



House of Commons
Defence Committee

**The work of the Committee
in 2005 and 2006**

Fifth Report of Session 2006–07

Report, together with formal minutes

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The Defence Committee

The Defence Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Ministry of Defence and its associated public bodies.

Current membership

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Mr David S Borrow MP (*Labour, South Ribble*)
Mr David Crausby MP (*Labour, Bolton North East*)
Linda Gilroy MP (*Labour, Plymouth Sutton*)
Mr David Hamilton MP (*Labour, Midlothian*)
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Willie Rennie MP (*Liberal Democrat, Dunfermline and West Fife*)
John Smith MP (*Labour, Vale of Glamorgan*)

The following Members were also Members of the Committee during the Parliament.

Mr Colin Breed MP (*Liberal Democrat, South East Cornwall*)
Derek Conway MP (*Conservative, Old Bexley and Sidcup*)
Mr Mark Lancaster (*Conservative, North East Milton Keynes*)
Mr Desmond Swayne MP (*Conservative, New Forest West*)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at:

www.parliament.uk/defcom

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Philippa Helme (Clerk), Eliot Wilson (Second Clerk), Ian Rogers (Audit Adviser), Stephen Jones (Committee Specialist), Adrian Jenner (Inquiry Manager), Richard Dawson (Committee Assistant), Sheryl Dinsdale (Secretary) and Stewart McIlvenna (Senior Office Clerk).

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Summary

This report describes the work of the Defence Committee in 2005 and 2006, since its appointment in July 2005. It illustrates how—in carrying out its work of scrutinising the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and associated public bodies—it has met the core tasks recommended to Select Committees by the Liaison Committee.

The report highlights aspects of the Committee's working practices which depart from previous practice or which may otherwise be of interest. In particular it draws attention to the webforum held during its inquiry into Educating Service Children; its taking of evidence directly from the children of Service families; and the growing amount of informal activities, including inward visits. It underlines the importance of visits to the Armed Forces in the UK and overseas and of Members' participation in political dialogue in other European countries. It calls for the Whips to act more flexibly in allowing absence from Westminster for Committee business.

The report commends the MoD for its timeliness in responding to reports, and acknowledges that the content of the Government's responses are reasonable. It notes a number of cases in which the MoD has accepted the Committee's recommendations, and acknowledges the broadly constructive relationship which has developed between the Committee and the Department.

1 Introduction

1. This report describes the work of the Defence Committee in 2005 and 2006, since its appointment in July 2005 following the 2005 General Election. Our report follows the format suggested by the Liaison Committee in order to ease comparison with other Committees.

2. Our report does not deal with the work of the Committee in the last Parliament, though we note that in the early months of 2005 our predecessors were busy. Shortly before the 2005 Dissolution of Parliament, our predecessor Committee published reports on the Government's draft legislative proposals for a Tri-Service Armed Forces Bill¹; on the Duty of Care (the report of a major inquiry inspired by concern about the deaths of four young soldiers at Deepcut)²; on the Government's 2004 White Paper *Delivering Security in a Changing World: Future Capabilities*³, and an update on the situation in Iraq⁴. In addition, with colleagues on the Foreign Affairs, International Development and Trade and Industry Committees, it published its annual report of parliamentary scrutiny of Strategic Export Controls.⁵ We pay tribute to the valuable work conducted by our predecessor Committee under the chairmanship of the Rt Hon Member for Walsall South, Rt Hon Bruce George MP, much of which we intend to follow up in the current Parliament.

1 Defence Committee, Second Report of Session 2004–05, *Tri-Service Armed Forces Bill*, HC 64

2 Defence Committee, Third Report of Session 2004–05, *Duty of Care*, HC 63-I

3 Defence Committee, Fourth Report of Session 2004–05, *Future Capabilities*, HC 45-I

4 Defence Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2004–05, *Iraq: An Initial Assessment of Post-Conflict Operations*, HC 65-I

5 Defence Committee, Fifth Report (First Joint Report of the Quadripartite Committee) of Session 2004–05, *Strategic Export Controls—HMG's Annual Report for 2003, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny*, HC 145

2 Core Tasks and Inquiries

3. This part of our report describes how we sought to cover each of the core tasks recommended by the Liaison Committee.⁶ A table summarising this can be found at Annex 1.

Examination of Government and European Commission policy proposals

4. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 1 encourages us to scrutinise policy proposals from the UK Government and the European Commission in Green Papers, White Papers, draft Guidance etc, and to inquire further where we consider appropriate.

5. In December 2005 the Government published an important White Paper setting out its vision for the future of the UK's defence industry: the *Defence Industrial Strategy*.⁷ We held an inquiry into the Defence Industrial Strategy, taking evidence from industry and expert commentators, as well as from the Ministry of Defence (MoD).⁸

6. The MoD's Defence Technology Strategy, published in October 2006, sets out the MoD's research and development priorities for providing future UK military capability.⁹ We are considering this in our current inquiries into the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and the Defence Industrial Strategy update.¹⁰

7. In December 2006, the Government published a White Paper on the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent.¹¹ We announced that we would be conducting an inquiry into the White Paper, the third of a series of inquiries on the future of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent (see paragraph 11 below). This inquiry will examine the arguments put forward by the Government for the retention and renewal of Trident, the role of nuclear deterrence and the international legal implications of renewal. This will be the focus of our work in the early part of 2007.

8. We have continued our contribution to the 'Quadripartite' Committee on Strategic Export Controls, together with members of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry and International Development Committees. The Quadripartite Committee carries out detailed scrutiny of the Government's controls on exports of equipment and technology with a military application. In August 2006 it produced a report on the Government's Strategic

6 In June 2002, the Liaison Committee issued guidance to Select Committees, setting a number of objectives and core tasks, following the Resolution of the House of 14 May 2002 inviting the Liaison Committee to establish common objectives for Select Committees. See Liaison Committee, First Report of Session 2002–03, *Annual Report for 2002*, HC 558, Appendix 3

7 Ministry of Defence, *Defence Industrial Strategy*, Cm 6697, December 2005

8 Defence Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2005–06, *The Defence Industrial Strategy*, HC 824

9 Ministry of Defence, *Defence Technology Strategy for the demands of the 21st century*, October 2006

10 Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee, 28 November 2006, HC (2006–07) 84-i, and 19 December 2006, HC (2006–07) 177-i

11 Ministry of Defence / Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent*, Cm 6994, 4 December 2006

Export Controls Annual Report for 2004 and Quarterly Reports for 2005.¹² In 2006 for the first time the Committee took evidence from HM Revenue and Customs and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office on the enforcement of exports control.

9. The Quadripartite Committee's 2006 Report pursued a range of issues, including the future of the arms embargo on China, its support for an international Arms Trade Treaty and the need to tighten controls on those trafficking and brokering arms. It concluded that with the loss of the "ITAR waiver" the Government's priorities should be to put in place arrangements which will allow the transfer of goods and technologies from the US, to ensure that the Joint Strike Fighter programme is not impeded and to assist those companies that would have benefited from the transfer of unclassified defence items, technology and services.

