

## Era of Radical Uncertainty": Starmer Raises UK Defence Commitment

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has issued a stark warning that Britain is entering what he calls an "era of radical uncertainty", and he's responding with one of the most ambitious defence spending plans in modern UK history. In a world roiled by war, cyberattacks, and shifting global power, Starmer is making clear that Britain must be prepared for whatever comes next. The government now plans to raise defence and national security spending to 5% of GDP by 2035, with significant increases starting as soon as 2027.

This isn't just a budget line, it's a complete rethink of Britain's role in an increasingly unstable world. Starmer pointed to threats ranging from Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine to cyber warfare, terrorism, and growing tensions in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific. The message is clear: the old assumptions about peace and predictability no longer hold. Britain, he argues, must evolve or be left dangerously exposed.

The commitment goes beyond traditional military spending. Alongside raising core defence funding to 3.5% of GDP, an additional 1.5% will go toward broader security priorities, such as border protection, infrastructure resilience, intelligence, and cyber-defence. Starmer insists this is not just about preparing for conventional war, but about defending against the invisible, modern forms of conflict already reshaping the global landscape.

A new Strategic Defence Review has also been launched, laying out plans to expand submarine fleets, invest in long-range missiles, build up the defence industry, and overhaul outdated procurement systems. Starmer frames this as a long-overdue correction, an end to years of underinvestment that left Britain vulnerable and over-reliant on allies.

To pay for it, however, tough decisions are being made. The government will reduce foreign aid spending from 0.5% to 0.3% of gross national income, a move likely to spark debate about Britain's role on the world stage. Some fear that cutting support for global development in favour of military strength sends the wrong message.

Still, the urgency in Starmer's tone is unmistakable. For him, this isn't about posturing, it's about survival. With the global order fraying and threats no longer confined to distant battlefields, the UK is placing high stakes bet on readiness, resilience, and deterrence. Whether the public is ready for such a shift, or willing to shoulder the cost, remains to be seen. But Starmer has made his position clear: in a dangerous world, Britain must arm not just for today, but for the unknowns of tomorrow.