

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions attends G7 Labour and Employment Ministerial meeting in Germany

The meeting, which took place on Tuesday 24 May 2022, sought to build on the UK G7 agenda from 2021, which focussed on building back better, greener and more inclusively.

This year delegates focussed on structural change to the labour market in the context of decarbonisation, digitalisation and demographic change.

The Secretary of State outlined the UK's commitment to achieving net zero by 2050, and delivering on the commitments made at COP26, including by greening pension scheme investments.

Work and Pensions Secretary Thérèse Coffey, said:

Moving away from high carbon jobs to green jobs is a crucial part of achieving our net zero goals. The creation of high-quality jobs in sustainable sectors, ensures the opportunities are well paid.

I very much support the sharing of knowledge and expertise with counterparts across the globe and welcome the opportunity to build on the UK's G7 Presidency of 2021. It's essential we work together to grow the economy to address the cost of living.

The UK published the Net Zero Strategy in 2021, committing to help businesses and consumers move to clean power, leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030, and reduce emissions across the economy by at least 68% by 2030 and 78% by 2035.

Through moving to green jobs or greening existing sectors, the government will support 190,000 green jobs across the UK by 2025 and a total of 440,000 net zero jobs, contributing to our goal to support two million green jobs by 2030.

The meeting closed with all delegates adopting a [communiqué](#), agreeing concrete actions and joint steps towards a just transition and the creation of decent, high-quality work for a green economy.

To further promote continuity and to prioritize coordinated action across the G7 on critical labour, social and employment issues, delegates also established a standing Employment Working Group within the G7 with the aim to

convene as ministers on an annual basis.

Japan will take over the G7 presidency in 2023.

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[Secretary of State Sajid Javid speech at the Onward Social Fabric Summit](#)

Many years have passed since Edmund Burke wrote about “the little platoon that we belong to in society”.

His timeless insight was about the importance of the intermediary institutions that sit between the individual and the State to our wellbeing as people and to our prosperity as a nation.

Burke was mostly referring to the value of historic institutions but today our platoons are of course much more varied.

They encompass family and faith groups, community networks, charities, and so much more.

I believe in a small but empowering State.

One that can make room for, and enable, thriving markets, strong families, flourishing communities, and individual freedom.

These are the drivers of all kinds of capital, physical, financial, human, institutional, social, and it’s this capital that creates happy, healthy and wealthy societies.

But whilst financial capital and physical capital are both easier to measure and manage, when it comes to other kinds of capital the task is much harder.

This is why I think Onward’s work to quantify them is so essential and it’s brilliant to be able to join you today at this conference.

Your report that you did on the State of Social Fabric was an important publication that is already shaping our thinking in government and I hope you saw how it was referenced, for example, in the Levelling Up White Paper.

This is a subject that I deeply care about.

I was born in Rochdale, a town that many of you will know was the birthplace of the co-operative movement in the 1840s, but now it sits at the bottom

fifth of Onward's Social Fabric Index.

The Rochdale I remember was a vibrant community where people looked out for and looked after each other.

I have wonderful memories of my time from living there, and we cannot turn our backs on the communities like these, to allow their potential to go unfulfilled.

I've also been fortunate enough to live in different cultures and communities across the world.

Including in New York during the resurgence in the 1990s and, later on, in Singapore, which sits near the top of the table for almost all global metrics of progress and happiness.

The common thread that runs through all these experiences, here and abroad, is the importance of social, human and institutional capital to an area's happiness and prosperity.

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As Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, I've had the responsibility of steering this country through the Covid pandemic.

In some areas, the damage the pandemic has caused to our communities, to our health, to our public services, it will take years to recover.

In other ways, though, we have seen a glimpse of the future and the exciting possibilities that if we back innovators, and what can happen when we do that, when our communities come together.

I was so moved by the volunteers who were the backbone of this country's vaccination programme, the mutual aid groups that sprang up in local communities to support those that were shielding, those that were at greatest risk, and all the other little platoons that bolstered our national response at a time when it was needed most.

Now, we must summon the same spirit to address the stark disparities that the pandemic has unveiled.

The experience of this pandemic has been like a receding tide exposing the underlying health of our nation.

It revealed some fractures, and in many cases, of course, it deepened them.

