



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 7 November 2023**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair  
Sarah Atherton  
Martin Docherty-Hughes  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Kevan Jones  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Gavin Robinson  
John Spellar  
Derek Twigg

## 1. Defence and Climate Change

Draft Special Report (Defence and Climate Change: Government response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2022-23), proposed by Robert Courts, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Eighth Report of Session 2022-23 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Special Report to the House.

*Ordered*, That Robert Courts make the Report to the House.

## 2. Aviation Procurement

Draft Special Report (Aviation Procurement: Winging It? Government response to the Committee's Tenth Report of Session 2022-23), proposed by Robert Courts, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Tenth Report of Session 2022-23 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Second Special Report to the House..

*Ordered*, That Robert Courts make the Report to the House.

### 3. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### *Future Aviation Capabilities*

- FAVC0003 - The Royal Aeronautical Society
- FAVC0004 – Unite the Union
- FAVC0005 – Spirit Aerosystems
- FAVC0006 – GE Aerospace
- FAVC0007 – AERALIS
- FAVC0008 – Ascent Flight Training Ltd
- FAVC0009 – BAE Systems
- FAVC0010 – Lockheed Martin UK
- FAVC0011 – ADS
- FAVC0012 – Northrop Grumman
- FAVC0013 – Airbus
- FAVC0014 – Thales
- FAVC0015 – Rolls Royce
- FAVC0016 – Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
- FAVC0017 – Boeing

#### *Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up*

- WAFFU0008 - Forward Assist
- WAFFU0017 - The Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
- WAFFU0022 - RAF Families Federation
- WAFFU0030 - Aurora New Dawn
- WAFFU0035 - Bridge2Future
- WAFFU0039 - Royal British Legion
- WAFFU0043 - Ministry of Defence
- WAFFU0044 - KCL Centre for Military Health Research
- WAFFU0046 - Combat Stress
- WAFFU0058 - Centre for Military Women's Research, Anglia Ruskin University

WAFU0059 - Independent Defence Authority

WAFU0063 - Forces in Mind Trust

WAFU0065 - Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces

WAFU0067 - Humane Society International UK

WAFU0071 - Centre for Military Justice

WAFU0078 - Bolt Burdon Kemp

WAFU0079 - Airbus

## 4. Future Programme

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit Airbus in Portsmouth in connection with its inquiry into Future Aviation Capabilities.

## 5. Armed Forces Readiness

General Sir Patrick Sanders, Chief of the General Staff and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of the Air Staff, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 14 November 2023 AM**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair  
Sarah Atherton  
Richard Drax  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Gavin Robinson  
Derek Twigg

## 1. Sub-committee

*Ordered,* That the Service Accommodation Sub-committee be discharged and a Sub-committee be appointed to consider Advanced Capabilities.

*Ordered,* That all the Members of the Committee be members of the Sub-committee.

*Ordered,* That Emma Lewell-Buck be the Chair of the Sub-committee.

*Resolved,* That the Committee inquire into Service Accommodation.

## 2. Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up

Sarah Atherton declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Committee's inquiry into Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up as Chair of the Advisory Board to the Women Veterans Strategy at the Office for Veterans' Affairs.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence People, Veterans and Service Families, Admiral Sir Ben Key, First Sea Lord, Air Marshal Paul Lloyd, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Lieutenant General Sharon Nesmith, Deputy Chief of the General Staff and Samantha des Forges, Director Conduct, Equity and Justice, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 1.45pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 14 November 2023 PM**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Gavin Robinson

Derek Twigg

## 1. Armed Forces Readiness

Admiral Sir Ben Key, First Sea Lord and Rear Admiral Steve Moorhouse CBE, Director Force Generation, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 2.00pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 15 November 2023**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Gavin Robinson

Derek Twigg

## 1. Introductory session with the Defence Secretary

Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Defence, David Williams, Permanent Secretary, Paul Wyatt, Director General of Security Policy and Lieutenant General Rob Magowan CB CBE, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Financial and Military Capability), Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 22 November 2023 at 2.00pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Wednesday 22 November 2023**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Emma Lewell-Buck

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Armed Forces Readiness*

Ministry of Defence (AFR0009)

*Future Aviation Capabilities*

Ministry of Defence (FAVC0018)

