

Points for writing to your MP about Trident

Well done for choosing to write to your MP. Not many people do! You don't need to be an expert to know that renewing Trident is a terrible idea, but it can help to point out some of the reasons that many people are against it, ahead of the "Main Gate" decision in 2016. We hope this helps you to put together your own letter, but if you'd rather, we have a ready-made letter for you [here](#).

- Britain has 4 nuclear submarines. Each carries up to four nuclear warheads. One is on patrol, ready to strike, at all times.
- The government has already spent £3bn building parts for Trident's replacement, even though they've not decided whether to make more subs
- Renewing Trident is **illegal**: building nuclear weapons is preparation to commit mass murder
- Many **former military generals** have come out against Trident, saying it has **no function** and takes money away from equipment like safety gear
 - *It's sometimes helpful to show that it's not just anti-war people who oppose Trident, that people come to the same conclusion from different angles*
- Trident is **immoral**: it's indiscriminate killing on a massive scale
- Britain signed the nuclear **non-proliferation treaty** in 1968, promising to scale them back.
- It's **hypocritical** to expect others not to want nuclear weapons if the UK refuses to get rid of theirs
- **114 countries** and counting have signed a pledge to **ban nuclear weapons** – this can happen with or without support of nuclear states
- **Fewer than 10 countries** have nuclear weapons and they're not needed to be major players
- South Africa got rid of their nuclear arsenal in 1989, so the **UK would not be the first** to take the step.
- **The Red Cross** says it would be impossible to mount an effective relief response to a nuclear attack
- Trident will cost **£100billion** over its lifetime. This is enough to fund every A&E trip in the UK for the next 40 years.
- Nuclear weapons **don't help** with real security threats, like climate change. More frequent and severe extreme weather conditions caused by runaway climate change is already killing people – e.g. flooding in Bangladesh. **Trident is no use against climate change**
- In the UK, weapons get **25 times more research funding** than renewable energy. WMDs alone get five times more than renewable energy.
- Nuclear weapons are **no use against terrorism**. Even if you like military force, extremist groups are so dispersed that Trident isn't a threat to them
- If it were to be launched, **it would kill every civilian** in the area for miles and miles
- The missiles on Trident are **8 times more powerful** than the one dropped over Hiroshima, which killed 166,000 people.
- It will never be used, so it **cannot be a deterrent**.
- Nuclear weapons should be categorised as **socially and morally unacceptable** along with landmines and chemical weapons
- Some parties argue for a reduction. Make it clear than **a reduction is not enough**: it won't make a difference in cost, and we'd still be a nuclear state.

Good luck! It would be interesting to hear how your MP responds, whether they're for or against or if you changed their mind...