



House of Commons
Defence Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2008–09

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

Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP (*Conservative, North East Hampshire*) (Chairman)
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*)
Mr Mike Hancock MP (*Liberal Democrat, Portsmouth South*)
Mr Dai Havard MP (*Labour, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney*)
Mr Adam Holloway MP (*Conservative, Gravesham*)
Mr Bernard Jenkin MP (*Conservative, North Essex*)
Mr Brian Jenkins MP (*Labour, Tamworth*)
Robert Key MP (*Conservative, Salisbury*)
Mrs Madeleine Moon (*Labour, Bridgend*)
John Smith MP (*Labour, Vale of Glamorgan*)
Richard Younger-Ross MP (*Liberal Democrat, Teignbridge*)

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 Kevan Jones MP (*Labour, Durham North*)
Mr Mark Lancaster MP (*Conservative, North East Milton Keynes*)
Willie Rennie MP (*Liberal Democrat, Dunfermline and West Fife*)
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 Mike Hennessy (Clerk), Richard Ward (Second Clerk), Karen Jackson (Audit Adviser), Sara Turnbull (Inquiry Manager), Richard Dawson (Senior Committee Assistant), Christine McGrane (Committee Assistant) and Miguel Boo Fraga (Committee Support Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Defence Committee, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5745; the Committee's email address is defcom@parliament.uk. Media inquiries should be addressed to Alex Paterson on 020 7219 1589.

Thursday 3 – Friday 4 December 2008

Mr David S Borrow, Mr Bernard Jenkin and Mr Brian Jenkins visited HMNB Clyde in connection with the Committee's inquiry into UK national security and resilience.

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2008

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Robert Key

1. Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

Draft Report (*Winter Supplementary Estimates 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 19 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

2. Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 December at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2008

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway

Mr Brian Jenkins
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Robert Key
John Smith

1. Defence Equipment

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The work of the Committee 2007-08

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

Draft Report (*The work of the Committee 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 65 read and agreed to.

Annexes and Summary agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

3. Defence Support Group

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

5. The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Petition

The Committee considered the Petition from residents of the West Vale estate regarding service charges, presented by John Smith on 20 November.

7. Defence Equipment

Quentin Davies MP, Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB CBE, Chief of Defence Materiel, Lieutenant General Andrew Figgures CBE, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Equipment Capability) and Mr Amyas Morse, Defence Commercial Director, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 January at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
John Smith

Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway

Richard Younger-Ross

1. Visit to Washington D.C.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Washington D.C. in connection with current inquiries.

2. Visit to Afghanistan

Resolved, That the Committee visit Afghanistan in connection with current inquiries.

3. Travel in a representative capacity

Resolved, That Mr David S Borrow, Mr Adam Holloway and the Clerk have leave to visit Prague in February to attend the Conference of Defence Committee Chairmen in a representative capacity.

4. Specialist Advisers

Air Marshal Philip Sturley declared an interest as Elected President of the Royal Air Forces Association, as a Pilot Trainer with RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training Branch), as a Lead Mentor for the Higher Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, as a Member of TS Defence Consultants, as a Senior Military Adviser to the Shephard Group and a Moderator for NATO's annual Air Power Conference.

Rear Admiral David Snelson declared an interest as Mentor for the Higher Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy.

Major General Tim Cross declared an interest as a Visiting Professor at Cranfield, Nottingham and Reading Universities, as a Senior Adviser for Huson Associates, as a Senior Military Adviser for Harmonic, as an Adviser for Coker Logistic Solutions, as an Adviser for DSTL, as a Mentor for the Higher Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, as an Adviser for Assure and as an Adviser to Fujitsu Services.

Rear Admiral Richard Cheadle declared an interest as a Director of WS Atkins, as an Adviser for Newton Engineering Consultants, as an Adviser for Fujitsu UK, as President of the Devon Royal British Legion, and as Chairman of the Friends of the Devonport Naval Base Museum.

