

## Count the money we spend on nuclear weapons - and divert it to saving our climate

**Saturday 26 October 2019**

**10.00 – 16.00**

**Ministry of Defence  
Horse Guards Avenue  
London  
SW1A 2HB**



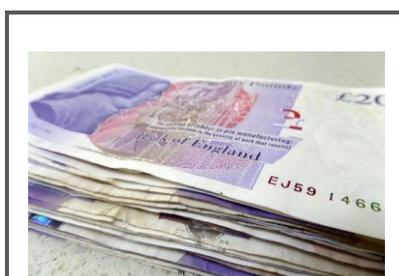
The National Audit Office forecast that the UK would spend £5.2 billion (i.e. £5,200,000,000) on its nuclear weapons programme in 2018-2019. <sup>(1)</sup> This includes the cost of submarines, missiles and warheads. It is likely to be an underestimate. It is almost impossible to imagine the horror that would be unleashed if just one of these nuclear weapons were ever used.

£5.2 billion is such a huge amount of money it is difficult to visualise or comprehend. On Saturday 26 October we will be physically counting this sum of money outside the Ministry of Defence, in protest at the UK's ownership of nuclear weapons and this terrible use of taxpayers' money.

We will be demanding that the £5.2 billion the UK currently spends in a year on nuclear weapons is spent instead on addressing the climate emergency.



Trident submarine returning to Faslane, Scotland



**Spend our taxes on  
trees not bombs**



The Committee on Climate Change said that the UK needs to plant 30,000 hectares of trees every year until 2050. <sup>(2)</sup>

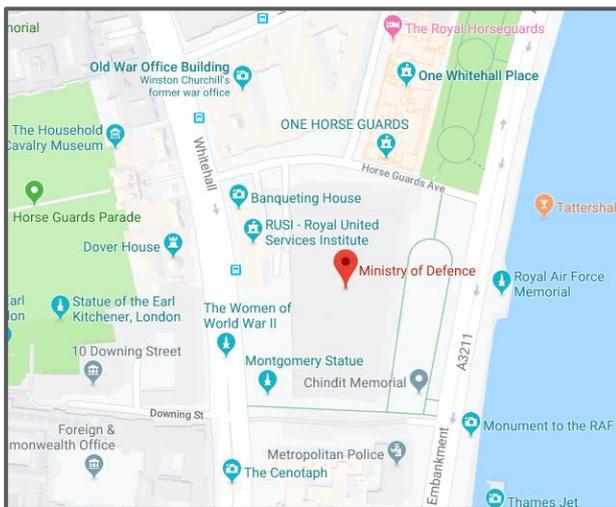
# Spend the nuclear weapons money on saving our climate



Estimates vary as to how much it will cost for the UK to achieve 'net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050'. The Committee on Climate Change estimated that it would cost 'between 1% and 2% of GDP a year'. At the moment this would be between £20bn and £40bn a year. <sup>(3)</sup>

Many people argue that we need to meet zero emissions by 2030, which of course would cost more. The £5.2 billion that the UK currently spends on nuclear weapons each year could make a significant contribution to this cost.

## Join us outside the Ministry of Defence



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We will be setting up a Facebook Events Page very shortly. Do let us know if you are planning to come!

Would you like to help prepare props for the action? Or help count the money on the day? Please contact:

**[karen@conscienceonline.org.uk](mailto:karen@conscienceonline.org.uk)**

**Conscience: Taxes for Peace Not War** campaigns for a change in the law in the UK so that we can opt for the military part of our taxes to go to peaceful purposes instead.  
**[www.conscienceonline.org.uk](http://www.conscienceonline.org.uk)**

**Conscience: Taxes for Peace Not War** is organising this action in London as a companion event to the international **Count the Nuclear Weapons Money** action taking place in New York throughout UN Disarmament Week (24-30 October). [www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/count-the-money/](http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/count-the-money/)

**References** (1) <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/The-Defence-Nuclear-Enterprise-a-landscape-review.pdf> Pages 12-13.  
Quoted in: [https://www.basicint.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/How-much-does-the-UK-spend-on-nuclear-weapons\\_-Web.pdf](https://www.basicint.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/How-much-does-the-UK-spend-on-nuclear-weapons_-Web.pdf) Page 11.  
(2) <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/uk-tree-planting-climate-change-billion-committee-net-zero-emissions-a9026726.html> 30 July 2019  
(3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48540004> 6 June 2019  
Photos: Ministry of Defence from Horse Guards Avenue (off Whitehall). Dhowes9. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ministry\\_of\\_Defence\\_from\\_Horse\\_Guards\\_Avenue\\_\(off\\_Whitehall\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ministry_of_Defence_from_Horse_Guards_Avenue_(off_Whitehall).jpg)  
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