



ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

The Tribunal has received assurances from the Minister for Defence that are consistent with the terms of paragraph (e) of the Tribunal's Terms of Reference.

Specifically, the Tribunal has received the following assurance from the Minister for Defence:

'I wish to provide as required, my assurances, in my capacity as Minister for Defence, that no serving member of the Defences Forces will be penalised by me, or any of the officials in my Department acting on my behalf, by reason of the fact of their having made any complaint or complaints of abuse or complaints of hazardous chemicals to or at the Tribunal.'

Whilst not required by the Tribunal's Terms of Reference, the following additional assurance has been provided by the Minister for Defence:

'Further, serving members of the Defences Forces who have not made such a disclosure, and who co-operate with and assist the work of the Tribunal in accordance with the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts 1921-2004, shall not be penalised by me, or any of the officials in my Department acting on my behalf, by reason of such co-operation or assistance.'

The Tribunal has accepted the above assurances from the Minister for Defence.

The Minister for Defence has indicated to the Tribunal his proposal to issue an instruction throughout the Department of Defence so that all those who ought to be aware of the above assurances are made so aware.