We know that some communities experienced disproportionate levels of devastation from Covid and that we asked huge amounts of some groups, like the young people that were hit with huge mental health challenges, deeply impacted, and among those that were smoking and had high obesity rates we saw a worrying surge in complicated Covid cases.

The burden of ill health is not evenly spread in our country.

People living in the most deprived areas of England live in good health for around 19 years fewer than those in the most affluent areas, 19 years fewer, and in some communities, life expectancy is actually in decline.

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In years gone by, major improvements in health have led to a profound social and economic progress.

Think of Edward Jenner, John Snow, think of the Public Health Act in 1875.

And now we need some seismic shifts in how we do health policy, not just for the health of the nation but for the strength of our communities, and to create the conditions for much faster economic growth.

It was no coincidence that my first major keynote speech as Secretary of State was delivered in Blackpool.

It's a town where over 40 per cent of the people who are unemployed are unemployed due to ill health, almost double the average of Great Britain, it's a stark example of how an area's health and wealth are closely connected.

I used the opportunity to set out my mission to end the disease of disparity and one of my first decisions as Secretary of State was to give this a new focus and a new name to what was then known as the Office for Health Promotion.

So it became OHID: the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

This is not just a rebadging exercise.

It's a sense of the renewed mission that exists in my department and Government.

To make sure everyone has the chance to live a healthy life, regardless of their background.

OHID launched at the end of last year and it's already provided a vital asset, bringing together the best public health expertise to drive this important work.

This includes our Health Disparities White Paper, which we will be publishing shortly.

This White Paper will contain our plans across a wide range of areas including on reducing obesity, tackling addictions, and to help people to stop smoking.

This will of course help everyone, no matter where they live or where they come from.

But these threats to our health also contain profound disparities, that can

cast a shadow over local communities.

For instance, the smoking rate in Blackpool is almost 20%, compared with just 6% in Richmond, London.

Through thwarting the downward spiral of poor health, we can give a shot in the arm to the communities who feel they have been left behind and bring opportunities where they are needed most.

The White Paper will also tackle a host of other issues that I believe have been neglected for far too long.

From sickle cell disease to a lack of doctors in deprived communities.

It will make clear that addressing disparities is everyone's business, and set out tangible actions for all of us to take, including Government, with private enterprise and front line innovators working closely with us in partnership.

Local communities will be at the centre of this approach.

Because so many of the factors that sit behind our health come from the areas that we live in.

So I will give local areas more powers and support to address disparities in their area.

This is a multi-billion pound economic opportunity to unlock greater productivity by tackling disparities and it's an opportunity that we must seize.

This prevention agenda is one of the most powerful solutions that we can possess.

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Through giving people the tools that they need to manage their own health, we can reduce the demand on the state.

Preventing them from joining the waiting lists that we're working so hard to bring down and ultimately, giving them more freedom and opportunity, not less.

The burden of just one preventable disease, cardiovascular disease, it costs society we estimate around £18 billion a year.

Although we've invested record sums in the NHS, we can't keep pumping in more and more money, while we continue to go down the same path of poorer health.

Two months ago I made a speech setting out how we will prioritise prevention and put the full weight of the NHS behind this goal.

I pledged, for example, that we will build more and more Community Diagnostics Centres, those are the one-stop shops which sit right in the

heart of the community helping people to get diagnosed earlier and closer to home.

I visited one of these CDCs in Poole recently, and I was greeted by smiling volunteers at the door, and I heard from local people about how they no longer have to travel miles just for a test but can just pop into the local department store on their local High Street instead.

I also set out how we will task Integrated Care Systems with creating plans to reduce the major preventable diseases, and how we will take the NHS app, which is now in the pockets of over half of adults in England, turn it into a portal to get personalised advice on your health.

And all of this is just the start.

In the matter of just a few years, patients will be able to benefit from personalised dietary advice and exercise routines, robots will be doing much more surgery, under the supervision of humans, so we can treat more and more people and save more lives.

We'll have mass genomic sequencing which will mean we can pre-empt disease, and a finger prick test that will help us to catch cancers much sooner.

My plans for healthcare reform will bring the future forward.

Improving the health of the nation and reducing the disparities that we've all seen.

I've talked a lot today about how we can use health to transform our communities.

But we must use our communities to transform healthcare too.

