

# Headline: New Chemical Weapons Defence Centre

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On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of March the government has given the green light on the building of a new chemical weapons defence centre

The UK is building a new Chemical Weapons Defence Centre to protect from the growing threat from other chemical weapons.

Gavin Williamson (Defence secretary) will announce the £48 million facility will be located at the defence centre and technology laboratory in Porton Down.

Nerve agents are a class of organic chemicals that affect your nervous system and eventually lead to cardiac arrest.

A chemical weapon is a specialised munition that uses chemicals made to cause death or harm to humans. According to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the term chemical weapon can also be applied to any toxic chemical that can cause death, injury, temporary incapacitation or sensory irritation through its chemical action. Munitions or other delivery devices designed to deliver chemical weapons, whether filled or unfilled, are also considered weapons themselves.

Defence secretary Gavin Williamson has spoken out saying “We have arrived at a profound moment in our history, a crossroads where the choice before us as a nation is simple — to sit back and let events overtake us or step forward,” Williamson is expected to say in what will be his first major speech since he took over the defence ministry in November 2017.

“If we doubted the threat Russia poses to our citizens, we only have to look at the shocking example of their reckless attack in Salisbury,” Williamson will say. “We know the chemical threat doesn’t just come from Russia but from others.”

Scientists at the Wiltshire lab helped identify the nerve agent used to attack ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal .Thousands of British troops are also to be vaccinated against anthrax.

