

## House of Commons Written Answers

6 February 2002 –

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with its US counterparts concerning Sandia National Laboratory's refurbishment programme for the W76 nuclear package and its arming, fusing and firing mechanism; [32711]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with its counterparts in the US concerning development of the W76-1 warhead; and if he will make a statement. [32710]

**Dr. Moonie:** Staff from the Defence Procurement Agency's Nuclear Weapons Team hold discussions with their US counterparts as a matter of routine. Conducted under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement and the 1963 Polaris Sales Agreement, as amended for Trident, the discussions cover all issues of mutual interest, including work on the US W76 warhead, relevant to the safety and reliability of the UK's Trident warhead.

2 May 2006 –

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with its counterparts in the US concerning (a) the W76-2 nuclear warhead design, (b) the Mk4A Reentry Body and (c) the Reliable Replacement Warhead project; and if he will make a statement. [66677]

**John Reid:** Officials from the Ministry of Defence regularly discuss a range of nuclear matters with their US counterparts under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement.

*A memorandum from the MoD to the Defence Committee in 2006 referred to "some relatively minor upgrading and refurbishment" of the warhead "during the first half of the next decade".<sup>9</sup> The question below sought to clarify this –*

18 December 2006 –

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to carry out an upgrade and refurbishment of the Trident warhead in the next five years. [108880]

**Des Browne:** We occasionally replace components of our nuclear warheads, if and when they become obsolete, but we have no plans to upgrade or refurbish our Trident warhead stockpile in the next five years. As was made clear in the White Paper on the Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994), published on 4 December 2006 (at paragraph 7-4), decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace the warhead stockpile are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

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<sup>9</sup> Memorandum from MoD to Defence Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/835/835m04.htm>