

Parliamentary Questions 2007

Date	W/O	MP Name	Constituency	Parliamentary Question	PQ Number	Hansard Reply
25-Jul-07	w	Dr. Liam Fox	Woodspring	To ask the the Secretary of State for Defence,if he will make a statement on the progress of negotiations with the Metrix consortium on Package 2 for the Defence Training Review	03628T	In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, only Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Since then we have been exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme. Significant work has been completed, but has not yet been concluded. Once it is I expect to make a statement later this year.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence , what plans he has for the future of the Special Forces Unit at MOD St Athan; And if he will make a statement	03262T	The UK Joint Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) is an integral part of the UK Special Forces Group and falls under the operational command of the Director of Special Forces. It is our established policy not to comment on special forces matters. However, I can say that since the SFSG was stood up in April 2006 it has served with distinction in the field and is already providing the UK Special Forces Group with a significantly enhanced capability as envisaged.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will require the Defence Training Review preferred bidder to hold discussions with Pessimon Homes and Barratts on planning gains for Defence Military Academy at MOD.St Athan from the development of Llandow Newydd	03256T	To date no decision on the procurement option for service families accommodation has been made. The options to be considered will include a solution from the preferred bidder alongside in-house options and any opportunities in the local market
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence,what plans he has to secure the future operation and maintenance of ther runway at MOD St Athan	03264T	The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the maintenance of the runway at MOD St. Athan. MOD continues to operate and use the runway as part of the Airfield Management Agreement between the two parties. These arrangements are currently under review.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence,what the principal surface access routes to MOD St Athan will be during and after the construction of the new military training academy	03258T	Negotiations are under way between the Welsh Assembly Government, MOD and Metrix to formulate an agreement which will include access arrangements for the Aerospace Business Park and the proposed Defence Training Academy
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, where he expects the new accommodation for trainees and military and civilian staff at the military training academy MOD St Athans to be located	03259T	Work to agree specific site plans of the proposed MOD St. Athan site is ongoing. All single living accommodation will be located within the MOD St. Athan boundary however the location of service families accommodation is still to be determined
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence,what the timetable is for the construction and occupation of the new military training academy at MOD St Athan	03261T	Metrix Consortium have been declared the preferred bidder for package 1 of the Defence training review programme. For package 2 there is a significant affordability gap and work has been ongoing to develop a whole programme solution. The scale of the facility to be constructed at St. Athan will therefore depend on the outcome of this further work with Metrix. Our current forecast indicates that construction at the St. Athan site is planned to start after contract signature in late 2008, or early 2009, with the final phase of completion scheduled for 2013.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) military and (b) civilian personnel he expects will be based at St Athans when the new military academy is complete	03260T	The scale of the facility to be constructed at St. Athan is dependent upon the outcome of further work with the Metrix Consortium which is exploring the possibility of a Whole Programme Solution.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on discussions it has had had with local organisations and community groups in the Vale of Glamorgan on th future plans for MoD ,St Athans, and which organisations and groups were involved in those discussions	03257T	Metrix UK meets regularly with members of the Welsh Assembly Government, Community Councils (Llantwit Major, St. Athan, Llanmaes, Llandow, St. Bride's, Ewenny, Wick, Llangan and St. Donat), local (South Wales) business leaders, leaders of all the main parties represented in the National Assembly.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of STATE FOR Defence, what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on discussions they may have had with elected representative in Sout Wales about future plans for MoD ,St Athans and who took part in those discussions	03252 T	Metrix UK meets regularly with members of the Welsh Assembly Government, Community Councils (Llantwit Major, St. Athan, Llanmaes, Llandow, St. Bride's, Ewenny, Wick, Llangan and St. Donat), local (South Wales) business leaders, leaders of all the main parties represented in the National Assembly.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary for Defence,what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on the discussions they have had with (a) business,(b) local government and © academic leaders in South Wales on future plans for MoD ,St Athan ; and which organisations have taken part in such discussions	03251T	Metrix UK meets regularly with members of the Welsh Assembly Government, Community Councils (Llantwit Major, St. Athan, Llanmaes, Llandow, St. Bride's, Ewenny, Wick, Llangan and St. Donat), local (South Wales) business leaders, leaders of all the main parties represented in the National Assembly.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence,when he will make an assessment on the outcome of the Whole Programme Solution negotiations with regard to the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme	03243 T	In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, on Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Our aim has been to develop a Whole Programme Solution (WPS) by exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme. Although significant work has been completed since January we are not yet in a position to confirm whether or not the WPS can be made affordable. We still plan to make a further announcement later this year.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take a decision on making th eprovisional preferred bidder for package 2 of the Defence Training Review programme th epreferred bidder.	03255 T	In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, on Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Our aim has been to develop a Whole Programme Solution (WPS) by exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme. Although significant work has been completed since January we are not yet in a position to confirm whether or not the WPS can be made affordable. We still plan to make a further announcement later this year.

