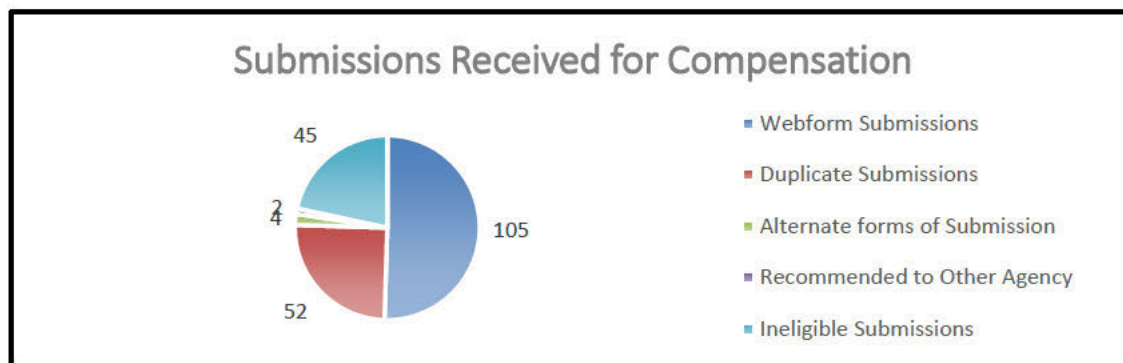
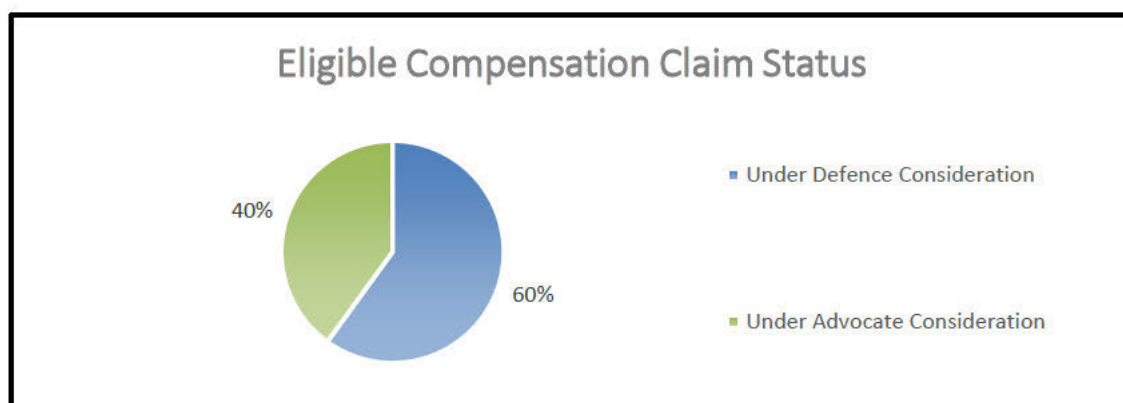


As at 17 May 2026

Submissions Received for Compensation	
Webform Submissions	105
Duplicate Submissions	52
Alternate forms of Submission	4
Recommended to Other Agency	2
Ineligible Submissions	45
Notes: WS - Includes all submissions received via Webform. DS - Some duplication of submissions by representatives for the same event. AS - received via authorised representative or email. OA - Submissions ineligible IAW Reg. 24 - Recommended to Other Agency for consideration. IS - Assess as not meeting the Regulation 24 - Compensation criteria and/or referral to other agency.	



Eligible Compensation Claim Status	
Under Defence Consideration	6
Under Advocate Consideration	4
Compensation Approved	TBC
Compensation Provided/Paid	TBC
Notes:	



Overview

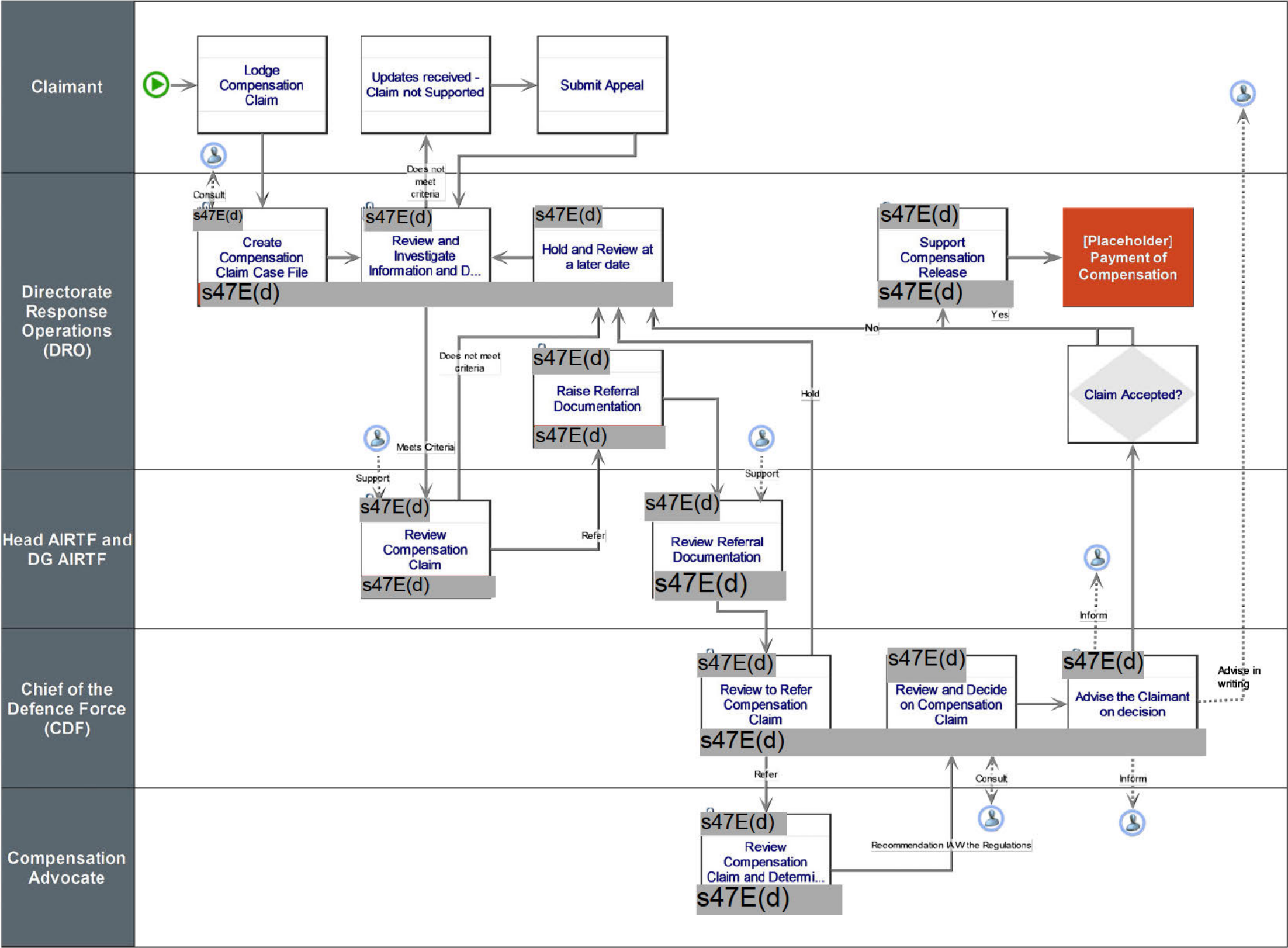
s47E(d)

