

Nuclear Weapons Expenditure 2008/09 – 2010/11

In his speech in the House of Lords on 22 November Lord Boyce was cynical about the Government's promise that the replacement of Trident would not be at the expense of conventional forces. He accused the Government of using "smoke and mirrors" to conceal the real implications of the budget in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

A series of Parliamentary Questions has recently clarified the amount allocated to the nuclear weapons programme over the three years of the Comprehensive Spending Review. These show that not all of the new investment in the nuclear programme is coming from additional money allocated to the Ministry of Defence. The substantial programme to develop the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is largely funded from the main budget.

Nuclear weapons expenditure 2008/09 – 2010/11

	main budget	Additional funding	Total
a. AWE running costs	900		900 (1)
b. AWE development	1550	200	1750 (2)
c. AWE total (a+b)	2450	200 (3)	2650 (4)
d. Other operating costs	2250		2250
e. "Trident" costs (c+d)	4700	200	4900 (5)
f. Trident Replacement	100 (6)	800 (7)	900 (8)
g. Total (e+f)	4800	1000	5800 (9)

Figures in bold are from Parliamentary questions.

(1) & (2) Calculation based on 2005/06 – 2007/08 costs, see below

(3) Des Browne reply to question from Jeremy Corbyn, 30 October

(4) Des Browne reply to question from Nick Harvey, 30 October

(5) Des Browne reply to question from Alex Salmond, 3 December; "capital and running costs of the current Trident nuclear deterrent" including AWE

(6) There is a difference of £100 million between the amounts given in the replies to Nick Harvey and Jeremy Corbyn on 30 October.

(7) Des Browne reply to question from Jeremy Corbyn, 30 October

(8) Des Browne reply to question from Nick Harvey, 30 October; "estimated costs of the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system over the next three years"

(9) Des Browne reply to question from Nick Harvey, 30 October

Breakdown of AWE costs

The investment at AWE was initially funded by the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWSCP). In a reply on 11 December Des Browne says that NWSCP has been incorporated into the core AWE programme. Although the Minister refused to say how much was for new investment, it is possible to estimate this.

3 June 2008 Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including the Atomic Weapons Establishment, in each year from 1998 to 2008, expressed in cash terms. [208183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, in each year from 1998 to 2008 is shown in the following table.

	<i>£ billion at 2008-09 prices</i>
1998-99	1.2
1999-2000	1.2
2000-01	1.2
2001-02	1.1
2002-03	1.1
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	1.3
2006-07	1.6
2007-08	1.7

30 Oct 2007 : Column 1358W

Nuclear Weapons: Expenditure

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected expenditure is in the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review on (a) the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including on the atomic weapons establishment and the future submarine programme, (b) the atomic weapons establishment and (c) the future submarine programme. [158335]

Des Browne: Projected expenditure on all aspects of the United Kingdom's independent nuclear deterrent—operation of and support to the current deterrent system, the costs of the atomic weapons establishment and expenditure on the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system—over the next three years is expected to be:

	<i>£ billion at outturn prices</i>
2008-09	1.7
2009-10	2.0

2010-11	2.1
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Expenditure at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is expected to be:

	<i>£ million at outturn prices</i>
2008-09	800
2009-10	900
2010-11	950

The estimated costs of the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007, over the next three years are:

	<i>£ million at outturn prices</i>
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400

9 Oct 07

Bob Ainsworth

UK Nuclear Deterrent Programme

The costs provided in Table B are the estimated costs that the MOD expects to incur over the next three years to implement the decisions to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent capability beyond the life of the current Vanguard class submarines as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007.

The main part of the programme has not passed business case initial gate approval. Detailed spending plans for future years are therefore not set at this stage.

Table B : The future UK nuclear deterrent programme

	<i>£ million</i>
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400

[Jeremy Corbyn](#) (Islington North, Labour)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Defence what proportion of the additional £2.7 billion funding for defence programmes to 2010-11 announced at page 231, Annex D8 of the [Comprehensive Spending Review](#), Cm 7227, is earmarked for the progress work on the renewal of (a) the Trident nuclear launch platform and (b) sustaining the capabilities of [AWE Aldermaston](#) nuclear warhead design and development work.

[Des Browne](#) (Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence) | [Hansard source](#)

holding answer 24 October 2007

Of the additional funding made available to the [Ministry of Defence](#) in the comprehensive spending review, some £800 million is currently planned for maintaining the [United Kingdom's](#) deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 [White Paper](#), "[The Future](#) of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007. Some £200 million is for the programme of investment in sustaining capabilities at the [Atomic Weapons Establishment \(AWE\)](#), both to ensure we can maintain the existing warhead for as long as necessary and to enable us to develop a replacement warhead should that be required.