

## UK Sets Strategic Course with New National Security Framework

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The UK government has unveiled its National Security Strategy 2025: Security for the British People in a Dangerous World, laying out a major shift from post-Cold War resilience toward proactive national readiness. The strategy reflects a hardened stance on defence and sovereignty amid rising geopolitical threats.

The document opens with a stark assessment: the UK is now engaged in a prolonged period of strategic competition, which it calls a continuous “Grey Zone” conflict. In this environment, national security is no longer viewed as a government responsibility alone, but a shared societal endeavour, involving industry, communities, and individuals alike.

Three core pillars define the strategy. The first, Security at Home, centres on strengthening the armed forces, hardening critical infrastructure, and defending against cyber threats. The second, Strength Abroad, reinforces alliances, particularly through NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), while deepening engagement in global affairs. The third, Sovereign and Asymmetric Capabilities, focuses on rebuilding the UK’s defence industrial base and investing in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced surveillance systems.

A major financial commitment underpins the strategy. The government has pledged to raise national security spending to 5% of GDP by 2035. This includes a minimum of 3.5% for military defence and 1.5% for cyber, border protection, and resilience infrastructure. Core defence spending is set to reach 2.5% by 2027, with a longer-term ambition of 3% in the next parliamentary term.

Key adversaries identified include Russia, named as the UK’s most acute threat and various state and non-state actors engaged in espionage, cyber operations, and political interference. The strategy also emphasises domestic security, including efforts to counter hostile state activity and protect diaspora communities from foreign intimidation.

The document introduces eight “National Security Tasks” to align government and industry efforts, ranging from early threat detection and

defence readiness to alliance-building and conflict resolution. These will be coordinated through the National Security Council and relevant ministries.

The overall tone marks a departure from the idealism of previous decades. Instead, the 2025 strategy embraces realism and national interest, prioritising hard power, technological independence, and economic security. It acknowledges the challenges of a multipolar world and sets out a roadmap for sustained deterrence, resilience, and prosperity.

In a world described as more dangerous, unpredictable, and contested, this strategy signals that the UK intends to meet the moment, not with appeasement, but with resolve.