

**In the matter of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950***  
**Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 3) 2022**  
**Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland**

**STATEMENT OF EWEN TAYLOR**

I, **Ewen Taylor**, of 485 Nudgee Road, Hendra, Queensland 4011 state as follows:

The following statement is provided in response to a notice I received from the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland requiring me to give information in a written statement regarding my knowledge of matters set out in the Schedule attached to that notice. Attached and marked '**Exhibit 1**' is a copy of that notice.

**Current Employment**

1. I am presently a Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge Hendra Scenes of Crime (SOC).

**Qualifications and experience**

2. My qualifications include: -
  - (a) 2003, Completed Diploma in Crime Scene Examination.
  - (b) 2011, Completed FSG Crime Scene Management Course.
  - (c) 2011, Completed NCTC Forensic Coordinators Course.
  - (d) 2012, Completed NCTC CBRN Course.
3. My work history since I commenced in the QPS is as follows: -
  - (a) 1990, Constable, General Duties Sunshine Coast.
  - (b) 1992, Constable, Breath Analysis Section.
  - (c) 1993, Senior Constable, Kawana Waters Police Station.
  - (d) 1996, Plain clothes Constable, Sunshine Coast Criminal Investigation Bureau.
  - (e) 2003, Senior Constable, Redcliffe SOC.

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- (f) 2005, Sergeant, Indooroopilly SOC.
  - (g) 2009, Sergeant, Officer in Charge, New Farm SOC.
  - (h) 2011 to Present, Senior Sergeant Officer in Charge, Hendra SOC.
  - (i) 2012 to Present – relieved on numerous occasions – Acting Inspector, Forensic Manager, North Brisbane Area.
  - (j) 2014, Relieved – Acting Inspector, State Scenes of Crime Coordinator.
  - (k) 2015, Relieved – Acting Inspector, Forensic Manager, Sunshine Coast District.
  - (l) 2016, Relieved – Acting Inspector, Forensic Manager, Gold Coast District.
  - (m) 22/07/17 – 01/10/17, Relieved Senior Sergeant DNA Management Unit.
  - (n) 02/10/17 – 17/06/18, Relieved Acting Inspector, DNA Management Unit.
  - (o) 18/06/18, Returned Senior Sergeant Officer in Charge, Hendra SOC.
  - (p) 2022, Relieved – Acting Inspector, Forensic Manager, South Brisbane District.
4. As the **Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge of Hendra SOC**, my primary roles and responsibilities include management of the work unit, management of a varying number of sworn and unsworn staff (presently 11), coordination of major crime scenes and conducting examinations of crime scenes. My staff members are primarily involved in the examination of crime scenes with a view to collecting and recording physical evidence and identifying offenders within the North Brisbane District. Since 2012, I have come under the supervision of various Inspectors and am presently supervised by Inspector Peter BUSHELL who is the Forensic Manager, for the North Brisbane District.
5. As the **Senior Sergeant, DNA Management Unit** my duties primarily involved supervising varying number of sworn and unsworn staff, liaising with investigators and reviewing legislation. During that period, I had various supervisors including Acting Inspector Craig SMITH, and then Inspector Phillip STEVENS. I received a verbal handover when commencing this role.

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6. As the **Inspector, DNA Management Unit** my duties primarily involved management of the unit, including Sample Management, Results Management, and the DNA Liaison Unit, the supervision of varying numbers of sworn and unsworn staff and liaison with Senior Management of Queensland Health Forensic Services (QHFSS). Upon commencing this role, I took over duties from Inspector Phillip STEVENS and received a verbal handover from Inspector STEVENS. Upon leaving this role, I provided a typed handover to Inspector David NEVILLE. A copy of this handover is attached and marked '**Exhibit 2**'.
7. As the Inspector of the DNA Management Unit, I reported directly to Superintendent, Forensic Services Group, Dale FRIEBERG. Staff reporting directly to me within the unit included two Senior Sergeants including Senior Sergeant Gerard SIMPFENDORFER and Senior Sergeant Ruben COLLOPEN, and acting Senior Sergeants at various times, primarily Sergeant Libby HARRIS and Sergeant Ken GEE KEE.
8. I am not in a position to accurately or comprehensively explain the current structure of the Forensic Services Group (FSG). The Acting Superintendent of FSG, Duncan McCARTHY, holds a better understanding and knowledge of the current structure of the FSG.

### **The Options Paper**

9. I first became aware of the report titled, '*A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration (January 2018)*' ('the Options Paper') on the 30th of January 2018. The Options Paper was co-authored by Senior Managing Scientists Justin HOWES and Cathie ALLEN. It was emailed to Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG, Inspector Troy O'MALLEY and me by Cathie Allen, who also requested a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss the matter.
10. Later that day Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG emailed me requesting that I provide advice with respect to the Options Paper.