Examination of emerging and deficient policy

10. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 2 encourages us to scrutinise Government policy and to identify where a Committee inquiry would be worthwhile.

11. At our first meeting of the Parliament, we agreed that a key issue for us to examine would be the future of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent, on which the Government had said there would need to be a decision before the end of the Parliament. Rather than launching an all-encompassing inquiry on the merits of replacing the Deterrent, we decided it would be more productive to hold a series of focused inquiries leading to factual reports intended to encourage and inform the public debate. The first of this series was into the strategic context and the timetable for decision-making. The MoD declined to provide us evidence to this inquiry on the grounds that Ministers had themselves not yet considered the options for the future of the deterrent. Instead, we took evidence from witnesses from academic institutions, think tanks, campaigning organisations and industry.¹³ The MoD co-operated fully with the second in this series of inquiries, which focused on the manufacturing and skills base.¹⁴

12. Under this heading also falls our inquiry into Delivering Front-line Capability to the RAF, in which we examined the Government's plans to concentrate support and maintenance of RAF fast jets "forward" at RAF Main Operating Bases, and the implications of these plans for the Defence Aviation Repair Agency and its facilities at St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan. Our inquiry into Educating Service Children examined the delivery of education to the children of Service personnel both in the UK and overseas.¹⁵

12 Defence Committee, Twelfth Report (First Joint Report of the Quadripartite Committee) of Session 2005–06, *Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny*, HC 873

13 Defence Committee, Eighth Report of Session 2005–06, *The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context*, HC 986

14 Defence Committee, Fourth Report of Session 2006–07, *The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base*, HC 59

15 Defence Committee, Third Report of Session 2005–06, *Delivering Front-Line Capability to the RAF*, HC 557; Eleventh Report, Session 2005–06, *Educating Service Children*, HC 1054

13. Our inquiries into military operations may also be said to fall into this category. We published a report on the UK deployment to Afghanistan in April 2006, and a report on UK operations in Iraq in August 2006.¹⁶

Examination of legislation

14. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 3 calls for Committees to conduct scrutiny on any published draft bill within our responsibilities.

15. The MoD has presented no draft legislation to Parliament since July 2005, but Session 2005–06 saw the Tri-Service Armed Forces Bill—which our predecessors scrutinised in draft in 2004–05—introduced. This Bill sought to harmonise the separate systems of military law for the three Services into a unified and cohesive Tri-Service system. We published two reports on the Bill. The first, published in time for Second Reading, argued that the Government's proposals for an independent element in the complaints system was inadequate; and called on the Government to reinstate the requirement for Parliament annually to approve the renewal of Service law (which it did).¹⁷ The second, published in time for Commons consideration of Lords Amendments, argued that the Government's proposal for a Service Complaints Commissioner—introduced by amendment during the passage of the Bill—fell a long way short of the independent investigatory body recommended by our predecessor Committee in its 2005 report on the Duty of Care.¹⁸

Examination of specific output from the Department

16. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 4 calls for us to develop a framework for being informed of secondary legislation, circulars and guidance, treaties and previously identified casework decisions, so that they can be drawn to our attention where necessary.

17. The MoD has provided us with copies of all secondary legislation laid. While we have kept a watching brief on it, we have found nothing that has required further investigation. We have, however, indicated to the MoD that we will be taking a very close interest in the secondary legislation which will be brought forward under the Armed Forces Act 2006, particularly that implementing the proposal for a Service Complaints Commissioner.

18. In general, we have found the MoD efficient and, for the most part, helpful, in providing documents which we have asked for, but perhaps less good at proactively providing information that is likely to be of interest to us.

Examination of Departmental expenditure

19. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 5 calls for Committees to develop a systematic framework for committee scrutiny of the Department's Main and Supplementary Estimates, its expenditure plans and its annual accounts.

16 Defence Committee, Fifth Report of Session 2005–06, *The UK deployment to Afghanistan*, HC 558; Thirteenth Report of Session 2005–06, *UK operations in Iraq*, HC 1241

17 Defence Committee, First Report of Session 2005–06, *Armed Forces Bill*, HC 747

18 Defence Committee, Fourteenth Report of Session 2005–06, *Armed Forces Bill: proposal for a Service Complaints Commissioner*, HC 1711

20. We have succeeded this year, with the assistance of the Committee Office Scrutiny Unit, in establishing a framework for scrutiny of the Estimates, and have reported on the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06, the Main Estimates 2006–07, and the Winter Supplementary Estimate 2006–07, in each case before the House was asked to agree to the Estimates.¹⁹ The Ministry of Defence’s Supplementary Estimates are of particular interest since they reveal the costs of military operations, which have traditionally not been covered in the Main Estimates. Our report on the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06 was debated in the House.²⁰

21. The time available between the laying of the Estimates and their agreement by the House is very tight, leaving little time for Committees to identify and report on matters of concern. The Liaison Committee may ask Committees to nominate subjects for debate on the approaching Estimates Day before they have had an opportunity properly to consider the Estimate. This tends to result in already existing reports, only indirectly linked to the Estimates, being chosen for debate. **We recommend that the Liaison Committee reconsider its system for identifying reports for debate on Estimates Days. The House of Commons tends to forget that its power to grant, or to deny, the Government’s requests for resources represents a formidable control over the Executive.**

22. In addition to our scrutiny of the Estimates, we have held an annual inquiry on the MoD’s Resource Accounts, as set out in its Departmental Report and Accounts. A key area we have focused on is losses, which totalled some £400 million in 2004–05: we have examined the lessons learned from individual cases and the MoD’s approach to reducing losses.²¹

23. We have monitored the MoD’s Expenditure Plans which are published each year, providing details of the Government’s plans for defence expenditure for that and the following year. We are currently considering how we will examine the outcome of the 2007 Spending Review and its impact on defence capability.

24. Around 20% (£6 billion) of the MoD’s budget is spent on the procurement of defence equipment. We have followed the practice of our predecessor Committee in holding an annual Defence Procurement inquiry. Our report on Defence Procurement 2006 examined progress on a number of major defence equipment programmes and some small equipment projects. We also examined the proposed changes to defence acquisition set out in the MoD’s *Enabling Acquisition Change* Report.²² We plan to follow this practice in future, but—in line with the MoD’s new focus on through-life equipment costs—we intend to focus on defence equipment through-life, rather than on acquisition alone.

