

Whose priorities?

Please take part in our short survey to help us make the case that people's voices not corporate interests influence decisions about cuts.

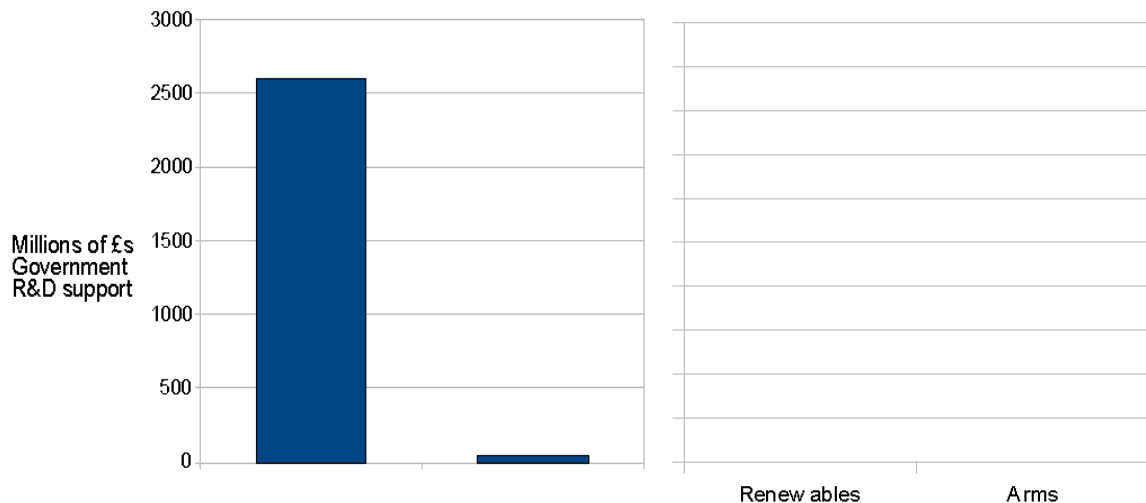
Current Priorities

1. Which of the following is NOT true?

- Each job in the arms trade is subsidised by at least £9000 by the taxpayer
- Arms companies represent over 10% of British manufacturing
- 80% of the funding for arms company research is paid for by governments

Your Priorities

2. The two bars represent government funding for research into arms compared to renewable energy. If you were in charge, which would be which? Or if neither, draw your own bar chart below:



3. Arms exports represent just 1.5% of UK exports. What percentage of total government support for UK exports should arms companies receive?

4. In the budget cuts, what would you cut first? (Please circle)

- Health
- Education
- Defence

Whose priorities?

Facts you might not otherwise have known...

The government's current spending priorities don't reflect people's needs or common sense. You might find the following facts surprising:

1. The arms trade is heavily subsidised by the taxpayer

The false statement was: Arms companies represent over 10% of British manufacturing.

Arms company BAE Systems' claim that "We are investing more and more into UK manufacturing" is pure spin.

In fact:

- * BAE now employs more people in the US than the UK
- * Arms export jobs make up less than 0.2% of the UK workforce and less than 2% of manufacturing jobs. Arms industry jobs, including production for the UK armed forces, make up less than 0.7% of the UK workforce and around 7% of manufacturing jobs.
- * 80% of BAE Systems' research is funded by the taxpayer
- * Despite being capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive (which would create more jobs per pound spent), the arms trade is one of the most heavily subsidised industries in the UK, with at least £9000 of taxpayer support per person.

2. Government support for the arms trade is massively disproportionate

Arms exports represent just 1.5% of UK exports but the government unit for promoting exports gives arms more than 50% of its industry-specific staff resources. Read more here: <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/ukti/>

3. Prioritising arms company profits over tackling climate change

The latest figures for government research & development spending show that 60 times more is spent researching arms than renewable energy. This despite the fact that climate change poses an immense threat to human security in the coming century; and many of the skills used in arms research and manufacture would be required for developing renewable technologies.

4. Ring-fencing defence

Most of us might think that cuts should be made to military spending before essential health, education and welfare public services are cut. However, the Government has indicated that the Defence budget will be less affected than that of most other departments.

(References for all of the figures in this survey can be found in CAAT's Jobs argument briefing: http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/jobs/jobs_overview.php)