

Greens react to Starmer's defence plans following Strategic Defence Review

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Reacting to the Strategic Defence Review and Keir Starmer's speech earlier today outlining the government's defense spending plans, Ellie Chowns MP, who holds the defence brief for the Parliamentary Green Party, said:

"Keir Starmer is sounding like he is on a war path with his "battle-ready, armour-clad nation" rhetoric. Security is not just based on arms expenditure and threats, but on real leadership that uses diplomacy and development too. There must be a real commitment to an international order based on human rights, equality and genuine cooperation.

"To avoid the horrors of war and armed conflict, we need to look at the deeper causes of insecurity, including poverty and climate breakdown. This is why the Green Party strongly supports the restoration of the international aid budget to at least 0.7% of GNI. And we will continue to argue that real patriotism means ending UK-made weapons or components being sold to dictators, human rights abusers or for use against civilians anywhere in the world.

"The prime minister has talked up the boost to jobs and the economy through increased defence expenditure, but there are many more jobs of the future to be created right now in the clean, green – and peaceful – economy, a sector growing four times faster than the rest of the economy. This is where the government's focus for investment should be if they are serious about a secure and resilient future."

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