

Penny Mordaunt

Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Portsmouth North



Home of the Royal Navy

I want to see a restoration of a covenant between service personnel and the rights the services they should expect from the state for doing what is a unique job with great risks and sacrifices. This would include tax breaks, access to particular and specialist healthcare, good quality housing and education and well as a procurement policy so they have the proper kit in theatre.

I want to see Portsmouth remain as the home of the Royal navy, not just in terms of its historic dockyard, but also as the heart of the modern royal navy, and as the UK's centre of excellent for high tech manufacturing and ship building.

We have been keeping pressure on the Government as it has dragged its feet over the Type 45 and aircraft carrier programmes, as well as secret naval review by the Treasury to halve the fleet and do away with most support ships over the next decade. See our news page for the latest details

The soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, civilians, and their families that make up our Armed Forces are the backbone of this nation's security. But a decade of neglect by Labour has left them overstretched, undermanned, and in possession of worn-out equipment.

A Conservative Government will match resources with commitments by launching a Strategic Defence Review and introducing a US-style system of quadrennial defence reviews. It is completely unacceptable that the last Strategic Defence Review was conducted a decade ago.

Future defence procurement projects will be determined on five criteria:

- Capability
- Interoperability
- Adaptability
- Affordability
- Exportability

We will streamline the procurement process to ensure the speedy delivery of equipment to the front line. And we will immediately reinstate the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) to ensure a healthy UK defence sector.

We will oppose the defence provisions in the Lisbon Treaty and ensure that Nato, not the EU, remains the cornerstone of our nation's defence. And we are committed to maintaining the UK 's nuclear deterrent.

Most importantly, a Conservative Government will repair the broken Military Covenant, respect our Armed Forces, and ensure that Forces' families and veterans are taken care of.

Our Military Covenant Commission has recommended better ways of taking care of service members and their families. The Commission's report will provide the basis for our Armed Forces manifesto which will establish a strong relationship between the Armed Forces and the next Conservative Government

National Security

The terrorist threat we face is serious in scale and duration. It is both international and home-grown States not only use armed force to challenge us. They play politics with the resources on which we depend, like gas and oil. They launch electronic attacks against the systems that underpin our daily lives. And they threaten regional stability through nuclear proliferation.

In addition, natural hazards, like flooding and disease, are increasing in frequency, scale and severity.

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All of these challenges are transnational. Meeting them requires concerted international co-operation and responses that cut across many policy areas – not only foreign affairs, defence and internal security, but energy, education, community cohesion, health, technology and the environment.

So government must adapt. Foreign and domestic policy cannot be treated separately in policy and budgetary terms. We will introduce a proper National Security Council, a single National Security Budget and a Cabinet-level Security Minister to ensure a joined-up approach.

And government must have the right policies to help reduce our vulnerability:

We need effective border security. A Conservative Government will introduce a unified border police force.

While intelligence, police and military tools will remain vital, we must also defend and make the argument for our shared liberal values. That's why, unlike Labour, we will tackle the extremism that fuels terrorist attacks – not just 'violent extremism'. And it's why we will prioritise long-term political and social reform overseas.

We need to protect and increase the capacity of our critical infrastructure so that we are able to withstand and respond to disruption.

Our approach will be outlined in detail in our National Security Green Paper, which will be published in the coming months.

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