

28 Mar 2007

Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of the Mk4A Arming, Fusing and Firing system on the *(a)* ability to accurately adjust the height of burst of the Trident warhead and *(b)* probability that the Trident warhead will be effective against hardened targets. [129539]

Des Browne: The MK4A Arming, Fusing and Firing system is a non-nuclear component being introduced into the UK Trident warhead to replace a similar component which is becoming obsolete. This is necessary to ensure that we can keep the existing warhead in service in the 2020s. I am not prepared to discuss the detailed performance characteristics of our nuclear weapons.