

As well as investing in our naval fleet, we must also invest in the men & women who serve in our Royal Navy – Nia Griffith

**Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow
Defence Secretary**, responding

to the publication of the National Shipbuilding Strategy, said:

"I welcome the publication of the National Shipbuilding Strategy and the commitment to the long-term future for our shipbuilding industry. But as well as investing in our naval fleet, we must also invest in the men and women who serve in our Royal Navy.

"Despite warnings over many years, our Navy is facing a crisis in recruitment and retention. The Government is on course to miss its own target for the size of the Navy and we simply do not have enough sailors to crew our naval fleet.

"Experienced personnel are leaving the Navy because of dissatisfaction with pay and conditions. If the Government was serious about properly resourcing our Royal Navy it would lift the public sector pay cap and pay our servicemen and women properly."