Mr Paul Beaver declared an interest, in his capacity with Beaver Westminster Ltd., as a Strategy Adviser for Cobham plc, as a Policy and Strategy Adviser for Fujitsu Defence and Security, as a Strategy Adviser for Gripen International, as a Defence and Security Adviser and member of the Advisory Group for PA Consulting. He declared a professional interest as a Colonel in the Territorial Army, with HQ Army Air Corps and Joint Helicopter Command, as the Chairman of External Advisers for the Royal Commission on Danish Defence, and as a fund-raiser and ambassador for the charity SSAFA Force Help.

Professor David Kirkpatrick declared an interest as an Adviser for Decision Analytic Services, as a Lecturer at the Defence Academy, and as a Lecturer for RUSI and IQPC.

Professor Mike Clarke declared an interest as Director of RUSI, and as Security Commissioner for IPPR.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 January at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
John Smith

1. Declaration of interests

Mrs Madeleine Moon declared an interest in that she had participated in the Industry and Parliament Trust with Finnmeccanica.

2. Visit to Woodford and Warton

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Specialist Advisers

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Visit to Brussels

The Committee considered this matter.

5. The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Defence Support Group

Archie Hughes, Chief Executive, Defence Support Group, and Major Ian Dale, Director General Land Equipment, Defence Equipment & Support, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 January at 10.00 a.m.]

Wednesday 21 – Thursday 22 January 2009

The Chairman, Mr David S Borrow, Mr Dai Havard, Mr Adam Holloway, Mr Bernard Jenkin, Mr Brian Jenkins, Robert Key and John Smith visited Brussels in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Tuesday 4 November 2008.

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Linda Gilroy
Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
John Smith

1. The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Visit: Russia and Georgia/Estonia

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Defence Support Group

The Committee granted the Clerk leave to write to the MoD with follow-up questions relating to the Committee's inquiry into the Defence Support Group.

5. The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience

General Sir David Richards KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen (Late Royal Regiment of Artillery), as Commander-in-Chief, Land Forces, and Standing Joint Commander (UK), and Brigadier James Everard OBE, Director Commitments, HQ Land Commitments; Niki Tompkinson, Director, Transec, Chief Constable Bernard Hogan-Howe, ACPO, Captain Rod Johnson, Chief Coastguard, MCA, and Brodie Clark, Head, Border Force, UKBA, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 February at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock

Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Petition

The Committee noted the Secretary of State's Observation on a Petition presented by Bob Spink on 4 March 2008 relating to support for the Armed Forces.

3. Current and forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Travel in a representative capacity

Resolved, That Mr David S Borrow and Mr Adam Holloway have leave to visit Brussels in February, in connection with the Committees on Arms Exports Controls' inquiries.

5. Readiness and recuperation

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Readiness and recuperation submitted by Group4Securicor be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That the Committee now take evidence in private.

Vice Admiral Paul Boissier, Deputy Commander in Chief, Fleet Command and Chief of Staff (Headquarters), Lt General Sir Graeme Lamb, Commander Field Army, Land, Air Marshal Iain McNicol, Deputy Commander in Chief (Operations), Air Command, Brigadier Kevin Abraham, Director, Joint Operations and Brigadier James Everard OBE, Director Commitments, HQ Land Commitments, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 February at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock

Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Current and forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Readiness and recuperation

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to readiness and recuperation submitted by Group4Securicor be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That the Committee now take evidence in private.

Vice Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, Chief of Materiel (Fleet), Lt General Dick Applegate, Chief of Materiel (Land), Air Vice-Marshal Simon Bollom, and Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Leeson, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Strategy and Plans), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till today at 4.00 p.m.]

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Dai Havard

Richard Younger-Ross

Mr Adam Holloway

1. Defence Equipment 2009

The Committee considered informally the Chairman's draft report.

Draft Report (*Defence Equipment 2009*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 215 read and agreed to.

