

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.8**

**Question No. SBE14/046**

**Senator Xenophon asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:**

Senator XENOPHON: I will leave that to one side. Of the women that came forward in relation to the ADFA 24 cases, have any of those matters been referred to the police?

Mr Hall: Yes.

Senator XENOPHON: By the task force?

Mr Hall: Yes.

Senator XENOPHON: How many of those cases have been referred to the police?

Mr Hall: I may have to take that question on notice, I am afraid, Senator.

Senator XENOPHON: That is fine. I just want to move on. I would be grateful if you could take it on notice. I would like to get an understanding of how many of those cases were referred to Defence for disciplinary proceedings.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

A number of the ADFA 24 matters (matters involving the alleged sexual abuse of women at ADFA in the 1990s) have been referred to the police, at various times since they were first identified in the 1990s.

At least 10 of these matters were referred to the police during the 1990s (including two women who directly reported their allegations to police). In addition, in October 2012, the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service made a recommendation to the then CDF that a number of matters be referred to the Australian Federal Police (although the Taskforce understands that referrals to the AFP were not made at this time).

The Taskforce has provided Defence with a summary analysis of 33 cases of alleged sexual abuse of women at ADFA in the 1990s. The Taskforce recommended that Defence consider taking administrative, disciplinary or other action in 17 of these cases. On 25 September 2014, the CDF, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, wrote to Chair regarding the ADFA 24 referrals, and noted that Defence was investigating whether some of these cases could be referred to police.

As at 12 January 2015, the Taskforce has referred three ADFA matters to the police. These matters are not part of the group of cases identified as the 'ADFA 24'. It is not yet certain how many ADFA 24 cases involving complainants to the Taskforce will be referred to the police directly by the Taskforce as the Taskforce liaison with these complainants regarding their complaints is ongoing.

As at 12 January 2015, the Taskforce has made recommendations that Defence consider administrative, disciplinary or other action in 17 'ADFA 24' cases. In addition, as at 12 January 2015, the Taskforce has referred four ADFA matters (which are not part of the 'ADFA 24') to the CDF for consideration of possible administrative or disciplinary action.