4. More info on compensation process is available on Defence [Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme](#) website.

[The claim can be generated by a claimant or it can be generated by Defence based on the findings].

Version/Authority

Process Owner	s47E(d) Stakeholder Engagement
Process Manager	Director Response Operations
Status	Final



Overview

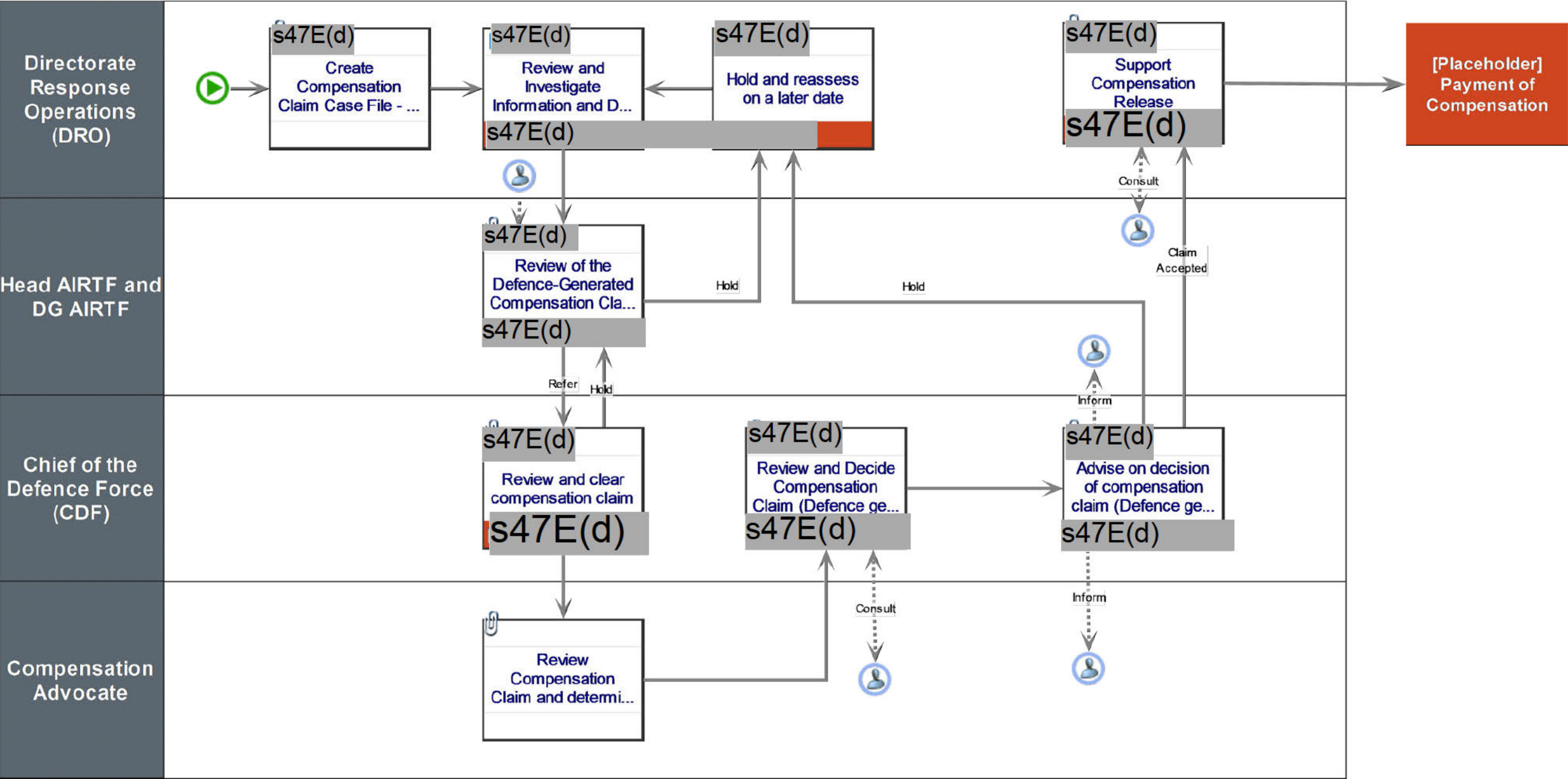
The Defence Generated Compensation Claim Support describes the process when the eligible claimants for compensation are identified by Defence.

s47E(d)

4. More info on compensation process is available on Defence [Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme](#) website.

