (either freehold or leasehold), which is about 1.0% of the total UK land mass as of 1 April 2023.

The MOD also held rights over a further 111,300 hectares, which is a further 0.5% of the total UK land mass.

The Defence Estate includes 169 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and land in 13 National Parks.

MOD land holding by type of use 2022–23:

- **Training areas, ranges**: 76%
- **Research and Development**: 10%
- **Airfields**: 5%
- **Barracks, camps**: 4%
- **All other users**: 5%

Source: MOD Land Holdings, 2022–23
MOD Annual Report and Accounts, 2022–23
2023 marked the 80th anniversary of the famous Dambusters raids by the 617 Squadron, who played a vital role in the Second World War with their Lancaster Bombers. Today the 617 Squadron fly the F-35B Lightning.

Lancaster B.III Bomber at a glance:

- Wingspan: 31m
- Length: 21m
- Aircrew: 7
- Altitude: 20,000ft
- Weapons: 6x Browning Machine Guns

Source: [www.raf.mod.uk](http://www.raf.mod.uk)