



MINUTES

Session 2026/27

International Relations and Defence Committee

Minutes of the 5th Meeting, held at 10.30am on 17 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
Lord de Mauley (remote)
Baroness Prashar
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen (chair)

In their capacity as members of the Industry and Regulators Committee, also present:

Baroness Carberry of Muswell Hill
Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

1. Apologies and notices

Apologies were received from Lord Darroch of Kew.

2. SDR implementation: second oral evidence session

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

- Rupert Pearce, UK National Armaments Director
- Lt Gen Anna-Lee Reilly, Core Delivery, Defence Equipment and Support, Ministry of Defence
- Jim Carter, Director General, Commercial and Industry, National Armaments Director Group, Ministry of Defence
- Avril Jolliffe, Director General (International), Ministry of Defence

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. Any other business

The Committee considered its forward work programme.

4. Date of next meeting

The Committee would next meet on 24 June at 10.30am in a committee room tbc.

18 June 2026