

Ombudsman releases final report on Defence Abuse Response Taskforce

The Defence Force Ombudsman, Iain Anderson, today published [Actions Speak: Follow-up on Defence's implementation of recommendations in the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce \(DART\) final report](#). The report assesses the action Defence has taken to implement 6 of the 8 recommendations in the March 2016 [Final Report of the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce](#) (DART Report), finding that 5 have been implemented and 1 partially implemented.

Of the findings Mr Anderson said, 'While we found Defence has largely implemented the DART's recommendations, Defence will need to consider the operational and practical effectiveness of these changes on an ongoing basis. I expect Defence to build on the changes already made while implementing the recommendations from our 2023 report ['Defending Fairness: Does Defence handle unacceptable behaviour complaints effectively'](#)

The DART Report was made against a backdrop of complaints of sexual and other abuse in the military and made recommendations to improve Defence culture and practices aimed at strengthening Defence's internal processes for preventing and dealing with sexual and other abuse.

The publication of today's Report closes the Ombudsman's role in formally monitoring Defence's implementation of the DART recommendations. However, the Ombudsman has an enduring role with respect to actions taken by Defence relating to matters of administration, as well as matters relating to complaints of abuse.

Mr Anderson said, 'If my Office becomes aware of issues with the effectiveness of Defence's implementation of the DART recommendations, either through complaints or other sources, I have the power to take appropriate action.'

View the full report on our website [here](#).