



## Treasury Committee

**Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer**

**Rt Hon John Healey MP, Secretary of State for Defence**

**By e-mail**

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

### **Defence spending and finance**

Dear Rachel and John

On behalf of the Treasury Committee I am formally inviting Ministers from your Departments to give oral evidence on defence spending and finance.

This afternoon the Committee heard from experts on the credibility of the Government's commitment to spend 3.5% of GDP on defence by 2035, and the options that the Treasury has to meet this commitment. The Committee also heard about the need for effective cooperation between the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence and the work both Departments are undertaking to ensure more effective procurement and cooperation with international partners.

In order to scrutinise the Treasury's essential role in facilitating and supporting defence spending, and to consider whether the defence spending allocation made in the last Spending Review remains appropriate, my Committee has agreed that it must hear from Ministers from both Departments. Given the gap between the rapidity of changes to the geopolitical situation and the pace of policy development I am particularly keen to hear from Ministers before the summer recess. I note that, although my Committee's clerks wrote to officials from your Departments on 20 April to invite you informally, we are yet to be able to find a mutually-agreeable date.

While I recognise that delays to the publication of the Defence Investment Plan may have had an impact on both Departments' willingness to discuss defence spending and finance with my Committee, those delays have in turn raised concerns about the proposed approach taken and the effectiveness of the cooperation by both Departments. However, I note that in an answer to an oral question on 1 June, John told the House that the Prime Minister is determined to publish the Defence Investment Plan before the NATO Summit takes place in July. With this in mind, I would like to invite Ministers to give oral evidence on defence finance and spending on either 7 or 8 July.

My Committee is also minded to invite three members of the Defence Committee to attend any evidence session with you as guests.

I would be grateful for a reply to this letter by 12pm on Thursday 11 June.



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In line with the Committee's usual practice, I will place both this letter and your response(s) in the public domain.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Hillier".

Dame Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of the Treasury Committee