

Cancelling Trident could regenerate Scotland's economy

Trident and Jobs - exploding the myths



New research has exploded the myths about the number of jobs which depend on Britain's Trident submarine fleet. Claims that over 11,000 jobs would be lost if Trident were not replaced have been shown to be a gross exaggeration. Instead, renewing Trident will actually cost Scotland vital jobs.

The research shows that the actual number of civilian direct and indirect jobs in Scotland which are dependent on Trident is only 1259, and that these jobs would not disappear for at least 15 years. If Trident was decommissioned early to coincide with the planned build-up of 6 conventionally armed Astute Class Submarines at Faslane

by 2018, then many of these job losses would be avoided. According to Des Browne the total number of direct Scottish civilian jobs which are dependent on Trident is 859 and indirect jobs 250⁽¹⁾. At most another

This folder summarises some of the findings of a research group sponsored by the **Scottish Trade Union Congress** and the **Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**. Members of the research team include John Ainslie, Co-ordinator of Scottish CND, Claudia Beamish of SERA Scotland, Stephen Boyd, Assistant General Secretary STUC, Professor Mike Danson, Professor John Foster, Stephen Maxwell, Dr Alan Mackinnon, chair of Scottish CND, Dr Erik Sutherland and David Torrance, former Staff Convener at BAE systems Govan.

150 civilian jobs in Scotland might be lost in the construction of Trident⁽²⁾. Many of these workers could be redeployed with the assistance of a planned programme of diversification with resources to fund additional jobs in the local public and social economy.

Investing in Scotland's Future

Perhaps more importantly, cancellation of Trident represents a huge opportunity for new productive investment in the Scottish economy. The White Paper states that the **investment costs** of Trident replacement should not be at the expense of funding for existing conventional forces. So £1 billion a year for 15 years will have to be raised from the general treasury budget or new taxes. Scotland's share of this cost will be approximately £85 million a year, the equivalent of over 3,000 public sector jobs. In addition, the **running costs** for Trident are £153 million a year - money which is already budgeted within existing defence expenditure. If Trident were cancelled this money could fund many more jobs in alternative and socially useful areas of the economy. These jobs, in turn, would sustain many more jobs in the wider economy than the existing jobs based at Faslane.

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Alternatives to Trident

Marine power - a huge untapped resource

PELAMIS is a wave based form of electricity generation. It is composed of a series of semi-submerged cylindrical sections linked by hinged joints and overcomes many of the problems of earlier wave power devices caused by bad weather. It remains a technology in its infancy. Ocean Power Delivery directly employs 38 full time staff with comparable skills to those employed on Trident. It exported the first tranche of its production to Portugal. The Scottish Executive has recently announced a £13m investment in marine technology including the world's biggest commercial wave farm in Orkney.



Funding redeployment and the regeneration of Scotland

Scotland's contribution to the current running costs of Trident is at least £153m a year. The maximum number of Scottish jobs that would be lost through cancellation, direct and indirect, service and civilian, and on construction subcontract work would be 1,686. This £153m a year is already allocated within existing budgets and if spent annually in Scotland would sustain well over 4,000 jobs contributing directly to the productivity and efficiency of the Scottish economy.

On the basis of the existing skills of Trident employees, the research suggests that appropriate allocations of the £153m as follows:

- *£10m to continue the employment of all 300 Scottish-originating naval personnel within conventional naval forces*
- *£10m to permit the redeployment of 300 MoD security personnel within local police forces and other work drawing on their existing training*
- *£20m a year to surrounding local authorities and social economy bodies for the development of general infrastructure and tourist amenities*
- *£113m a year to fund an Arms Conversion Agency that would focus on the*

development of employment in the area of greatest challenge for the Scottish economy: energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. The work of this agency would be geographically focused on the lower Clyde and would generate jobs relevant to the skills of existing trades servicing Trident. The number would be well in excess of current employment.⁽³⁾

(3) Scottish Executive Response to the UK Energy Review, June 2006. Research and development in running at 0.59 per cent of GDP, half the UK level (Business Enterprise Research and Development Scotland 2005, Scottish Executive January 2007). The most recent sector analysis shows energy R&D at 0.4 per cent of the UK total: Gerhard Mors, Business Enterprise Research and Development 2000, Scottish Executive 2002. The International Energy Agency 2006 report Renewable Energy Research and Development Priorities called for research to be focused on marine and solar energy.