Version/Authority

Process Owner	s47E(d) Stakeholder Engagement
Process Manager	Directorate Response Operations (DRO)
Status	Final



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

 * * * *		DECISION BRIEF FOR CDF: TREATMENT OF AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY COMPENSATION SCHEME CLAIMS	
Group/Service:	AIRTF	Reference:	s47E(d) 1
For information:	ASSOC SEC, Chief Counsel	Due date:	11 Aug 25 Routine

Purpose

1. To inform you that a categorisation system for Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme claims has been established and to seek your agreement on claims management issues to support the efficient handling of these matters, consistent with the Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations').

Recommendations

2. That you:
- a. Note that three categories have been established for compensation claims:
- (1) Eligible for referral: all criteria verified
 - (2) Ineligible for referral: s37(1)(c)
 - (3) Ineligible for referral: criteria not verified.

Sir, As discussed with you and s47E(d), this brief seeks to streamline the handling and consideration of claims. s22 Brett Wolski, AM RADM, RAN HAIRTF Tel: s47E(d) Mob: s22 05 Aug 25	a. <u>Noted</u> / Please discuss b. <u>Noted</u> / Please discuss c. <u>Agreed</u> / Not agreed d. <u>Noted</u> / Please discuss e. <u>Agreed</u> / Not agreed f. <u>Agreed</u> / Not agreed s22 <i>Good approach</i> David Johnston AC ADM L RAN CDF 12 Aug 25
Contact Officer: s47E(d)	Tel: s47E(d)
Clearance Officer: AIRCDRE Catherine Wallis	Tel: s47E(d)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

2

- b. Note that all compensation claims, irrespective of their category, are currently being provided to you to determine their eligibility for referral to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate (the Advocate).
- c. Agree that the Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (HAIRTF) will determine the category of each claim, and that you will continue to determine if an eligible (Category 1) claim is to be referred to the Advocate.
- d. Note that compensation claims determined by HAIRTF to be ineligible (Categories 2 and 3) will be held in abeyance and managed in accordance with the procedures outlined at paras 10-11.
- e. Agree to the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF) sharing information about ineligible claims with the Advocate.
- f. Agree to the AIRTF providing periodic updates to the Advocate on the number and status of eligible and ineligible claims.

Key Issues

- 3. The Regulations enable the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) to refer to the Advocate claims for compensation that meet the criteria set out in section 5. The Advocate must then consider the claim and make recommendations to the CDF on appropriate actions.
- 4. This brief proposes a set of procedures to enable the efficient handling of claims, while supporting your responsibilities under the Regulations, and the Advocate in their consideration of relevant matters.

Claim Categories

- 5. At your direction, the AIRTF is responsible for reviewing matters within the Afghanistan Inquiry Report that may give rise to a claim for compensation. Similarly, the AIRTF is responsible for reviewing and verifying information submitted through the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme website, where individuals may submit a claim for compensation online.
- 6. Through the AIRTF's management of these matters to date, three compensation claim categories have been identified:

(1) Eligible for referral: all criteria verified. Claims that contain sufficient information to meet all eligibility criteria set out in section 5 of the Regulations.

(2) Ineligible for referral: s37(1)(c) [redacted] Claims that contain sufficient information to meet the criteria set out in section 5(1); however, s37(1)(c) [redacted] s37(1)(c) [redacted] as required by section 5(2) of the Regulations.

(3) Ineligible for referral: criteria not verified. Claims that contain insufficient information to meet some or all of the criteria set out in section 5 of the Regulations.

Delegation for determining claim eligibility

- 7. All compensation claims (Categories 1, 2 and 3) are currently being provided to you to determine their eligibility.

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

3

8. To enable a more efficient handling of these matters, it is proposed that the HAIRTF categorise each claim and only those claims that meet the eligibility criteria for referral to the Advocate (Category 1) are provided to you for consideration.

9. No formal delegation under the Regulations is required to implement this process. This is because claims are either eligible or not as a matter of fact, and you are not delegating your power / function of referring eligible claims under section 5.

Management of ineligible claims

10. Where HAIRTF categorises a claim as Category 2 or 3, it is proposed that the claim will be held by the AIRTf until sufficient information is obtained. That is, it will not be formally 'rejected', but rather treated as requiring further information.

11. Category 2 and 3 claims will be reviewed periodically or as new information arises. Should sufficient information become available that enables a claim to be re-categorised as Category 1, the claim will be provided for your consideration of referral to the Advocate.

Provision of claim information to the Advocate

12. In order to benefit the Advocate's considerations of Category 1 claims that you refer, it is proposed that HAIRTF provide information from selected Category 2 and 3 claims to the Advocate. The information provided would only be context and background to the types of circumstances that may give rise to other claims.

13. In order to assist the Advocate in prioritising her considerations under section 6 of the Regulations, it is also recommended that the AIRTf provide the Advocate with periodic updates (monthly) on the number and status of claims.

14. Should you agree to the above recommendations, the AIRTf will schedule briefings for the Advocate and offer her the opportunity to view important background information associated with ineligible claims. s47C

Longer term issues

15. It is likely that it will not be possible to obtain sufficient information to re-categorise some Category 2 and 3 claims to enable their referral during the life of the compensation scheme (the Regulation sunsets at 10 years).

16. The most appropriate way forward will likely be informed by the number of claims that remain ineligible, and the nature of the information required.

Consultation

17. The following people were consulted on this recommendation/brief:

- a. Defence Legal, Chief Counsel, Ms Francesca Rush
- b. Defence Legal, Deputy General Counsel, s47E(d)
- c. Legal Adviser to CDF, Commander s47E(d)

OFFICIAL



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



Ref: s47E(d) }

The Honourable Justice Ruth McColl AO
Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
s47F

Dear Justice McColl

Referral of Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Claim

This letter refers a claim under the *Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024* (the Regulations).