19 Defence Committee, Fourth Report of Session 2005–06, *Costs of peace-keeping in Iraq and Afghanistan: Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06*, HC 980; Ninth Report of Session 2005–06, *Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2006–07*, HC 1366; Third Report of Session 2006–07, *Costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan: Winter Supplementary Estimate 2006–07*, HC 129

20 HC Deb, 20 March 2006, cols 35–75

21 Defence Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2005–06, *Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2004–05*, HC 822, paras 71–95; and Second Report of Session 2006–07, *Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06*, HC 57, paras 104–109

22 Defence Committee, First Report of Session 2006–07, *Defence Procurement 2006*, HC 56

25. In addition, we have inquired into a number of individual procurement programmes: the Future Carrier and Joint Strike Aircraft²³; and the Future Rapid Effect System (report due in February 2007)²⁴.

26. As part of our examination of expenditure, we have monitored the Departmental Minutes which the MoD has laid before the House of Commons in line with the requirement on Departments to inform the House when they propose to make a gift of a value exceeding £250,000. We sought additional evidence on two:

- One relating to the gift of 475,182 Operational Ration Packs worth £3,114,845, to the United States of America following Hurricane Katrina (laid on 6 February 2006). These were not used for the intended purpose, because of US Department of Agriculture objections to European Union products.²⁵
- One relating to the gift of military equipment to the value of £500,000 to the Afghan Government (laid on 30 October 2006). The MoD's response told us the nature of the equipment supplied, but cannot be published owing to its "Secret" classification.

We identified some slackness in the MoD's reporting of these gifts and its observance of the rule by which Departments should not make the gift until fourteen days (exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays) after the issue of the Minute, except in cases of special urgency. We intend to scrutinise any future MoD Departmental Minutes in the same way.

Examination of Public Service Agreements and targets

27. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 6 calls on Committees to scrutinise Departments' Public Service Agreements and associated targets.

28. We have held annual inquiries on the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts—the Department's report to Parliament on its performance in each financial year.²⁶ These inquiries have examined the MoD's performance against its Public Service Agreement targets. This has involved oral evidence from the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and the Finance Director.

29. Our inquiries on the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts have also considered the targets set for the MoD's Agencies and their performance against those targets. Our report on the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06 called on the MoD to ensure greater consistency in the number of targets set for Agencies and the level of challenge which they present.²⁷

23 Defence Committee, Second Report of Session 2005–06, *Future Carrier and Joint Combat Aircraft Programmes*, HC 554

24 Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee on 12 December 2006, *The Army's requirement for armoured vehicles: the FRES programme*, HC 159-i

25 HC (2005–06) 822, paras 88–95

26 HC (2005–06) 822; and HC (2006–07) 57

27 HC (2006–07) 57, para 99

Scrutiny of Agencies and other associated public bodies

30. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 7 encourages Committees to monitor the work of the Department's Executive Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and other associated public bodies.

31. The MoD has 17 Defence Agencies, and five Trading Funds.²⁸ As noted above, we have looked at Agencies' performance across the board in our annual inquiries on the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts. Our report on the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06 noted that the MoD had implemented a programme to reduce the number of agencies and had plans to reduce its number further. We expressed concern that the programme might be a symptom of a wider centralist tendency in the MoD and lead to a loss of transparency.²⁹

32. In addition, we agreed at the beginning of the Parliament to adopt a rolling programme of short inquiries scrutinising the work of individual MoD Agencies. We reported on the work of the Met Office in 2006 and are currently inquiring into the work of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.³⁰

33. We examined the performance of the Defence Procurement Agency in our report on Defence Procurement 2006, taking evidence from the DPA's Accounting Officer (the Chief of Defence Procurement) in October 2006. This report also considered the Government's plans to merge the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation.³¹

34. Our inquiry into Educating Service Children examined the performance of the Agency Service Children's Education, and also considered the role of the Duke of York's Military School (an MoD Agency) and the Queen Victoria School (which had Agency status until 31 March 2005).³² Our report on Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF considered closely the role of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency.³³

35. The MoD also has a number of other associated public bodies.³⁴ We have not scrutinised the work of the MoD's Non-Departmental Public Bodies so far this Parliament: this is a matter which we will consider in future.

Scrutiny of major appointments

36. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 8 calls for scrutiny of all major appointments by the Department, envisaging that Departments would notify committees in advance of these appointments.

28 Figures at end 2005–06

29 HC (2006–07) 57, para 96

30 Defence Committee, Tenth Report of Session 2005–06, *The work of the Met Office*, HC 823; Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee on 28 November 2006, *The work of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory*, HC 84-i

31 HC (2006–07) 56, paras 7–38

32 HC (2005–06) 1054

33 HC (2005–06) 557

34 *Public Bodies 2006* lists 12 advisory NDPBs, 6 executive NDPBs (all Service museums), 1 Public Corporation, 1 Task Force and 1 Independent Monitoring Board

37. We have kept a watching brief on senior appointments made by the Ministry of Defence but have seen no reason to take action upon them. **The MoD does not at present inform us of major appointments, and we recommend that in future it should do so.**

38. We have taken evidence regularly from MoD Ministers. We held introductory evidence sessions with Dr John Reid MP, then Secretary of State for Defence, in November 2005, and with his successor, Mr Des Browne MP, in July 2006.³⁵

39. We noted the appointment of Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup as Chief of the Defence Staff, and of Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy as Chief of the Air Staff in April 2006, of Admiral Sir Jonathon Band as First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in February 2006, and of General Sir Richard Dannatt as Chief of the General Staff in August 2006. We did not take evidence from any of the Service Chiefs in the period under review: we plan to do so in 2007.³⁶

40. We noted the appointment of Mr Amyas Morse to the new post of MoD Commercial Director in June 2006, and questioned him on his role when he gave evidence on the Defence Industrial Strategy update inquiry in December 2006.³⁷

41. In September 2006, the MoD announced that General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue would be the first Chief of Defence Materiel, the head of the new Defence Equipment and Support Organisation (DE&S), to be formed from the merger of the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation in April 2007. We plan to monitor the progress of the merger and expect to take evidence from the Chief of Defence Materiel in 2007.

42. We have taken a close interest in the Ministry of Defence's proposals for a Service Complaints Commissioner. Our report on the Armed Forces Bill: proposal for a Service Complaints Commissioner welcomed the proposal for a Commissioner set out in outline in amendments to the Armed Forces Bill but highlighted concerns that the Government's proposals did not go far enough in ensuring independence in the complaints process.³⁸ We will be monitoring the detailed arrangements, as they are brought forward in secondary legislation, and will be keen to ensure that an individual of sufficient stature is appointed to this important new post.

Examination of implementation of legislation and policy initiatives

43. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 9 encourages Committees to examine the implementation of legislation and major policy initiatives, calling on us to develop a framework of progress reports from Departments.

44. We have followed this practice in respect of the Government's Defence Industrial Strategy, holding an update oral evidence session with the Minister for Defence

35 Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee on 1 November 2005, HC (2005–06) 556-i; and 7 July 2006, HC (2005–06) 1458-i

36 The Chief of the Defence Staff gave evidence to the Committee (meeting concurrently with the Foreign Affairs Committee) on Iraq on 11 January 2007, HC (2006–07) 209-i

37 Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee, 19 December 2006, HC (2006–07) 177-i

38 HC (2005–06) 1711

Procurement in December 2006, to assess progress a year after publication of the Strategy.³⁹ We are also following this practice in respect of the implementation of the Armed Forces Act 2006.