Arms Conversion & Energy Research

Local Involvement and Government Intervention Crucial

Experience from the closure of the US base at Holy Loch on the Cowal peninsula, base restructuring and closure at several locations in England and numerous base closures in the United States has revealed some important lessons. To be effective in mitigating the effects of closure or restructuring on local jobs and services, the development of a plan for re-use of facilities and redevelopment of the local economy and new industries and jobs must be started early and involve local community organisations, workers and firms. Above all they need the intervention of Government and significant resources to be made available to ensure there is adequate funding to absorb redundant workers into alternative jobs in the private and public economy. In the United States, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative has had a number of success stories. BRAC is governed by legislation detailing key processes which ensure that redevelopment plans must come from the local community. A Local Redevelopment Authority is formed which must include all major groups and communities affected. Central government has a clear role in facilitating this process. It can ensure fast-track environmental clean-up, funds to provide transitional support for displaced workers and economic planning grants, and ensuring that property changes hands below market value if it is for job creating purposes.



Scotland falling behind in Energy Research

Scotland's spending on research and development is about half the level of the UK as a whole and only a quarter of leading OECD countries. And in the energy sector covering electricity, gas and water, research and development has been a major casualty of the privatisation of utility companies and the halving of their workforce over the past 15 years.

Although Britain doubled its investment in energy research and development between 2002 and 2005, it still remains very low in international terms. In 2005 total spending on all forms of energy R&D by state agencies, higher education and business amounted to \$129m. The comparable spend in Germany was \$513m, France \$523m, the United States \$3,017m and Japan \$3,905m.

This stands in clear contradiction to the declared intention of the Scottish Executive to reduce the cost of energy, to reduce carbon emissions and to take advantage of Scotland's unique geography and climate to become a world leader in renewable energy from marine and wind sources. In particular, the Executive's target of 40% of energy generation by renewables by 2020 looks very unlikely without a major injection of funds for research and development.

If the bulk of the saving from current Trident expenditure - £113m annually - were to be focussed on energy efficiency and renewable technologies, it would bring Scottish spending into line with comparable economies.

FASLANE

Not just a base for Trident

It is important to remember that Faslane is the Headquarters of the Royal Navy for Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland. It is also services eight minesweepers, 2 Swiftsure Class conventionally armed submarines and other surface vessels. The two Swiftsure Class submarines will be replaced by at least six Astute Class conventionally armed nuclear submarines by 2018. Non renewal of Trident would not, therefore, mean closure of the base. Two thirds of the civilian workforce would be unaffected by the loss of Trident while some of the service personnel would be redeployed.

Maintaining jobs and skills

The number of Submarines based there would remain at 6 (as today) and therefore the skills of the civilian workforce such as outfitting and steel work, technical, supervisory and clerical support roles would be maintained. Only MoD police and security personnel would suffer significant job losses because there would no longer be nuclear armed submarines to protect. And even these jobs could be redeployed to other parts of the lower Clyde area if local authorities were funded to absorb them as part of a planned diversification programme.



Trident or Renewable Energy

This means that considerable resources would be available to fund effective defence diversification programmes to further reduce the impact of any job losses. But it would also release vital resources to seriously



tackle the growing problem of climate change. In line with the Scottish Executive's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and its target of 40% of energy generation in Scotland to be by renewable sources by 2020, there could be major investment in research and development of renewable energy and energy conservation.

- (1) Des Browne statement to the Commons, 23/3/07. This updates an earlier Commons Statement by Geoff Hoon on 21/2/05.
- (2) The only contractors of any size based in Scotland who might expect to get contracts for Trident construction are McTaggart Scott (Edinburgh) who build submarine masts and Thales Optronics (Glasgow) who manufacture periscopes.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from www.banthebomb.org or hard copies can be ordered from Scottish CND, 15 Barriland St, Glasgow G41 1QH. (p&p £3 per copy).

Civilian skills breakdown of Trident workers at Faslane