The Regulations provide that I may refer a claim to you once I am satisfied that the claim meets the requirements of Section 5. s47C
information that I consider may be relevant to your consideration of the claim.

s37

My point of contact is Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN, Head of the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force. Rear Admiral Wolski can be contacted by telephone on s47E(d) or by email at s47E(d) @defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

02 August
July 2025

s47E(d)
PO Box 7900
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

s47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



Ref: s47E(d)

The Honourable Justice Ruth McColl AO
Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
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Yours sincerely

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

29 NOVEMBER
December 2025

s47E(d)
PO Box 7900
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

s47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



Ref: s47E(d)

The Honourable Justice Ruth McColl AO
Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
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Yours sincerely

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

29 November
December 2025

s47E(d)
PO Box 7900
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

s47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



s47E(d)

The Honourable Justice Ruth McColl AO
Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
s47F

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My point of contact is Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN, Head of the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force. Rear Admiral Wolski can be contacted by telephone on s47E(d) or by email at s47E(d)@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

13 May 2026

s47E(d)
PO Box 7900
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

s47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

s47E(d)

The Honourable Justice Ruth McColl AO
Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
s47F

Dear Justice McColl

Referral of Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Claim

This letter refers two claims under the *Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024* (the Regulations).

The Regulations provide that I may refer a claim to you once I am satisfied that a claim meets the requirements of Section 5. s37

information that I consider may be relevant to your consideration of the claims. I request s37(1)(c), s47F, s47C s regarding compensation.

s37

My point of contact is Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN, Head of the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force. Rear Admiral Wolski can be contacted by telephone on s47E(d) or by email at s47E(d)@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s22

David Johnston AC
Admiral RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

13 May 2026

s47E(d)
PO Box 7900
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

s47E(d)

OFFICIAL

From: [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)
To: s47E(d) ; [Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE](#); s47E(d)
Cc: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#); s47F
Subject: 251127 - 10:55:33 - e-mail - B Wolski/Many - Letter to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 10:55:35 AM

OFFICIAL

Thanks s47E(d)

I'll action this with the Advocate.

Brett

Brett Wolski
RADM, RAN
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22
Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence.
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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 7:30 AM
To: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning all,

Please find attached a letter from s47F to the Advocate.

The letter requests much of what similar FOI and QoNs have requested.

Kind regards,
s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Manager
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)
Department of Defence

s47E(d) | Russell Offices | PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610

s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

Website: [Afghanistan Inquiry](#)

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From: Media <s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 5:34 PM

To: AIRTF Communications <s47E(d)>

Cc: Media <s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>

Subject: Letter to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon AIRTF,

Grateful for confirmation that this letter should be forwarded to you for action.

Kind regards,

s47E(d) | Assistant Director

Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

M: s47E(d)

E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

Alt E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

s22



From: [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)
To: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
Cc: s47E(d)
Subject: 251127 - 13:58:02 - e-mail - B Wolski/AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord - Letter from s47F
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 1:58:03 PM

OFFICIAL

s47E(d) ,

For your action, please. Draft response to s47F by Monday would be good.

Thanks

Brett

Brett Wolski
RADM, RAN
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22
Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

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From: McColl, Ruth MRS s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 1:49 PM
To: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brett.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 1:44 PM
To: McColl, Ruth MRS s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Ruth,

We will get back to you with the draft.

Kind regards,

Brett

Brett Wolski
RADM, RAN
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22
Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

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From: McColl, Ruth MRS s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 12:04 PM
To: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brett – I am content for you to reply to this letter if, as you say that is customary. Can you please show me a draft of the response before you send it?
Kind regards

Ruth

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From: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 11:33 AM
To: McColl, Ruth MRSS47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE
s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Ruth,

Please find attached a letter addressed to you asking questions on the Compensation Scheme. Defence has responded to similar questions from (Senate Estimates) Questions on Notice and other enquiries and are happy to respond to this organisation should you prefer.

Kind regards,

Brett

Brett Wolski
RADM, RAN
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22
Email: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

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From: s47E(d)
To: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
Subject: 251128 - 15:00:37 - e-mail - s47E(d)/AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord - Letter from s47F
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 3:00:38 PM
Attachments: [HAIRTF Letter to s47F](#) - Compensation Scheme.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Thanks for putting this together – please see attached with some suggested changes.

Thank you

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Director – Ministerials, Communication and Governance
Engagement and Response Branch, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Department of Defence
W: s47E(d) II M: s22

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord
Sent: Friday, 28 November 2025 2:45 PM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord

Sent: Friday, 28 November 2025 2:39 PM

To: s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Cc: AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Please find attached OBJ link for first pass review of a response letter.

This has been built from our various QoNs, Estimates approaches and FOI 1213/24/25 per HAIRTF instruction.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Manager

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

Department of Defence

s47E(d) | Russell Offices | PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610

s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Website: [Afghanistan Inquiry](#)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 1:58 PM

To: AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Letter from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47E(d)

For your action, please. Draft response to s47F by Monday would be good.

Thanks

Brett

Brett Wolski
RADM, RAN
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22

Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

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s22



From: s47E(d) on behalf of [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
To: [Lewis, Angeline AIRCDRE](#)
Cc: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#); s47E(d)
Subject: 251128 - 15:18:57 - e-mail - s47E(d)/A Lewis - Letter from s47F
Date: Friday, 28 November 2025 3:18:59 PM
Attachments: [HAIRTF Letter to s47F](#) - [Compensation Scheme.obr](#)
[HAIRTF Letter to s47F](#) - [Compensation Scheme.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Angeline,

Please find attached a draft copy of our proposed response to s47F for your purview ahead of HAIRTF next week. s47E(d) has reviewed already.

I have built the response from various other RFIs on the Scheme over the past 10 months per HAIRTF's discussion with the Advocate, however I am keen to labour the point of the need to balance transparency with personal safety for Afghan victims to the correspondent.

I have also attached it in local form in case your objective access is playing around.

