

**Dr. Moonie:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my hon. Friend, the then Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kilfoyle) gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Greenock and Inverclyde (Dr. Godman) on 12 January 2000, *Official Report*, column 166W.

Good progress is being made on our ongoing 10 years programme to identify safe non-asbestos alternatives and introduce them into service at every opportunity including planned maintenance and refit periods. For example, we are currently trialling replacements in two particularly challenging areas: the ship propeller shaft brakes and high pressure steam system joints. If the trials are successful we shall fit replacements in a much earlier timescale than originally expected.

Progress on Ministry of Defence asbestos elimination measures, including those for Royal Navy ships, was presented to the Health and Safety Commission in May this year who fully endorsed the approach being taken.

### Berths

**Mr. Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the number and locations of (a) X berths and (b) Z berths available to his Department. [137691]

**Mr. Spellar:** Including all berths and docks, the total number of X and Z berths available is, respectively, 40 and 26. These are principally located in the Naval Bases of Devonport and Clyde, and the privatised facilities at Barrow in Furness, Rosyth and Devonport. The precise locations and numbers are as follows:

#### List of the locations of X berths

|                              | <i>Number</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Faslane                      | 8             |
| Devonport and Plymouth Sound | 16            |
| Rosyth                       | 11            |

#### List of the locations of Z berths

|                              | <i>Number</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Falkland Islands             | 1             |
| Loch Goil                    | 1             |
| Rothesay                     | 1             |
| Liverpool                    | (1)2          |
| Isle of Skye                 | 1             |
| Loch Ewe                     | 2             |
| Bermuda                      | 3             |
| Devonport and Plymouth Sound | 2             |
| Diego Garcia                 | 2             |
| Portsmouth                   | 1             |
| Spithead                     | 4             |
| Southampton                  | 1             |
| Gibraltar                    | 2             |
| Coulport                     | 1             |

(1) The use of the berths in Liverpool is currently in abeyance awaiting final resolution of the mechanism for the

implementation of the potassium iodate tablets countermeasure distribution plan.

**Barrow in Furness owned  
by BAE Systems Marine  
Ltd.(2)**

|                   | <i>Berths</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Barrow in Furness | 4 x X         |
| Devonshire Dock   |               |
| Barrow in Furness | 1 x X         |
| Buccleuch Dock    |               |
| Barrow in Furness | 2 x Z         |

(2) The berths listed against Barrow in Furness are owned by BAE Systems Marine Ltd. and have "lapsed". The necessary procedures to revalidate the berths will be instigated 12 months prior to reactor core installation for the Astute Class submarines currently on contract.

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### Royal Air Force

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that overspending on defence procurement projects does not affect RAF frontline strength. [138159]

**Dr. Moonie:** There are no current plans to depart from the conclusions reached in the Strategic Defence Review about the frontline strength of the RAF, although these plans are regularly reviewed.

### Training (Foreign Troops)

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the (a) gross and (b) net income derived from the training of personnel from foreign armed forces in the last year for which figures are available. [138315]

**Mr. Spellar:** The information is not held in the format requested. The funds expended training solely foreign personnel cannot be separated from the overall cost of the activity. Furthermore, the amount of receipts generated solely from training foreign personnel is not recorded separately. As a result I can provide only the amount of receipts recovered for the provision of education and training in general. In 1990-2000, this sum was just over £58 million.

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