



BRIEFING PAPER

Number 07366, 5 November 2015

The 2015 SDSR: a reading list

By Tim Robinson

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Summary

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) is the Government's foremost document on defence strategy and will be published later this year. Together with the National Security Strategy it will review the threats the UK faces, what capabilities the UK needs to respond to them and how to configure the Armed Forces accordingly.

New developments since the 2010 SDSR and NSS, in particular Russia's actions on NATO's eastern flank and the rise of Islamic State, combined with the end of operations in Afghanistan, have prompted calls for an overhaul of the SDSR and NSS. The last SDSR made significant cuts to Armed Forces personnel and equipment.

The Government has committed to meet the NATO target of spending 2% of GDP on defence every year for the rest of the decade. The Summer Budget 2015 announced the defence budget will rise by 0.5% (above inflation) each year from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

This paper provides numerous sources of material that further explore these themes.

To consult any of the hard-copy material listed, please contact the Commons Library Customer Services Team on 020 7219 3666 or at: hclibrary@parliament.uk

1. Library briefing papers

[Replacing the UK's Trident Nuclear Deterrent](#), 26 October 2015, CBP7353

[Defence Expenditure – NATO 2% Target](#), 21 October 2015, CBP7343

[Defence Expenditure \(NATO Target\) Bill](#), 21 October 2015, CBP7340

[Armed Forces Bill 2015-16](#), 9 October 2015, CBP7324

[The 2015 SDSR: a primer](#), 19 June 2015, CBP7235

[NATO Wales Summit: Outcomes](#), 12 September 2014, SN06981

[UK Defence and Security policy: a new approach?](#), 21 January 2011, RP11-10

[Strategic Defence and Security Review: Defence policy and the Armed Forces](#), 3 November 2010, SN05743

[A brief guide to previous defence reviews](#), 19 October 2010, SN05714

2. Government and military

[Defence Secretary's speech to RUSI on the SDSR 2015](#), 22 September 2015

[Defence Secretary Michael Fallon discusses the need for a full and thorough SDSR](#), 15 June 2015

[Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), October 2010, Cm 7948

3. Select Committee reports

The [Defence Committee](#) has published a number of reports that address the SDSR directly and indirectly. The Committee's conclusions are summarised in its final report of the 2010-2015 Parliament, HC 1127.

[Oral evidence: An SDSR checklist of potential threats](#), 4 November 2015, HC 493

[Oral evidence: Flexible response? An SDSR checklist of potential threats](#), 27 October 2015, HC 493

[Towards the next Strategic Defence and Security Review: Part Three](#), 25 March 2015, HC 1127

[Re-thinking defence to meet new threats](#), 24 March 2015, HC 512

[Towards the next Defence and Security Review: Part Two: NATO](#), 31 July 2014, HC 358

[Towards the next Defence and Security Review: Part One](#), 7 January 2014, HC 197

[The Strategic Defence and Security Review and the National Security Strategy](#), 10 November 2011, HC 1639

The Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy published its report, [The Next National Security Strategy](#), 3 March 2015, HC 749

4. Parliamentary debates

Parliament has held a number of debates on the SDSR, defence spending and defence issues. Of note are:

[Defence Expenditure \(NATO Target\) Bill](#), HC Deb 23 October 2015,
Vol 600 cc1267-1329

[Defence Spending](#), HC Deb 12 March 2015, Vol 594 cc428-487

[Armed Forces](#), HL Deb 23 June 2014, Vol 754 cc1057-1116

[Defence Spending](#), HC Deb 19 June 2014, Vol 582 cc1336-1376

[Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), HC Deb 26 January 2012,
Vol 539 cc457-523

5. Selected further reading: books

Christopher Elliot, *High Command: British military leadership in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars*, 2015

Professor Julian Lindley-French, *Little Britain: twenty-first strategy for a middling European power*, 2015

Jonathan Shaw, *Britain in a perilous world: the strategic defence and security review we need*, 2014

General David Richards, *Taking Command*, 2014

Adrian Johnson (eds), *Wars in peace: British military operations since 1991*, 2014

Frank Ledwidge, *Losing Small Wars: British military failure in Iraq and Afghanistan*, 2012

Michael Codner and Michael Clarke (eds), *A Question of Security: The British Defence Review in an age of austerity*, 2011

6. Selected further reading: articles

William Walker, "[Trident's Replacement and the Survival of the United Kingdom](#)", IISS Survival Vol 57 No 5, 22 September 2015

[The 2015 UK Strategic Defence and Security Review and beyond](#), Saferworld, September 2015

UK defence review: a test of strategic ambitions, IISS Strategic Comments No 16, 23 June 2015

Malcolm Chalmers, "[A Force for Order: Strategic Underpinnings of the Next NSS and SDSR](#)", *RUSI Briefing paper*, May 2015

Nathan Mathiot, "[Are the Conservatives the Sole Custodians of UK Defence?](#)" *RUSI Commentary*, 1 May 2015

Andrew Dorman and Paul Cornish, "[Complex security and strategic latency: the UK Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015](#)", *International Affairs*, March 2015 vol.91 no. 2

Analysis: strength of the UK's offensive fleet hangs on the upcoming SDSR, *Flight International*, 19 March 2015

Malcolm Chalmers, "[The Financial Context for the 2015 SDSR: The End of UK Exceptionalism?](#)", *RUSI Briefing Paper*, September 2014

Dr Rowan Allport, "[Enabling intervention: looking towards the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#)", *Human Security Centre, Security and Defence*, Issue 3, No 4, August 2014

"[Defence strategy: missing in action](#)", *The Economist*, 8 March 2014

Malcolm Chalmers, "[Let debate commence: key strategic questions for the 2015 SDSR](#)", *RUSI Newsbrief*, January 2014

Elizabeth Quintana, "[Building a force for the future](#)", *RUSI Commentary*, January 2014

Defence of the Realm: looking towards the 2015 UK SDSR, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 3 September 2013

Paul Cornish and Andrew Dorman, "[Fifty shades of purple? A risk sharing approach to the strategic defence and security review in 2015](#)", *International Affairs Vol 89 Issue 5*, 2013

Sir Michael Graydon et al, "[Funding Defence: Government's Necessary Priority](#)", *UK National Defence Association*, March 2013

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