



Senator Alan Eggleston  
Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Eggleston

**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE: INQUIRY INTO  
DLA PIPER'S REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL AND OTHER ABUSE IN  
DEFENCE, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE REPORT**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to this inquiry.

In relation to the matters raised by the DLA Piper inquiry into Defence, the Commission understands that that inquiry was established to consider reports of different forms of abuse within the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The ADF does not form part of the Australian Public Service, and is not regulated by the *Public Service Act 1999*. As such, our Offices have no statutory role in relation to its operation or the way in which it deals with reports of abuse. Given that, it would not be appropriate for the Commission to comment in detail on the historic management of these issues within the ADF.

The Committee may find it helpful to have information about the way that allegations of sexual and other harassment are dealt with in the Australian Public Service (APS), including APS employees within the Department of Defence.

We would be happy to appear personally before the Committee if it is of the view that that would be helpful to its deliberations.

Stephen Sedgwick AO  
Public Service Commissioner  
22 November 2012

Annwyn Godwin  
Merit Protection Commissioner  
22 November 2012