Kind regards,
s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Manager
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)
Department of Defence

s47E(d) | Russell Offices | PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610
s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

Website: [Afghanistan Inquiry](#)

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From: s47E(d) on behalf of [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
To: s47F
Cc: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
Subject: 251208 - 12:14:11 - e-mail - s47F - Correspondence: Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme
Date: Monday, 8 December 2025 12:14:13 PM
Attachments: [251208 - Letter - HAIRTF to s47F - Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Good morning s47F ,

Please find attached correspondence from Rear Admiral Brett Wolski, AM RAN, Head of the Department of Defence's Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force in regard to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Director – Ministerials, Communication and Governance
Engagement and Response Branch, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Department of Defence
W: s47E(d) II M: s22

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AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY RESPONSE TASK FORCE

s47E(d)

s47F

Dear s47F

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme

Thank you for your letter to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate, the Hon Ruth McColl AO SC, regarding the processing of Compensation claims. The Advocate has requested Defence respond on her behalf.

The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) was established by the Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024, under the Defence Act 1903, fulfilling 15 recommendations in the Afghanistan Inquiry report.

The Advocate, and Defence, are unable to disclose any information regarding applications or referrals to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants and prevent any risk to potential beneficiaries.

As you may be aware, Afghanistan is a logistically, culturally, and politically complex operational environment and there are significant international policy and humanitarian considerations regarding the provision of compensation.

Even de-identified information, which may seem innocuous, could be used to identify individuals, and given the current political climate in Afghanistan, disclosure could expose them to harm or criminal targeting. There is also a risk that anyone *suspected* of being a compensation beneficiary could be vulnerable to influence or become a criminal target.

Defence remains committed to safeguarding all parties involved and is alive to the risks information disclosure may inadvertently create. We must carefully balance the public's right to transparency with the due care to safeguard the privacy and personal safety of those affected.

Timeframes for the compensation process will be determined by the unique circumstances of each claim, as determined by the Advocate.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

s22



Brett Wolski, AM
Rear Admiral
Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

08 December 2025

From: s47E(d) on behalf of [Defence Ministerials](#)
To: [AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord](#)
Cc: s47E(d)
Subject: 251211 - 17:10:00 - e-mail - s47E(d) /AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord - Re - s47E(d) - already responded OBO Advocate
Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025 5:10:02 PM

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Please see the DLO's response. A response to this item will be required.
Let me know if you have any issues.

Kind Regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Assistant Director, PDMS, Ministerial and Executive Engagement
Ministerial and Executive Coordination & Communication (MECC) Division
Department of Defence

P: s47E(d) | E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au > **On Behalf Of** DLO DPM
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 5:07 PM
To: Defence Ministerials s47E(d)@defence.gov.au
Cc: DLO DPM <s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Re - s47E(d) - already responded OBO Advocate [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

DPMO advised that there should still be a Departmental response OBO DPM. This should acknowledge the original correspondence and are happy for it to refer to the 08 Dec response.

Kind Regards

s47E(d)

Departmental Liaison Officer

P: s47E(d) | E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au | s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | Minister for Defence

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Defence Ministerials
Sent: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 4:08 PM
To: DLO DPM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: Defence Ministerials s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Re - s47E(d) - already responded OBO Advocate [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon DPM DLO team,

AIRTF has requested to take s47E(d) as FIO, since they recently responded to the same correspondence addressed to the Advocate, rather than the Minister. See below email and attachments.

Is the MO comfortable with this approach?

Kind Regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Assistant Director, PDMS, Ministerial and Executive Engagement
Ministerial and Executive Coordination & Communication (MECC) Division
Department of Defence

P: s47E(d) | **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 2:41 PM
To: Defence Ministerials s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: AIRTF Ministerial and Executive Coord s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: Re - s47E(d) - already responded OBO Advocate [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

As discussed with s47E(d) we would be grateful for s47E(d) to be closed due to the following circumstances:

- On 26 Nov 25, s47F sent a letter addressed to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate via email to Customer Service and Defence Media.
 - Defence Media then forwarded the correspondence to AIRTF.
- On 27 Nov 25, HAIRTF discussed the correspondence with the Advocate.
 - The Advocate requested Defence respond on her behalf.
- On 5 Dec 25, the Advocate cleared the proposed response.
- On 8 Dec 25, HAIRTF responded in a letter to s47F via email.

As, apart from the recipient, both the letters are the same, we ask that s47E(d) be closed as there is nothing further Defence can say on behalf of the Minister that it hasn't already for the Advocate.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Manager
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)
Department of Defence

s47E(d) | Russell Offices | PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Website: [Afghanistan Inquiry](#)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.



Australian Government
Defence

s47E(d)

s47F

Dear s47F

Thank you for your email of 02 December 2025 to the Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles, about the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme . Your correspondence has been referred to me for response.

I note you recently sent a letter to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate on 27 November 2025, to which I responded on behalf of the Advocate on 08 December 2025.

The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) was established by the Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024, under the Defence Act 1903, fulfilling 15 recommendations in the Afghanistan Inquiry report.

The Minister, and Defence, are unable to disclose any information regarding applications or referrals to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants and prevent any risk to potential beneficiaries.

As you may be aware, Afghanistan is a logistically, culturally, and politically complex operational environment and there are significant international policy and humanitarian considerations regarding the provision of compensation.

Even de-identified information, which may seem innocuous, could be used to identify individuals, and given the current political climate in Afghanistan, disclosure could expose them to harm or criminal targeting. There is also a risk that anyone suspected of being a compensation beneficiary could be vulnerable to influence or become a criminal target.

Defence remains committed to safeguarding all parties involved and is alive to the risks information disclosure may inadvertently create. We must carefully balance the public's right to transparency with due care to safeguard the privacy and personal safety of those affected.

Timeframes for the compensation process will be determined by the unique circumstances of each claim, as determined by the Advocate.

2

Thank you for your continued interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

s22



Brett Wolski, AM
Rear Admiral
Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

16 December 2025

From: [Media](#)
To: [AIRTF Communications](#); [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)
Cc: [Media](#)
Subject: 260410 - 17:15:54 - e-mail - Media/Many - Finalised Media Enquiry - 26-0708 - ABC - Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme
Date: Friday, 10 April 2026 5:15:56 PM

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon AIRTF,

A response has been provided to **s47F** at the ABC regarding the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.

ODPM/OMINDP were final clearance on this.

Thank you for your work on this enquiry.