Annex and Summary agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report, be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 February at 10.00 a.m.]

Wednesday 11 – Thursday 12 February 2009

The Chairman, Mr David S Borrow, Mr David Crausby, Mr Adam Holloway and Richard Younger-Ross visited BAE Systems at Woodford and Warton in accordance with the Committee's decision of 22 April 2008.

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Dai Havard
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key

1. Meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Russia: a new confrontation?

The Committee considered the programme of witnesses for the *Russia: a new confrontation?* inquiry. It decided not to change the programme agreed on Tuesday 3 February 2009.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *Russia: a new confrontation?* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Martin McCauley
Yury Fedorov
Polish Embassy
Andrew Wood
Government of Georgia
Maria-Pierre Nisus
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Edward Lucas
Professor Alan Riley
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Professor Margot Light
James Sherr

3. Visit to Russia, Georgia and Estonia

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Additional meeting

Resolved, That an additional meeting be scheduled for Wednesday 25 February at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 6, in order to consider the draft Spring Supplementary Estimates report.

5. SSBN collision and operations in the Gulf

Ordered, That the Clerk request briefing from the Ministry of Defence on the matters of the recent SSBN collision, and operations in the Gulf.

6. Russia: a new confrontation?

Edward Lucas, Central and Eastern Europe correspondent, the Economist, Professor Margot Light, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics, and James Sherr, Head, Russia and Eurasia Programme, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 February at 4.30 p.m.]

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby

Linda Gilroy

Mr Dai Havard

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins

Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. Spring Supplementary Estimates

Draft Report (*Spring Supplementary Estimates*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 18 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 March at 10.00 a.m.]

Sunday 1 – Friday 6 March 2009

The Chairman, Mr David S Borrow, Mr David Crausby, Linda Gilroy, Mr David Hamilton, Mr Adam Holloway, Mr Bernard Jenkin, Mr Brian Jenkins, Robert Key, John Smith and Richard Younger-Ross visited Russia, Georgia and Estonia in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Tuesday 4 November 2008.

TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Helicopter capability

The Committee considered terms of reference, witnesses and visits for the inquiry.

2. Future visits

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Russia: a new confrontation?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Russia: a new confrontation? be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

John Roberts
Dr Roy Allison
Oksana Antonenko and Bastian Giegerich
Irina Isakova

4. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 March at 10.00 a.m.]

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2009

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Adam Holloway
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key

1. Russia: a new confrontation?

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Petition

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter

4. Russia: a new confrontation?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Russia: a new confrontation? be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

John Roberts
Dr Roy Allison
Dr Alex Pravda

Professor Jonathan Stern, Director of Gas Research, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, John Roberts, Energy Security Specialist, Platts; Dr Roy Allison, Reader in International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, Martin McCauley and Dr Alex Pravda, Director of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford University, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 4.00 pm that afternoon.]

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr Dai Havard	Mr Brian Jenkins
Mr Adam Holloway	Robert Key
Mr Bernard Jenkin	Richard Younger-Ross

1. Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Susan Atkins, Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 March at 10.00 am.]

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Linda Gilroy
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins

Mr Dai Havard
Robert Key

1. Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08

Draft Report (*Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 74 read and agreed to.

Annex and Summary agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report, be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 March at 10.00 am

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Russia: a new confrontation?

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Comprehensive Approach

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Forthcoming visits

The Committee considered this matter

4. Specialist Adviser

Professor Mike Clarke declared an additional interest as a member of the National Security Forum.

5. Russia: a new confrontation?

Oksana Antonenko, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); and Denis Corboy, Director of Caucasus Policy Institute, King's College London (and former EU Ambassador to the Caucasus), and Andrew Wood, Associate Fellow at Chatham House (and former UK Ambassador to Moscow), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 9.30 am on Tuesday 21 April.

