



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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THE RT HON BARONESS GOLDIE DL
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/8/2/3/ap

19th July 2022

Dear John,

During the Armed Forces Act Continuation Order debate on 5 July, you enquired about progress on the recommendations in the Sir Richard Henriques Report.

Following Royal Assent of the Armed Forces Act 2021, the MOD undertook a wide-ranging exercise to review the programme of required improvements to the Service Justice System, including outstanding recommendations from both the Lyons/Murphy Reviews and the review by Sir Richard Henriques. The size of the programme is considerable, and the work is being taken forward on a project basis with groups from across the Service Justice System taking responsibility for delivering a way ahead on the remaining recommendations, which have been grouped by theme. Prioritisation and progress made by the working groups is being overseen by the Service Justice Executive Group, chaired by the Chief of Defence People, and will report to Ministers quarterly.

As I noted in the House, good progress has been made on taking forward the key recommendations of the Henriques review for the establishment of a Defence Serious Crime Unit headed by a new Provost Marshal. For instance, in April we put in place a Defence Serious Crime Command Headquarters led by the Provost Marshal Serious Crime, with the Headquarters' initial focus being on the continued development and implementation of the Defence Serious Crime Unit to full operational capability by this December.

Recommendations relating to specific elements of the Defence Serious Crime Command and Defence Serious Crime Unit, such as the Strategic Policing Board and the Victims Witness Care Unit, continue to be developed. This involves extensive engagement with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure we design and implement the most appropriate and effective working models. Overall, the Defence Serious Crime Command and Defence Serious Crime Unit will provide a tri-service, independent approach as to how serious investigations are conducted within Defence.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,
Annabel

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

The Rt Hon Lord Burnett of Maldon
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