45. It is our intention to follow up our predecessors' report on Future Capabilities in the year ahead, and we will continue to take close interest in the issues raised in our predecessors' report on Duty of Care.

Production of reports for debate

46. The Liaison Committee's Core Task 10 calls for Committees to produce reports which are suitable for debate in the House, including Westminster Hall and debating Committees.

47. Our report on the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06 was debated on the Estimates Day on 20 March 2006, and our predecessors' Quadripartite report on Strategic Export Controls was debated in Westminster Hall on 16 March 2006. Our predecessors' report on Future Capabilities was tagged as relevant to the Defence Debate on 7 July 2005 and our report on the Armed Forces Bill was tagged as relevant to the debate on second reading of the Bill on 12 October 2005.

3 Working Practices and Innovation

48. This part of our report highlights aspects of our working practices which depart from previous practice or which may otherwise be of interest.

Evidence away from Westminster

49. At the beginning of the Parliament, we resolved to take evidence away from Westminster on a regular basis, in order to engage more effectively with the public around the country. We have done this on three occasions. We took evidence in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, on 21 November 2005, as part of our inquiry into Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF—an event attended by a large group of workers from the nearby Defence Aviation Repair Agency facility at St Athan, protesting about proposals for job cuts. We took evidence at a secondary school in Colchester, on 24 April 2006, as part of our inquiry into Educating Service Children. And we took evidence at the Met Office in Exeter, on 11 May 2006, as part of our inquiry into the work of the Met Office, in a hall full of Met Office staff.

50. Planning evidence away from Westminster has been made difficult in practice by the uncertainties of parliamentary business and by the inflexible attitude of the Whips (an issue we return to in paragraph 69 below). We had to cancel our evidence session at the Met Office twice before it eventually took place, at considerable inconvenience to our hosts.

Extending our range of witnesses

51. In the field of defence, there is a risk that the MoD is a monopoly supplier of information. We have therefore been concerned to find alternative sources of information and to extend the range of witnesses from whom we take evidence. On the procurement side, we have taken evidence from industry, and from smaller suppliers as well as from the major defence companies and manufacturers' associations.⁴⁰ We have also taken evidence from the trade unions representing civilian staff in the defence sector, and from leading defence academics.⁴¹

52. At our evidence session in Colchester, as part of our inquiry into Educating Service Children, we took evidence not only from the parents of Service children, and from teachers, but also from the children themselves. It was invaluable to our inquiry to learn from their experience.⁴²

53. Our evidence-taking from Government was not restricted to the Ministry of Defence. We took evidence from the Minister for Schools and from a Department for Education and Skills official during the inquiry into Educating Service Children; from Department of Trade and Industry officials during our inquiries into the Defence Industrial Strategy and

40 For example, HC (2005–06) 824, Qq 1–83; HC (2006–07) 59, Qq 59–94

41 For example, HC (2005–06) 557, Qq 1–26; HC (2005–06) 824, Qq 159–183

42 HC (2005–06) 1054, Qq 1–105

the Defence Industrial Strategy: update; and from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office official during our inquiry into the UK deployment to Afghanistan.

54. A complete list of witnesses and oral evidence sessions is provided in Annex 3.

Webforum

55. Accessing the views of rank and file Service personnel and their families is not straightforward: they can feel constrained from giving formal evidence to our inquiries. Our inquiry into Educating Service Children involved for the first time an interactive webforum in which we encouraged Service children, their parents and their teachers to tell us about their experiences. This was a valuable exercise: the forum received 5,000 page hits and 115 postings from people who had registered. It provided us with the opportunity to respond directly to comments posted on the forum and for contributors in turn to respond to our comments.⁴³

56. The degree of cooperation by the MoD with the webforum was initially disappointing. Midway through the exercise we heard informally that teachers employed at Service Children Education (SCE) schools overseas had been told by the MoD not to participate. We wrote to the Minister for the Armed Forces seeking clarification of the MoD's position. The Minister responded that there had in fact been "every encouragement for SCE teachers to participate". Following the Minister's response we extended the forum for a further two weeks. Activity by SCE teachers in the forum did pick up, albeit slightly.

57. We intend to run further webfora in 2007, as we believe it is a useful way of obtaining the personal views of those who may not wish to contribute formal evidence to our inquiries. We believe it is also a useful way of engaging public interest in our inquiries and of furthering well-informed debate on defence matters.

Publication of evidence on the internet

58. In order to encourage debate on the evidence received in our inquiries, we have increasingly made it our practice to publish the memoranda received, on our website, during the inquiry, rather than waiting till the report is published. We have also made use of the power, agreed by the House of Commons on 1 November 2006, to publish material on the internet alone, so saving printing costs.

Seminars

59. A list of the formal activities of the Committee gives only a partial picture of the work that we do. We have held a number of informal seminars. Two of these were internal seminars, examining how we go about our work and what issues are on the horizon. One of these was with our specialist advisers.⁴⁴ The third examined the effectiveness of our evidence-taking, with the assistance of Jane Martin, Director of the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Richard Norton-Taylor, Defence Correspondent of The Guardian.⁴⁵ In

43 HC (2005–06) 1054, Annex B

44 11 October 2005. A further seminar of this kind took place on 9 January 2007

45 18 April 2006

addition we have begun a number of inquiries with informal seminars with independent experts: on Afghanistan in November 2005, on the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent in December 2005, and on the Future of NATO in November 2006.

60. As well as taking formal evidence, we have found it useful on occasions to hold informal briefing meetings. We have had informal briefings from the MoD prior to visits to the USA and to Cyprus, on developments in Afghanistan, on the Armed Forces Bill and on unmanned aerial vehicles. We have also had informal briefings from industry: on technology transfer between the UK and the USA, on issues facing the companies managing the naval dockyards and on the Future Rapid Effect System. A list of informal meetings is printed in Annex 4.

Inward visits

61. This Parliament has seen a growing number of visitors from overseas. A list of our meetings with inward visitors is in Annex 4.

62. In March 2006 we hosted a study visit by staff of defence committees in the emerging democracies of South-East Europe, under the auspices of the Geneva-based organization Democratic Control of the Armed Forces.

Outward visits

63. We agreed at the beginning of the Parliament that we should conduct a series of familiarisation visits to MoD and Service facilities within the UK. Our first visit was to the MoD in Whitehall in October 2005, for a series of introductory briefings. This was followed by visits to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood, Middlesex; to the three Service Command Headquarters: Fleet, Land and Strike; and to the Defence Procurement Agency in Abbeywood, Bristol. During 2006, we also visited the Land Warfare Centre at Warminster and Colchester Garrison; and RAF Marham and DARA St Athan. We have also visited Flag Officer Sea Training at Plymouth and observed a "Thursday War" (a Royal Navy sea exercise). As part of our inquiry into the Future of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base, we visited HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane and Coulport), the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston and Devonport Royal Dockyard.

