



Ministry
of Defence

UK Defence Investment Plan

**Equipping our forces,
defending our future.**

The plan is built around
three key areas:

What is the Plan?

The plan outlines how the UK Government will invest to transform defence to deliver the vision of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR).

It is a summary of the major investment choices the Government has made for UK Defence.

It is not the entirety of UK Defence's budget or capabilities, but demonstrates to Parliament, the public and industry how increasing investment in Defence is being spent.

The Defence Investment Plan is backed by £298bn of investment over the next four years.



**Transforming our
Armed Forces**



Backing British



**Stepping up
UK leadership**



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Transforming our Armed Forces



Autonomy:

Over £5bn into autonomous systems over the next four years. We will build a Hybrid Navy with new autonomous vessels and uncrewed sub-surface vessels, an Army transformed by AI, armed autonomous vehicles and drones, and accelerate the development of a Next Generation Royal Air Force with new autonomous fighter jets capable of operating from land bases or our aircraft carriers. We have established a new Defence Uncrewed Systems Centre in Swindon, and an Uncrewed Systems Taskforce to embed these capabilities across our Armed Forces.

Land lethality:

Over £20bn to rapidly multiply the Army's lethality by ten times through autonomous systems, long range missiles, AI, and armoured vehicles, underpinned by a new doctrine of fighting by recce-strike at all levels. This investment will contribute to our longer-term commitment of a transformed Strategic Reserve Corps for NATO.

Cyber and Electromagnetic:

£2.5bn into the cyber and electromagnetic domain to grow the new Defence Cyber and Electromagnetic Force, enable freedom of action and defend the UK against daily cyber attacks.

Space:

We are investing in UK Space Command to enhance space control, including developing capabilities to increase our awareness of space activities and protect critical national assets in orbit.

Restoring morale and fixing recruitment:

This includes three above-inflation pay rises and a generational renewal of military housing. This is backed by £9bn over the next ten years on our Defence Housing Strategy, with nine in ten military homes upgraded or modernised. It also includes a new Defence Housing Service putting forces families first, new property standards, and accelerated delivery of new homes on surplus Defence land.



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Backing British



Boosting British industry and British skills:

Creating nearly 60,000 new jobs compared to 2023/24 levels, and investing in British skills, with new Defence Technical Excellence Colleges and funding defence degrees. We will implement the Defence Industrial Strategy, fixing defence procurement, expanding UK exports and introducing a new offsets regime, subject to consultation, to ensure if we buy from abroad, there must be British jobs and benefits created.

Aerospace Sector:

Over £1.1bn of new investment to upgrade and sustain the Typhoon force into the 2040s. We will also buy additional F-35s, benefitting from the substantial UK workshare they bring. We will develop Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCAs) to fly alongside our 4th and 5th generation fighters, backed by £300m of investment. In combination, this establishes our pathway to GCAP, where we will spend £8.6bn to drive the RAF towards becoming Europe's first 6th Generation Air Force.

Shipbuilding:

£1.3 billion for new autonomous surface vessels, autonomous sub-surface vessels and a future Common Combat Vessel, a potential combined amphibious fleet with the Netherlands, while also spending £7.2 billion on a combined force of 13 Type 26 frigates with Norway, five Type 31 frigates and Fleet Solid Support ships.

Veterans:

Invest £70m in support for Veterans, through the Office for Veterans Affairs. We will deliver the VALOUR programme, including new veterans' hubs across the UK, back Op RESTORE, ASCENT, COURAGE, and FORTITUDE to back veterans.

UK Nuclear Deterrent secured:

Investing over £20bn more in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise (DNE) over the next four years than the previous four years to modernise and sustain our nuclear deterrent, the cornerstone of our national security. This will fund our new deterrent submarines and warheads, establish a nuclear fuels programme, start defining the Dreadnought successor, and upgrade our infrastructure across the defence nuclear estate. In addition to the DNE's investments, we will also purchase F-35As and join NATO's Dual Capable Aircraft nuclear mission.

Innovation, AI and quantum:

£1.6bn investment in UK Defence Innovation (UKDI) over the next four years will accelerate the development, scaling, and adoption of advanced and dual-use technologies across Defence. This includes embedding and expanding AI and quantum across the Armed Forces – such as GCAP, Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCAs – autonomous fighter jets), Project ASGARD and the Hybrid Navy – supported by a new £200m investment in Taskforce RAID (AI investment fund) and Project FRONTIER.

Land Industrial Capacity:

The government has re-established onshore manufacturing of heavy barrel ordnance with a new factory in Telford and using UK steel from Sheffield Forgemasters. These revived facilities are already delivering artillery to Ukraine and will provide the barrels for the Army's new RCH155 artillery howitzers.

New Fast Jet Training System and Red Arrows:

We will have new jets for a modernised fast-jet training system which will also allow the Red Arrows to replace the ageing Hawk aircraft, inspiring young generations for decades to come, part of a new Jet Training System, with a significant UK workshare.



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Stepping Up UK Leadership



Meeting our NATO commitment:

The Government has committed to increasing defence spending to 3% of GDP in the next Parliament, with funding and plans to be set out at the next spending review where defence will be the number one priority. Alongside NATO allies, the UK has committed to reach 3.5% of GDP on defence spending by 2035. The UK remains committed to meeting its obligations to the Defence Investment Pledge. All Allies will review the trajectory and spend in 2029, when NATO next reviews its capability plans.

Replenishing munitions:

£11.1bn on munitions and weapons to increase UK stockpiles and ensure our Armed Forces has the right 'high-low' mix of capabilities to defeat the full range of targets in the most efficient way, including Deep Precision Strike, low-cost cruise missiles and one-way effectors. By 2030, we will have built at least six new energetics factories and increased our national munitions production capacity.

DSTL:

As part of a programme of investment at DSTL, build a new laboratory in Porton Down – to be named after Ernest Bevin, one of the major figures behind the founding of NATO – to enable new research into protection against biological threats to the UK and our NATO allies.

Digital Targeting Web:

£1.8bn investment to integrate our Armed Forces through a new Digital Targeting Web. This will connect sensors, deciders, and effectors across the Integrated Force, drive speed in deciding how to degrade or destroy an identified target across domains and will be underpinned by world leading AI and software.

Critical underwater infrastructure:

£330m new investment into critical underwater infrastructure protection to further deter hostile activity in and around UK waters.

Integrated Air and Missile Defence:

£790m to enhance protection of the UK homeland and overseas bases from air, drone and missile threats over the next four years. This will revolutionise command and control and buy new radars and sensors. We will also invest in Directed Energy Weapons, upgrade Sea Viper for our Type 45 destroyers, expand counter drone systems, and build a new Integrated Air, Space and Missile Defence Operations Centre.