

Parliamentary Questions 2005-2006

Date	W/O	MP Name	Constituency	Parliamentary Question	PQ Number	Hansard Reply
08-Dec-06	W	Ian Davidson	Glasgow South West (Lab/Co-op)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will take steps to ensure that there is an in-house bid for any defence training contract which is outsourced.	371T	
20-Nov-06	W	Michael Hancock	Portsmouth South (Lib Dem)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his timetable is for making the main investment decisions on (a) the military training system, (b) defence training review and (c) aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement.	6453S	The timing of MOD investment decisions depends on the maturity of the project. The main investment decisions for these projects will be made as soon as the necessary work is complete.
20-Nov-06	W	Philip Dunne	Ludlow (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether the affordability of the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme is conditional on it being an off-balance sheet transaction.	6435S	The bids for the DTR PPP are currently under consideration. All solutions involve a significant amount of capital construction during the first five years of the contract that would not be affordable if this project were to be procured conventionally or through an on balance-sheet PFI. As with all such investment proposals, however, the primary consideration is whether it would represent better value for money than the alternative options available.
08-Nov-06	W	Peter Viggers	Gosport (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the future of HMS Sultan.	6385S	A final decision on the future of HMS Sultan is dependant on the outcome of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Rationalisation Programme which is currently at an advanced stage of competition. I anticipate making an announcement on DTR later this year.
08-Nov-06	W	Peter Viggers	Gosport (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on his Department's future plans for engineering training in the Armed Forces.	6386S	Future plans for engineering training in the armed forces are dependant on the outcome of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Rationalisation Programme, which is currently at an advanced stage of competition. I anticipate making an announcement on DTR later this year.
03 July 2006	W	Mark Pritchard	Wrekin, The (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment has been made of the merits of an in-house bid as part of the Defence Training Review.	4977S	An in-house bid was assessed as not being a viable option for the Defence Training Review. It would not have provided the significant capital investment required to transform specialist training. In addition this route would not provide the technical innovation, performance discipline and risk transfer delivered through a public-private partnering/PFI solution.
29 June 2006	W	Michael Hancock	Portsmouth South (Lib Dem)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what contribution the implementation of the two packages comprising the Defence Training Review private finance initiative programme will make to departmental targets for (a) improved quality of training, (b) cost reduction and (c) contractions of the defence estate.	4961S	The Defence Training Review Programme aims to provide the best possible living and learning environment for our people. This programme will make a positive contribution to improving the quality of training while reducing costs through the reduction of the Defence Estate. I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the exact impact of the Defence Training Review as this will be entirely dependent on the solutions put forward by the Preferred Bidders. An announcement is not expected before the end of the year.
29 June 2006	W	Michael Hancock	Portsmouth South (Lib Dem)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the forecast date is for financial close of the two packages of the Defence Training Review public finance initiative programme.	4952S	The current forecast date for financial close of the two packages of the Defence Training Review is end 2007. This date, however, is subject to a satisfactory conclusion to the evaluation and approval process, the Preferred Bidders selected and future analysis currently being conducted on the management of risks related to the delivery of the solutions.
27 June 2006	W	Richard Burden	Birmingham Northfield (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what representations he has received on RAF Cosford being the preferred site for aeronautical training in the Defence Training Review; and if he will make a statement.	4875	I have received many representations recommending Cosford as the preferred site for Aeronautical Engineering training; since January 2006 these have included 99 letters from the public, 14 letters from MPs, five Parliamentary Questions plus various meetings with MPs and officials. But, as I have said previously, we will select the solution which offers the best training capability for Defence.
22-Jun-06	W	Joan Humble	Blackpool North & Fleetwood (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his timetable is for (a) planning, (b) commissioning, (c) construction and (d) opening 4,000 new accommodation units for Phase two trainees by 2012.	4830S	The arrangements for new accommodation units to be supplied to phase 2 trainees are currently being evaluated as part of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Rationalisation programme. Very different bid proposals have been received for both DTR packages and until evaluation has concluded, and a preferred bidder for each package identified, the specifics of the solutions in terms of planning and execution of accommodation units cannot be confirmed. I anticipate announcing preferred bidders and their solutions later this year.
15-Jun-06	W	Michael Hancock	Portsmouth South (Lib Dem)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on what dates his Department has met (a) employees and (b) consultants of Foresight Communications to discuss (i) the Defence Training Review and (ii) other matters, in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement.	4701S	To my knowledge, no members of the Ministry of Defence who are involved with the Defence Training Review have met employees or consultants of Foresight Communications in the last 12 months. I cannot answer for everyone within the Department on this matter as the information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to retrieve.
