UK's Starmer unveils defence boost

Outgoing UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged to spend an additional $20 billion to modernise Britain's depleted armed forces in a long-delayed investment plan to counter rising threats

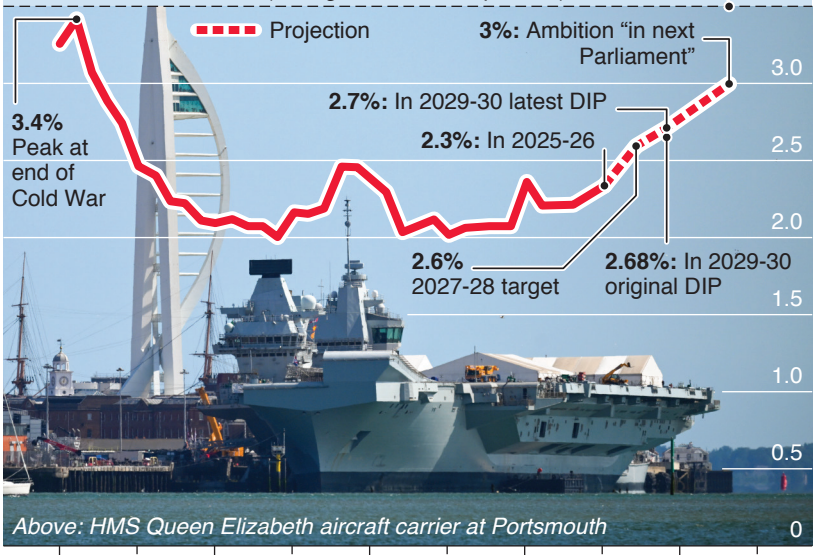
FUNDING FOR KEY PROJECTS: ***Defence Investment Plan (DIP)*** announced by Starmer *(right)* sets out total funding of **$395 billion** over four years

- **$84bn:** Strengthen UK nuclear deterrent – new submarines, warhead and 12 ***F-35A*** jets
- **$34bn:** Upgrade UK naval bases, including ***Faslane***, ***Portsmouth*** and ***Devonport***
- **$15bn:** Replenish stockpile of munitions sent to Ukraine
- **$11bn:** Build next generation ***Tempest*** stealth fighter jet
- **$6.5bn:** Shift to smaller, cheaper, uncrewed and autonomous systems
- **$1.5bn:** For air and missile defence and protecting Britain's undersea cables. Increase in regular army to **76,000** soldiers



3.5% **NATO spending target by 2035**

UK DEFENCE SPENDING *(% of gross domestic product)*



Above: HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier at Portsmouth

Sources: BBC, Reuters

Pictures: Getty Images

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