Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America

AUKUS

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Australia, United Kingdom, and United States of America (AUKUS)

Annual Report 2025-26

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on AUKUS is an informal, cross-party group of MPs and Peers established to raise awareness and understanding of the AUKUS security pact, exploring its defence, economic, and technological implications for the United Kingdom, and working with government, industry, and experts to assess opportunities and risks.

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. APPGs are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the group.

This APPG is chaired by Michelle Scrogham, MP for Barrow and Furness.

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Chair's introduction

On behalf of the Officers, I am proud to present the APPG's Annual Report for 2025–2026 following another active and consequential year for the partnership.

Five years on from its announcement, the AUKUS partnership has entered a critical delivery phase. AUKUS remains vital to the UK's defence and economic interests. Backed by the £64 billion allocated to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise in this summer's Defence Investment Plan, the programme supports more than 21,000 jobs across Barrow, Derby, and hundreds of supply-chain companies nationwide. With heightened Russian naval activity around our coasts highlighting the need to protect critical seabed infrastructure, the strategic case for our undersea capabilities and collective allied deterrence is clearer than ever.

Over the past year, the APPG has focused on scrutinising this progress and keeping Parliament informed. At our fifth-anniversary reception in September, the Defence Secretary confirmed that steel for the first British SSN-AUKUS submarine will be cut in Barrow next year. The Group also hosted senior engagements, including a briefing dinner with Sir Stephen Lovegrove, alongside expert-led sessions examining industrial skills, adversary capabilities, and the development of Pillar II autonomous technologies. Through national op-eds and parliamentary debate, we have made the case for domestic industrial capacity, raised awareness of maritime threats to our critical infrastructure, and pressed for cross-party funding certainty.

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, the APPG will build on this work by continuing to inform and involve parliamentarians in discussions on delivery timelines, skills development, and industrial capacity, ensuring the partnership delivers for our national security and our local communities across the UK.

Michelle Scrogham MP
Chair, AUKUS APPG
Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness

Progress report 2025-2026

Meetings

The APPG held two formal committee meetings this year, with one serving as an EGM (17 November 2025) to elect the Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP as Vice-Chair, and one serving as the AGM (2 November 2026) to formally approve the 2025–2026 Annual Report and elect the committee for 2026–2027. Several informal meetings were held throughout the year on the third Wednesday of each month to coordinate upcoming events and discuss the work of the APPG.

Committee & Officers

During the 2025–2026 reporting year, the officers of the APPG were:

- Michelle Scrogham MP, Chair (Labour)
- Lord Walney, Vice-Chair (Crossbench)
- Lord Spellar, Vice-Chair (Labour)
- Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP, Vice-Chair (Conservative)

Incoming 2026–2027 Committee, subject to election at the 2026 AGM:

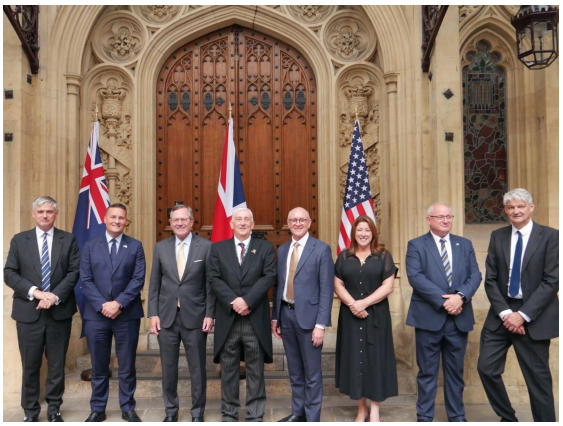
- Michelle Scrogham MP, Chair (Labour)
- Lord Walney, Vice-Chair (Crossbench)
- Lord Spellar, Vice-Chair (Labour)
- Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Vice-Chair (Conservative)

AUKUS Partnership 5th Anniversary Parliamentary Reception

On 1st September 2026, the APPG hosted a flagship parliamentary reception to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the creation of the AUKUS partnership. Bringing together around 150 parliamentarians, government ministers, diplomats, senior military officers, and leaders from across the UK and allied defence industrial base, the event marked the formal transition of AUKUS from strategic policy into rapid, practical industrial delivery.

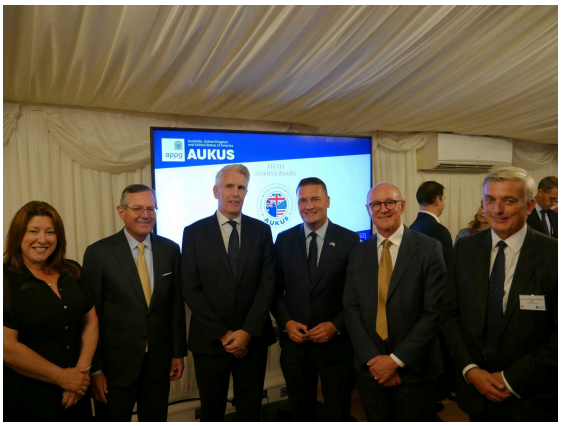
The reception featured keynote addresses representing all three partner nations:

- Michelle Scrogham MP, Chair of the AUKUS APPG (Opening Remarks and Welcome)
- The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Defence
- His Excellency Warren A. Stephens, United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom
- The Hon. Jay Weatherill AO, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom









In his address, the Defence Secretary reaffirmed the UK's commitment to the alliance, confirming that steel for the first British SSN-AUKUS submarine will be cut in Barrow next year. Ambassador Stephens and High Commissioner Weatherill highlighted the depth of trilateral technology sharing, noting key advancements in Pillar II autonomous systems and the lowering of export control barriers.