*Service Accommodation*

SAC0001: Sqn Ldr Brian Relf

SAC0004: Anonymous

SAC0007: Anonymous

SAC0011: Anonymous

SAC0016: Anonymous



SAC0017: Capt Stuart Pearson  
SAC0018: Major Andrew Meeke  
SAC0019: Mrs Julie Clouth  
SAC0020: Anonymous  
SAC0021: AS1(T) Harper  
SAC0023: Anonymous  
SAC0024: Mr Peter Cornish  
SAC0025: Mr Paul Officer  
SAC0026: Pickard  
SAC0027: Glenn Allison  
SAC0028: Rana-Hume  
SAC0029: Tanner  
SAC0030: Anonymous  
SAC0031: Anonymous  
SAC0033: Mrs Carlee Towl  
SAC0034: Rt Hon Caroline Nokes  
SAC0037: Anonymous  
SAC0038: Mr Paul Smith  
SAC0039: Mr Mohammed Adil Mulla  
SAC0040: Anonymous  
SAC0041: Anonymous  
SAC0043: Jack Wilkins  
SAC0044: Anonymous  
SAC0045: Anonymous  
SAC0046: Anonymous  
SAC0047: Mrs Katie Singleton  
SAC0048: Mrs Stevenson  
SAC0035: Mr Alexander John Anderson  
SAC0036: Mr Seth Clowes  
SAC0049: Mr Daniel Tanner  
SAC0051: Anonymous  
SAC0053: Laura Ross  
SAC0054: Anonymous  
SAC0055: Mrs Jennie Anderson  
SAC0057: Major Tom Wythe  
SAC0059: Richard Crawford  
SAC0060: Anonymous  
SAC0061: Mrs Rosie Bucknall

SAC0062: Anonymous

SAC0063: Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Foulerton

SAC0064: Anonymous

SAC0065: Anonymous

SAC0066: Naval Families Federation

SAC0067: RAF Families Federation

## 2. Armed Forces Readiness

James Heapey MP, Minister for the Armed Forces and General Sir Jim Hockenull, Commander of Strategic Command, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 27 November 2023 at 3.00pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Monday 27 November 2023**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Emma Lewell-Buck

John Spellar

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Future Aviation Capabilities*

FAVC0019 - Brian Phillipson

*Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up*

WAFFU0001 - Rose

WAFFU0002 - Anonymous

WAFFU0007 - Anonymous

WAFFU0009 - Cpl Natasha Day

WAFFU0011 - Anonymous

WAFFU0012 - Miss Blake

WAFFU0014 - Anonymous

WAFFU0015 - Anonymous

WAFFU0018 - Anonymous

WAFFU0021 - Flt. Lt. Andrew Morgan Clark

WAFFU0023 - Anonymous

WAFFU0024 - HQ 4 Light Brigade Combat Team and HQ NE

WAFFU0025 - Webb

WAFFU0026 - Anonymous

WAFU0027 - Commander Timothy Grimley  
WAFU0028 - Anonymous  
WAFU0029 - Miss Vicky Smith  
WAFU0034 - Anonymous  
WAFU0036 - Anonymous  
WAFU0037 - Anonymous  
WAFU0038 - Anonymous  
WAFU0040 - Smyth  
WAFU0042 - Anonymous  
WAFU0045 - Anonymous  
WAFU0047 - Lt Candy Easton RN  
WAFU0048 - Anonymous  
WAFU0050 - Elizabeth Russell  
WAFU0051 - SSgt Kerry Sitt  
WAFU0052 - Anonymous  
WAFU0053 - Anonymous  
WAFU0054 - Anonymous  
WAFU0057 - Surg Capt Kate King  
WAFU0062 - Maj Melanie Rix  
WAFU0066 - Anonymous  
WAFU0069 - Thammy Evans  
WAFU0070 - Anonymous  
WAFU0071 - Anonymous  
WAFU0072 - Anonymous  
WAFU0073 - Anonymous  
WAFU0074 - Anonymous  
WAFU0075 - Anonymous  
WAFU0076 - Anonymous  
WAFU0080 - Anonymous  
WAFU0081 - Anonymous  
WAFU0082 - Dr Katharine A.M Wright  
WAFU0083 - Helen Bolland