64. We have also visited UK Forces overseas, both at overseas bases in Germany and Cyprus, and in operational theatres in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Visiting our troops wherever they are deployed is crucial to our understanding of the conditions in which they are required to serve.**

65. We have agreed that we should also undertake familiarisation visits to the UK defence industry. We visited BAE Systems at Warton and Barrow in September 2006; and Rolls-Royce in Raynesway, Derbyshire in November 2006. We have plans for further visits to UK industry in 2007.

66. In May 2006 we visited the USA. This included a series of briefings at the United Nations in New York; a visit to NATO Allied Command Transformation Headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia; and a series of meetings with the US Administration (Pentagon,

Department of State, National Security Council, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Defence Logistics Agency), Congress (House and Senate Armed Services Committees) and industry (Aerospace Industries Association and Lockheed Martin Fighter Demonstration Centre) in Washington DC. The visit allowed us to discuss, in particular, operational issues and the future of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent, and to press the UK's case for the barriers to technology transfer on the Joint Strike Fighter to be overcome.

67. A complete list of visits undertaken in 2005 and 2006 is set out in Annex 2.

Political engagement within Europe

68. During the UK's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in November 2005, we hosted at Westminster a conference of Chairmen of Defence Committees of EU Member States. No conference was held under the Austrian Presidency. Our Chairman attended the conference held in Helsinki, under the Finnish Presidency, in October 2006. We look forward to working more closely with our European counterparts in future.

69. There is increasing demand for Members of the House of Commons to provide a UK perspective at meetings in other European countries, and we find that we are receiving a great many requests to send a representative to defence-related meetings and conferences. Our ability to participate, however, has been greatly constrained by the Whips. **We fully understand the Government Whips' interest in ensuring the delivery of the Government's programme—and the parallel interest of the Opposition Whips in ensuring that the Government is effectively challenged—but we believe that both should act more flexibly, taking into account the national interest in ensuring that members of the UK's national parliament engage fully in the European political process.**

Petitions

70. On 19 January 2005, the House of Commons approved the Procedure Committee's recommendation that a copy of each petition presented to the House should be sent to the relevant departmental select committee.⁴⁶ This followed the Modernisation Committee's recommendation that "there is a case for the House to do more with public petitions which, if handled correctly, represent a potentially significant avenue for communication between the public and Parliament".⁴⁷

71. We received copies of several petitions:

- from residents of Bridgwater and others requesting that the House of Commons call upon BAE Systems and the MoD to save the Royal Ordnance factory at Puriton, in Somerset (laid before the House by Ian Liddell-Grainger MP on 14 December 2005);

46 *Votes and Proceedings*, 19 January 2005; and Procedure Committee, Fifth Report of Session 2003–04, *Public Petitions*, HC 1248, para 5

47 Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons, First Report of Session 2003–04, *Connecting Parliament with the Public*, HC 368, para 99

- from residents of Southend and other parts of Essex objecting to the Atomic Weapons Establishment's proposal that QinetiQ dispose of radioactive waste on MoD land at Foulness (laid before the House by James Duddridge MP on 24 July 2006);
- from residents of Taunton and others, calling on the MoD to scrap any plans for relocating the UK Hydrographic Office away from Taunton (laid by Jeremy Browne MP on 30 October 2006); and
- from residents of North Dorset highlighting the importance of the Defence College for Communications and Information Systems at Blandford Camp to the local economy and requesting that it not be relocated as a consequence of the defence training review (laid before the House by Robert Walter MP on 20 November 2006).

We have written to the MoD and, where relevant, other organisations seeking their observations on the petitions, and have published the responses.⁴⁸

Specialist advisers

72. Our work has been greatly assisted by our team of specialist advisers: Paul Beaver, Rear Admiral Richard Cheadle, Professor Michael Clarke, Rear Admiral Richard Cobbold CB, Major General Timothy Cross CBE, Professor David Kirkpatrick, Air Vice Marshal Professor Tony Mason CB CBE, Dr Andrew Rathmell, Rear Admiral David Snelson, Air Marshal Philip Sturley CB MBE and Brigadier Austin Thorp. Dr Sibylle Bauer, Dr Paul Cornish and Joanna Kidd ably advised the Quadripartite Committee. Their advice, both directly to the Members of the Committee and through our staff, was invaluable.

73. During 2006, we successfully recruited a new team of recently retired senior officers as advisers on the three Services, following an open recruitment exercise.

48 See www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmdfence.htm

4 Departmental Responses

74. The MoD is to be commended for responding to all our reports, within or shortly after the agreed two month deadline. It cannot be said that the Government has always responded to our recommendations as positively as we would wish, but on the whole the responses have been reasonable in quality. **For the future, we would hope that the Government's responses will deal more fully with the whole argument contained in the report, and not restrict themselves to the bold recommendations and conclusions; and it would be pleasing if they could be more generous in acknowledging where our inquiries have contributed to changes in Government policy.**

75. The MoD has taken action in response to a number of recommendations in our reports. Examples include:

- In its response to our report on the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2004–05, the MoD stated that:

Following the Committee's comments we are introducing a number of changes to the way data [on Defence Agency performance] is presented in the 2005–06 Annual Report and Accounts.

- In its response to our report on the Costs of peace-keeping in Iraq and Afghanistan: Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06, the MoD accepted our recommendation that significantly more detailed information on the costs of operations should be provided in the MoD's Annual Report and Accounts. More information was provided in the Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06.
- In its response to our report, Educating Service Children, the Government accepted our recommendation that a Service children marker should be included in the DfES Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) exercise. The PLASC will include a Service children marker from 2008.

76. We and our predecessor Committee have taken a close interest in the issue of technology transfer on the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) programme. Technology transfer is required from the US to allow the UK to operate and maintain the aircraft independently. Assurances from the US that the required information would be provided were obtained in December 2006. Lord Drayson, Minister for Defence Procurement, acknowledged that our contribution had made a real difference.⁴⁹

77. One point of issue that we have with the MoD is that our communication with the Department and its Agencies is required to be through the Liaison Officer in Whitehall. We believe that the flow of information between us and the Department would benefit if our staff were permitted to liaise directly with policy officials on particular inquiries and with those on the ground over the arrangements for visits.

49 Oral evidence taken before the Defence Committee, 19 December 2006, HC (2006–07) 177-I, Q 75

78. In general, however, we believe that a constructive relationship has existed between the Committee and the Department this Parliament, which we hope will continue in the Sessions ahead. We will not hesitate to criticise the Department when this is merited, but will also give praise where it is due.