02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress he has made on the Defence Training Review since his statement of 17th January 2007, Official Report columns 787-802, on Defence Training Review, and if he will make a statement	03253 T	In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, on Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Our aim has been to develop a Whole Programme Solution (WPS) by exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme. Although significant work has been completed since January we are not yet in a position to confirm whether or not the WPS can be made affordable. We still plan to make a further announcement later this year.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he expects to sign the Maingate contract for Defence Training Review rationalisation project	03254 T	In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, on Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Our aim has been to develop a Whole Programme Solution (WPS) by exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme. Although significant work has been completed since January we are not yet in a position to confirm whether or not the WPS can be made affordable. We still plan to make a further announcement later this year.
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans the preferred bidder for the Defence Training Academy, MoD St Athan has to re-open St Athan Halt or construct a new railway station	03265 T	A decision on the provision of a new or refurbished railway station is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. An application for planning permission to develop Defence Training Review Facilities at St. Athan is being prepared by the preferred bidder in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council. A traffic impact assessment study and green travel plan will also be prepared. The proximity of the site to the revitalised Cardiff-Bridgend railway line is a considerable asset in the consideration of sustainable development at St. Athan
02-Jul-07	w	John Smith	Vale of Glamorgan	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will require the Defence Training Review preferred bidder to make an assessment of the impact of the new build and the Defence Training Academy, MOD St Athan on the surface water and drainage in the immediate locale, with particular reference to the village of Boverton	03266 T	An Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out to support the preferred bidder's planning application to develop the MOD St. Athan site. This assessment will include, among others, the impact of development on surface water and drainage to the surrounding area.
22-May-07	w	Madeleine Moon	Bridgend (Lab)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent progress has been made on agreements between his Department, MATRIX and the National Assembly for Wales in relation to (a) the final package of proposals for the St Athan site and (b) a date for the submission of a planning application for the Defence Training Establishment; and if he will make a statement.	02766T	An announcement was made in January this year by the Secretary of State that the Metrix Consortium had been selected as preferred bidder for package one and provisional preferred bidder for package two for the Defence Training Review Programme. Since the announcement work has focused on developing a whole programme solution (WPS). Good progress has been made and negotiations with Metrix are ongoing. As part of this work the Department is working with officials of the Welsh Assembly Government to confirm the most suitable master plan for the St. Athan site. However, until this work is concluded a date for submission of a planning application for the Defence Training Establishment cannot be finalised. An announcement on a WPS, however, is expected to be made later this year.
02-Feb-07	w	Mark Harper MP	Forest of Dean	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, by how much the Metrix consortium's current proposals for (a) package 1 and (b) package 2 for the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme has exceeded the planned budget for the programme.	1221T	Metrix current proposal for Package 1 does not exceed the planned budget over the life of the project. It delivers significant savings against the planned levels of expenditure. The current proposal for Package 2 has been assessed as not affordable and this package is now being pursued with Metrix as part of a Whole Programme solution. Until this work is complete it is not possible to judge whether Package 2 can be delivered within the planned budget for the programme.
02-Feb-07	w	Mark Harper MP	Forest of Dean	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proposals his Department is considering for the maintenance of a defence function for the training sites at Cosford and Blandford; and if he will make a statement.	1220T	The MOD Estate is under continuous review to ensure that it is the right size and quality to support the delivery of Defence capability. Looking to the future both Cosford and Blandford are well placed as highly flexible Defence sites. The Department is looking at options to continue to make the best use of them post DTR by moving other units in, but these plans are not firm and subject to studies which will not conclude for some months
02-Feb-07	w	Mark Harper MP	Forest of Dean	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his Department's criteria were that determined the winning bidders for (a) package 1 and (b) package 2 of the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme; and if he will make a statement.	1219T	Following a detailed evaluation process for each of the DTR Packages, Metrix were chosen because their separate package 1 and 2 proposals were judged to offer the best technical and prospective value for money solutions to the Defence Training Review requirement for each of those Packages. Their solution examined against 65 individual Requirements of Response, represented the most economically advantageous outcome, providing the best combination of technical score relating to the quality, deliverability and timeliness of their proposals, their suitability as a partner and price.