Kind regards,

s47E(d) Media Adviser
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
E: **s47E(d)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)
Alt E: **s47E(d)** [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence.
Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Media <**s47E(d)**@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 April 2026 11:02 AM
To: **s47F** <**s47F**@abc.net.au>
Cc: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi **s47F**

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The below can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme has received around 100 applications for compensation.

Due to the security and personal privacy of claimants, Defence cannot provide further

information.

s22

More information regarding the Scheme can be found at

<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/complaints-incident-reporting/afghanistan-inquiry-compensation-scheme>.

//

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: media@defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22

From: [Media](#)
To: [AIRTF Communications](#)
Cc: [Media](#)
Subject: 260414 - 14:17:29 - e-mail - Media/AIRTF Communications - Finalised Media Enquiry - 26-0697 - SBS - Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 2:17:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon AIRTF,

A response has been provided to s47F at SBS regarding Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.

ODPM and OMINDP were final clearance on this.

Thank you for your work on this enquiry.

Kind regards,

s47E(d) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(d)
E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)
Alt E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence.
Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Media <s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 2:16 PM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F
Media
<s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SBS Pashto & Dari: Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The below can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

-

The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme was established by the Australian Government in 2024 to provide compensation to family members of victims of unlawful killing, and individuals who have suffered an unlawful assault or property damage. The Scheme remains active.

The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme has received around 100 applications for compensation.

Due to the security and personal privacy of claimants, Defence cannot provide further information.

Defence engages with individuals, government and non-government organisations to promote the existence of the Scheme, noting Afghanistan is a logistically, culturally, and politically complex operational environment with significant international policy and humanitarian considerations regarding the provision of compensation.

-
s22

-
The *Defence (Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme) Regulations 2024* sets out the criteria for eligibility, and can be found here:
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00903/asmade/downloads>.

More information regarding the Scheme can be found at
<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/complaints-incident-reporting/afghanistan-inquiry-compensation-scheme>, which includes translations of the webpage into Pashto and Dari.

-
To protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants, Defence cannot comment on the specifics of individual cases, the location, the means of engagement, or timeframes.

//

Should you require imagery or vision for your enquiry, please visit [Defence Imagery](#).

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2026 4:48 PM

To: Media <s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s47F

PARLIAMENTARY: 2025-26 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY COMPENSATION SCHEME

Lead: Admiral David Johnston AC RAN, Chief of the Defence Force.

Supporting: Ms Cath Patterson, Associate Secretary to support on the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.

Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN, Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force to support on the compensation process.

Francesca Rush, Chief Counsel to support on the legal aspects of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme regulations.

Context: On 18 July 2024, the Government established the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme is limited to matters identified by the Afghanistan Inquiry where credible information of alleged property damage, unlawful assault and unlawful killing by ADF members while on operations in Afghanistan during the period between 2005 and 2016.

Key Messages

- The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme was established under the Defence (*Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme*) Regulations 2024, which fulfilled 15 recommendations made in the Afghanistan Inquiry Report.
- By entrenching the Scheme in law, it is the first of its kind among coalition partners and demonstrates the Government's commitment to the payment of compensation to claimants.
- Afghanistan is a logistically, culturally, and politically complex operational environment and there are significant international policy and humanitarian considerations regarding the provision of compensation.
- Defence continues to engage with a range of individuals, government and non-government organisations to promote the existence of the Scheme.
- As at 16 December 2025, the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme has received 93 applications for compensation, of which 43 have been closed as they do not meet the criteria set out in the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Regulations, and the remainder are under consideration.
- As at 16 December 2025, six referrals have been made to the independent Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.
- Defence is unable to comment on the specifics of individual cases in order to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d)

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Outreach

- . Defence continues to engage with a range of individuals, government and non-government organisations to promote the existence of the Scheme.
- . Outreach to date has included correspondence and/or meetings with entities both in Australia and overseas, including:
 - the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including the Special Representative on Afghanistan in Doha;
 - six non-government organisations; and
 - four individuals with relevant backgrounds.
- . The primary objective of this outreach has been to seek support in raising awareness of the Scheme and the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme website with potential claimants.
- . These third party dealings are deliberative and confidential in nature.
 - In some cases, organisations will only interact with Defence on a confidential basis.
- . Defence remains open to other avenues to contact potential claimants.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Website

- . On 21 November 2024, the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme website went live, and this has seen an increase in public awareness of the scheme.
- . The website provides information about the Scheme in English, Dari, and Pashto and details how prospective claimants, and/or their authorised representatives, can submit a claim. As at 16 December 2025, the website has received 1682 visitors.

Actions by Defence on applications and referrals

- . As at 16 December 2025, the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme has received 93 applications for compensation.
 - 43 have been closed as they do not meet the criteria set out in the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Regulations.
 - The remainder are under consideration.
- . Defence is also taking action to advance the intent of the Scheme, and conducting a review of relevant matters in the Afghanistan Inquiry report to self-initiate claims on behalf of eligible recipients.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d)

- . A total of six claims have been referred to the independent Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.
 - All six referrals remain under consideration by the Advocate.
 - The Chief of the Defence Force has directed that Defence share information with the Advocate to assist her in performing her functions. However, the Advocate's deliberations are independent of Defence.
- . Timeframes for the compensation process will be determined by the unique circumstances of each claim, and the significant practical and logistical considerations that need to be worked through due to the geopolitical situation in Afghanistan.
- . Defence is unable to comment on the specifics of individual cases in order to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme interaction with other schemes

- . Individuals affected by decisions made under the Scheme may make a complaint to Defence.
 - If a person is not satisfied with the way the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force handles the complaint, they may lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman.
- . The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme is separate to any other financial, legal or regulatory mechanism that the person may have access to according to their particular circumstances, which will vary.
 - For example, individuals may pursue recourse under another discretionary scheme, such as the Act of Grace mechanism.

