TOR for Fixed Term Specialist Adviser – Defence and Security Policy

Job title:	Specialist Adviser – Defence and Security Policy
Contract start date:	ASAP
Contract end date:	31 March 2027
Contract value:	£9,000
Role reports to:	Dr Ellie Chowns MP
Contract manager:	Gill Bullock
Date advertised	17 November 2026

Background

A specialist adviser on defence and security policy is required to support Ellie Chowns MP in her role as Defence spokesperson for the Parliamentary Green Party (PGP). This is a short-term contract to the end of the current financial year.

Role description

General:

1. Analyse, evaluate, and interpret data to ensure the MP is accurately informed on key issues.
2. Give advice on policy issues
3. Lead on project work as required.
4. Undertake research on relevant subjects as directed.

Reactive:

5. Support Ellie & the PGP in analysing and responding to current events and/or Government proposals and plans in relation to defence and security policy, including the Strategic Defence Review, the Defence Investment Plan, engagement with NATO, and security-related engagement with the EU, including SAFE.

Proactive:

1. Provide trusted counsel and strategic challenge, based on sound judgement and expert subject knowledge, to support Ellie in developing and advancing PGP defence and security policy proposals, including: identifying gaps in current PGP policy, making proposals to address them, identifying opportunities to shape the public agenda, translating complex evidence into actionable political positions, and effectively using parliamentary tools and opportunities.

2. Liaise with colleagues and stakeholders to ensure effective coordination on PGP defence and security policy proposals.

Expected outputs

Support Ellie and the PGP team to produce:

1. Outputs to support the PGP's response to government defence proposals, including identifying key 'green tests', and alternative proposals;
2. Draft policy content for parliamentary defence and security policy campaigns for Ellie, potentially to include the following policy areas:
    a. 'Back to basics on defence'
    b. Probing procurement
    c. Challenging investment in nuclear 'defence'.

Person specification

Essential:

1. Strong demonstrable understanding of UK defence and security policy, including relevant stakeholders, institutions, events, and debates.
2. Strong demonstrable experience of advising/campaigning in the political arena, and excellent political judgement.
3. Strong demonstrable understanding of and sympathy with Green politics, and not a member of another political party.
4. Strong demonstrable experience of working under own steam, producing high-quality work to tight deadlines, managing relationships with multiple stakeholders, and responding effectively to rapidly changing events.
5. Able to work at least some of the time in Westminster.

How to apply

Please send an Expression of Interest (EoI) of max 2 pages to ellie.chowns.mp@parliament.uk, outlining:

- your motivation;
- your skills, experience and expertise;
- how you meet the person spec;
- how much time you can offer for the available budget;
- your availability / any constraints on your time / your other work commitments;
- contact details for two referees.

The closing date is 30th November 2026 at 1700. EoI will be reviewed and shortlisted on a rolling basis. We reserve the right to interview, appoint, and close the opportunity early, depending on volume and quality of applications received.