The pandemic and the strain of the restrictions that were put in place showed how so much of our physical and mental health depends on the relationships that we have with each other.

Now that we are living with Covid, we've been able to restore some of these experiences, so that people everywhere have a new appreciation of these connections which will give us a great platform to build on when it comes to social prescribing.

Social prescribing has been one of the most promising developments in healthcare for many, many years.

Where patients are put in touch with link workers who connect them with the arts and social activities that can have a great impact on their sense of wellbeing.

Just a few weeks ago, I went to a roundtable that was hosted by the National Academy for Social Prescribing.

I heard, for example, about a new initiative called Art by Post, where people

at risk of social isolation are sent art activities that they can do at home, and I also heard about the Green Social Prescribing Project, where outdoor activities like walking schemes are offered to patients, to improve their mental health.

I know that Onward has welcomed this work and I see it as crucial to the future of personalised care, while at the same time reducing pressure on the NHS.

There have now been almost a million referrals to social prescribing services in this country and we now have some 2,000 social prescribing workers in place.

But I want to see this expand even further.

So I have set the NHS a new target of four million people getting personalised care by March 2024.

Another example of personalised care is the Shared Lives programme, where people in the need of care go to live with carers and become like any other member of the family.

Think of it like fostering, but for adults.

I've heard wonderful stories of people living together for decades.

At this point in time some 9,000 people in England are supported in this way and I want to see this ambitious model being expanded, making it available to people right across the country.

We can also use the health and care system itself to connect people with the communities they live in.

Onward has written compellingly about the decline in community participation over the past few decades.

However, the pandemic has bucked this trend as scores of people stepped up to support this country's vaccination programme.

They protected their neighbours in vaccination centres hosted in churches, clubs and cricket grounds, right in the heart of their local communities.

This experience showed that there are huge benefits on offer when you can create the right conditions for people to come forward.

Just as we're learning from the successes in developing and procuring new vaccines and treatments, we must take forward this community-centred approach and apply it to other routine vaccinations wherever possible.

We must also make sure that we don't lose the momentum and the energy that we have seen around community participation.

During the pandemic hundreds of thousands of extra volunteers stepped forward

to help the NHS, including over 400,000 people that came forward to join the NHS Volunteer Responders programme.

I've decided to keep this programme and I want to use it to support the current challenges we face in health and care.

This country's health and care system touches all of our lives.

It's there from our first moments to our final breath.

I want to use this reach to connect people with their local community, to benefit them and the places where they live.

Our collective experience of Covid has taught us a huge amount, about ourselves and about our country.

It's shown us the value of the social fabric that binds us, and that there are some areas where it is severely under strain.

We cannot just patch things up and hope for the best.

We must use what I think is a unique moment in history as an opportunity.

To determine what kind of society we want to be, and reject the slide towards social isolationism.

The ties that bind us are too important to allow them to decay.

So let's show our commitment to restoring what gives us such hope and happiness, and there's no better way to do this than by transforming the nation's health.

Thank you all very much.

[Defence Academy opens online research repository for UK defence and allies](#)

The Defence Academy Research Engine (DARE) is due to launch in September 2022.

Designed by the Centre for Defence Education Research and Analysis (CDERA), the DARE will be an accessible and searchable online environment collating historic and current research papers, authored by members of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. It will also serve as a portal to collect proposed research topics which Defence Academy students can tackle.

Announcing the launch of the DARE project, Major General Andrew Roe, Chief

Executive and Commandant of the Defence Academy, said:

The Defence Academy is enormously proud to be spearheading this new and innovative capability, which is fit for the Information Age, unrivalled across defence.

By facilitating access to a comprehensive single source of research, the DARE will enable the Defence Academy to act as a problem solver and academic powerhouse for defence, pulling together the latest in critical thinking and thought leadership.

There is a wealth of knowledge, experience and intellect within the Defence Academy, and we look forward to sharing this capability more widely with our armed forces and with allies across government, academia and industry.

Chris Taylor, from CDERA, said:

At CDERA we are committed to engaging in and promoting problem-based learning within and beyond the Defence Academy community. DARE will facilitate access to research that is rigorous, applicable, relevant and digestible for the defence and security sector.

We are absolutely delighted to be embarking on this incredibly exciting project, which will support learners and Defence Academy partners to develop and sustain the intellectual edge as well as helping to solve problems within defence.