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow

Mr David Crausby

Linda Gilroy

Mr David Hamilton

Mr Dai Havard

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins

Robert Key

Madeleine Moon

1. Russia: a new confrontation?

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Operational visit

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Declarations of interest

Mr Bernard Jenkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in having arranged and hosted an event at St Paul's Cathedral in aid of Combat Stress and the St Paul's Cathedral Foundation on 19 March 2009, for which sponsorship of more than £1,000 from the following had been obtained from the following:

Finmeccanica UK Ltd

Saladin Security

Tesco plc

As a result of the event, identifiable donations of more than £1,000 had been made to Combat Stress by:

Mr and Mrs N Hawkins of Cobham, Surrey

The Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin Trust

The CHEAR Foundation

Mr C Vandrevalla of London

In addition, St Paul's Cathedral charged a concessionary rate, to reflect their support for the charity, the Council of which Mr Jenkin was a Member.

4. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Russia: a new confrontation?

Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP, Minister for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rt Hon Baroness Taylor of Bolton, Minister for International Defence and Security, Ministry of Defence, Group Captain Malcolm Crayford, Deputy Head Security Co-operation, Counter Proliferation & Security Co-operation Division, Ministry of Defence, Nick Pickard, Head of Security Policy Group, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Justin McKenzie, Deputy Director of Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 10.00 am on Tuesday 28 April.

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Dai Havard
Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Correspondence

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from 'the People of this Country' concerning the age of enlistment.

4. Helicopter capability

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Readiness and recuperation

Rt Hon John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Defence, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 4.00 pm on Tuesday 5 May.

TUESDAY 5 MAY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Adam Holloway
Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Mr Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Defence Equipment 2009

Draft Special Report (*Defence Equipment 2009: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Third Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience

Draft Report (*The Defence contribution to UK national security and resilience*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 53 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report, together with written evidence reported and ordered to be published on 20 May 2008, 17 June 2008 and 21 October 2008 in the last Session of Parliament.

3. Russia: a new confrontation?

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Travel in a representative capacity

Resolved, That Mr David S Borrow have leave to visit Kiev, Ukraine in a representative capacity.

[Adjourned till 9.30 am on Tuesday 19 May.]

Wednesday 6 May 2009

The Chairman, Mr Dai Havard, Mr Adam Holloway, Mr Bernard Jenkin, Robert Key, Mrs Madeleine Moon and Richard Younger-Ross visited the Army School of Aviation, Middle Wallop, and Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Tuesday 21 April 2009.

Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 May 2009

Mr David S Borrow visited Kiev, Ukraine in a representative capacity in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Tuesday 5 May 2009.

TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock

Bernard Jenkin
Mr Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. Helicopter capability

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Helicopter capability be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation
SELEX
Eurocopter
Boeing
SBAC
Royal Aeronautical Society
Vector Aerospace International Limited

AgustaWestland
Ministry of Defence

2. The Comprehensive Approach

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to The Comprehensive Approach be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC)
Ministry of Defence
British Red Cross
International Development Committee, House of Commons

3. Spring Supplementary Estimate

The Committee considered this matter.

4. The contribution of ISTAR to operations

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Working practices

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 10.00 am on Tuesday 2 June.

TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Dai Havard
Mr Adam Holloway

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. Helicopter capability

The Committee considered this matter.

2. MoD Main Estimates 2009-10

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the MoD Main Estimates 2009-10 submitted by the Ministry of Defence be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Helicopter capability

Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, Chief of Staff, Carrier-Strike and Aviation, Rear Admiral Tony Johnstone-Burt, Commander, Joint Helicopter Command, and Brigadier Kevin Abraham, Head of Joint Capability; and Quentin Davies MP, Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, Adrian Baguley, Head of Helicopters 2, Commodore Russ Harding, Head of Equipment Capability (Air & Littoral Manoeuvre), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 10.00 am on Tuesday 9 June.]