The reception also enabled prime contractors – BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce Submarines, and Babcock International – alongside specialist UK

supply-chain SMEs to engage directly with parliamentarians on skills, industrial capacity, and regional economic growth.

Briefing Dinner

The APPG continued its high-level engagement through senior VIP dinners. Notably, on 23rd June 2026, the APPG hosted a briefing for Parliamentarians with Sir Stephen Lovegrove, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for AUKUS and former National Security Adviser.

Convening APPG officers, parliamentarians, and senior leadership from industrial partners, the discussion provided insights into the trilateral delivery timetable, industrial and supply-chain resilience, and the accelerating technological priorities under both Pillar I and Pillar II.





A summary of the discussion can be found here.

Discussion Roundtables

To examine core strategic and industrial priorities across the alliance, the APPG convened a series of high-level discussion roundtables throughout the year. These sessions brought together cross-party parliamentarians, senior diplomats and defence officials from the Australian High Commission and US Embassy, and executive leadership from both prime contractors and supply-chain SMEs:

- 'Skills and Jobs Creation with AUKUS' (16th March 2026) – summary here.
- 'AUKUS Pillar II Explained: The Future of UK – Australian – US Defence Innovation' (22nd June 2026) – summary here.

- 'Championing British Industry in AUKUS' (20th October 2026) – summary here.

Expert Parliamentary Briefings

The APPG also facilitated a programme of focused briefings led by senior defence leaders and subject matter experts, equipping parliamentarians, allied partners, and industry with direct insight into the operational, technological, and strategic demands of the pact:

- 'Expert Briefing on Pillar I Capabilities' (20th May 2026) – summary here.
- 'Expert Briefing on Why AUKUS Matters Given the Naval Capabilities of the Adversaries' (26th October 2026) – summary here.
- 'Expert Briefing AUKUS Pillar II Undersea Capabilities and Innovation' (2nd November 2026) – summary here.

Media and Strategic Communications

To shape the public debate and elevate parliamentary awareness, the Chair published three national op-eds over the reporting period:

- ***PoliticsHome* (May 2026):** Emphasised the role of parliamentarians in building public support, securing multi-decade investment across Parliaments, removing bureaucratic hurdles for UK SMEs, and delivering regional growth and high-skilled jobs across the country. Link here.
- ***LBC* (June 2026):** Explored sub-threshold maritime threats in domestic waters and why sovereign undersea capabilities are vital to safeguarding critical British infrastructure. Link here.
- ***The i Paper* (September 2026):** Examined the surge in Russian naval activity, the necessity of defending seabed cables and pipelines, and how the £64bn nuclear enterprise investment secures national deterrence and domestic industrial renewal. Link here.

Newsletters

To keep parliamentarians informed on the progress of the partnership, the Secretariat circulates a monthly newsletter throughout the

parliamentary year. Each edition provides a clear overview of developments across Pillar I and Pillar II, bringing together summaries of the Group's roundtables and briefings, records of relevant parliamentary debates and ministerial questions, notices of upcoming events, and a summary of AUKUS news headlines.

Financial report 2025–2026

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Balance brought forward: £39,704.39 (locked balance carried forward from 2024–2025)

Income received (monetary donations): £75,000.00 (BAE Systems, Babcock International, Rolls-Royce Submarines)

Expenditure: £80,019.57 (Secretariat services, parliamentary events, statutory fees, and event materials)

Balance carried forward: £34,684.82

Benefits in kind: Nil

Our plans for 2026–2027

As AUKUS transitions firmly into practical execution ahead of the landmark cutting of first steel in Barrow in 2027, the Group's 2026–2027 programme will focus on deepening allied parliamentary ties, scrutinising national delivery milestones, and championing the industrial base powering the pact:

- Potential International Delegation to Australia (Early 2027): The Group is considering plans to undertake a parliamentary delegation to Australia. This will include interparliamentary meetings in Canberra, inspections of the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia to examine SSN-AUKUS infrastructure and supply-chain readiness, and operational briefings with naval leadership and the

Australian Submarine Agency at HMAS Stirling.

- Westminster Event Programme: The APPG will sustain a regular calendar of parliamentary engagement, including senior VIP dinners with key figures as early as November 2026. We will consider a new round of briefings on key strategic priorities, emerging technologies, and capability requirements across the partnership.

Acknowledgements

Michelle Scrogham MP, Chair

Lord Walney, Vice-Chair

Lord Spellar, Vice-Chair

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Vice-Chair

Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP, former Vice-Chair

Madeleine Rose, Staff

Andrew Hobson, Staff

Owen Strawson, Staff

Cassie Curtis-Smith, Staff

Rebecca Trenner, Staff

Council on Geostrategy, Secretariat