

Nuclear weapons, the military & climate overheating

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Scientists
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Responsibility

<http://www.sgr.org.uk/>

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I use the term climate 'overheating' because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is now clear that we are in an emergency situation. We are well beyond climate 'change'.

Military spending hits record levels, while climate finance falls short

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that climate heating can destabilise societies, increasing the risk of violent conflict

Many examples: eg Syria, Afghanistan

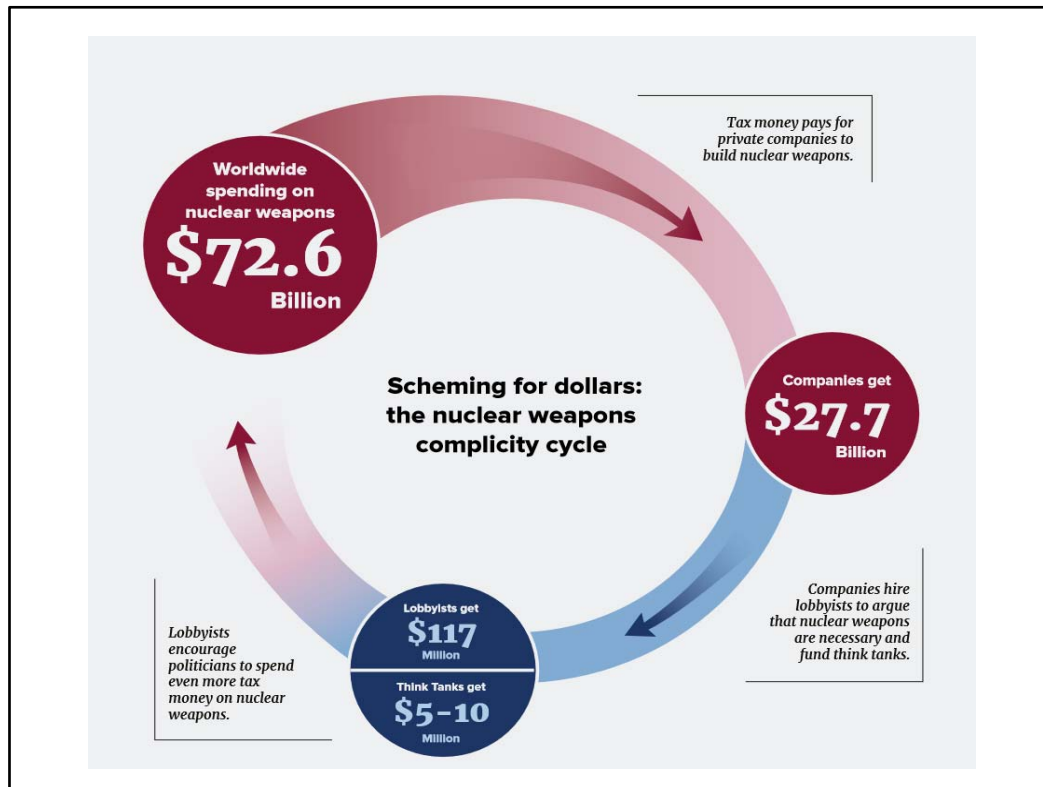
SGR (2018). <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/military-spending-hits-record-levels-while-climate-finance-falls-short>

Other examples include Sub-Saharan Africa and rise of rebel groups.

Global military spending 2020

- ❑ Just under \$2trillion – (\$2000 billion) (SIPRI)
- ❑ Climate investment required: \$1000 billion
- ❑ Actual climate spending \$400 bn
- ❑ **Shortfall = 1/3 of military spending**

Sources: SIPRI 2021 - <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2021/world-military-spending-rises-almost-2-trillion-2020> - and SGR data & analysis at <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/military-spending-hits-record-levels-while-climate-finance-falls-short>



ICAN 'Complicit' report -

https://www.icanw.org/2020_global_nuclear_weapons_spending_complicit

Same process applies for conventional weapons programmes. First identified by US President Eisenhower in 1961 as the 'Military Industrial Complex'.

The ICAN report identifies specific sums used by big arms companies to create the weapons lobby and to create a false narrative re nuclear weapons & 'deterrence'.

This process leads us to a situation where the population at large are led to believe in the myth of nuclear deterrence promoted by the vested interest of the 9 nuclear-armed nations who largely control the media narrative. In reality, at least 135 nations reject this through the TPNW.

UK Military/ climate –spending

- November 2020, UK PM Boris Johnson announces extra spending for military & climate – quotes two prominent numbers...
- Extra **£16.5bn** for Ministry of Defence
- **£12bn** for ‘10 point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution’
- Sound similar - but numbers misleading...