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Ewen Taylor

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11. I forwarded the Options Paper to all experienced members and heads of section within the DNA Management Unit including Senior Sergeant Ruben COLLOPEN, Acting Senior Sergeant Libby HARRIS, Sergeant Ken GEE KEE and Olivia McINTYRE.
12. I also had a verbal discussion with Inspector Troy O'MALLEY (IT and Forensic Register Development) regarding the Options Paper. I recall Inspector O'MALLEY advised that it would not appear worthwhile continuing with the 'Auto-Microcon' process for Priority 2 samples.
13. I received both verbal and email advice regarding the Options Paper. All the advice received concurred that, based on the statistics provided by QHFSS, it would not appear worthwhile continuing with the 'Auto-Microcon' process for Priority 2 samples. It was contemplated that pertinent samples could still be submitted for further processing if required.
14. Following this, I responded to Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG via email and advised that Senior Members within DNA Management Unit and Inspector Troy O'MALLEY agreed that the data supported that option 2 (cease the 'Auto-Microcon' process for P2 samples) appeared to be a more productive and efficient choice. I also advised that the DNA Management Unit could request additional testing when requested from investigators and noted that the matter would no doubt be discussed further later that week.
15. All correspondence that I was a party to regarding the Options Paper is attached and marked '**Exhibit 3**'.
16. On the 1st of February 2018, I attended a meeting at QHFSS Conference room CR102 with Managing Scientists Cathie ALLEN, Justin HOWE and Paula BRISOTTO. The meeting was intended to address any issues and provide in-person communication between the DNA Management Unit and QHFSS. The Options Paper was also briefly discussed at this meeting and all parties agreed that, based on the data and statistics provided, it was not an efficient use of resources to continue with the 'Auto-Microcon' process for Priority 2 samples.

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17. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2018, I attended a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the QHFSS, Paul CSOBAN, Cathie ALLEN, Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG, and Inspector Troy O'MALLEY. The meeting was organised by Cathie ALLEN and I attended at the request of Superintendent FRIEBERG.
18. The meeting on 2 February 2018 was organised by Cathie ALLEN for the purpose of discussing the Options Paper. During this meeting, I recall discussion of the fact that 90% of samples that had been through the 'Auto-Microcon' process did not improve, and that only 1.5% of the remaining 10% provided a result. Cathie Allen provided advice in relation to the Options Paper and it was decided that it would be best to invest time and resources into exhibits with a higher DNA yield. It was agreed that Superintendent FRIEBERG would provide email advice to Cathie ALLEN approving option 2 (ceasing the Auto-Microcon process for Priority 2 samples).
19. I made written notes in my diary during this meeting. My diary notes from this meeting, appear within the documents attached and marked '**Exhibit 4**'.
20. The Options Paper was accepted by Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG via email on the 2nd of February 2018.
21. At the time the Options Paper was accepted my understanding was that by accepting option 2 (ceasing the 'Auto-Microcon' process) QHFSS could reduce the turn-around time needed to process DNA results. It would also enable QHFSS to preserve DNA for further processing using other DNA technologies including Y-STR analysis, LOW Copy DNA analysis etc.
22. Quicker turn-around times for the processing DNA results by QHFSS would enable investigators to consider using alternative strategies or otherwise request that the DNA sample be resubmitted for further testing. The ability to request that the DNA sample be resubmitted for further testing would be particularly important in major crime investigations. The only negative of this process appeared to be that a low number of samples not subjected to the 'Auto-Microcon' process would not undergo that analysis, unless requested by the investigating officer.

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23. I left the DNA Management Unit before the consequences of ceasing the Auto-Microcon process could be evaluated. The current Inspector of the DNA Management Unit would be better placed to comment on whether the expected consequences occurred.
24. The changes proposed by the Options Paper were implemented during February 2018. As a result, investigators would be advised automatically via QPRIME tasking when an exhibit returned 'DNA insufficient for further processing'. The notification also advised of the option to resubmit the exhibit for further testing, if pertinent, and to contact the DNA management section through QPRIME when requesting further testing.
25. I chaired a meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 at the DNA Management Unit. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss matters pertinent to the DNA Management Unit. The Superintendent's decision to cease the Auto-Microcon process was mentioned during this meeting and I passed on appreciation to those who provided advice. All members of the DNA Management Unit were present during this meeting, or later advised via email. A typed record of this meeting is attached and marked 'Exhibit 5'. In June 2018, I returned to my substantive position at Hendra Scenes of Crime. I included a copy of the Options Paper in my handover to Inspector Neville ('Exhibit 2'), together with information about the decision to cease the 'Auto-Microcon' process and an example of how to process a investigator request for further processing.

