

29 MAY 2002



Senator the Hon Robert Hill
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Defence

Mr Bob Charles MP
Chairman
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

28 MAY 2002

Dear Mr Charles

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2001 to the former Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Reith, forwarding a copy of Report No 383 of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and requesting an Executive Minute for recommendation 1: *"The committee recommends that the Department of Defence put in place appropriate reporting structures to ensure that all internal audits are reviewed by the Defence Audit Committee and provided to relevant internal stakeholders in a timely fashion."*

Internal audit reports containing high level recommendations or matters of concern are provided to the Defence Audit Committee and have been since before this recommendation was made. Additionally, the Defence Audit Committee is now routinely provided with reports that summarise the details and findings of all internal audit reports. Stakeholders are provided with copies of all audit reports relevant to their area and Senior Managers are provided with a Group Heads' report which summarises all internal audits completed during the previous four months.

This response was due by 1 March 2002 but was overlooked by the Defence Inspector General, Mr Claude Neumann, for which he apologises.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Hill".

Robert Hill