For design and build of the DARE application, CDERA has contracted with Squiz, a global technology company with a pedigree of delivering digital solutions for high-profile organisations.

Their clients include UK government departments, such as the Cabinet Office and National Health Service, and well-respected higher education institutions including University College London and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Nick Condon, Managing Director of Squiz UK, said:

At Squiz our mission is to create services online, that improve people's lives offline. We're incredibly proud to be selected by CDERA to create a platform that consolidates some of the world's best defence research in an easy to search, review and consume platform.

The best digital solutions occur when technology and people intersect with a clear outcome. Squiz are confident that our

partnership with CDERA on the DARE application will provide the UK's best researchers and thought leaders with the insight they need to create tomorrow's defence solutions.

The DARE will be hosted via a portal on the Defence Academy website, with access automatically enabled for MOD personnel via Defence Gateway log-in credentials. CDERA will also create individual accounts for interested external parties who are also set to benefit from this new capability.

The target launch date for the DARE is September 2022.

[Reino Unido amplía el soporte para ayudar a los países a identificar variantes emergentes](#)

- La Plataforma de Evaluación de Nuevas Variantes (NVAP por sus siglas en inglés) está trabajando para mejorar la infraestructura de secuenciación genómica en 9 países con el fin de ayudar a identificar nuevas variantes
- Un año después de su lanzamiento, NVAP continuará expandiendo su trabajo a otros países y regiones en todo el mundo para ayudar a los esfuerzos de seguridad sanitaria mundial

Nueve países ya han recibido apoyo directo de la Plataforma de Evaluación de Nuevas Variantes para mejorar la detección temprana de variantes, colocando al mundo en una posición más sólida para responder a las nuevas variantes emergentes de SARS-CoV-2.

Establecida hace un año y dirigida por la Agencia de Seguridad Sanitaria del Reino Unido, la Plataforma de Evaluación de Nuevas Variantes ayuda a mejorar los esfuerzos globales para combatir el COVID-19 al brindar acceso internacional al expertise de clase mundial en secuenciación y evaluación de virus del Reino Unido.

El Reino Unido está en una posición única para ayudar a reducir las brechas de capacidad de secuenciación global. El total del Reino Unido de 2.7 millones de genomas de SARS-CoV-2 cargados en la base de datos internacional GISAID es el total más grande de cualquier país después de Estados Unidos y representa aproximadamente una cuarta parte de todas las secuencias cargadas a nivel mundial.

A través de NVAP, UKHSA ya está trabajando con:

- Chile

- Brasil
- Etiopía
- Kenia
- Nigeria
- Pakistán
- Trinidad y Tobago
- Las Islas Caimán
- Singapur

NVAP impulsa la capacidad existente y la experiencia técnica de los países en secuenciación genómica. Ha proporcionado kits y reactivos de secuenciación para muchos socios internacionales, ha facilitado intercambios científicos con expertos de UKHSA y ha impartido formación estructurada sobre bioinformática, caracterización de variantes, evaluación de riesgos y asesoramiento sobre evaluación biológica de variantes.

El programa es un ejemplo significativo de la contribución del Reino Unido al plan de 10 años de vigilancia genómica global de la OMS y trabaja con otros socios internacionales para coordinar los esfuerzos globales con el fin de mejorar la secuenciación genómica en todo el mundo. Las alianzas con países individuales son personalizadas y se basan en las necesidades específicas de cada país en particular, ya sea capacitación de científicos, provisión de suministros o equipos, asesoramiento de expertos sobre el desarrollo de sistemas de secuenciación genómica o acuerdos para secuenciar muestras en laboratorios del Reino Unido.

Dame Jenny Harries, directora ejecutiva de UKHSA, dijo:

Se ha vuelto cada vez más claro que la vigilancia genómica es vital para ayudarnos a detectar y prepararnos para nuevas amenazas para la salud. Mejorar la capacidad del mundo para monitorear y detectar patógenos emergentes es vital para la seguridad sanitaria mundial. Estamos inmensamente orgullosos de lo que NVAP ha logrado hasta ahora y esperamos expandir su alcance aún más en los próximos meses y años.