08-Mar-06	W	Tobias Ellwood	Bournemouth East (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, in view of the Defence Training Review, whether the Defence College of Information Systems will remain in Blandford.	3491S	The Defence Training Review Programme is at an advanced stage. Bidders' proposals for both Packages of training have been received and are currently being evaluated. At this competitive phase of the project no comment is possible on any likely use of sites. I can, however, provide assurance that there is an extensive and robust evaluation methodology in place to ensure that Bidders' proposals meet Defence requirements and are evaluated on an equitable basis. I anticipate the announcement of Preferred Bidders later this year.
02-Feb-06	W	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will consider inviting the National Audit Office to oversee the bid evaluation process for the Defence Training Review Transformation Programme.	2971S	The Defence Training Review (DTR) Programme already has a senior independent auditor assigned to oversee the evaluation process. I have no doubt, however, that the National Audit Office will keep a watching brief on the DTR Programme as part of its regular business.
23-Jan-06	O	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent representations he has received on the future of defence training; and if he will make a statement.	2639S	The Defence Training Review is a complex programme with many stakeholders and interested parties. I have received many representations but as I have said in previous replies, a rigorous evaluation of bid proposals is currently underway.
23-Jan-06	O	Rob Marris	Wolverhampton South West (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how often he has visited RAF Cosford to assess training facilities during the last 12 months.	2642S	My right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, was the last Defence Minister to visit the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering at Cosford, on 24 February 2005.



09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) direct and (b) indirect jobs are provided by the DCAE, Cosford, in (i) Shropshire and (ii) West Midlands region.	2412S	I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 2 February 2006, Official Report, columns 701–02W to my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden). 13 Feb 2006 : Column 1579W
09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the impact on manufacturing and engineering companies in the West Midlands if Cosford is chosen as (a) a super site and (b) a preferred location for aeronautical training as part of the Defence Training review.	2413S	The Defence Training Review (DTR) Programme is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. The impact on manufacturing and engineering companies and the extent to which they are drawn into training design, delivery and support and the exploitation of third party opportunities and revenue depends on Bidders' training and estates solutions. Until the evaluation phase is complete and a decision has been taken to select a preferred training partner, currently expected in summer 2006, I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the wider impact of the DTR solution.
09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his department has made of the locations of (a) population centres, (b) labour markets, (c) higher education institutions and (d) aerospace companies in choosing locations for the Defence Training Review.	2415S	The procurement strategy of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Programme has required bidders to select training sites as part of their responses to the Invitations to Negotiate. This has been essential to ensure an integrated training and estates solution which delivers value for money. A comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the bidding consortia's proposals is under way judged against defined evaluation criteria. Before a decision is reached on the preferred bidder, a Regional Socio-Economic Report will also be undertaken to assess the broader impact of the DTR Programme on the surrounding regions. This will not be concluded until the summer 2006.
09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Defence Training Review on the Aerospace industry in the West Midlands.	2417S	The Defence Training Review (DTR) Programme is conducting a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the bidding consortia's proposals against defined evaluation criteria. As part of the MOD's wider assessment process a Regional Socio-Economic Report will be undertaken to assess the broader impact of the DTR Programme on the surrounding region and its economy. Until the evaluation phase is complete and a decision has been taken to select a preferred training partner, currently expected in summer 2006, I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the wider impact of the DTR solution.
09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what criteria he included in the Defence Training Review to ensure that its proposals will take account of the potential impact on businesses in the aerospace and engineering sectors.	2418S	
09-Jan-06	W	Ian Austin	Dudley North (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the impact on the retention and recruitment of training staff if defence training activities are moved to areas outside reasonable daily travel times as part of the Defence Training Review.	2419S	The ability of the bidding consortia to retain and recruit suitably qualified staff throughout the duration of the contract is being evaluated under clearly defined criteria to determine the overall deliverability of proposed solutions. This assessment will contribute to the selection of the preferred training partner, which will not take place until summer 2006, once the evaluation and Ministry of Defence approval process has concluded.
19-Dec-05	W	David Wright	Telford (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what opportunities the Defence Training Review will provide for employees affected by the closure of ABRA in Telford.	2354S	The Defence Training Review is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. Until this phase is complete and a decision has been taken to select a preferred training partner, I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the wider impact of the DTR solution.
