

Military v climate spending in the UK

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Military/ climate – extra spending

- In November 2020, PM Boris Johnson announced extra spending for military & climate – two prominent numbers...
- Extra **£16.5bn** for Ministry of Defence
- **£12bn** for '10 point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'
- Similar or not?

Sources: Prime Minister's Office (2020); BEIS (2020).

But...

- Ministry of Defence
 - Total extra spending over 4y: **£24bn** (£6bn/y)
- '10 point plan for Green Industrial Revolution'
 - Total spending over 4y: **max. £11bn** (£2.8bn/y)

Sources: Prime Minister's Office (2020); BEIS (2020).

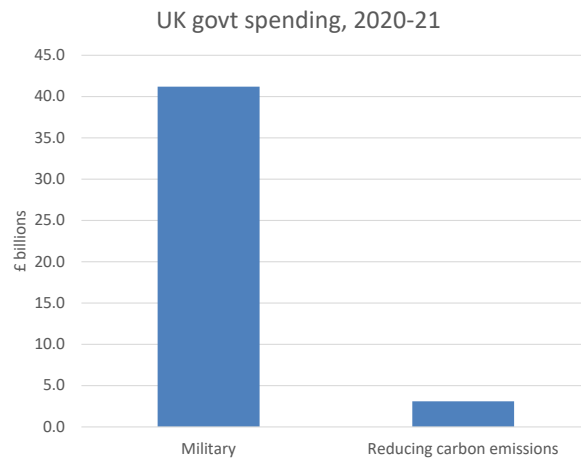
What climate spending do we need?

- Transition to net zero UK carbon emissions requires investment spending...

	Current annual spending	Total necessary annual spending	Target date for zero emissions	Source
Whole economy (govt, business, households)	£10bn	£50bn	2050	Committee on Climate Change
Govt spending	£5bn	£10bn	2050	Committee on Climate Change
Govt spending	£3.1bn	£15bn+	2030	This presentation

- Figures in 1st two rows from: CCC (2020), table 6.1, p310; 'necessary' govt spending is rounded (actual range is £9-12bn)
- 'This presentation'
 - Current govt spending has been reduced by £1.9bn as Green Home Grants programme will only spend 5% of its budget this year due to mismanagement (Guardian, 2021)
 - Figures for meeting 2030 net zero emissions target are hard to find – £15bn is rough minimum estimate

Military v climate: total govt spend

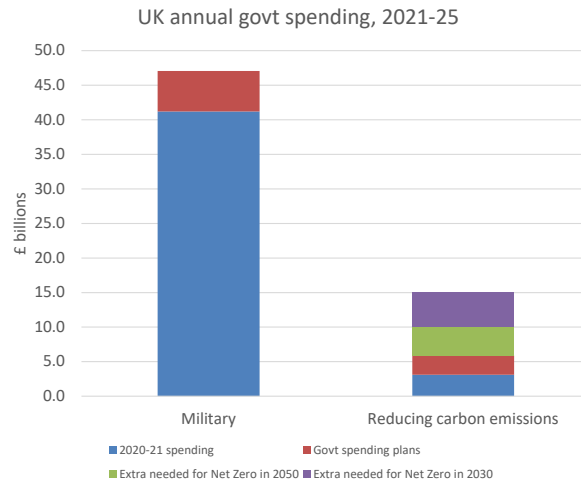


Main sources: HM Treasury (2020); CCC (2020); Guardian (2021)

- Military total does not include Trident contingency fund, military pensions etc
- No official govt figures for annual climate spending

Calculations based on: HM Treasury (2020); CCC (2020); Guardian (2021)