Leena Inamdar, consultora líder de salud global en UKHSA y líder del programa

NVAP, dijo:

Es fantástico ver lo que ha logrado la Plataforma de Evaluación de Nuevas Variantes durante el último año al brindar apoyo práctico, capacitación y experiencia en vigilancia a tantos países. COVID-19 nos ha enseñado que ninguna nación está segura hasta que todas las naciones estén seguras, y a través de NVAP estamos ayudando a fortalecer los sistemas de vigilancia en todo el mundo. Estamos emocionados de continuar este trabajo en la siguiente fase del programa.

Durante el próximo año, NVAP continuará trabajando con la región del Mediterráneo Oriental de la OMS para mejorar los centros regionales de secuenciación genómica en Omán, Abu Dhabi y Marruecos. También continuará trabajando con la OMS Sudeste Asiático, la OMS Europa, los Centros Africanos para el Control de Enfermedades y la Agencia de Salud Pública del Caribe para brindar asistencia técnica, capacitación y adquisición de reactivos. Otras asociaciones están en desarrollo y se establecerán a su debido tiempo.

[Documento original de UKHSA](#)

[Defence Procurement Minister speech at the Combined Naval Event](#)

It's a pleasure to be here in Farnborough this morning for the Navy Leaders Combined Naval Event.

It's great to see so many attendees representing not just our NATO friends but friends in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere around the world.

A great deal has changed in the global Defence environment since the last of these conferences in March 2020, held just as the world was heading into two long years of lockdowns and restrictions.

Indeed, since then we've seen international supply chains hampered by covid and rising costs; we've seen growing concerns around instability in the Indo-Pacific; and now of course, a barbaric war in Europe on a scale we thought had been consigned to the last century.

All the while, we have entered the next stage of the climate change battle, and the High North has become a region of state competition as melting ice exposes natural resources and makes the prospect of a north-western sea passage ever more likely.

But one thing that has not changed in the last two years, nor even in this

last 2,000 years, is our dependence on the seas.

Even in the digital age, some 95 per cent of UK trade by volume and 90 per cent by value is carried by sea.

While 97 per cent of global data and trade worth \$10 trillion a day travels via cables under the ocean.

The Russian blockade in the Black Sea, which has suffocated Ukraine's maritime trade, only underlines the strategic importance of maritime control.

So, as we contemplate the future of the Navy over the course of this conference, there are in my view two inescapable truths about our current situation.

The first is that all our nations, wherever they are in the world, face a new set of deeply complex and evolving challenges, challenges not seen since the end of the Cold War.

And the second is that our Navies need to be part of that solution.

One need only look at our response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine to see how frigates and destroyers are helping to shore up security in the eastern Mediterranean.

Our Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper may have been published into a more peaceful Europe last spring, but they nonetheless recognised the importance of the Royal Navy in the 21st century.

That's why they outlined plans to modernise the force with a raft of new cutting-edge capabilities, backed up by a first-class industrial base.

We want to make our Navy more agile and responsive, more persistently deployed in key regions and more interoperable with our allies. In other words, even more effective.

The good news is that we've got £38 billion over the next ten years to truly make our vision for the Navy a reality, thanks to a £7.5 billion increase in the latest equipment plan.

The even better news is that we've already made great progress on some major projects.

I was in Barrow just two weeks ago to kick off the third, critical phase of the Dreadnought delivery programme, which will see the first of the boats begin sea trials.

Now is a time when we truly recognise the value of an independent sovereign deterrent doing its job 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And it is deeply reassuring to know that progress on the success of the Vanguard class continues apace.

At 150m long and able to operate in the most hostile environments, these four

submarines will be both the largest and most complex ever built for the Royal Navy.

Joining them will be our seven new astute class attack submarines, automated minehunters designed to detect and destroy deadly sea mines in shipping lanes, as well as an increased number of frigates and destroyers, and a renewed Fleet Solid Support.

I'm also delighted to announce that today we will be joining a tri-national agreement together with France and Italy that will enable us to upgrade missile defences on our Type-45 destroyers.

The upgrade, worth over £300 million, will enable the UK to become the first European country to operate a maritime ballistic missile defence capability, helping our Royal Navy to counter the threat of anti-ship ballistic missiles at sea.

But to continue to produce the kind of capabilities that turn heads the world over, we know we need a vibrant shipbuilding industry.

That, of course, demands a whole of government approach which goes beyond the Navy to commercial and other vessels too.

