

Campaign

Trident costs soar

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains how the cost of replacing Trident has gone up again.

It has become clear over the past few months that our £100 billion figure for replacing Trident is a massive underestimate. Recent information released by the government makes it clear that a new nuclear weapons system will end up costing at least £205 billion. Let's look at the breakdown of that new figure. Again I stress: these are figures from government sources, not something that CND has made up.

The cost of **replacing the submarines** now comes in at an estimated £31 billion, with a contingency fund of £10 billion. That information comes from the government's *National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review* published last November.

The **missiles** are leased from the United States and Britain will participate

in their missile life extension programme making them usable until the early 2040s. This is set out in the government's 2006 White Paper on 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent', costing £350 million in today's prices.

The **current warhead** will last into the 2020s and that same White Paper also provided for up to £3 billion for the possible future refurbishment or replacement of the warhead. This is £4 billion in today's prices.

Infrastructure at Faslane and Coulport bases over the lives of the submarines was allocated another £3 billion (or £4 billion in today's prices).

Day to day running costs are the biggest expense. The government confirms this is around 6% of the total

The cost of Trident replacement	
Manufacturing four successor submarines	£31 billion
Contingency fund	£10 billion
Missile extension programme	£350 million
Replacement warheads	£4 billion
Infrastructure capital costs	£4 billion
In service costs	£142 billion
Conventional military forces directly assigned to support Trident	£1 billion
Decommissioning	£13 billion
TOTAL	£205 billion

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defence budget. Conservative MP and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee Crispin Blunt worked with Reuters to estimate that over the lifetime of the system, this would add up to £142 billion.

Conventional military forces assigned to support Trident are also part of the price tag. In 2007, the government said it believed around £30 million was spent on this function annually. Over the lifetime of Trident's replacement, this will add up to just over £1 billion in total.

Decommissioning costs also have to be factored in. Using the government's estimate for decommissioning its previous nuclear weapons system, Polaris, it seems this will be at least £13 billion in today's prices.

There's a potential additional cost but we haven't included it yet as we're not certain about where this fits in the government's accounting process. £20 billion is being spent on the **Atomic Weapons Establishment** (AWE), where the warheads are manufactured and maintained, over the period 2000-2025. This money will be spent on infrastructure building work, servicing costs, upgrading the warhead and studies for development of a replacement.

Groups round-up

This year's Global Day of Action against Military Spending included plenty of anti-Trident work, including in **Coventry** where campaigners 'binned Trident'. Over a thousand people voted in a ballot on what they would spend the billions Britain currently spends on arms. Most people decided that they would prefer the government to spend on education, health and

climate change.

Oxford CND has had a busy month, attending a Health through Peace meeting and arranging a Fly Kites not Drones action. Kite flying is a well-loved Afghan pursuit which was once banned under the Taliban and so the campaign is an act of solidarity with Afghans living under the constant threat of drones in the sky.

As the junior doctors went on strike again in protest at the imposition of unfair and unsafe contracts by the government, CND showed solidarity with their campaign.



CND @CNDuk · Apr 27

It's day two of the #JuniorDoctorsStrike. Solidarity from CND.
#PeopleNotTrident #StopTrident #PMQs



Solidarity to
junior doctors.

#JuniorDoctorsStrike

Join CND today

If you've been on the fence about joining CND, now is the time to jump off it.

The fate of Trident will be decided in a matter of months, and the more members we have, the better chance we have of defeating it.

It takes just two minutes to join and costs as little as £1 a month. Go to www.cnduk.org/join and become a CND member today.

Elections 2016

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about what last week's election results mean for the anti-Trident campaign.

Last week saw voters going to the polls across the UK for various elections. The Scottish election results in particular show a continuing massive anti-Trident majority in Holyrood. The SNP, Scottish Labour and the Green Party all have clear anti-nuclear policies, while the Lib Dems will vote against Trident replacement even though national policy hesitates around alternatives. This adds up to 98 out of 129 seats. Even taking into account a tiny handful of MSPs who may vote against party policy, this is a reaffirmation of the overwhelming anti-Trident sentiment in Scotland.

In effect, support for nuclear weapons is being reduced down to the Conservative Party. At CND's recent Stop Trident rally in London, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, together with the leader of the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn, Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood (who gained a seat in the Welsh Parliament) and Caroline Lucas for the Greens, demonstrated the



emergence of a new political consensus against Trident. In Northern Ireland too, both SDLP and Sinn Fein oppose Trident replacement.

Of course, the Labour leader's personal opposition to nuclear weapons does not yet translate into Labour Party policy. A decision on that is likely later this year but it is of huge significance that Labour is undergoing a genuine, open and rigorous Defence Review which includes party policy on nuclear weapons. Gone are the days when the government can claim that agreement on Trident replacement transcends party politics. And even within Tory ranks there are those who think that national security will be better served by spending on

conventional weaponry instead of nuclear. The most high profile of these is the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Crispin Blunt.

Those in Labour who remain wedded to replacing Trident – often because they mistakenly believe that scrapping it would be a vote loser – need to look at the reality of public opinion, particularly amongst young people, and those who have massively boosted Labour membership over the last few months. Labour hasn't crashed and burned in these elections. The results are patchy but there are significant bright spots, including new mayors for the party in London and Bristol.

As parties and voters head away from nuclear weapons, it is hard to see how the Tory government can legitimately proceed with its plans to replace Trident. As the results reaffirm, Scotland has categorically and repeatedly voted against it and as host country to the Trident submarines that has to be a major factor in any replacement decision.

12th May

A Noiseless Flash:

Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow is visiting Britain to speak about her experience and her campaigning. Testimony of a Hiroshima survivor. 6pm, at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

14th May

Yorkshire CND Day of Dance,

Victoria Hall, Saltaire. Dancing, singing and music workshops, plus therapy treatment and food. ■ <http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/dayofdance>

Throughout June

Month of Direct Action against Trident

at AWE Burghfield. Organised by Trident Ploughshares and Action AWE. ■ Contact 01547 520929 / 07456 588943/ june@tridentploughshares.org

2nd July

Faringdon Grand Peace Fete,

2pm-5pm, Clock House, Coleshill SN6 7PT (between Faringdon and Highworth on the B4019).

MASS LOBBY OF MPS



on Wednesday 13th July 2016

With a vote likely to take place soon on Trident's future, it is vital that as many MPs as possible hear the arguments against Trident replacement from their constituents. CND has called a mass lobby of Parliament, where you can come to Westminster and tell your MP why you want them to vote to Stop Trident.

Please make every effort to come and take part – all the information you need is available on www.cnduk.org/StopTridentLobby

Faringdon Peace Group is celebrating its 35th year in the glorious grounds of the Clock House with stalls, games, crafts, music. and dancing.

Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT. ■ Tel 01436 820901 faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month. ■ Tel: 07946 676761 info@aldermaston.net www.aldermaston.net @Peace_women_AWE

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp

■ Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-8pm. ■ For more info contact Lindis – 01423 884076 or percy@phonecoop.coop