Military v climate: total govt spend

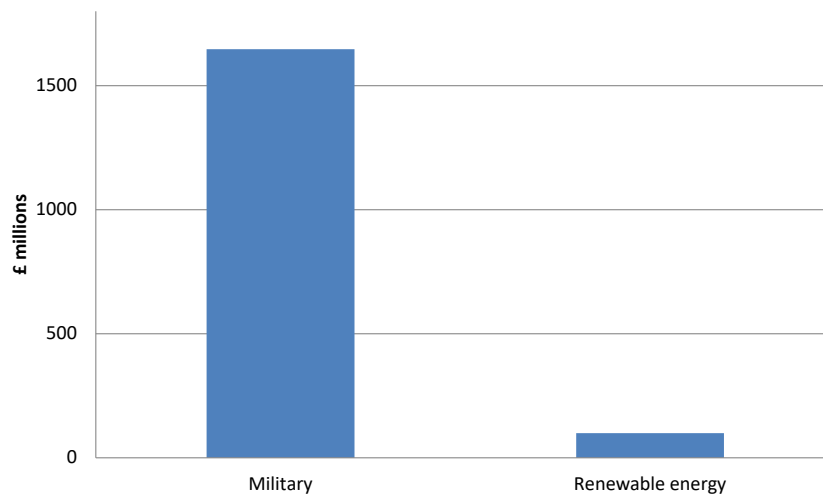


Main sources: HM Treasury (2020); CCC (2020); Prime Minister's Office (2020); BEIS (2020); Guardian (2021)

- Military total does not include Trident contingency fund, military pensions etc
- Extra needed for Net Zero 2030 is minimum value

Calculations based on: HM Treasury (2020); CCC (2020); Prime Minister's Office (2020); BEIS (2020); Guardian (2021)

UK government-funded R&D, 2018



Sources: Office of National Statistics (2020); International Energy Agency (2020)

- Military R&D spending will double in 2021
- Renewable energy R&D spending unlikely to rise much

- Military spending figures from: Office of National Statistics (2020)
- Renewable energy spending from: International Energy Agency (2020)
- Future spending plans: Prime Minister's Office (2020); BEIS (2020)
- New 'high risk' R&D agency, ARIA, founded in February 2021 – many ethical concerns

'10 point plan for Green Industrial Revolution'

- 1: Offshore wind
 - 2: Low carbon hydrogen
 - 3: New/ advanced nuclear power
 - 4: Zero emission vehicles
 - 5: Green public transport, cycling & walking
 - 6: Zero emissions planes & ships
 - 7: Greener buildings
 - 8: Carbon capture, usage and storage
 - 9: Natural environment
 - 10: Green finance and innovation
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- Advanced nuclear power included but onshore wind & solar excluded – despite major benefits of renewables
 - Was there military influence?

- 10 point plan: BEIS (2020)
- Military-civilian nuclear links, see: Johnstone (2020)

Job creation: govt projections

- Extra £24bn of military tech spending
 - 40,000 jobs in 4y
- Extra £11bn spending for 10 point climate plan
 - 90,000 jobs in 4y
- So climate spending could create about 5x as many jobs per £bn of govt investment

- Further detailed economic analysis needed to verify this – there is a question about jobs ‘created’ v jobs ‘transferred’ from one sector to another
- Figures from: BEIS (2020); Prime Minister’s Office (2020).

UK military contribution to climate crisis

- UK military carbon footprint
 - At least 11 million tonnes CO2 equivalent
 - Comparable with annual use of 6 million cars
- UK deployment of nuclear weapons
 - If used, warheads carried by one Trident submarine could cause ‘nuclear winter’



- Nuclear winter is a catastrophic climate cooling caused by smoke from nuclear explosions & firestorms rising into the stratosphere blocking Sun's warmth
- Sources: SGR (2020); SGR (2015)

Current UK govt spending plans	Spending plan for tackling climate emergency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra £6bn/y on (eg)... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Playing leading role in robotic arms race – Deploying aircraft carrier group to South China Sea etc – Deploying nuclear weapons, creating risk of nuclear winter – Exporting weapons to fossil fuel dictatorships – Fuelling international tension • Extra £2.7bn/y on... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Carbon reduction measures – Including speculative tech unlikely to help – Not enough for climate crisis, hence rise in instability and war 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra £7bn/y on hitting 2050 net zero climate target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Including wide range of energy conservation, renewable energy, energy storage & nature options – Some behaviour change • Extra £12bn+/y on hitting 2030 net zero climate target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accelerated carbon emissions reduction – Behaviour change, especially for wealthy – Environmental justice & conflict prevention prioritised

- Extra £7bn/y spending plan is CCC (2020) option
- Extra £12bn+/y spending plan is high ambition plan to approach Paris 1.5C target
- More detail in slides 4+6

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