Compensation Scheme Process

- . The Chief of the Defence Force may refer a claim to the Advocate if that claim satisfies the regulations' criteria.
- . Prior to referring a claim to the Advocate, the Chief of the Defence Force must be satisfied that the claimant is:
 - reasonably likely to be the victim of an assault or property damage, or a family member of a victim of unlawful killing;
 - not reasonably likely to be a member of a terrorist organisation; and
 - not a sanctioned person and not reasonably likely to act on behalf of, or at the direction of, a sanctioned entity.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d)

- The assault, property damage or unlawful killing must be substantiated by credible information, verified by the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (Afghanistan Inquiry).
- The Advocate's role is to:
 - Consider claims for compensation following their referral by the Chief of the Defence Force.
 - Make recommendations on appropriate actions to the Chief of the Defence Force.
- The Advocate's functions do not include undertaking an inquiry or investigation as to whether there has been an unlawful killing, assault or property damage, or whether any offence under Australian law has been committed.
- The Advocate must consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and may consult other relevant experts, prior to making recommendations to the Chief of the Defence Force.
- The Chief of the Defence Force may act in accordance with the Advocate's recommendation, or take a different action in response to the claim.
- Compensation provided under the Scheme may include monetary compensation, non-monetary compensation and/or a letter of apology or acknowledgment.
- Decisions to pay compensation exist separate to court processes.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate Activities

- The Deputy Prime Minister announced the appointment of the Hon Ruth McColl AO as the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate on 21 November 2024. The Advocate's appointment is for a period of two years.
- The Advocate's deliberations are independent of Defence.

Timeline of Major Events and Ministerial Announcements

Date	Event
21 November 2024	The Deputy Prime Minister announced the appointment of the Hon Ruth McColl AO as the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.
12 September 2024	The Deputy Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme under regulations in the House of Representatives.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
 Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
 Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
 Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
 Position: Associate Secretary
 Phone: s47E(d)

19 July 2024	The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme commenced.
18 July 2024	The Governor-General signed off on regulations establishing the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.
19 November 2020	The Afghanistan Inquiry report was released, and included 15 recommendations for compensation to alleged victims of war crimes.

Key Information Requests

Date	Type	Title	Status
15 October 2025	QoN	No. 79, Breakdown of Applications to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked for a breakdown of the applications submitted to the scheme, applications referred to the Advocate, reports given to the CDF, and applications referred to other redress pathways. This question is identical to QoN No. 231 which was tabled on 7 October 2025.	Tabled.
26 August 2025	QoN	No. 231, Breakdown of applications to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked for a breakdown of the applications submitted to the scheme, applications referred to the Advocate, reports given to the CDF, and applications referred to other redress pathways.	Tabled.
6 June 2025	FOI	An individual requested copies of all claims made to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme, all referrals made by the CDF to the Advocate, all recommendations made by the Advocate to the CDF, information regarding Defence outreach, and information regarding the internal management of the Scheme.	Decision finalised.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
 Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
 Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
 Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
 Position: Associate Secretary
 Phone: s47E(d)

26 February 2025	QoN	No. 24, Compensation Scheme assessment process. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked about the role of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate and the claims assessment process.	Tabled.
26 February 2025	QoN	No. 25, Community Outreach & NGOs. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked about notice given to Non-Government Organisations, community outreach efforts and media coverage on the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.	Tabled.

Relevant Media Reporting

- On 28 June 2025, The Saturday Paper published an article titled '[Silent Witness](#)' by Dr Michelle Dimasi, which reported on Afghanistan and The Middle East and war veteran Ben Roberts-Smith.

Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force	
PDR No: SB25-000493	
Prepared by: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Mob: s22 Ph: s47E(d) Date: 11 August 2025	Cleared by Division Head: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Mob: s22 Ph: s47E(d) Date: 7 January 2026
Consultation: Francesca Rush Chief Counsel Defence Legal Date: 12 January 2026	
Cleared by Deputy Secretary/3 Star: Ms Cath Patterson Associate Secretary Date: 9 January 2026	

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Cath Patterson
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d)

PARLIAMENTARY: 2025-26 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY COMPENSATION SCHEME

Lead: Admiral David Johnston AC RAN, Chief of the Defence Force.

Supporting: Mr Steven Groves, Acting Associate Secretary to support on the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.

Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN, Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force to support on the compensation process.

Francesca Rush, Chief Counsel to support on the legal aspects of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme regulations.

Context: On 18 July 2024, the Government established the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme is limited to matters identified by the Afghanistan Inquiry where credible information of alleged property damage, unlawful assault and unlawful killing by ADF members while on operations in Afghanistan during the period between 2005 and 2016.

Key Messages

- The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme was established under the Defence (*Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme*) Regulations 2024, which fulfilled 15 recommendations made in the Afghanistan Inquiry Report.
- By entrenching the Scheme in law, it is the first of its kind among coalition partners and demonstrates the Government's commitment to the payment of compensation to claimants.
- Afghanistan is a logistically, culturally, and politically complex operational environment and there are significant international policy and humanitarian considerations regarding the provision of compensation.
- Defence continues to engage with a range of individuals, government and non-government organisations to promote the existence of the Scheme.
- Defence is actively considering information to initiate claims on behalf of eligible recipients.
- As at 14 November 2025, four referrals have been made to the independent Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.
- Defence is unable to comment on the specifics of individual cases in order to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Steven Groves
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Outreach

- . Defence continues to engage with a range of individuals, government and non-government organisations to promote the existence of the Scheme.
- . Outreach to date has included correspondence and/or meetings with entities both in Australia and overseas, including:
 - the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including the Special Representative on Afghanistan in Doha;
 - six non-government organisations; and
 - four individuals with relevant backgrounds.
- . The primary objective of this outreach has been to seek support in raising awareness of the Scheme and the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme website with potential claimants.
- . These third party dealings are deliberative and confidential in nature.
 - In some cases, organisations will only interact with Defence on a confidential basis.
- . Defence remains open to other avenues to contact potential claimants.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Website

- . On 21 November 2024, the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme website went live, and this has seen an increase in public awareness of the scheme.
- . The website provides information about the Scheme in English, Dari, and Pashto and details how prospective claimants, and/or their authorised representatives, can submit a claim. As at 14 November 2025, the website has received 1649 visitors.

