

Hansard 31 Oct –

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on maintenance of the UK's nuclear weapons in 2004-05. [19667]

John Reid: Since the **Trident** nuclear deterrent became operational in 1994, the annual expenditure for capital and running costs has ranged between 2 and 4 per cent. of the annual defence budget.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will seek to enable (a) debate and (b) votes in the House on allowing British bases to host US nuclear missiles. [19836]

John Reid: I am aware of no such proposals.

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Trident

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it cost to store nuclear missiles for the **Trident** fleet in each of the last 10 years. [19061]

John Reid: A shared pool of US/UK missiles is maintained and stored in the United States. Under the Polaris sales agreement (amended for **Trident**) the United Kingdom contributes to the cost of processing the missiles. This includes a small element in respect of storage costs, which is not separately identified. The costs of the weapons handling and storage facilities of the Royal Navy armament depot, Coulport attributable to **Trident** are some £2 million per year.

Hansard 7 Nov 05

Trident

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of re-fitting each of the **Trident** submarines was in each year since they were commissioned. [21699]

John Reid [*holding answer 27 October 2005*]: **Trident** submarine long overhaul period (refuel)s (LOP(R)s), formerly referred to as refits, are being undertaken progressively. The first LOP(R), on HMS Vanguard,

7 Nov 2005 : Column 104W

has been completed and the second, on HMS Victorious, began in January 2005. The total cost of the LOP(R)s programme up to the end of the last financial year, rounded to the nearest £1 million is as follows. This includes planning work generic to the class as a whole.

Vanguard class spend profile £ million	Vanguard	Victorious
2000-01	7	—

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Vanguard class spend profile £ million	Vanguard	Victorious
2000-01	7	—
2001-02	45	—
2002-03	114	—
2003-04	84	8
2004-05	39	55
Total	289	63

Hansard 3 Nov -

AWE Aldermaston

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the recently announced additional £1 billion to be spent on maintenance of the **Trident** nuclear warhead at Aldermaston is (a) new money and (b) a first payment of the 25-year contract for £5.3 billion already allocated for this purpose to AWEML. [16497]

John Reid: The £1 billion to be spent at AWE, which I announced on 19 July this year, is in addition to the £5.3 billion which was announced in 2003 when the original contract was extended to 2025.