



## The Future of the British Nuclear Deterrent – Suggested Reading

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In December 2006 the Labour Government published a white paper entitled *The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent* which set out the Government's goals and principle recommendations for replacing the UK's nuclear deterrent beyond the 2020s. A debate and vote in the House of Commons on the general principle of whether the UK should retain a strategic nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the current system was subsequently held on 14 March 2007 in which the Government motion was approved by 409 to 161 votes.

However, the debate on the feasibility of replacing the UK's nuclear deterrent in the current economic and political climate is ongoing. Many commentators have thus called for a further debate and vote in the House of Commons before the programme is taken any further forward.

The following is a list of suggested reading material which provides background on the decision to replace the nuclear deterrent, the international legal context for such a decision and the current debate on financial and political viability, including the impact of the programme on the wider Strategic Defence and Security Review, which is due to report in the autumn.

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RP 10/42, [Progress Towards Nuclear Disarmament](#), June 2010

RP09/92, [The Islamic Republic of Iran: an Introduction](#), 11 December 2009

RP 06/53, [The Future of the British Nuclear Deterrent](#), November 2006

### Library Standard Notes

SN/IA/5150, [Future of the British Nuclear Deterrent: A Progress Report](#), 10 August 2010

SN/IA/5275, [Iran's Nuclear Programme, and Sanctions](#), 6 July 2010

SN/IA/4079, [The French Nuclear Deterrent](#), 1 July 2010

SN/IA/5024, [Recent Developments at the Atomic Weapons Establishment](#), March 2009

Intranet access only:

SN/IA/4460, [North Korea: an Update](#), October 2007

SN/IA/4262, [Iran's Nuclear Programme: an Overview](#), September 2007

SN/IA/4327, [Trident and the Future of the British Nuclear Deterrent: Frequently Asked Questions](#), April 2007

SN/IA/4199, [In Brief: The Trident White Paper](#), December 2006

## POST Notes

*Managing the UK plutonium stockpile*, February 2005

## **2 Government Publications (Including FOI releases)**

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *Nuclear 2010: Background to the review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*, April 2010

Cabinet Office, *The Road to 2010: Addressing the Nuclear Question in the Twenty First Century*, Cm 7675, Session 2008-09

Cabinet Office, *The National Security Strategy 2009: Security for the Next Generation*, Cm 7590, Session 2008-09

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *Lifting the Nuclear Shadow: Creating the Conditions for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons*, February 2009

Cabinet Office, *The National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom*, Cm 7291, Session 2007-08

Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent*, Cm 6994, Session 2006-07

Ministry of Defence, *Documents dealing with the replacement of Polaris with Trident* (disclosed 28 November 2005), including:

- *The Future UK Strategic Nuclear Deterrent Force*
- *UK Trident Programme*
- *Trident and the alternatives: modernising the UK strategic Nuclear Deterrent Force.*

Ministry of Defence, *Trident Replacement* (disclosed 23 September 2005), including:

- Cost of options relating to Trident
- Impact on UK foreign, economic and military policy linked to Trident
- Overseas defence companies and UK/US official relationship
- Protection of workers jobs following end of Trident programme
- Threat assessment and options relating to Trident

Ministry of Defence, *Control of the UK nuclear arsenal*, (Disclosed 19 July 2005)

## **3 Government Speeches/Statements**

Speech by Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox MP at Chatham House, *Deterrence in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 13 July 2010

Speech by Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox MP at RUSI, [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), 14 June 2010

Written Statement on [Nuclear Non-Proliferation](#), HC Deb 16 July 2009

Speech by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, [Nuclear Energy and Proliferation](#), 17 March 2009

Address to the International Institute for Strategic Studies by former Foreign Secretary, David Miliband,, [Nuclear Non-Proliferation](#), 4 February 2009

Speech by former Defence Secretary, Des Browne to the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva, [Laying the Foundations for Multilateral Disarmament](#), 5 February 2008

Speech by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown at the Chamber of Commerce in Delhi, [Nuclear Disarmament](#), 21 January 2008

Speech by former Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, to the Carnegie International Non-Proliferation Conference, [A world free of nuclear weapons?](#), June 2007

## **4 Parliamentary Material**

### **2010-2011 Session**

[Trident and the Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), EDM 110, Session 2010-11

