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Commons revolt against a new generation of nukes



Chris McLaughlin

A House of Commons backlash against the replacement of Trident with a new generation of nuclear weapons has led to mounting pressure for an open vote among Labour MPs before any Government decision is announced.

The calls for a vote – which would provide an opportunity for MPs to be held to account by their constituency parties – comes amid suspicions that a decision to replace the ageing nuclear “deterrent” has already been taken in secret.

With the decision settled in principle, the issue exercising Number 10 and the Ministry of Defence is the practical question of which system should replace Trident.

Anti-Trident MPs have forced a debate on October 31 at the weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party on the motion: “This PLP questions the wisdom of spending billions of pounds to replace the

Trident nuclear deterrent".

The move follows the refusal by Tony Blair at Prime Minister's question time in the Commons this week to give an assurance that there will be a vote in the House.

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