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though not all posts are filled at any given time. In addition, a number of other service personnel spend some of their time directly or indirectly on such tasks but comprehensive data are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost (a) of retaining the nuclear deterrent by the UK in each year since 1990 and (b) of being a part of NATO and the percentage this was of the defence budget in each year since 1997. [60283]

**Mr. Hoon:** The estimated total acquisition cost of the **Trident** programme is £9,764 million. As described in the Strategic Defence Review Supporting Essay 5 of July 1998, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, the average annual operating cost of the **Trident** force is expected to be around £280 million. As a percentage of the defence budget, the **capital** and **running** costs for retaining the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent for each year since 1990 were as follows:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Capital costs</i>	<i>Running costs</i>
1990-91	4	1
1991-92	5	1
1992-93	4	1
1993-94	4	1
1994-95	3	1
1995-96	2	1
1996-97	2	1
1997-98	1	1
1998-99	1	1
1999-2000	1	1
2000-01	1	2

These figures do not include the costs of the WE177 free-fall nuclear bomb and Lance nuclear artillery system that went out of service in 1997-98 and 1992-1993 respectively.