[Nuclear Weapons Convention](#), EDM 498, Session 2010-11

[Debate on the Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), HC Deb 21 June 2010, c52-134

### **2009-2010 Session**

Foreign Affairs Committee, [Global Security: UK-US Relations, Response to the Committee's Sixth report of Session 2009-10](#), HC 537, Session 2009-10

Foreign Affairs Committee, [Global Security: UK-US Relations](#), HC 114, Session 2009-10

### **2008-2009 Session**

Foreign Affairs Committee, [Global Security: Non-Proliferation, Response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs](#), Cm 7692, Session 2008-09

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[Treasury Minutes on the Fourth to the Sixth, the Eighth to the Eleventh and the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Reports from the Committee of Public Accounts 2008-09](#), Cm 7622, Session 2008-09

Committee of Public Accounts, [The United Kingdom's Future Deterrent Capability](#), HC 250, Session 2008-09

### **2007-2008 Session**

National Audit Office, [The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent Capability](#), HC 1115, Session 2007-08

### **2006-2007 Session**

[Debate on the Motion to support the Government's decisions as set out in Cm 6994 to maintain the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent](#) (HC Deb 14 March 2007, c298-407)

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: The White Paper: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session, 2006/07](#), HC 551, Session 2006-07

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: The White Paper](#), HC 225-I, Session 2006-07

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: The White Paper: Oral and written evidence](#), HC 225-II, Session 2006-07

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2006/07](#), HC 304, Session 2006-07

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base](#), HC 59, Session 2006-07

### **2005-2006 Session**

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context: Government response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2005/06](#), HC 1558, Session 2005-06

Defence Select Committee, [The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context](#), HC 986, Session 2005-06

## **5 Books and Reports**

Malcolm Chalmers, ["Continuous At-Sea Deterrence: Costs and Alternatives"](#), *RUSI Briefing Note*, July 2010

Dr Nick Ritchie, [Continuity/Change: Rethinking Options for Trident Replacement](#), University of Bradford's Department of Peace Studies, June 2010

Malcolm Chalmers, ["A Question of Balance?"](#), *RUSI Working Paper No.7*, June 2010

Liberal Democrats, [Policy options for the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons](#), April 2010

["Chinese and British perspectives on the road to the NPT 2010"](#), *RUSI Workshop Report*, November 2009

[In the Firing Line](#), Greenpeace, September 2009

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Dr Nick Ritchie, *Replacing Trident Two years On: What Has Happened?*, University of Bradford's Department of Peace Studies, May 2009

Dr Nick Ritchie, *Stepping Down the Ladder: Options for Trident on a Path to Zero*, University of Bradford's Department of Peace Studies, May 2009

Dr Nick Ritchie, *A Regime on the Edge? How Replacing Trident Undermines the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*, November 2008

*Taking Responsibility: what can NPT states realistically do to build on today's momentum behind nuclear disarmament?*, British American Security Information Council, July 2008

*The Real Cost Behind Trident Replacement and the Carriers*, British American Security Information Council, October 2007

Nick Ritchie and Michael Sulmeyer, *Renewing Trident: Britain's Nuclear Politics*, in Price, O and Mackby, J (eds) *Debating 21st Century Nuclear Issues*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2007

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Charles Moxley, *Nuclear Weapons and International Law in the post-Cold War World*, 2000

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[“Our overseas aid bill could pay for Trident”](#), *The Daily Telegraph*, 30 July 2010

[“George Osborne: Trident costs will be met by defence budget”](#), *The Guardian*, 30 July 2010

[“Trident costs must come from MOD budget, Osborne says”](#), *BBC News Online*, 30 July 2010

[“Trident scale back urged amid cost worries”](#), *BBC News Online*, 28 July 2010

Dr Lee Willett, [“Debating the Deterrent: why the cruise missile option does not add up”](#), *RUSI Commentary*, July 2010

[“Cabinet clash on Trident”](#), *The Financial Times*, 30 July 2010

[“Trident spending wrecks defence priorities”](#), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 30 July 2010

[“Between Trident and Tristars?”](#), *RUSI Journal*, June/July 2010

[“Britain no longer has the cash to defend itself from every threat”](#), *The Daily Telegraph*, 22 July 2010

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Scotland for Peace: <http://www.scotland4peace.org/>

Greenpeace Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/peace/abolish-nuclear-weapons/>

Trident Ploughshares: <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/index.php3>