

Defence Portfolio

INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 1–4)

Mr Julian Hill MP asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 28 August 2023:

1. What progress has Defence made on its internal investigations and inquiries in light of the report it referred to in the public hearing?
2. Has Defence found the missing minutes from the 15 March 2018 Defence Committee yet?
3. Does Defence intend to make a further submission addressing its procurement of the Hunter Class Frigates noting the Committee expanded the terms of reference of its inquiry to include these issues after Defence provided its initial submission, and if so when?

Independent assurance and other external reviews

The Committee is aware that a number of external reviews and assurance activities have been undertaken as part of or in relation to the Hunter Class Design and Productionisation program. Some have been publicly mentioned or can be discerned from AusTender and other sources including Systems Requirement Review (SRR), Mission System Systems Definition Review, Mission System Systems Definition Review, Support System Systems Definition Review, System Readiness Review, Prototype Readiness Review, Integrated Baseline Review 1, Integrated Baseline Review 2 and Ship Acquisition Surface Combatants Engineering Team's report.

4. In a table or other sensible format please provide details of all independent reviews and assurance reviews that have been conducted for each review:
 - What was the title?
 - What was the scope and purpose?
 - What date was it commissioned and completed on?
 - Who undertook it and what did it cost?
 - Which were part of the Head Contract's Key Milestones, and which were separately commissioned?
 - Please briefly summarise the key findings of each review.
 - Please advise the security classification of each review and advise if there are any concerns with providing a copy in confidence to the Committee Secretariat for review.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the above questions:

1. Defence recognises the important oversight role that the Committee provides. Defence has completed the first stage of its review and will look to update the Committee at its next scheduled hearing.
2. No.
3. Defence intends to provide a supplementary submission on its procurement of the Hunter class frigates to the Committee's inquiry.
4. Excluding the publically available ANAO Report, a total of eleven external reviews and assurance activities have been undertaken in relation to the Hunter class frigate project between May 2019 and February 2023. The details of these cannot be provided in this response due to classifications ranging from Official: Sensitive to Protected: Cabinet.