



FOR: Minister for Defence

Action Requested by: 30 June 2023

Reason for Urgency:

COMMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

Key Issues:

On 21 July 2022, you directed me to recommence the command accountability work arising from the recommendations in the Afghanistan Inquiry Report (the Report). With the concurrence of the Office of the Special Investigator, I have done so. The enclosed documents are provided for your consideration and action as appropriate.

Recommendation:

Decision

That you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. consider the documents relating to each individual's circumstances and their command accountability as per the Report. | Considered/Not considered |
| 2. decide whether to recommend to the Governor-General the cancellation of any or all of the relevant awards given to these individuals. | Decided / Not decided / Please discuss |

Media Considerations:

This matter will continue to generate significant media interest.

Signature

Richard Marles
2023

Minister comments:

Cleared by

General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC
Chief of the Defence Force

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11 May 2023

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Contact Officer

CAPT s47E(c), s47F RAN
Chief of Staff
Office of the Chief of the Defence Force

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Sensitivity: Yes.

1. In October and November 2022, I wrote to a number of individuals about command accountability as identified in the Afghanistan Inquiry Report (the Report).
2. All individuals were provided a reasonable period of time in which to provide their responses to the matters raised in my letters. s47F [REDACTED]
3. After considering each separate matter, including any response and the relevant specific facts and circumstances, I s47C [REDACTED]
4. I am providing you the relevant documents to allow consideration of each of these individuals and their unique circumstances. I have written to each to inform them of this.
5. s47C [REDACTED]
6. The Chief Counsel, Defence Legal can assist moving forward. It is appropriate that his office provide such support, given he is separate from those involved in the matter to date.
7. I anticipate that the fact of my providing this material to you will become public. Veterans associations have indicated that you might expect representations from those organisations regarding command accountability.

Financial Impacts: No.

Systems/legislation/deregulation: Yes.

8. The Letters Patent under which these awards are granted, requires you as the Minister for Defence, to provide a recommendation should you determine the awards should be cancelled.

Consultation: No.

Enclosure:

Enclosure 1 s47E(c) [REDACTED] *Command accountability*, of 11 May 2023.