

Defence Abuse Review Process

Jurisdiction Assessment Review Process

If part or all of your report of abuse is out of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to take further action, you can request a review of the decision.

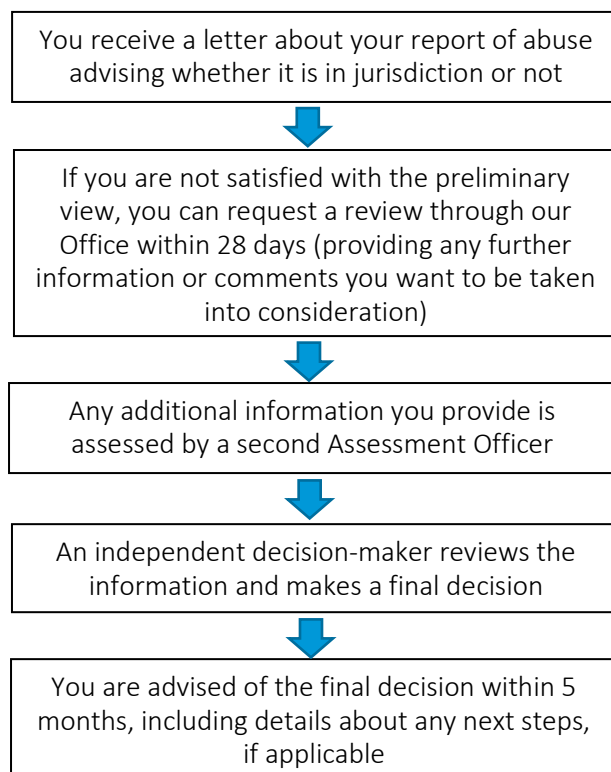
A request for a review should be submitted within 28 days of the Ombudsman's preliminary view being advised. This should include additional information about the abuse you experienced. Should you require more time you are able to request an extension past 28 days.

The information you provide is assessed by a second Assessment Officer, and the final decision is made by an independent decision-maker in our Office.

The independent decision-maker may decide to uphold or vary the preliminary view.

A review can take up to 5 months. You will be notified of the final decision and the supporting reasons.

There is no opportunity for further internal review after this process has been completed.



Contact us

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defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

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The Ombudsman has offices in:

- » Adelaide
- » Brisbane
- » Canberra
- » Melbourne
- » Perth
- » Sydney

You can request a review of a preliminary view made in relation to your report of abuse.

Further review or appeal

If after internal review you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of your report of abuse to the Ombudsman, you can apply to the Federal Circuit Court or the Federal Court. Please note the courts do not provide merits review of our decisions. An application for review by the courts only reviews whether we acted lawfully and with due process in making our recommendation.

If you choose this option you may wish to seek legal advice. The Ombudsman's Office is not able to provide advice on this process.

Need more information?

If you have any questions or concerns about the review process, please contact our Office via email at defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

More information is available at ombudsman.gov.au.

Please note: This document is intended as a guide only. For this reason, the information should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. To the maximum extent permitted by the law, the Commonwealth Ombudsman is not liable to you for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance on this document. For the most up-to-date versions of cited Acts, please refer to the [Federal Register of Legislation](#).