



National Defence

Deputy Minister

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Ottawa, (Ontario)
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Mr. Tom Kmiec
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Kmiec,

As agreed upon in the Government Response to the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts entitled *Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, National Defence submits its update on Recommendation 1.

Sincerely,

Jody Thomas

Enclosure: 1

**Response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor
General of Canada**

Recommendation 1

That the Department of National Defence provide the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts with its new operational requirements for military housing by 30 June 2017, and its revised accommodation policy by 31 December 2018.

Background

In its 2015 audit of Canadian Armed Forces housing, the Auditor General recommended that National Defence complete a review of its military housing policy. National Defence agreed and committed to producing a revised accommodation policy by fall 2017. From June 2017, to June 2021, National Defence provided the Public Accounts Committee with seven progress updates. Although National Defence has been challenged by delays in completing the policy review, the Department has developed a new work plan and is on track to complete the policy review by spring 2024.

In the June 2020 update, National Defence noted that significant work was still to be completed as part of the review, including the revision of the three component parts of its living accommodation policy suite: 1) Queen's Regulations and Orders (the policy's overarching regulatory framework); 2) Defence Administrative Orders and Directives (the departmental policy); and 3) the Living Accommodation Instruction (to guide personnel in implementing the policy). National Defence acknowledged that it had underestimated the time required to complete this review and re-evaluated the process in its entirety to ensure that it would complete all aspects of the policy review by spring 2024, without further delay.

In the interest of transparency and accountability, in June 2020, National Defence provided the Committee with a timeline illustrating the key steps and milestones required to complete the review, taking into account any possible delays resulting from COVID-19. National Defence also committed to updating the Committee every six months – by 31 December, and 30 June of each year – until the review is complete and the new policy suite is in place.

In the June 2021 update, National Defence reported that it remains on track to have the updated living accommodation policy suite in place by spring 2024. Please find the December 2021 update below.

Update on the living accommodation policy suite review

Since the last update, National Defence continues to consult subject matter policy experts and legal advisors on the regulatory and policy review process, and remains on schedule to meet the overall implementation of the living accommodation policies by spring 2024.

As part of this regulatory and policy review process, a GBA+ analysis will also be conducted to ensure that the principles of inclusivity and dignity for all Canadian Armed Forces members are incorporated into this policy suite.

Reviewing the Queen's Regulations and Orders (QR&Os)

National Defence remains on track to develop the regulatory drafting instructions and complete the review of QR&Os by May 2022. Completing this phase of the review will allow legal experts to begin regulatory drafting in June 2022. This process will serve to address legal and policy inconsistencies as well as ensure closer alignment with other related federal housing directives.

Reviewing the Defence Administrative Order and Directive (DAOD)

Since June 2021, National Defence received stakeholder endorsement from the Living Accommodation Working Group for the latest updates to the Authority/Responsibility Tables. These Tables will provide direction to organizations within the Defence Team and will guide their respective responsibilities over the authority, oversight, and management of National Defence living accommodations functions and processes.

Once the regulatory policy review of the required QR&Os (mentioned above) has been completed, an in-depth review of a new departmental policy instruction will commence, likely in the June 2022 timeframe. This policy instruction will provide additional details regarding the types of living accommodations, and outline the policy guidance for the requirements, eligibility, allocation, and charges/fees for National Defence living accommodations. This sequencing will ensure close alignment among the legal regulatory framework, the departmental policy, and the Living Accommodation Instruction.

