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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 September 2025

London, UK

Defence Holdings PLC

("Defence Holdings" or the "Company")

Defence Holdings Appoints Former Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Lord Houghton of Richmond, as Non-Executive Chairman

Defence Holdings PLC (LSE: ALRT), the UK's first listed software-led defence company, is pleased to announce the appointment of Field Marshal Lord (Nick) Houghton of Richmond, GCB, CBE, DL as Non-Executive Chairman of the Board, effective 1st October 2025.

Career Highlights:

- Former Chief of the Defence Staff (2013 - 2016) and one of the UK's most senior military leaders of modern times.
- Promoted to Field Marshal in June 2025, the highest rank in the British Army, underscoring his unmatched standing in UK defence.
- Led UK and allied forces through Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan, and strategic crises from 9/11 to the 2015 SDSR.
- Awarded Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, CBE, and the US Legion of Merit.
- Crossbench peer in the House of Lords and member of the International Relations and Defence Committee.

Lord Houghton is one of the United Kingdom's most distinguished and senior military leaders of modern times. His career in the British Army spanned over four decades, culminating in his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff (2013 - 2016), the professional head of the Armed Forces and principal military adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence. In June 2025, he was promoted to the honorary rank of Field Marshal, the highest rank in the British Army.

Over his career, Lord Houghton held command at every level and led UK and allied forces through some of the most complex and consequential operations of the past half-century. As Chief of the Defence Staff, he oversaw the successful conclusion of combat operations in Afghanistan, steered the UK's strategic defence posture during an era of global instability, and was the prime military architect of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, securing the 2% GDP financial settlement for UK defence.

His earlier leadership roles included:

- Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (2009-2013) - where he was central to reforming the Ministry of Defence and shaping Joint Forces Command.
- Chief of Joint Operations (2006-2009) - responsible for simultaneous deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, including planning and executing the UK withdrawal from Basra.
- Deputy Commanding General of Multi-National Force-Iraq (2005-2006) - during one of the most volatile phases of the conflict.
- Director of Military Operations (1999-2002) - overseeing the UK's initial response to 9/11, the first deployments to Afghanistan, the successful Sierra Leone campaign, and the military response to the UK's Foot and Mouth Disease crisis.
- Commander, 39 Infantry Brigade, Northern Ireland - during the peace process that led to the Good Friday Agreement.

For his service, Lord Houghton has been awarded some of the UK's highest honours, including Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (GCB) and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), as well as international recognition such as the United States Legion of Merit. He was elevated to the House of Lords as a life peer in 2017, where he continues to serve as a crossbencher on the International Relations and Defence Committee.

Strategic Significance

Lord Houghton's appointment as Non-Executive Chairman brings unparalleled leadership, credibility, and access to Defence Holdings at a pivotal stage in its growth. His experience at the very top of the UK Armed Forces, combined with his ongoing role in shaping defence and security policy, strengthens the Company's ability to align with national priorities and international defence partners.

Board Transition

As part of this appointment, James Norwood, who has served as Chairman of Defence Holdings, will transition to the role Deputy Chairman. Mr. Norwood will continue to provide strategic guidance and board-level oversight, with a focus on governance, shareholder engagement, and the Company's long-term growth agenda.

Leadership Commentary

Lord Houghton, Non-Executive Chairman of Defence Holdings, commented:

"I am delighted and excited to be joining Defence Holdings PLC. Delighted because they are the first Defence Company to have been conceived, by design, to help deliver the outcomes of the emerging Defence Industrial Strategy: agile, sovereign and wholly focused on exploiting the digital revolution to the UK's national advantage. Excited because I know that the people running Defence Holdings have the mindset, culture and expertise to actually deliver the most significant capability aspiration of the recent Strategic Defence Review: lethal advantage to the UK's Armed Forces."

James Norwood, Deputy Chairman of Defence Holdings, commented:

"Lord Houghton is one of the most senior and respected figures in UK defence history. His leadership experience, strategic acumen, and credibility at the highest levels of government and military command will be transformational for Defence Holdings. His appointment underlines our commitment to building not just another defence company, but the next-generation platform for sovereign capability."

Information notified pursuant to UKLR 6.4.8.

- Lord Houghton was a Director and Non-Executive Chairman of ByzGen Limited. The company was placed into administration in July 2025.
- Lord Houghton was also a director of De Vinculis Limited, a personal services company, which was placed into members' voluntary liquidation in August 2024 in order to return cash to shareholders.

There is no other information concerning Lord Houghton which requires disclosure under UKLR 6.4.8.

Grant of Warrants

The Company also announces the grant of 48,663,062 warrants over ordinary shares of £0.001 each ("Ordinary Shares") to Lord Houghton, in connection with his appointment as Non-Executive Chairman. The warrants are exercisable at £0.0145 per share, being the closing price on the most recent trading day and will remain valid for five years from the date of grant (the "Warrants"). All Warrants will vest in accordance with the Company's standard vesting schedule.

About Defence Holdings PLC

Defence Holdings PLC (LSE: ALRT) is the UK's first listed software-led defence company. Its five-year strategic plan focuses on delivering sovereign digital capabilities across national security, resilience, and defence readiness.

1.	Details of the person discharging managerial responsibilities / person closely associated	
a)	Name	John Nicholas Reynolds Houghton
2.	Reason for the Notification	
a)	Position/status	Director of Defence Holdings Plc effective 1st October 2025
b)	Initial notification / Amendment	Initial notification
3.	Details of the issuer, emission allowance market participant, auction platform, auctioneer or auction monitor	
a)	Name	DEFENCE HOLDINGS PLC
b)	LEI	213800IE96YMHXDJ7H92
4.	Details of the transaction(s): section to be repeated for (i) each type of instrument; (ii) each type of transaction; (iii) each date; and (iv) each place where transactions have been conducted	
a)	Description of the Financial instrument, type of instrument	Ordinary Shares
	Identification Code	GB00BMWVF760
b)	Nature of the transaction	Grant of Warrants over 48,663,062 Ordinary Shares with the exercise price of £0.0145

c)	Price(s) and volume(s)	Price(s)	Volume(s)	
		£0.00	48,663,062	
d)	Aggregated information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Aggregated volume· Price	N/A Single Transaction		
e)	Date of the transaction	8 September 2025		
f)	Place of the Transaction	Outside of a trading venue		

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