## 2. Service Accommodation

Claire Kober OBE, Managing Director for Homes at Pinnacle Group, Craig McGilvray, Managing Director for Complex Facilities at Amey and Jerry Moloney, Managing Director at VIVO Defence Services, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 5 December 2023**

## Members present

Robert Courts, in the Chair  
Sarah Atherton  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Gavin Robinson  
Derek Twigg

## 1. Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Future Aviation Capabilities

The Committee considered this matter.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 12 December 2023**

## Members present

Martin Docherty-Hughes  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Kevan Jones  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Jesse Norman  
Gavin Robinson  
John Spellar  
Derek Twigg

Robert Courts having resigned as Chair<sup>1</sup>, John Spellar was called to the chair the meeting and all further meetings until a new chair is elected by the House.<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Service Accommodation*

SAC0070 - Ministry of Defence

*Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up*

WAFFU0004 - Anonymous

WAFFU0024 - HQ 4 Light Brigade Combat Team & HQ North East

WAFFU0033 - Anonymous

WAFFU0056 - Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) D Allen

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<sup>1</sup> See Votes and Proceedings, 12 December 2023

## 2. MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

Jesse Norman declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

David Williams, Permanent Secretary, Tom Wipperman, Strategic Finance Director, Lieutenant General Rob Magowan, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Financial and Military Capability) and Adrian Baguley, Director General Strategic Enablers and Deputy CEO of DE&S, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 10.00am.





# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 9 January 2024**

## Members present

Sarah Atherton  
Martin Docherty-Hughes  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Kevan Jones  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Jesse Norman  
Gavin Robinson  
John Spellar  
Derek Twigg

John Spellar was called to the chair.

## 1. UK Defence and the Indo-Pacific

Draft Special Report (UK Defence and the Indo-Pacific: Government response to the Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2022–23), proposed by John Spellar, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Eleventh Report of Session 2022-23 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Third Special Report to the House..

*Ordered*, That John Spellar make the Report to the House.

## 2. Armed Forces Readiness

The Committee considered this matter.

### 3. Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence

*Ordered,* That Professor Kenneth Payne be appointed Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters related to Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in Defence.

### 4. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### *Service Accommodation*

SAC0071 - Ministry of Defence

SAC0072 - Pinnacle Group

SAC0073 - Anonymous

SAC0074 - Dandelion Military Families

SAC0075 - Anonymous

SAC0076 - Amey Limited

SAC0077 - VIVO Defence Services

#### *Defence Diplomacy*

Correspondence between Gavin Robinson MP and the Secretary of State for Defence, relating to the Government Response to the Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2022-23 on Defence Diplomacy: A softer side of UK Defence.

### 5. Future Programme

*Resolved,* That the Committee take oral evidence on the Royal Marines and Amphibious Capability.

*Resolved,* That Sarah Atherton and any other Member of the Committee wishing to attend, visit the Defence Serious Crime Unit and Victim Witness Care Unit, Fareham on 1 February 2024 in a representative capacity.

### 6. Strategic Export Controls

The Committee considered this matter.

### 7. Future Aviation Capabilities

Trevor Taylor, Director of the Defence, Industries & Society Programme, RUSI, Lucia Retter, Research Leader at RAND Europe, Tim Rowntree, Former Director at OCCAR and Brian Phillipson, Former CEO/COO Eurofighter GmbH, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 16 January 2024**

## Members present

Sarah Atherton

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

John Spellar was called to the chair.

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### *Service Accommodation*

SAC0079 - Army Families Federation

SAC0080 - Petitions Committee

### *Strategic Export Controls*

Correspondence, dated 11 January 2024, from John Spellar MP to the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Business and Trade Committee and International Development Committee, relating to the scrutiny of strategic export controls

## 2. Army Recruiting Contract

*Resolved*, That the Committee take part of the evidence to be given at this day's sitting in private.

Richard Holroyd, CEO Public Service at Capita, Maria Mallet, COO Recruiting Partnering Project at Capita and Ross Haynes, Head of Public Affairs & Government Relations at Capita, gave oral evidence in private, and then in public, in accordance with the Committee's Resolution of this day's sitting.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 2.00pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Wednesday 24 January 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair<sup>1</sup>

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Jesse Norman

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

<sup>1</sup>Elected by the House (Standing Order No. 122B); see Votes and Proceedings [17 January 2024].

