

## **Police Cautions – Action taken by MoD against service personnel (Dec 2008- Sep 2011)**

### Summary

Simple police cautions should not have been taken into account by the Armed Forces in dealing with service personnel during the period Dec 2008 to Sept 2011.

### Detail

The Ministry of Defence has now written to serving and former personnel who may have been subject to administrative action taken during the period December 2008 – September 2011 as a result of receiving a simple police caution. Changes to the law which took effect in December 2008 meant that such cautions should not have been taken into account.

The letters reminded personnel that Service complaints can be made by serving and former personnel who believe they have been wronged in a matter relating to their service. Information about Service complaints is contained in Joint Service Publication 831, which can be accessed at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Under the relevant legislation, Service Complaints generally need to be submitted within 3 months of the act being complained about. However, this time limit may be extended at the discretion of the prescribed officer dealing with the complaint if, in all the circumstances of the case, he or she considers it just and equitable to do so. Any complaints received will be considered entirely on their own merits, but the date on which personnel received a letter about this issue may be one of the factors taken into account when considering whether to allow a complaint to proceed.