

Contextual Statement

Defence is committed to being open and transparent with regard to the allegations raised by Australian-apprehended detainees in Afghanistan. Minister Smith has provided four specific updates on detainee management (on 17 February, 11 October and 24 November 2011 and 10 May 2012), and has also made seven separate Statements to Parliament on Afghanistan (on 23 March, 12 May, 7 July, 13 October and 24 November 2011, and 9 February, 24 May and 16 August 2012) which included significant reference to detainee management. These updates have included detailed information on complaints and allegations of mistreatment made against the ADF and its partnered forces since August 2010. Every allegation of detainee mistreatment received or observed by the ADF is required to be reported through the Australian Military Chain of Command and is promptly assessed or investigated. Each allegation and the outcome of any investigation is reported to ISAF and relevant humanitarian organisations.