

## UK Defense Spending Surge Sparks Concern Over Profits for Arms Firms, Not Public Security

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The UK government's pledge to significantly boost defense spending has sparked concern among critics who argue that the increased funding may primarily benefit arms manufacturers rather than delivering meaningful improvements to national security. While officials frame the multi-billion-pound investment as essential for preparing Britain to face new global

threats, skeptics question whether the strategy places too much emphasis on high-cost weaponry and not enough on addressing the root causes of insecurity.

Under the new Strategic Defense Review, the government plans to raise defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027, with an ambitious goal of reaching 5% by 2035. The package includes funding for new submarines, fighter jets, long-range missiles, and expanded drone capabilities. Ministers say the plan is necessary to bolster the UK's ability to deter adversaries and respond to crises in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

However, peace campaigners and some security experts warn that this investment risks deepening the influence of major defense contractors without delivering proportional benefits to the public. They point out that true national security involves more than military might, it also depends on social resilience, energy stability, and effective diplomacy. Critics argue that prioritizing arms deals over these elements could leave the country more vulnerable in the long term.

Organizations that monitor government defense contracts note that a substantial portion of the new funds is likely to go to a handful of multinational arms manufacturers. These firms already receive significant public funding and have longstanding ties with the Ministry of Defense. There are growing calls for greater transparency and accountability in how defense budgets are allocated, with some demanding that more be spent on cyber defense, veteran care, and conflict prevention.

The government insists that increased military capability is vital to deter hostile nations and protect the UK's interests abroad. Yet the debate over

how best to achieve security remains contentious. As the defense budget swells, the challenge lies in ensuring that this investment truly strengthens national safety and does not merely serve to enrich private contractors.