



MINUTES

Session 2026/27

International Relations and Defence Committee

Minutes of the 4th Meeting, held at 11am on 16 June 2026

Present: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Lord Alderdice
Baroness Blackstone
Lord Bruce of Bennachie
Baroness Crawley
Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie
Lord Grocott (remote)
Lord Houghton of Richmond
Lord Lamont of Lerwick
Baroness Prashar
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen (chair)

1. Apologies and notices

Apologies were received from Lord Darroch of Kew and Lord de Mauley.

2. SDR implementation: first oral evidence session

At approximately 11am, the Committee heard evidence, in public, from:

- Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of the Defence Staff

A full transcript was taken.

The following members declared a relevant interest:

- Lord Houghton of Richmond – European Defence Adviser to Blackstone; non-executive Director at Draken; Chairman of Defence Holdings PLC; Senior Military Adviser at SecureCloud +; Member of the Strategic Advisory board at Thales UK
- Lord Robertson of Port Ellen – Senior Counsellor for the Cohen Group; Lead, UK Strategic Defence Review 2025

3. Date of next meeting

The Committee would next meet on 17 June at 10.30am in committee room 2.

18 June 2026