## 1. Declarations of Interests

Sir Jeremy Quin declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

Professor Kenneth Payne, Specialist Adviser on Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence, made a declaration of interests (see Appendix).

## 2. Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

- DAIC0001 (Alexander Gegov)
- DAIC0002 (Air Street Capital)
- DAIC0003 (Adam Smith Institute)
- DAIC0004 (Jacobs)
- DAIC0005 (Adarga)

- DAIC0007 (RAND Europe)
- DAIC0008 (Dr Jia Wang)
- DAIC0009 (techUK)
- DAIC0010 (Palantir Technologies UK, Ltd.)
- DAIC0011 (Thales)
- DAIC0012 (Faculty Science Ltd)
- DAIC0013 (KBR and Frazer-Nash Consultancy)
- DAIC0014 (Dr Keith Dear)
- DAIC0016 (Professor Toby Breckon)
- DAIC0017 (Professor Trevor Taylor)
- DAIC0018 (BAE Systems)
- DAIC0019 (Dr Mikolaj Firlej)
- DAIC0020 (ADS Group)

### 3. Future Aviation Capabilities

Simon Barnes, Group Managing Director Air, BAE Systems, Herman Claesen, Managing Director of Future Combat Air Systems, BAE Systems, Tristan Crawford, CEO of Aeralis, Nick Laird CBE, Managing Director of European Space and Defence at Spirit Aerosystems, Ian Waddell, General Secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and Rhys McCarthy, National Officer for Aerospace and Shipbuilding at Unite the Union, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 30 January 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Richard Drax

Emma Lewell-Buck

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Armed Forces Readiness

Draft Report (Ready for War?), proposed by Sir Jeremy Quin, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 144 read and agreed to.

Annexes and summary agreed to.

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

*Ordered*, That Sir Jeremy Quin make the Report to the House.

*Ordered*, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available (Standing Order No. 134).

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Future Aviation Capabilities:*

- FAVC0020 - Professor Trevor Taylor



*UK amphibious capabilities and the Royal Marines:*

- ACRM0001 - Jeremy Larken and Commodore Michael Clapp
- Correspondence from the Chair to the Secretary of State for Defence, dated 30 January 2024, relating to the future of the Albion Class amphibious ships

*Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up:*

- WAFFU0061 - Anonymous

### 3. Future Programme

*Resolved,* That Sarah Atherton attend the meetings of the Welsh Affairs Committee on 31 January 2024 relating to the steel industry in Wales, pursuant to the invitation from that Committee under Standing Order No 137A(1)(e).

*Ordered,* That the Chair have leave to visit Paris in March to attend the Paris Defence and Strategy Forum in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

*Resolved,* That the Committee visit Washington DC and if appropriate another destination in the USA early in the next financial year in connection with its inquiries into the Grey Zone, AI in Defence and Armed Forces Readiness, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 20 February 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

Derek Twigg

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Army Recruiting Contract*

- ARC0001 - Capita

*Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence*

- DAIC0006 - BT Business

- DAIC0021 - Scale AI

- DAIC0022 - Ministry of Defence

*Future Aviation Capabilities*

- FAVC0021 - AERALIS Ltd

- FAVC0022 - BAE Systems plc

*Service Accommodation*

- SAC0078 - Dr Susannah MacDonald

*Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up:*

- WAFFU0086 - Ministry of Defence

- Correspondence with the Secretary of State for Transport, dated 29 January 2024, relating to Chinese registered vessels in the Red Sea.

## 2. Future Programme

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit Air and Space Command, RAF High Wycombe on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 2.00pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Wednesday 21 February 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair  
Sarah Atherton  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Jesse Norman  
Gavin Robinson

## 1. Service Accommodation

*Resolved*, That a Member of the Public Accounts Committee be invited to attend the meeting on 27 February 2024 relating to Service Accommodation, pursuant to Standing Order No 137A(1)(e).

