

Of 'minimum deterrence'

does not rule out using nuclear weapons first in a crisis.

... minimum deterrence ...
... submarines to be at sea on ...
... armed with up to 48 nuclear ...
... be of 'sub-strategic' yield. The ...
... usually require several days 'notice to fire', although this ...
... a crisis. The Government says this posture requires ...
... are vulnerable to a surprise pre-emptive attack.

Why nuclear weapons for?

- ... assigns a number of roles to British nuclear forces:
- ... of aggression against vital interests.
- ... against the re-emergence of major strategic military threats.
- ... nuclear coercion, particularly by nuclear armed 'rogue' states.
- ...erve peace and stability in Europe and support Euro-Atlantic collective security.
- ...er state-sponsored nuclear terrorism.
- ... provide an independent centre of nuclear decision-making in NATO.
- ... able intervention against nuclear-armed states to maintain regional and global security.

Other nuclear weapon states

...tain is one of nine states that are known or thought to possess nuclear weapons:

Country	Total warheads	Country	Total warheads
America	9,600 (5,700 deployed)	Israel	100-200
Russia	15,000 (5,700 deployed)	India	50-60
France	350	Pakistan	60-70
China	200	North Korea (suspected)	2-10