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

UK: The reality...

- ❑ 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).

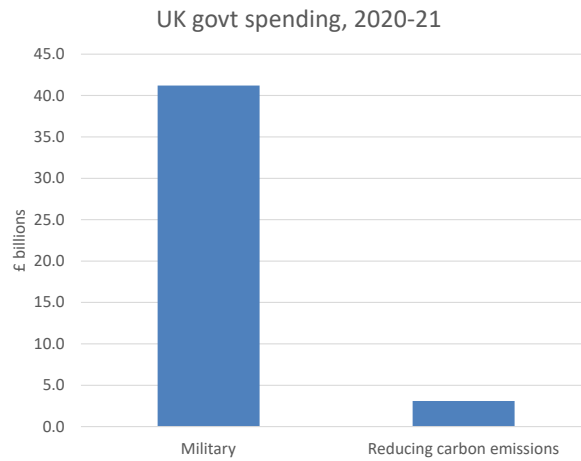
What climate spending do we need?

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

	Current annual spending	Total necessary annual spending	Target date for zero emissions	Source
Whole economy (govt, business, individuals)	£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' see: <https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/military-v-climate-spending-uk>
- 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

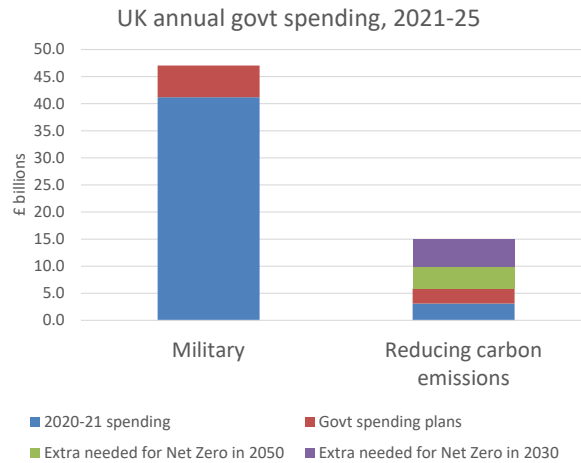


Main sources: HM Treasury (2020); CCC (2020); Guardian (2021)

- 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: UK 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)

And we need to speak plainly here. The 'military' are equipped with weapons that are specifically designed to kill. New weapons are tested in ongoing war zones. In the case of nuclear weapons, their targeting and fusing in an air burst maximises the ability to obliterate the largest areas through blast and fire and to kill and maim the largest number of people. This used to be referred to as the 'Moscow criterion' for UK nuclear weapons by military and political planners. The ability to destroy at least 60% of the infrastructure of a large capital city with multiple targeted warheads. Trident missiles also possess the accuracy to target 'hardened' military targets as part of a 'decapitating' first strike. Now hopefully abandoned as a concept but once part of USA SIOP (Strategic Integrated Operational Plan).

Global nuclear weapon spending 2020

- ❑ In 2020 the nine nuclear-armed countries spent \$72.6 billion on 13,000+ nuclear weapons,
- ❑ \$137,666 every minute
- ❑ \$1.4 billion increase over 2019
- ❑ Source: ICAN report 'Complicit' (June 2021):

UK nuclear weapons 2020

- ❑ \$ 6,200 million / year
- ❑ 225 warheads
- ❑ Submarines, warheads, US missile leasing, reactor programme
- ❑ Plan to increase warheads to 260 !
- ❑ New subs etc – \$42,000m – construction
- ❑ \$270,000m – lifecycle cost
- ❑ Sources: 2018 National Audit Office, CND, 'Complicit'

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 warheads carried by one Trident submarine could cause catastrophic climate cooling due to smoke from explosions/fires blocking Sun's warmth ('nuclear winter'). Similar to 'regional' scenarios. 10m blast, radiation, burns casualties...



- Sources: SGR (2020); SGR (2015)

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 will create about 5x as many jobs per £bn of govt investment
- A similar ratio applies to funding social care

Calculations based on sources: BEIS (2020); Prime Minister's Office (2020).

See also: Womens Budget Group (2021) A care led recovery from coronavirus 2021
<https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Care-led-recovery-final.pdf>

UK govt has chosen...

- Extra £6bn per year on...
 - Deploying aircraft carrier group to South China Sea
 - Playing leading role in robot arms race
 - Exporting weapons to fossil fuel dictatorships
 - Deploying nuclear weapons, creating risk of *accidental* catastrophic nuclear war & nuclear winter
 - Failing to tackle climate emergency, fuelling rise in instability and war
- ...rather than extra £7bn per year/ £12bn+ per year on hitting 2050/ 2030 net zero climate target

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