5 Looking Ahead

79. Our programme for 2007 starts with an inquiry into the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent White Paper, on which we plan to report to the House of Commons before the anticipated debate in March. We hope that our report will inform the House of the key issues emerging from the White Paper, and to make available a body of evidence from experts in the field, prior to the vote in the House.

80. We have also announced that we will be conducting an inquiry into the future of NATO and European Defence. We intend to analyse the Atlantic Alliance, its role, purpose and prospects, considering what role NATO should play in the future of UK and European defence, and whether NATO has a viable long-term future.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. In general, we have found the MoD efficient and, for the most part, helpful, in providing documents which we have asked for, but perhaps less good at proactively providing information that is likely to be of interest to us. (Paragraph 18)
2. We recommend that the Liaison Committee reconsider its system for identifying reports for debate on Estimates Days. The House of Commons tends to forget that its power to grant, or to deny, the Government's requests for resources represents a formidable control over the Executive. (Paragraph 21)
3. The MoD does not at present inform us of major appointments, and we recommend that in future it should do so. (Paragraph 37)
4. We intend to run further webfora in 2007, as we believe it is a useful way of obtaining the personal views of those who may not wish to contribute formal evidence to our inquiries. We believe it is also a useful way of engaging public interest in our inquiries and of furthering well-informed debate on defence matters. (Paragraph 57)
5. Visiting our troops wherever they are deployed is crucial to our understanding of the conditions in which they are required to serve. (Paragraph 64)
6. We fully understand the Government Whips' interest in ensuring the delivery of the Government's programme—and the parallel interest of the Opposition Whips in ensuring that the Government is effectively challenged—but we believe that both should act more flexibly, taking into account the national interest in ensuring that members of the UK's national parliament engage fully in the European political process. (Paragraph 69)
7. For the future, we would hope that the Government's responses will deal more fully with the whole argument contained in the report, and not restrict themselves to the bold recommendations and conclusions; and it would be pleasing if they could be more generous in acknowledging where our inquiries have contributed to changes in Government policy. (Paragraph 74)
8. In general, we believe that a constructive relationship has existed between the Committee and the Department this Parliament, which we hope will continue in the Sessions ahead. We will not hesitate to criticise the Department when this is merited, but will also give praise where it is due. (Paragraph 78)

Annex 2: Committee Visits

Overseas visits

Date	Location	Purpose
23–24 November 2005	Rheindahlen, Germany	Inquiry into UK deployment to Afghanistan
22–23 March 2006	Paderborn and Gütersloh, Germany	Inquiry into Educating Service Children
14–19 May 2006	New York, Norfolk and Washington, USA	Current Operations and inquiry into the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context
4–9 June 2006	Iraq	Inquiry into UK Operations in Iraq
2–7 July 2006	Pakistan and Afghanistan	Inquiry into the UK deployment to Afghanistan
30 October–2 November 2006	Cyprus	Visiting British Forces in Cyprus

Overseas visits in a Representative Capacity

Date	Location	Purpose
12–13 September 2005	Colmar, France	Third Summer Defence Conference of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee of the French National Assembly
4–5 October 2005	Brussels, Belgium	Meeting of Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of the EU National Parliaments
30 May 2006	Brussels, Belgium	Joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs & Defence Committees of the European Parliament & National Parliaments
19–20 October 2006	Helsinki, Finland	Conference of the Chairmen of Defence Committees of the Member States of the European Union
27–29 November 2006	Riga, Latvia	Conference on Transforming NATO in a New Global Era

UK visits

Date	Location	Purpose
12 October 2005	Ministry of Defence, Whitehall	Introductory Briefing
16 November 2005	RAF Marham, Norfolk	Inquiry into Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF
21 November 2005	DARA St Athan and Vale of Glamorgan Civic Centre	Inquiry into Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF: Oral evidence
8 December 2005	Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood	Inquiry into the UK deployment to Afghanistan
26 January 2006	Defence Procurement Agency, Bristol	Familiarisation visit
9 February 2006	Fleet Command, Portsmouth	Familiarisation visit
27 February 2006	Land Command, Wiltshire	Familiarisation visit
9 March 2006	Strike Command, High Wycombe	Familiarisation visit
24 April 2006	Colchester, Essex	Inquiry into Educating Service Children: Oral Evidence
11 May 2006	Met Office, Exeter	Inquiry into the work of the Met Office: Oral Evidence
18 July 2006	Farnborough Air Show	Familiarisation visit
15 September 2006	Faslane and Coulport, Scotland	Inquiry into the Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base
19–20 September 2006	BAE Systems, Warton and Barrow-in-Furness	Inquiry into the Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base
26 September 2006	AWE Aldermaston, Berkshire	Inquiry into the Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base
27 September 2006	Devonport, Plymouth	Inquiry into the Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base
28 September 2006	Flag Officer Sea Training "Thursday War", Plymouth	Familiarisation visit
23 November 2006	Rolls-Royce, Raynesway	Inquiry into the Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the manufacturing and skills base

Annex 3: Oral Evidence Sessions

Session 2005–06

Date	Inquiry / witnesses
18 October 2005	<p><i>Future Carrier and Joint Combat Aircraft Programmes</i></p> <p>Mr John Coles CB, CVF and MASC Integrated Project Team Leader, Ministry of Defence, Mr Allan Cameron, Managing Director, Thales Naval Business, UK, Mr Chris Geoghegan, Chief Operating Officer, BAE Systems and Mr Tony Pryor CBE, Chairman of Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited (Kellogg, Brown and Root representative on the UK Aircraft Carrier Alliance project); Mr Tom Burbage, Executive Vice President and General Manager F-35 JSF Program Lockheed Martin, Mr Steve Mogford, Chief Operating Officer, BAE Systems, members of Team Lockheed, the Prime Contractor, and Commodore Simon Henley MBE, RN, Joint Combat Aircraft Integrated Project Team Leader, Ministry of Defence</p>
25 October 2005	<p><i>Future Carrier and Joint Combat Aircraft Programmes</i></p> <p>Lord Drayson, a Member of the House of Lords, Minister for Defence Procurement, and Sir Peter Spencer KCB ADC, Chief of Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence</p>
1 November 2005	<p><i>Introductory evidence session with the Secretary of State for Defence</i></p> <p>Rt Hon John Reid MP, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Desmond Bowen CMG, Policy Director, Mr Ian Andrews, Second Permanent Under-Secretary, and Lieutenant General Sir Rob Fry KCB CBE, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments), Ministry of Defence</p>
21 November 2005	<p><i>Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF</i></p> <p>Mr Bryan Godsell, Regional Officer for Wales, Ms Catherine Speight, Regional Secretary for Wales, Mr Gavin Toker, St Athan Convenor, Amicus, Mr Jim Cooper, Negotiating Officer, and Ms Helen Taylor, Chairperson for PCS National Branch, Prospect; Mr Archie Hughes, Chief Executive, DARA</p>
29 November 2005	<p><i>Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF</i></p> <p>Mr Stephen Hill, DARA Chief Executive (1999–2003); Rt Hon Adam Ingram, a Member of the House, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Air Vice Marshal Barry Thornton CB, Director General, Logistics (Strike) and Mr Nick Evans, Director General, Management and Organisation, Ministry of Defence</p>
17 January 2006	<p><i>The UK deployment to Afghanistan</i></p> <p>Air Vice Marshal Chris Nickols CBE, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations), and Mr Martin Howard, Director General, Operational Policy, Ministry of Defence</p>
24 January 2006	<p><i>Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2004–05</i></p> <p>Mr Bill Jeffrey CB, Permanent Under Secretary of State, and Mr Trevor Woolley, Director of Finance, Ministry of Defence</p>