## 2. Future Aviation Capabilities

James Cartlidge MP, Minister for Defence Procurement, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton KCB, Chief of the Air Staff, Lieutenant General Rob Magowan CB CBE, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Financial and Military Capability) and Richard Berthon OBE, Future Combat Air, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 27 February 2024 AM**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Future Programme

*Ordered,* That the Chair have leave to visit Singapore in a representative capacity, to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue from 31 May to 2 June 2024.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 2.15pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 27 February 2024 PM**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1.Future Programme

*Ordered,* That the Chair have leave to visit Singapore in a representative capacity, to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue from 31 May to 2 June 2024.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 4.15pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Wednesday 28 February 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Mark Francois

Jesse Norman

John Spellar

## 1. Estimate Memoranda

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Memorandum for the Ministry of Defence Supplementary Estimate 2023-24

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 12 March 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Richard Drax

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit NATO HQ, Brussels, in connection with its inquiries into Armed Forces Readiness and Defence in the Grey Zone.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Defence in the Grey Zone:*

DGZ0002 - Dr Gavin Eric Lindsay Hall

DGZ0003 - Dr Vladimir Rauta

DGZ0004 - Samuel Jardine, Eva Kristinova, Hannibal Vad et al

DGZ0005 - Centre for the Study of Subversion,  
Unconventional Interventions and Terrorism (University of  
Nottingham)

DGZ0006 - Adarga

DGZ0007 - Subsea Craft Ltd (Anonymised)



DGZ0008 - RAND Europe  
DGZ0009 - Ministry of Defence

*Correspondence:*

Letter, dated 6 March 2024, from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, relating to the report of the Ajax Lessons Learnt Review.

### 3. Declaration of Interests

Kenneth Payne, Specialist Adviser, made a further declaration of interests (see Appendix).

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 19 March 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Letter, dated 8 March 2024, from the Minister for Defence Procurement, relating to the F-35 Lightning Force.

Letter, dated 15 March 2024, from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, relating to Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 2.15pm.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 26 March 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Martin Docherty-Hughes

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Future Aviation Capabilities*

FAVC0023 - Ministry of Defence.

Letter, dated 20 March 2024, from the Secretary of State, relating to maritime security in the Red Sea.

## 2. Service Accommodation

The Committee considered this matter.

## 3. Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up

The Committee considered this matter.

## 4. Future Programme

*Resolved*, That Gavin Robinson attend the meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee relating to Defence Spending in Northern Ireland pursuant to the invitation from that Committee under Standing Order No 137A(1)(e).

## 5. One-off session with the Secretary of State

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Defence, David Williams CB, Permanent Secretary, Tom Wipperman, Strategic Finance Director and Lieutenant General Rob Magowan KCB CBE, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Military Capability), Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 23 April 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair  
Sarah Atherton  
Richard Drax  
Mark Francois  
Kevan Jones  
Emma Lewell-Buck  
Gavin Robinson  
John Spellar  
Derek Twigg

## 1. Ready for War?

Draft Special Report (Ready for War? Government response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2023–24), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report of Session 2023-24 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence*  
DAIC0023 - Capita

*Service Accommodation*

SAC0081 - Ministry of Defence

### 3. Future Programme

*Resolved,* That the Committee attend the Farnborough Air Show in July.

### 4. Defence in the Grey Zone

Elisabeth Braw, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center and Andrew Mumford, Professor of War Studies, University of Nottingham, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Monday 13 May 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Defence in the Grey Zone

James Appathurai, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Innovation, Hybrid and Cyber, NATO, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 10.00am.



# Formal Minutes of the Defence Committee in Session 2023–24

**Tuesday 14 May 2024**

## Members present

Sir Jeremy Quin, in the Chair

Sarah Atherton

Richard Drax

Mark Francois

Kevan Jones

Emma Lewell-Buck

Jesse Norman

Gavin Robinson

John Spellar

Derek Twigg

## 1. Developing AI Capacity and expertise in UK Defence

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

*Armed Forces Readiness*

Ministry of Defence (AFR0010)

Letter dated 25 April 2024 from the Chair to Boeing, relating to E-7 Wedgetail programme.

## 3. Defence in the Grey Zone

Mr Jānis Garisons, former State Secretary [Permanent Secretary] Latvian Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence.



## Adjournment

Adjourned till Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 10.00am.