Actions by Defence on applications and referrals

- . As at 14 November 2025, the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme has received 93 applications for compensation. Of these:
 - 42 have been closed as they do not meet the criteria set out in the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme Regulations
 - The remainder are under consideration.
- . Defence is also taking action to advance the intent of the Scheme, and conducting a review of relevant matters in the Afghanistan Inquiry report to self-initiate claims on behalf of eligible recipients.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Steven Groves
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates December 2025

Last updated: 14 November 2025

Key witnesses: Admiral David Johnston RAN, Steven Groves, Rear Admiral Brett Wolski, Francesca Rush

- . A total of four claims have been referred to the independent Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.
 - All four referrals remain under consideration by the Advocate.
 - The Chief of the Defence Force has directed that Defence share information with the Advocate to assist her in performing her functions. However, the Advocate's deliberations are independent of Defence.
- . Timeframes for the compensation process will be determined by the unique circumstances of each claim, and the significant practical and logistical considerations that need to be worked through due to the geopolitical situation in Afghanistan.
- . Defence is unable to comment on the specifics of individual cases in order to protect the personal privacy and safety of claimants.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme interaction with other schemes

- . Individuals affected by decisions made under the Scheme may make a complaint to Defence.
 - If a person is not satisfied with the way Defence handles the complaint, they may lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman.
- . The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme is separate to any other financial, legal or regulatory mechanism that the person may have access to according to their particular circumstances, which will vary.
 - For example, individuals may pursue recourse under another discretionary scheme, such as the Act of Grace mechanism.

Compensation Scheme Process

- . The Chief of the Defence Force may refer a claim to the Advocate if that claim satisfies the regulations' criteria.
- . Prior to referring a claim to the Advocate, the Chief of the Defence Force must be satisfied that the claimant is:
 - reasonably likely to be the victim of an assault or property damage, or a family member of a victim of unlawful killing;
 - not reasonably likely to be a member of a terrorist organisation; and
 - not a sanctioned person and not reasonably likely to act on behalf of, or at the direction of, a sanctioned entity.

Prepared By:

Name: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM
Position: Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response
Task Force
Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

Cleared By:

Name: Steven Groves
Position: Associate Secretary
Phone: s47E(d) & s22

- The assault, property damage or unlawful killing must be substantiated by credible information, verified by the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (Afghanistan Inquiry).
- The Advocate's role is to:
 - Consider claims for compensation following their referral by the Chief of the Defence Force.
 - Make recommendations on appropriate actions to the Chief of the Defence Force.
- The Advocate's functions do not include undertaking an inquiry or investigation as to whether there has been an unlawful killing, assault or property damage, or whether any offence under Australian law has been committed.
- The Advocate must consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and may consult other relevant experts, prior to making recommendations to the Chief of the Defence Force.
- The Chief of the Defence Force may act in accordance with the Advocate's recommendation, or take a different action in response to the claim.
- Compensation provided under the Scheme may include monetary compensation, non-monetary compensation and/or a letter of apology or acknowledgment.
- Decisions to pay compensation exist separate to court processes.

Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate Activities

- The Deputy Prime Minister announced the appointment of the Hon Ruth McColl AO as the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate on 21 November 2024. The Advocate's appointment is for a period of two years.
- Defence has begun referring matters to the Advocate, and is facilitating meetings with relevant Defence subject matter experts and other relevant Commonwealth agencies.
- The Advocate's deliberations are independent of Defence.

Timeline of Major Events and Ministerial Announcements

Date	Event
21 November 2024	The Deputy Prime Minister announced the appointment of the Hon Ruth McColl AO as the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate.

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 Position: Associate Secretary
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2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates December 2025

Last updated: 14 November 2025

Key witnesses: Admiral David Johnston RAN, Steven Groves, Rear Admiral Brett Wolski, Francesca Rush

12 September 2024	The Deputy Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme under regulations in the House of Representatives.
19 July 2024	The Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme commenced.
18 July 2024	The Governor-General signed off on regulations establishing the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.
19 November 2020	The Afghanistan Inquiry report was released, and included 15 recommendations for compensation to alleged victims of war crimes.

Key Information Requests

Date	Type	Title	Status
15 October 2025	QoN	No. 79, Breakdown of Applications to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked for a breakdown of the applications submitted to the scheme, applications referred to the Advocate, reports given to the CDF, and applications referred to other redress pathways. This question is identical to QoN No. 231 which was tabled on 7 October 2025.	Not yet tabled.
26 August 2025	QoN	No. 231, Breakdown of applications to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked for a breakdown of the applications submitted to the scheme, applications referred to the Advocate, reports given to the CDF, and applications referred to other redress pathways.	Tabled.

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6 June 2025	FOI	An individual requested copies of all claims made to the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme, all referrals made by the CDF to the Advocate, all recommendations made by the Advocate to the CDF, information regarding Defence outreach, and information regarding the internal management of the Scheme.	Decision finalised.
26 February 2025	QoN	No. 24, Compensation Scheme assessment process. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked about the role of the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Advocate and the claims assessment process.	Tabled.
26 February 2025	QoN	No. 25, Community Outreach & NGOs. Senator David Shoebridge (Greens, NSW) asked about notice given to Non-Government Organisations, community outreach efforts and media coverage on the Afghanistan Inquiry Compensation Scheme.	Tabled.

Relevant Media Reporting

- On 28 June 2025, The Saturday Paper published an article titled '[Silent Witness](#)' by Dr Michelle Dimasi, which reported on Afghanistan and The Middle East and war veteran Ben Roberts-Smith.

Division: Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force	
PDR No: SB25-000493	
Prepared by: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Mob: s22 Ph: s47E(d) Date: 11 August 2025	Cleared by Division Head: Rear Admiral Brett Wolski AM RAN Head Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force Mob: s22 Ph: s47E(d) Date: 14 November 2025
Consultation: Francesca Rush Chief Counsel Defence Legal Date: 10 September 2025	

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Cleared by Deputy Secretary/3 Star: Mr Steven Groves Acting Associate Secretary	Date: 30 October 2025
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