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2009

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Adam Holloway
Bernard Jenkin
Mr Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. The Comprehensive Approach

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08

Draft Special Report (*Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Fifth Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

3. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

4. MoD Main Estimates 2009-10

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Russia: a new confrontation?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Russia: a new confrontation? be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Jonathan Eyal
Roger N McDermott

6. The Comprehensive Approach

Professor Theo Farrell, King's College, London, Professor Malcolm Chalmers, RUSI, King's College, London and University of Bradford and Brigadier (retired) Ed Butler, Chief Executive, CforC Ltd gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 4.00 pm.]

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Linda Gilroy
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Forward Programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Ministry of Defence Main Estimates.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Defence Equipment.

2. Defence Support Group

Draft Report (*Defence Support Group*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 50 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report, be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 June at 10.00 am.]

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Mike Hancock

Mr Dai Havard
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Robert Key

1. The Comprehensive Approach

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Correspondence

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Liaison Committee

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Incoming visits

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Readiness and recuperation

Ordered, That written evidence relating to Readiness and recuperation submitted by the Ministry of Defence be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

7. The Comprehensive Approach

Ordered, That written evidence relating to The Comprehensive Approach submitted by Professor Theo Farrell be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Sir Bill Jeffrey KCB, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Sir Peter Ricketts KCMG, Permanent Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Dr Nemat 'Minouche' Shafik, Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 23 June at 10.00 am.]

TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Dai Havard

Adam Holloway
Bernard Jenkin
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Correspondence

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year

Draft Report (*Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 52 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report, be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

3. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 30 June at 10.00 am.]

TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2009

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard
Adam Holloway

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. The Comprehensive Approach

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Piracy

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Committees on Arms Export Controls

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

7. The Comprehensive Approach

General John McColl, Deputy Supreme Allied Command Europe, Martin Howard, Assistant Secretary General Operations, and Nick Williams, NATO, and Robert Cooper, Director General for External and Politico-Military Affairs, Council of the European Union; Daniel Korski, European Council on Foreign Relations, and Howard Mollett, Conflict Policy Advisor, Care International UK, and Stephen Grey, Sunday Times, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till that day at 4.00 pm.]

TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mr Richard Younger-Ross

1. MoD Main Estimates 2009-10

Draft Report (*Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009–10*), 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 27 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

2. Russia: a new confrontation?

Draft Report (*Russia: a new confrontation?*), 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 213 read and agreed to.

Annex and Summary agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report, together with written evidence reported and ordered to be published on 24 February, 10 and 17 March, and 9 June.

3. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 July at 10.00 am

TUESDAY 7 JULY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Dai Havard
Adam Holloway

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. The Comprehensive Approach

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Helicopter capability

Ordered, That written evidence relating to Helicopter capability submitted by Unite be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. The Comprehensive Approach

Bill Rammell MP, Minister for the Armed Forces, and Brigadier Gordon Messenger DSO OBE ADC, Ministry of Defence, Michael Foster MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development, Rt Hon Lord Malloch-Brown KCMG, Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, and Nick Pickard, Head of the Security Policy Group, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Richard Teuten, Head of Stabilisation Unit gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 14 July at 10.00 am.]

TUESDAY 14 JULY 2009

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Linda Gilroy

Mr Mike Hancock

Mr David Hamilton

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins

Robert Key

Richard Younger-Ross

1. The contribution of ISTAR to operations

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to The contribution of ISTAR to operations be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Northrop Grumman

Intellect

AgustaWestland

Thales UK

General Dynamics UK Ltd.
The Boeing Company

2. Correspondence

The Committee discussed this matter.

3. Visits

The Committee discussed this matter.

4. Travel in a representative capacity

Resolved, That the Chairman have leave to visit Saumur, France to attend the Summer Defence Conference in a representative capacity.

4. Forward programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

5. The contribution of ISTAR to operations

Air Vice-Marshal C Dixon OBE, Capability Manager (Information Superiority), Air Commodore N J Gordon MBE, Air Officer ISTAR in Headquarters 2 Group, and Brigadier K Abraham, Director Joint Capability, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 4.00 pm that day.]

