

Today's report from the NAO should serve as a wake-up call to ministers – Wayne David

Wayne

David MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for the Armed Forces and Defence

Procurement, responding

to the National Audit Office's report on the MoD Equipment Plan, said:

"Today's

report from the National Audit Office should serve as a wake-up call to ministers. The warning signs have been there for a long time but it is becoming

increasingly clear that the Government is in danger of losing control of the defence budget.

"Ministers

ought to have clearly defined priorities and should ensure that, in these uncertain times, Britain's defence expenditure should not be the subject of ill

thought-out public expenditure cuts. The defence budget has been slashed since

2010 and the Government is only meeting the 2 per cent of GDP commitment through creative accounting.

"The

Government should meet this commitment properly. Ministers also need to respond

urgently to the concerns raised by the NAO. And they should confirm when the long-overdue National Shipbuilding Strategy will be published.

"Only

Labour can deliver a serious, joined-up Defence Industrial Strategy, as we did

in Government. Our approach would safeguard Britain's industrial base, secure high quality jobs throughout the supply chain, and protect our national sovereignty, while achieving value for money."