

The real cost of Trident

THE cost of the Trident nuclear sub programme will top £10.5 billion, according to revised government figures.

Ministers believe they have curbed the steady escalation of estimates at a time when every other area of Government spending is facing savage cuts.

A hidden bonus has been changes in the exchange rate which have reduced the real cost of the U.S. side of the project.

But savings in the submarine and its strategic weapons system have been partly offset by extra spending on a tactical weapons system and shore construction in the Holy Loch.

By November last year £5.07bn had been spent... £3.19bn in the UK and £1.161bn in the United States.

A total of £1.16bn is being spent in the current financial year.

A select committee report has confirmed that "peak" annual spending has now been reached but warned that almost £2bn will still need to be spent from 1995-96 onwards.

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