

The Defence Green Paper and the Strategy for Acquisition Reform
Joint Statement from PUS, CDS and Single Service Chiefs

The Secretary of State for Defence has today announced the publication of the [Defence Green Paper](#) and the [Strategy for Acquisition Reform](#). We welcome and fully support these documents, which are an essential first step in our preparations for the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) which all parties have committed to holding early in the new Parliament.

A wide range of people have been involved in the production of the documents published today, and we are very grateful for the contributions which have been made. They have enabled us to carry out a joined up, serious and in-depth analysis of our recent policy and operations and to set the context for the SDR by identifying the key strategic questions that the Review must answer.

The Defence Green paper marks the start of a debate about this country's future Defence policy. This comes at a critical time and is set in the context of a challenging resource position and an evolving, demanding and uncertain UK and global security picture. It must therefore be based on a rigorous analysis of the future risks, drawing on conceptual work completed within Defence and elsewhere. Inevitably it will result in tough choices about the UK's future role in the world, the kind of operations we should plan for and the military capability and the business model which we will need to deliver them

Operations in Afghanistan rightly remain our main effort and we must continue to resource them appropriately. But as we recognised in the Department's [Strategy for Defence](#), we must balance our commitments in Afghanistan and elsewhere with the need to retain capability to react to the unexpected in the medium to longer term.

We welcome the opportunity presented by the publication of the Green Paper to begin a comprehensive and national debate on what security and defence means to the UK so that we can make appropriate choices for the size, shape and preparedness of the Armed Forces that we need in the future

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