That's why the Prime Minister appointed the Defence Secretary as the Shipbuilding Tsar in 2019; that's why last September we launched the National Shipbuilding Office which is now driving transformative change; and that's also why, in March this year, I stood at the dispatch box in the House of Commons and announced a refreshed National Shipbuilding Strategy.

Drawing on the multi-talented skills of industry and academia and backed up by more than £4 billion of investment over the next three years, the strategy is the framework for our future maritime success.

At its heart is a 30-year shipbuilding pipeline of more than 150 vessels – offering a clear demand signal about our future requirements.

We know a regular drumbeat of design and manufacturing work is vital, not just to maintain our critical national security capabilities, but to drive the efficiencies that reduce longer-term cost.

But we're not just giving suppliers confidence in industry order books, we are going to give them greater clarity about our requirements too by setting out policy and technology priorities, so they can invest and upskill.

Which brings me on to my next point. Everyone in this room knows that building a ship is no longer really about hammering two lumps of metal together.

And while I am no engineer, I know from meeting apprentices at Barrow, Rosyth and Clyde about the degree of technological sophistication required in modern shipbuilding.

That's why it is crucial we have the skillsbase onshore, as well as the

international partnerships, that enable us to maintain and develop the next generation of these platforms.

While in Barrow I saw first-hand the great work being done at BAE Systems' Submarines Academy for Skills and Knowledge – which is training more than 1,000 apprentices and graduates with a further 400 set to join this year.

I know Babcock and other firms are also supporting thousands of apprentices across the country, often blending on-the-job training with formal education, but I still believe this is an area where industry can do even more.

And this Government's desire to develop advanced skills and push innovation boundaries is backed up by £6.6 billion in ring-fenced funding for research and development across Defence.

The Navy is also the first Service to appoint a Chief Technology Officer, to work with industry, getting this game-changing kit to the front line more quickly.

And then there is NavyX, the Royal Navy's Autonomy and Lethality Accelerator, which is developing, testing and trialling cutting-edge equipment.

But in the age of complex maritime threats, with increasing demands on budgets, the fact is that no Navy can go it alone.

It is therefore critical that we work with trusted friends to enhance interoperability, make the most of precious resources and strengthen our combined resilience.

That's why our two mighty aircraft carriers – may have been built across six historic British yards – but still have international cooperation at their heart.

Indeed, the Queen Elizabeth was flanked by jets and ships from the United States and European allies from the Indo-Pacific on its maiden mission last year.

And I hosted NATO ambassadors on board as it passed through the Mediterranean on the way home, where we discussed the many benefits of continued cooperation.

HMS Prince of Wales has been made NATO's official floating command platform, already spearheading a 28-nation task force on Exercise Cold Response to test NATO's responsiveness in the High North.

We're also upping our industrial collaboration. Our AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine partnership with the United States and Australia is of course the most high-profile example but it is not the only area where the UK is showing itself a willing and productive international partner.

We're also working closely with Canada and Australia on the next-generation Global Combat Ship.

The workhorse of the fleet, the Type-26 frigate will conduct advanced warfighting, maritime security and international engagements anywhere in the world.

And I'm delighted by progress also being made by our new Type-31 frigates including in Poland and Indonesia. Type-31 are the most flexible and versatile vessels in our future fleet, I'm sure other nations will be wanting to join the club.

So that's what we are doing to support our maritime power through an enhanced shipbuilding sector.

But I'm also looking to everyone from industry to focus even more on innovation, resilience and developing skills as we come together on these ambitious plans.

And if we can do that, ten years from now we'll have an even more effective Navy with some of the most technologically advanced vessels on the planet.

We'll have dreadnought submarines constantly deployed under the waves, safeguarding us from the most extreme threats to our way of life.

And we'll also have a booming industrial sector, from Appledore to Rosyth, along with a reinvigorated skills base, a more productive supply chain, and stronger partnerships with our great allies and friends across the world.

I want to finish by reflecting on the fact that we meet on the 40th anniversary of the Falklands war, when our Navy travelled 8,000 miles to protect the sovereignty and freedom of the islanders.

In that moment we saw just how effective our maritime forces can be, and while the challenges have evolved, I'm confident that with everyone in this room on board, we'll have the power and the presence to face up to the maritime threats of the 21st century and indeed succeed once again.