Reviewing the Living Accommodation Instruction

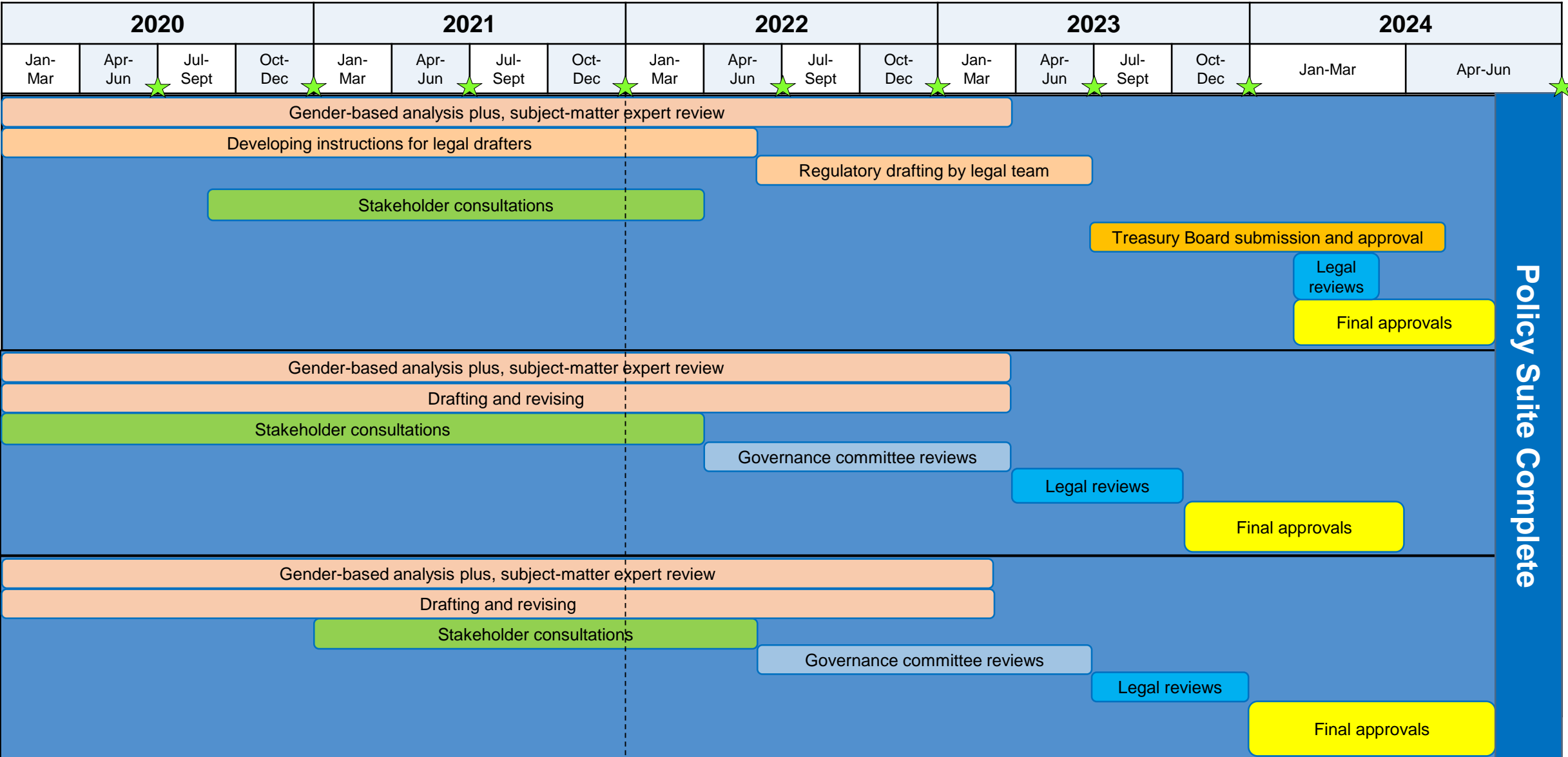
Since the June 2021 update, National Defence completed a thorough stakeholder review of the *Responsible Pet Ownership* policy, and is working to address one remaining policy matter that, once implemented in 2024, will ensure that a variety of acceptable pets are consistently and fairly managed in all National Defence residential housing.


National Defence anticipates to begin stakeholder consultations of the *Violation Management* annex in January 2022. Once implemented in 2024, the *Violation Management* annex will allow for a standardized method of managing inappropriate behaviours for those occupants living in National Defence residential housing, and will ensure that all occupants are treated with fairness, respect, and dignity.

Future updates to the Committee

National Defence will once again provide the Committee with a progress update on the living accommodation policy suite review by June 30, 2022.

Living Accommodation Policy Suite Timeline



 = semi-annual PACP update due June 30 and December 31