# Appendix: Declarations of interest by new members of the Committee and Specialist Advisers

## (i) Members of the Committee

### **Norman, Jesse (Hereford and South Herefordshire)**

#### 1. Employment and earnings

Payments received via Peters Fraser & Dunlop Ltd, Drury House, 34-43 Russell Street, London WC2B 5HA, as royalties and licence payments from books:

18 January 2023, received £3,280 from Biteback Publishers, Westminster Tower, 3 Albert Embankment, Herne Hill SE1 7SP, as an advance on the delivery of a completed manuscript for a book. Hours: impossible to calculate accurately. Payment donated to a higher education institution. (Registered 01 March 2023)

13 April 2023, received £163.04 from HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, as book royalties. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 05 May 2023)

27 April 2023, received £96.33 from Everyman's Library Ltd, Random House Group Ltd, 50 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BD, as book royalties. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 05 May 2023)

20 July 2023, received £41.97 from Citic Publishing House, 8-10F Block 2 Fusheng Bldg A4 Huixin East Street Beijing, 100029 China, as royalties and licence payments from books. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 04 August 2023)

23 August 2023, received £2,000 from Biteback Publishers, Westminster Tower, 3 Albert Embankment, Herne Hill SE1 7SP, as an advance on the delivery of a completed manuscript for a book. Hours: impossible to calculate accurately. Payment donated to a higher education institution. (Registered 29 August 2023)

9 October 2023, received £36.78 from Penguin Books Ltd, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London SW1V 2SA, for book royalties. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 16 October 2023)

12 October 2023, received £221.80 from Everyman's Library, Northburgh House, 10 Northburgh St, London EC1V 0AT, for subsidiary rights. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 16 October 2023)

12 October 2023, received £105.71 from Everyman's Library, Northburgh House, 10 Northburgh St, London EC1V 0AT, for book royalties. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 16 October 2023)

12 October 2023, received £2,086.32 from the BBC, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA, for licensing rights for broadcast of a book. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 16 October 2023)

12 October 2023, received £151.10 from HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, Westerhill Road, Bishopsbriggs, Glasgow G64 2QT, for book royalties. Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 16 October 2023)

Payments from Liberty Fund Inc (private educational foundation), 11301 N. Meridian Street, Carmel, IN 46032-4564, USA, for academic work:

4 May 2023, received £3,100. Hours: estimated at 20-40 hrs over several years. (Registered 05 June 2023)

15 May 2023, received £804. Hours: estimated at 20-40 hrs over several years. (Registered 05 June 2023)

### 3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

Name of donor: Franco-British Colloque Ltd

Address of donor: Station House, Station Approach, East Horsley KT24 6QX

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Food and accommodation while attending the Franco-British Colloque 2023 in London, value £986

Date received: 26-28 January 2023

Date accepted: 26 January 2023

Donor status: company, registration 06913437

(Registered 01 March 2023)

Name of donor: University of Glasgow  
Address of donor: University Avenue, Glasgow G12 8QQ  
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Travel, hotel and lunch associated with giving a lecture, value £560  
Date received: 5 April 2023  
Date accepted: 5 April 2023  
Donor status: other (charity, registration SC004401)  
(Registered 02 May 2023)

7. (ii) Other shareholdings, valued at more than £70,000

Genie International Toys (previously Genie Toys PLC until 17 December 2017); toy design and manufacture. (Updated 31 January 2022)

8. Miscellaneous

From 23 January 2020, member of the Town Board for Hereford. This is an unpaid role. (Registered 05 February 2020)

12 December 2023: Additional declarations:

I own shares in BAE Systems, the value of which falls short of the Members' disclosure threshold but which should be disclosed because BAES is a defence company.

**Quin, Jeremy (Horsham)**

The Register of Members' Financial Interests  
8 January 2024:

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

Residential flat in London, owned jointly with my wife: (i). (Registered 02 June 2015; updated 12 October 2020)

## (ii) Specialist Advisers

### **Professor Kenneth Payne**

Specialist Adviser for the inquiry into Developing AI Capacity and Expertise in UK Defence, declared the following interests:

15 January 2024: I have engaged in small-scale consultancy work with organisations working in this area. In recent times, these include paid consultancy with Fujitsu, BAE, Shell and QinetiQ. I anticipate more such small scale (on the order of £1,000-£10,000) consulting in the near future. Part of my teaching at KCL is in a military-facing department at KCL.

12 March 2024: I have been appointed as Commissioner for the Dutch government-established Global Commission on Responsible AI in the military domain (REAIM). This body was established with the agreement of the states participating in the REAIM conference last year. I am participating as a private citizen. Details at the website [gcreaim.org](http://gcreaim.org)