



**Senator the Hon Marise Payne**  
**Minister for Defence**

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7800

MC17-002336

Mr Kenneth Marsh  
64 Mt Pleasant Avenue  
WAHROONGA NSW 2076

Dear Mr Marsh

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 July 2017, following your meeting with my Electorate Office Manager, about recognition for Rifle Company Butterworth service between 1970 and 1989. I appreciate you advising me of your concerns in relations to this matter.

I note your enquiries in relation to my response to a question from Senator Brian Burston on 27 March 2017 in the Senate. My response reflects that the Review of Service Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-1975 (Mohr Review) looked at claimed anomalies in respect of South-East Asian service from 1955 to 1975. My statement that there was a focus on medallic recognition acknowledges that the majority of the Mohr Review Report recommendations relate to medals.

You also raise concerns about the approach of the Department of Defence regarding Butterworth service. I note the Secretary advised you on 31 January 2017, in response to your letter regarding these claims, that he was satisfied your petition had raised no new and compelling evidence to support your claims. The Secretary also affirmed that in his view, the matter remained closed and that no further correspondence on this matter would be entered into.

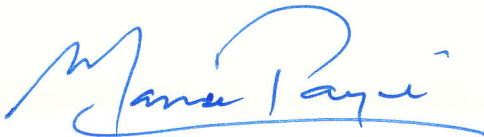
I note that the significant volume of documents you provided with your letter of 24 July 2017 are similar to those provided to myself and Minister Tehan by another party. The examination of this information will take some time, and I have asked Minister Tehan to advise you of the outcome of the review when completed.

In your email to Minister Tehan on 22 August 2017 you also raised concerns about the rejection of a claim from a former Army member by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. In the absence of specific detail on this subject, and noting that privacy considerations prevents me discussing another person's case with you, I am unable to provide further information to you about this matter.

However, I encourage the former member to discuss his review options with Department of Veterans' Affairs. The former member may also wish to access counselling from the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service if he is eligible. The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides free and confidential, nationwide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression. Eligible members can contact 133 254 if they are located in metropolitan areas or 1800 555 254 if they are located in regional areas.

I trust this information assists.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marise Payne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**MARISE PAYNE**

**16 OCT 2017**