Date	Inquiry / witnesses
31 January 2006	<p><i>The Defence Industrial Strategy</i> Mr Guy Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, MBDA and DMA Council (Team Leader), Mr Roger Medwell, Managing Director, NP Aerospace, Dr David Price, CEO Chemring plc, and Mr Chris Cundy, Commercial Director, VT Group, Defence Manufacturers Association; Lord Levene of Portsoken KBE</p>
31 January 2006	<p><i>Meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny</i> Mr David Hayes, Head of Export Controls, Rolls-Royce plc, and Chairman of the Export Group for Aerospace and Defence (EGAD), Mr Brinley Salzmann, Exports Director, Defence Manufacturers Association and Secretary EGAD, Mr Derek Marshall, Director of Aerospace Defence and Homeland Security, Society of British Aerospace Companies, Ms Bernadette Peers, Compliance Manager, Strategic Shipping Company Ltd, and Mr David Wilson, Export Compliance Manager, EDS Defence Ltd, EGAD; Mr Oliver Sprague, Research and Policy Adviser, Oxfam and UK Working Group on Arms, Mr Roy Isbister, Head of Export Controls and EU Section, Saferworld and UK Working Group on Arms, and Mr Mark Thomas, Broadcaster and Journalist</p>
7 February 2006	<p><i>The Defence Industrial Strategy</i> Mr Andy Stevens, Chief Operating Officer, Cobham Plc, Mr John Howe, Vice Chairman, Thales UK, Mr Graeme Ferrero, Managing Director, Defence Technology, QinetiQ, and Mr Paul Everitt, Director of Communications, Society of British Aerospace Companies; Professor Keith Hartley, Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Defence Economics, University of York, Professor Keith Hayward, Head of Research at the Royal Aeronautical Society, and Professor Ron Matthews, Chair in Defence Economics, Cranfield University</p>
28 February 2006	<p><i>The Defence Industrial Strategy</i> Sir John Chisholm, Executive Chairman, QinetiQ; Sir John Rose, Chairman of the Defence Industries Council (also Chief Executive, Rolls Royce plc), Dr Sally Howes, Secretary of the Defence Industries Council (also Director General, Society of British Aerospace Companies), and Mr Mike Turner CBE, Chief Executive, BAE Systems; Lord Drayson, Minister for Defence Procurement, Mr David Gould CB, Deputy Chief Executive, Defence Procurement Agency, and Mr Mark Gibson CB, Director General, Business Group, DTI</p>
7 March 2006	<p><i>The UK deployment to Afghanistan</i> Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Air Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy KCB CBE, Commander of Joint Operations PJHQ, Dr Roger Hutton, Director Joint Commitments Policy, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Peter Holland, Head of the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit (ADIDU), Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>
13 March 2006	<p><i>Meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny</i> Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry, with responsibility for the Export Control Organisation, Mr Glyn Williams, Director, Ms Jayne Carpenter, Assistant Director, and Mr David Whitehouse, Head of the Licensing Casework Unit, Export Control Organisation, Department of Trade and Industry</p>

Date	Inquiry / witnesses
14 March 2006	<i>The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context</i> Mr Michael Codner, Director of Military Sciences, Royal United Services Institute, Dr Lee Willett, Head of Military Capabilities Programme, Military Sciences Department, Royal United Services Institute, Dr Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, Mr Dan Plesch, Research Associate, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Sir Michael Quinlan, Consulting Senior Fellow, International Institute of Strategic Studies
21 March 2006	<i>The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context</i> Mr David Boucher, University of Southampton, Professor Colin S Gray, University of Reading, Professor Shaun Gregory, University of Bradford, and Professor John Simpson, University of Southampton
28 March 2006	<i>The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context</i> Mr Peter Whitehouse, Corporate Development Director, Devonport Management Limited, and Commodore (Rtd) Tim Hare; Dr Andrew Dorman, King's College London, Dr Dominick Jenkins, Greenpeace UK, Mr Malcolm Savidge, Oxford Research Group, and Dr Bruno Tertrais, Foundation for Strategic Research (Paris)
19 April 2006	<i>Meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny</i> Mr David Hayes, Head of Export Controls, Rolls-Royce plc, and Chairman of the Export Group for Aerospace and Defence (EGAD), Mr Brinley Salzmann, Exports Director, Defence Manufacturers Association and Secretary EGAD, Ms Bernadette Peers, Compliance Manager, Strategic Shipping Company Ltd, and Mr David Wilson, Export Compliance Manager, EDS Defence Ltd, EGAD
24 April 2006	<i>Educating Service Children</i> Amber Martin, Kelly Saunders, Sheree Hart, Chris Horseman, Lucy Fawcett and David Pym, students from Alderman Blaxill Secondary School, Colchester; Mrs Rachel Troughton, Army Families Federation, Mrs Chris Cooper, Mr John Prosser, Mrs Heather Wheeler, Mrs Michelle Titcombe, Mrs Sharon Watson, Mrs Carolyn Mackay, Mrs Michelle Dunn, Mrs Maria Barber-Riley and Mr Anthony Evans, parents of Service children; Mr Mike Curtis, Head Teacher of Carterton School, Oxfordshire, Ms Tina Evans, Head Teacher, Zouch Primary School, Wiltshire, Mr Paul Ranson, Deputy Head Teacher, Alderman Blaxill School, Colchester, Essex, and Mr Derek Jones, Assistant Head Teacher, Alderman Blaxill School, Colchester, Essex
25 April 2006	<i>Meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny</i> Dr Kim Howells MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Trevor Moore, Deputy Head, and Mr Graham Glover, Head of Arms Trade Unit, Counter-Proliferation Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
2 May 2006	<i>Educating Service Children</i> Mr Don Touhig MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Brigadier Anthony Brister, Director, Educational and Training Services (Army), Ms Liz Cassidy, Command Secretary, Adjutant General, Mr David Wadsworth, Chief Executive of Service Children's Education, and Ms Kathryn Forsyth, Assistant Chief Executive, School Effectiveness, Service Children's Education, Ministry of Defence
11 May 2006	<i>The work of the Met Office</i> Mr Mark Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Dr Dave Griggs, Director of Climate Change, and Mr Steve Noyes, Director of Production, Met Office