TUESDAY 14 JULY 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Richard Younger-Ross

1. Helicopter capability

Draft Report (*Helicopter capability*), 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 51 read and agreed to.

Summary agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report, together with written evidence reported and ordered to be published on 19 May and 7 July.

[Adjourned till 20 July at 4.00 pm

MONDAY 20 JULY 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David Crausby

Linda Gilroy

Mr Mike Hancock

Mr Dai Havard

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Mr Brian Jenkins

Robert Key

Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. Operational visit

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Travel in a representative capacity

Resolved, That Robert Key have leave to visit South Uist, Outer Hebrides in a representative capacity.

3. Readiness and recuperation

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 10.00 am on Tuesday 13 October

Wednesday 9 –Friday 11September 2009

The Chairman attended the Summer Defence Conference, Saumur, France in a representative capacity in accordance with the decision of the Committee of 14 July 2009.

Sunday 4 – Wednesday 7 October 2009

The Chairman, Mr David Crausby, Linda Gilroy, Mr Dai Havard, Mr Adam Holloway, Mr Bernard Jenkin, Mr Brian Jenkins and Mrs Madeleine Moon visited Washington D.C. in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Tuesday 13 January 2009.

Monday 4 – Tuesday 5 October 2009

Robert Key visited South Uist, Outer Hebrides in a representative capacity in accordance with the decision of the Committee of Monday 20 July 2009.

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy

Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard
Mr Brian Jenkins

1. Defence Support Group

Ordered, That the Government response to the Committee's Report on the *Defence Support Group* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year

Ordered, That the Government response to the Committee's Report on the *Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-10

Ordered, That the Government response to the Committee's Report on the *Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-10* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Russia: a new confrontation?

Ordered, That the Government response to the Committee's Report on *Russia: a new confrontation?* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. The Comprehensive Approach

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by Josh Arnold-Foster relating to The Comprehensive Approach be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

6. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Operational visit

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 10.00 am on Tuesday 20 October.

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Mr David Crausby
Linda Gilroy
Mr Dai Havard
Adam Holloway

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. The contribution of ISTAR to operations

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Future meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

5. The contribution of ISTAR to operations

Joel Grundy, Head of Defence & Security, Intellect, Peter Eberle, UK Business Development Director, Mission and Security Systems, General Dynamics UK, and Victor Chavez, Deputy Chief Executive, Thales UK (at 10.30am); and Brigadier Gordon Messenger DSO OBE, Commander, 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines, Air Commodore Stuart Atha DSO ADC, UK Air Component Commander, and Lt Col Andrew McInerney, Command Support Group, 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines (at 11.25am), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 27 October at 10.00 am.

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

Mr David S Borrow
Linda Gilroy

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins

Mr David Hamilton
Mr Mike Hancock
Mr Dai Havard

Mrs Madeleine Moon
Richard Younger-Ross

1. The Green Paper and the readiness and recuperation of the Armed Forces

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Defence Support Group

Draft Special Report (*Defence Support Group: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House

3. Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year

Draft Special Report (*Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces: the first year: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House

4. Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-10

Draft Special Report (*Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-10: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House

5. Russia: a new confrontation?

Draft Special Report (*Russia: a new confrontation? Government Response to the Committee's Tenth Report of 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House

6. Informal Consideration of Government responses

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Operational and other overseas visits

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 10 November at 10.00 am.]

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot, in the Chair

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

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Mr Brian Jenkins
Robert Key
Mrs Madeleine Moon

1. Future Meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Visits

The Committee considered this matter.

3. MoD Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09

Sir Bill Jeffrey, Permanent Under Secretary, Rear Admiral Alan Richards, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Strategy and Plans) and Terence Jagger, Director Financial Management, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till 24 November at 10.00 am.]