

There's more to war than whiz-bangs

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According to Roy Lilley's [persistently good newsletter](#) on mainly medical issues (and I have edited, very slightly):

[Yesterday's defence review](#) describes military medical services as:

- * fragmented and underfunded;
- * neglected;
- * notes the operational relationship with the NHS has been de-prioritised;
- * a need to rebuild medical capacity and capability;
- * calls for organisational reform within Defence to ensure that medical services are adequately structured and resourced to meet current and future challenges.

So, there's something else that Keir Starmer needs to invest in if he wants us to be ready for war. It's called the NHS, because it is, of course, the backstop to the military medical services. Without a serious commitment to managing the casualties of war, we could never be ready for it.

And don't doubt the casualty rate. Another report [I note](#) this morning suggests that Russia has now had a million casualties in Ukraine. That's 0.7% of the population. People notice such things. We could not manage it.

Starmer really has got a great deal to do, and buying whiz-bangs is the last of them.