

29/11/88

Mr. Andrew Smith : To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a further statement on the impact of the purchase of Trident on conventional defence spending.

Mr. Archie Hamilton : Even at its peak we expect that Trident will absorb less than 6 per cent. of the defence budget. By far the greatest proportion of the defence budget will be available for investment in conventional forces.

17/12/91

Mr. Canavan : Are not we entitled to be told the whole truth, as revealed by Greenpeace, which is that the total lifetime cost of Trident will be more than £23 billion? About half that could be saved if Trident were cancelled now. Instead of extravagant spending on such an unnecessary weapons system, will the Secretary of State now make the peace dividend a reality by cancelling Trident and investing the money in areas such as education and the national health service?

Mr. King : The hon. Gentleman must be unaware that his party is now pledged to keep the nuclear deterrent, according to the speeches made by the hon. Member for Clackmannan (Mr. O'Neill). I have made it clear that the cost of running a Trident deterrent will be well below 2 per cent. of the defence budget. I regard that as an economical insurance and the ultimate safeguard against nuclear blackmail. I regard it at present as an important insurance.

9/2/93

22. Mr. Amess : To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of defence expenditure is taken up by the Trident programme ; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Aitken : The Trident programme is expected to absorb, on average, less than 2.5 per cent. of the defence budget over its procurement period. The Government consider that Trident represents a highly cost- effective contribution to deterrence.

11 Feb 1997

Mr. Portillo: When the hon. Gentleman tackles the cost of nuclear weapons, he is on the very weakest part of the argument. I believe that the total cost of the nuclear programme will be about 2.5 per cent. of the defence budget over the life of the nuclear deterrent.

24/2/97

Nuclear Forces

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the defence budget was spent on maintaining and operating British nuclear forces in financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96. [16884]

Mr. Soames: Running costs for Trident and Polaris ballistic missile submarines constituted around 1 per cent. of the defence budget in each of financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

28/7/97

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sum is allocated to maintaining the United Kingdom's strategic nuclear settlement in the current financial year; and what it is as a percentage of the defence budget. [10157]

Dr. Reid [holding answer 25 July 1997]: The United Kingdom's strategic nuclear deterrent is provided by the Royal Navy's Trident fleet. The capital expenditure on Trident for the financial year 1997-98 is expected to be some £285 million, representing around 1 per cent. of the defence budget. No consolidated estimate of running costs is yet available for 1997-98, although we expect the figure to remain at about 1 per cent. of the defence budget, as in previous years.

11/2/98

Trident and Eurofighter

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage of the defence budget to be spent on (a) Trident and (b) Eurofighter in each of the next 12 years. [26478]

Mr. George Robertson: The latest estimate of total Trident procurement costs is some £12.6 billion (1996-97 prices) and the total estimated Eurofighter procurement costs are £15.9 billion (1997-98 prices). Less than 10 per cent. of the Trident costs and around 80 per cent. of the Eurofighter costs will be spent after the end of this financial year. For Trident operating costs and Eurofighter support costs I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 1 December 1997, *Official Report*, columns 21-22, and the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 12 January 1998, *Official Report*, column 129.

15/3/05

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operational costs of (a) the UK nuclear warhead programme, (b) the Trident submarine programme and (c) the warhead delivery system were in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [221371]

Mr. Hoon: The combined capital and running costs of the United Kingdom nuclear warhead programme, the Trident submarine programme and the warhead delivery system was around 3 per cent. of the annual defence budget for financial year 2003-04. The total cost for the current financial year is not yet available.

31/10/05

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.

28/11/05

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the Trident missile system in 2004–05. [30330]

John Reid: In 2004–05, the capital and operating costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including the costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, were just under 4 per cent. of the Defence budget.

3/7/06

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government spent in relation to their nuclear weapons in each of the last five years. [80833]

Des Browne: Trident is our only nuclear weapons system. Since the Trident nuclear deterrent became operational in 1994, annual expenditure for capital and operating costs, including the costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, has ranged between 3 and 4.5 per cent. of the annual defence budget.

20/7/06

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual maintenance cost of the Trident weapons system is expected to be in 2006-07; and what the cost was in each of the last five years. [86875]

Des Browne: The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be between 5 and 5.5 per cent. of the Defence budget in 2006-07. For the costs in the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 713W.

2/10/06

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it will cost to maintain the Trident weapons system between 2007 and 2020. [61580]

Des Browne: The annual expenditure on capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be between 5 and 5.5 per cent. of the Defence budget in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Spending plans for subsequent years will be set as part of the Government's Spending Review process.

9/10/06 Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 597W, to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir), on Trident, what the reasons are for the increase in the annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent to between 5 and 5.5 per cent. of the defence budget in 2006-07. [89914]

Des Browne: The increase is due primarily to the programme of additional investment in sustaining key skills and facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shorts (John Reid) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 59WS.

4/12/06

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs have been of the strategic nuclear deterrent in each of the past 10 years, broken down by main budget heading. [104292]

Des Browne [*holding answer 29 November 2006*]: Since the Trident nuclear deterrent became operational in 1994, annual expenditure for capital and operating costs, including the costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, has ranged between 3 and 5.5 per cent. of the annual defence budget.

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.

13 Jul 2005 : Column 1086W
Trident

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cumulative costs have been of the Trident nuclear deterrent in each year since it became operational; [9737]

(2) what the running cost of the Trident nuclear deterrent was in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement; [9801]

(3) what proportion of Royal Navy spending was allocated to the Trident nuclear deterrent in 2004–05. [9800]

John Reid: The latest annual statement to Parliament about the acquisition cost of the Trident programme was made on 18 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

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, up to and including financial year 2004–05.

Specifically the running costs for financial year 2004–05 were 2 per cent. of the annual defence budget. Royal Navy spending allocated to the Trident nuclear deterrent amounted to 3 per cent. of the financial year 2004–05 Royal Navy spending plan.

Hansard 8 March 1996

Nuclear-powered Vessels

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the decommissioned nuclear-powered vessels in the ownership of his Department, giving the location of each and the cost of any work undertaken on each vessel since decommissioning; and what are his plans for the disposal of these vessels. [19510]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The location of each nuclear-powered submarine that has left service is as follows, with the approximate costs, where available, of undertaking the defuelling, de-equipping and lay-up preparation--DDL. In addition to DDL costs, the average annual maintenance cost of storing a decommissioned nuclear-powered submarine afloat is some £50,000. A docking of each submarine is also carried out every 10 years at an approximate cost of £3 million per submarine. So far, only Dreadnought has undergone a 10-yearly docking. The policy for final disposal is still under consideration.

Submarine	Location	DDL cost £ million
HMS Dreadnought	Rosyth	(4)--
HMS Warspite	Devonport	11.3
HMS Churchill	Rosyth	11.2
HMS Conqueror	Devonport	10.6
HMS Swiftsure	Rosyth	11.5
HMS Courageous	Devonport	10.8
HMS Revenge	Rosyth	18.7
HMS Valiant	Devonport	(5)--