19-Dec-05	W	David Wright	Telford (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether an employment impact assessment has been made in relation to the Defence Training Review as it relates to Cosford and St Athan.	2355S	The Defence Training Review Programme is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. This includes reviewing the possible implications for employment in any of the regions in the United Kingdom affected by the DTR Programme. Such an assessment, however, cannot be concluded until the evaluation process is complete and this is not expected before spring 2006.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he next plans to visit DCAE Cosford.	2362S	DCAE Cosford directly supports 1,243 jobs. Of these 562 are military personnel, 481 are civilian staff and 200 personnel are currently engaged as contractors. The Department does not hold a figure for the number of jobs indirectly supported by DCAE Cosford in the West Midlands.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many jobs DCAE Cosford supports (a) directly and (b) indirectly in the West Midland economy; and if he will make a statement.	2369S	Defence Ministers have no plans at present to visit DCAE Cosford.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what account will be taken of (a) existing training resources in Aerospace, ICT and Engineering industries, (b) location and (c) proximity to local labour markets in evaluation sites bidding in the Defence Training Review.	2365S	As part of the Defence Training Review programme, comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the bidding consortia's proposals is underway judged against defined evaluation criteria. This includes an assessment of bidders' compliance with the total requirement and the quality and deliverability of their proposals.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the (a) further and high education sectors and (b) manufacturing companies of the Defence Training Review.	2367S	The Defence Training Review is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. Until this phase is complete and a decision has been taken to select a preferred training partner, I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the potential impact on any site or region of the United Kingdom.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his department has made of the potential impact (a) closure (b) downsizing of DCAE Cosford may have on the (i) Shropshire (ii) West Midlands economies	2368S	The Defence Training Review is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. Until this phase is complete and a decision has been taken to select a preferred training partner, I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the potential impact on any site or region of the United Kingdom.
19-Dec-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate his department has made of the number of jobs that are likely to be created in the West Midlands if DCAE Cosford is selected as preferred bidder site in the Defence Training review.	2370S	The Defence Training Review programme is currently evaluating the bidding consortia's proposals. No estimation has yet been made of the number of jobs that may be created in the West Midlands as a consequence of the DTR programme. Such an estimation is dependant upon bidder's training and estates solutions, including proposed training efficiencies and the scale of distributed learning. This work will not be completed until the evaluation phase has concluded in about spring 2006.

12-Dec-05	O	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the future of defence training.	2183S	The defence training review programme will deliver specialist training on a defence rather than single service basis. Our vision is to create national centres of training excellence, giving our people the best opportunities, training and living environment that we can provide. Modern training methods and technology will be introduced, and training will be concentrated on a reduced number of sites to give the Ministry of Defence the flexibility that it needs to match training demand to defence needs.
21-Nov-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he expects to make a decision regarding the future consolidation of Defence Training services.	1851S	I anticipate making an announcement on the preferred solution for the Defence Training Rationalisation programme in late 2006.
21-Nov-05	W	Patrick McFadden	Wolverhampton South East (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the consortia bidding for the future defence training contracts.	1852S	No Defence Ministers have had discussions with the consortia bidding for the future defence training contracts. The DTR programme leader and his team have, however, held a very open and consultative dialogue with bidders while they have prepared responses to the Department's invitations to negotiate. 2nd PUS, VCDS and Training Agency chief executives have also all met and held discussions with the bidders' senior CEOs and senior board members. In addition, the wider Ministry of Defence customer community have discussed the MOD's requirement with bidders and trade unions have also met with them.
17-Oct-05	O	Mark Pritchard	Wrekin, The (Con)	If he will take steps to ensure that the pensions of employees at RAF Cosford are protected as part of the Defence Training Review.	1010S	In order to be awarded the Defence Training Review contract, the winning Bidder must provide a pension scheme with broadly comparable benefits to existing pensions available to employees at RAF Cosford. The Bidder's pension scheme will be assessed by the Government Actuary's Department to ensure that these conditions are met.
13-Jul-05	W	Michael Hancock	Portsmouth South (Lib Dem)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what stage has been reached by the Defence Training Review; and if he will make a statement.	0700S	The Defence Training Review Programme issued Invitations to Negotiate to the short listed bidding Consortia in November 2004. The Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with the three bidders and stakeholders to ensure that industry develop training and estates proposals that are compliant, value for money, deliver betterment and preserve operational capability and military ethos. In parallel the MOD also continues to maintain a close dialogue with the trade unions updating them on progress. Bidders' proposals are due in October and November 2005. Evaluation of the proposals will follow immediately and conclude in spring 2006. The outcome will inform the decision on selection of a preferred bidder, which is due to be approved later in the summer in 2006.