02-Feb-07	w	Mark Harper MP	Forest of Dean	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the key reasons were for his Department's decision to choose the Metrix consortium's bid for (a) package 1 and (b) package 2 for the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme; and if he will make a statement.	1218T	Following a detailed evaluation process for each of the DTR Packages, Metrix were chosen because their separate package 1 and 2 proposals were judged to offer the best technical and prospective value for money solutions to the Defence Training Review requirement for each of those Packages. Their solution examined against 65 individual Requirements of Response, represented the most economically advantageous outcome, providing the best combination of technical score relating to the quality, deliverability and timeliness of their proposals, their suitability as a partner and price.
22-Jan-07	w	Gerald Howarth	Aldershot (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the oral statement of 17 January 2007, Official Report, columns 787-9, on the Defence Training Review, what were the principal factors which persuaded him to select Metrix as the preferred bidder for his Defence Training Rationalisation Review.	1046T	Following a robust and detailed evaluation of the Bidders' proposals in response to the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 and 2 Invitation To Negotiate, Metrix was selected as the Preferred Bidder for DTR Package 1 and Provisional Preferred Bidder for DTR Package 2. Their solution, examined against 65 individual Requirements of Response, represented the most economically advantageous outcome, providing the best combination of technical score relating to the quality, deliverability and timeliness of their proposals, their suitability as a partner and price.
16-Jan-07	w	Philip Dunne	Ludlow (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what price premium for the Defence Training Review his Department expects to pay in return for transferring risk to the private sector.	902T	The concept of PFI passes risk to a Private Sector Partner who is better able to manage these risks. The primary determinant of whether to proceed with a PFI approach is the assessment of the Value for Money of the bidder's proposal against a Public Sector Comparator on a whole life, risk adjusted basis. MOD relies on open competition to drive out Value for Money and ensure that any price premium paid is appropriate for the risk transferred.
15-Jan-07	w	Lord Astor of Hever		COPY ADDRESSEE ONLY. NOT LEAD RESPONDENT -To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the outcomes of the most recent defence training review for military police officer training.	897T	These questions all relate to a formal inspection of the Royal Military Police (Special Investigation Branch) (RMP(SIB)) conducted in March 2006 at the MoD's request by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). This was the first time that any part of the service police had been subjected to such a rigorous and in
15-Jan-07	w	Philip Dunne	Ludlow (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of the costs of the Defence Training Review he expects to be attributable to private sector funding costs.	894T	HMIC is due to receive a progress report from Provost Marshal (Army) on 1 April 2007. A copy of this report will be placed in the Library of the House. Pending the release of this progress report, I am withholding information as it relates to the formulation of government policy.
15-Jan-07	w	Philip Dunne	Ludlow (Con)	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what risks he expects to be transferred to the private sector as part of the Defence Training Review.	893T	As with other PFI projects, the Defence Training Review (DTR) Contractor will take responsibility for the standard risks associated with a PFI project such as performance and cost risks including: design; construction and whole-life maintenance; non-discriminatory change in the law; town and country planning; commissioning and certification; and loss or damage to assets. In addition and by virtue of the training-specific nature of the DTR Programme, risks relating to training will also be transferred. For example the contractor will be paid on the basis of student throughput and against pre-agreed target pass rates for courses.

	15-Jan-07	w	Philip Dunne	Ludlow (Con)	<p>To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proposals his Department has received to establish a government owned, contractor operated solution to the Defence Training Review; what consideration has been given to this option; and what the likely impact on costs of such a solution would be over the life of the programme</p>	892T	<p>Under the Defence Training Review Programme, proposals have been received from bidding consortia for two distinct packages of training delivery which would operate under a Public Private Partnership arrangement. For Package 1 bids were placed by MC3 and METriX; for Package 2 by Holdfast and METriX.</p> <p>Bidders' solutions were received in October and November 2005. Since then, an extensive and robust evaluation has taken place to ensure that Bidders' proposals meet Defence Training requirements and are evaluated on an equitable basis.</p> <p>One bidder did provide an unsolicited proposal regarding establishing a government owned contractor operated solution. However, this proposal did not conform to the requirements of the ITN and was provided after formal submission of the recommendations on bidder down select to the approving authority. It would therefore have been inappropriate and contrary to procurement rules to consider this proposal further. It was therefore not evaluated, including consideration of estimated costs.</p> <p>The overriding investment appraisal decision is value for money. As no main investment decision has yet been taken on the future of the D</p>
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