

# Funding the Future

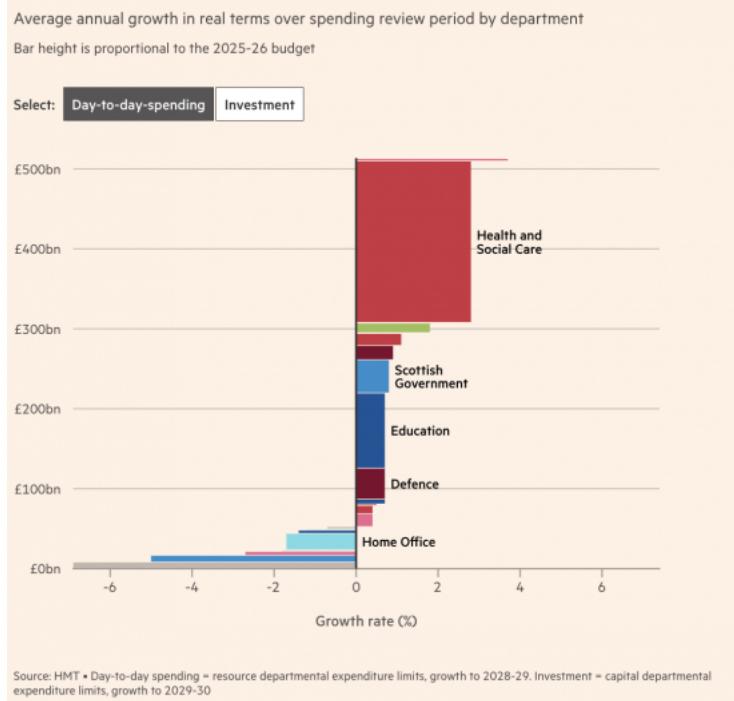
## The Spending Review: a non-event that won't meet any ex...

Published: January 12, 2026, 10:08 pm

The Spending Review [dominated my day yesterday](#), and I went out for a long walk last night to forget all about it.

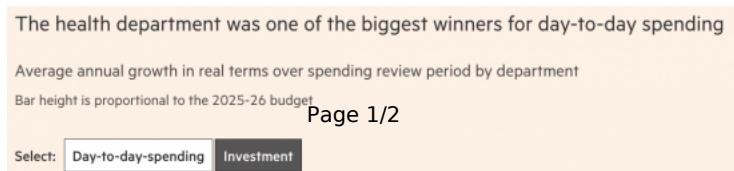
Most of the country will want to do the same. As the FT notes, in current spending terms, the NHS was t

The health department was one of the biggest winners for day-to-day spending

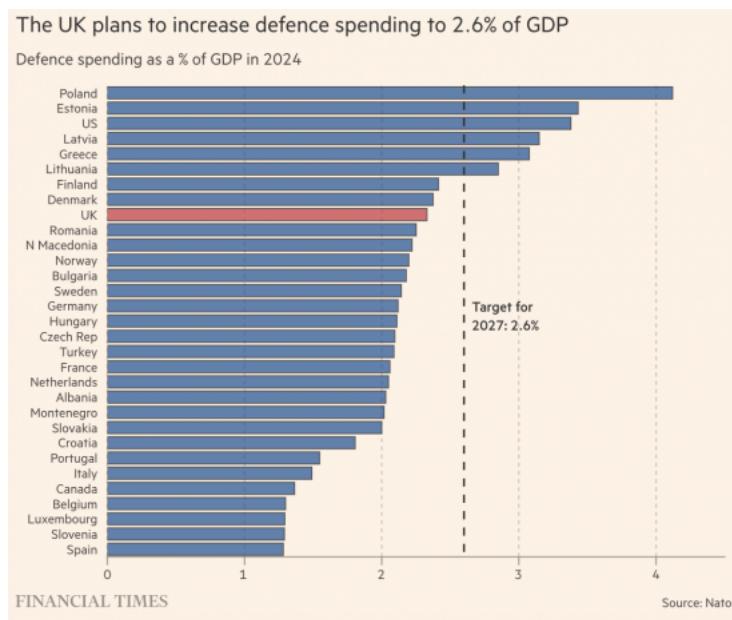


There are notable losers. Overall, there is a spending increase, but nothing changes the overall relationship between the government and the economy. And note that the 3% increase in NHS spending is less than the 3.6% long-term trend required to meet increased demand for more expensive services that healthcare can deliver, and which people expect. There will be no win for Labour as a result.

On investment, defence got the money, and it has the worst multiplier effects:



And then note this. The aim is to increase UK defence spending to 2.6% of GDP (in itself, a meaningless ratio as it in no way indicates defence adequacy):



That is a long way from what is being demanded by NATO and the USA. Again, no one is going to be happy with Labour, but then, no one ever is these days.

My suspicion is that this plan will now be filed and then quietly forgotten as events overtake it.