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UK Shifts Strategy as Government Urges Preparedness for Domestic Threats

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Britain is being urged to take a more proactive approach to national defence, with a new government review recommending that the country begin preparing for the possibility of conflict on its soil. The National Security Strategy, introduced under the current government, reflects a shift in emphasis toward resilience and readiness in response to a changing global security environment. The review identifies growing

threats from hostile states, including cyberattacks, sabotage, and interference in critical infrastructure, with specific reference to activities linked to Russia and Iran.

As part of the response, the government has outlined plans for annual preparedness exercises, beginning with a national drill known as “Pegasus” scheduled for later this year. These exercises are expected to involve various parts of society, including public services, businesses, and local communities. In addition to emergency responders and national agencies. The aim is to build a shared understanding of potential risks and strengthen the systems in place to respond to them.

The strategy also includes a broader defence plan, which will see an increase in investment over the coming years. Defence spending is set to rise gradually to reach 5% of GDP by 2035. This funding is expected to support expanded capabilities in areas such as cyber defence, artificial intelligence, and missile protection. Enhancements to the UK’s nuclear deterrent and military readiness are also part of the long-term plan.

Government officials have described the approach as a “whole-of-society” effort, recognising that future challenges may not be limited to traditional warfare and could involve a range of complex threats. While the review does not suggest that conflict is imminent, it reflects a desire to ensure that institutions and communities are better prepared for uncertainty.

The strategy marks a notable update in the UK’s defence planning, with an emphasis on collective preparedness and careful planning. It also signals an ongoing effort to adapt national security policy to reflect the realities of a more unpredictable global landscape.