Date	Inquiry / witnesses
23 May 2006	<i>The work of the Met Office</i> Mr Peter Ewins, former Chief Executive of the Met Office
24 May 2006	<i>The work of the Met Office</i> Mr Tom Watson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Ian Andrews, Second Permanent Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Mark Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Met Office
25 May 2006	<i>Meeting of the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny</i> Mr Kevin Franklin, Director, Frontiers Customer Unit, Mr Mark Fuchter, Head of the Publications and Restrictions Policy Group, HM Revenue and Customs, and Mr David Green QC, Director, Mr David Richardson, Head of Division C (Border Detections), and Ms Helen Wolkind, Senior Lawyer, Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office
13 June 2006	<i>Educating Service Children</i> Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and Ms Sue Garner, Head of the School Admissions and Class Size Unit, Department for Education and Skills
20 June 2006	<i>UK Operations in Iraq</i> Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Nick Houghton CBE, Chief of Joint Operations, Permanent Joint Headquarters, and Dr Roger Hutton, Director, Joint Commitments Policy, Ministry of Defence
27 June 2006	<i>Defence Procurement 2006</i> Dr Iain Watson, Operations Director for Information Superiority, Dr Andrew Tyler, Director, Land and Maritime, Mr Jonathan Lyle, Operations Director, Air and Weapon Systems, and Lieutenant General Andrew Figgures, Deputy Chief of Staff (Equipment Capability), Ministry of Defence
11 July 2006	<i>Introductory Evidence Session with the Secretary of State for Defence</i> Rt Hon Des Browne MP, Secretary of State for Defence, Brigadier Stephen Andrews CBE, Director, Service Personnel Policy Strategy, Ministry of Defence and Mr David Gould CB, Deputy Chief Executive, Defence Procurement Agency
10 October 2006	<i>Defence Procurement 2006</i> Sir Peter Spencer KCB, Chief of Defence Procurement, Defence Procurement Agency, Ministry of Defence
24 October 2006	<i>Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06</i> Mr Bill Jeffrey CB, Permanent Under Secretary of State, and Mr Trevor Woolley, Finance Director, Ministry of Defence
7 November 2006	<i>The Future of the UK's Strategic Export Controls: the Manufacturing and Skills Base</i> Mr Murray Easton, Managing Director, Submarines, BAE Systems, Mr Steve Ludlam, President Submarines, Rolls-Royce plc, and Mr Peter Whitehouse, Corporate Development Director, Devonport Management Limited; Mr Ron Grant, Managing Director, MacTaggart Scott & Company Ltd, Mr Jim Morrison, Unit Managing Director, Alstom, and Mr Joe Oatley, Managing Director, Weir Strachan & Henshaw

Annex 4: Informal Meetings

Meetings with inward visitors

Meeting	Date
Joint meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee: Georgian Foreign Minister	12 October 2005
Canadian Standing Committee on National Defence and Veteran Affairs	12 October 2005
Joint meeting with the Foreign Affairs and European Scrutiny Committees: WEU Presidential Committee	20 October 2005
Conference of Chairmen of EU Defence Committees	7–8 November 2005
Gibraltar Defence Police Staff Association	22 November 2005
Francois Lureau, Chief Executive, French Délégation Générale pour l'Armement	22 November 2005
Sir Emyr Jones Parry, UK Ambassador to the United Nations	25 November 2005
Sir Emyr Jones Parry, UK Ambassador to the United Nations	24 January 2006
Dr Friedbert Pfluger, German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defence	1 February 2006
US Senate Armed Services Committee	24 March 2006
US Deputy Ambassador David Johnson	28 March 2006
Joint meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee: Georgian Prime Minister	22 May 2006
South African National Defence College	24 May 2006
Mr Kim Wilkie MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Western Australia	17 July 2006
Italian Senate Defence Committee	20 July 2006
Nuri al-Maliki, Prime Minister of Iraq	24 July 2006
US Capstone Students	17 October 2006
Joint meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee: Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs	21 November 2006
Sir Emyr Jones Parry, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations	22 November 2006

Informal briefings and seminars

Meeting	Date
Seminar on Working Practices	11 October 2005
Seminar on Afghanistan	15 November 2005
Seminar on the ITAR Waiver	6 December 2005
Ministry of Defence briefing on the Armed Forces Bill	7 December 2005
Seminar on the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent	13 December 2005
Seminar on Working Practices	18 April 2006
Ministry of Defence briefing for US visit	9 May 2006
Ministry of Defence briefing on update on operations in Afghanistan	17 October 2006
Ministry of Defence briefing by Surgeon Commodore Lionel Jarvis for Cyprus visit	23 October 2006
Briefing from Devonport, Rosyth and Portsmouth management representatives	24 October 2006
Seminar on the Future of NATO and European Defence	7 November 2006
Briefing from Industry representatives on the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) Programme	5 December 2006
Ministry of Defence briefing on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	19 December 2006

Formal minutes

Tuesday 16 January 2007

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Willie Rennie

The work of the Committee in 2005 and 2006

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (The work of the Committee in 2005 and 2006), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 80 agreed to.

Summary and Annexes agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Report of the Committee to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 January at 10.00 am

Defence Committee Reports in this Parliament

Session 2005–06

First Report	Armed Forces Bill	HC 747 (<i>HC 1021</i>)
Second Report	Future Carrier and Joint Combat Aircraft Programmes	HC 554 (<i>HC 926</i>)
Third Report	Delivering Front Line Capability to the RAF	HC 557 (<i>HC 1000</i>)
Fourth Report	Costs of peace-keeping in Iraq and Afghanistan: Spring Supplementary Estimate 2005–06	HC 980 (<i>HC 1136</i>)
Fifth Report	The UK deployment to Afghanistan	HC 558 (<i>HC 1211</i>)
Sixth Report	Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2004–05	HC 822 (<i>HC 1293</i>)
Seventh Report	The Defence Industrial Strategy	HC 824 (<i>HC 1488</i>)
Eighth Report	The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Strategic Context	HC 986 (<i>HC 1558</i>)
Ninth Report	Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2006–07	HC 1366 (<i>HC 1601</i>)
Tenth Report	The work of the Met Office	HC 823 (<i>HC 1602</i>)
Eleventh Report	Educating Service Children	HC 1054 (<i>HC 58</i>)
Twelfth Report	Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny	HC 873 (<i>Cm 6954</i>)
Thirteenth Report	UK Operations in Iraq	HC 1241 (<i>HC 1603</i>)
Fourteenth Report	Armed Forces Bill: proposal for a Service Complaints Commissioner	HC 1711 (<i>HC 180</i>)

Session 2006–07

First Report	Defence Procurement 2006	HC 56
Second Report	Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2005–06	HC 57
Third Report	Costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan: Winter Supplementary Estimate 2006–07	HC 129
Fourth Report	The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base	HC 59