#### **Communication between DNA Manager and QHFSS**

26. Upon commencing as the Acting Inspector DNA Management Unit, it appeared that there were no regular in-person meetings between the Unit and QHFSS. It appeared that these in-person meetings had reduced due to the number of temporary Inspectors relieving at DNA Management Unit since the retirement of the last substantive Inspector.
27. As the Inspector of the DNA Management Unit, I endeavoured to organize regular meetings between Management of the DNA Management Unit and QHFSS. These meetings were either conducted at QHFSS or QPS Headquarters. Details of these meetings are:-

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- (a) 1 February: meeting with Cathie ALLEN, Justin HOWES, Paula BRISSOTTO.
  - (b) 2 February: meeting with Cathie ALLEN, Paul CSOBEN, Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG, Inspector Troy O'MALLEY (notes of the meeting are continued on the blank page of my diary for Sunday the 4th of February).
  - (c) 14 February: DNA Management Unit meeting, attended by Cathie ALLEN.
  - (d) 19 February: meeting with Justin HOWES, Paula BRISSOTTO, Allan MCNEVIN.
  - (e) 13 March: meeting with Justin HOWES, Sharon JOHNSTONE.
  - (f) 13 June: meeting/Tour QHFSS with Cathie ALLEN.
28. The diary entries and all notes associated with these meetings appear within the bundle of documents attached and marked 'Exhibit 4'

### Backlogs

29. When I commenced as the Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Unit I was not aware of any DNA testing backlogs.
30. During my period of relieving as the Acting Inspector DNA Management Unit I was not aware of any DNA testing backlogs.
31. I do not know if there is a current DNA testing backlog and I am not aware of any backlogs which may have occurred since left that section. This information would be better provided by the current Inspector DNA Management Unit.

### Other issues

32. I was not aware of any substantive issues or problems regarding DNA collection or testing at the time I commenced at the DNA Management Unit.
33. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, Managing Scientist Cathie ALLEN advised Superintendent Dale FRIEBERG and myself of an issue involving PowerPlex 21 kits whereby 2 loci (out of 20 loci) were not amplifying properly. QHFSS advised that inquiries were made with the manufacturer. Cathie ALLEN provided advice to Superintendent FRIEBERG

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and me regarding the issue, which was affecting multiple jurisdictions. The flow of some results was temporarily disrupted, and strategies were put in place to minimize disruptions. This may have caused a delay in turn-around times for DNA results. The Superintendent provided advice to the Deputy Commissioner on the issue. I provided advice to the relevant parties within the DNA Management Unit and stakeholders. To my knowledge this matter was resolved after I left the DNA Management Unit and I am unaware if a backlog occurred as a result.

34. All communications regarding this temporary issue are attached and marked 'Exhibit 6'

#### **Olivia McIntyre**

35. Olivia McINTYRE is a civilian AO4, DNA Management officer attached to the DNA Management Unit. Olivia is a highly experienced DNA Management Administrative officer who has worked within the unit for a considerable period of time. Olivia has a thorough understanding of DNA results, technical, administrative and operational matters and worked within the Results Section, also managing DNA Projects, FSG Cold Case DNA liaison, in addition to other roles. I am aware that Olivia McINTYRE was awarded the QPS Most Outstanding Female Administrator award on multiple occasions. Olivia's experience and ability dealing in DNA result matters has resulted in numerous solved major crimes.
36. Upon request, Olivia McINTYRE provided advice on the Options Paper. The email advice provided is attached and marked 'Exhibit 7'.

#### **Troy O'Malley**

37. Acting Inspector Troy O'MALLEY was in charge of Forensic Register Implementation and Development and IT. Inspector O'MALLEY left the QPS in 2018 and now works with a private company BDNA and continues to develop the Forensic Register.
38. Inspector Troy O'MALLEY was the lead developer in charge of the Forensic Register.

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[REDACTED]

39. I have had no involvement in the investigation into the murder of [REDACTED].

**TAKEN AND DECLARED** before me at Hendra in the State of Queensland this 23rd day of August 2022

[REDACTED]

Ewen Taylor

Witness

[REDACTED]





**In the matter of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950***  
**Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 3) 2022**  
**Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland**



**STATEMENT OF EWEN TAYLOR**  
**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit no.	Description
1.	Notice 2022/00027 – Requirement to give information in a written statement dated 15/07/2022
2.	Handover email from Ewen Taylor to David Neville dated 14/06/2022 and diary notes dated 17/06/2022
3.	Emails and communications in relation to the Options Paper
4.	Diary Notes of Ewen Taylor – various meetings between QHFSS and FSG between 01/02/2018 to 13/06/2018
5.	Minutes of DNA Management meeting dated 14/02/2018
6.	Emails and communications in relation to issues with PowerPlex 21 kits
7.	Email advice from Olivia McIntyre in relation to the Options Paper dated 31/01/2018

Notice number: 2022/ 00027

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO FORENSIC DNA TESTING  
IN QUEENSLAND**

Section 5(1)(d) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950*

**REQUIREMENT TO GIVE INFORMATION IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT**

To: Ewen Taylor

Of: Queensland Police Service

I, Walter Sofronoff QC, Commissioner, appointed pursuant to Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 3) 2022 to inquire into certain matters pertaining to forensic DNA testing in Queensland require you to attend to give a written statement to the Commission pursuant to section 5(1)(d) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* in regard to your knowledge of the matters set out in the Schedule annexed hereto.

YOU MUST COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT BY:

Giving a written statement prepared either in affidavit form or verified as a statutory declaration under the *Oaths Act 1867* to the Commission of Inquiry on or before **5.00 pm Friday 29 July 2022**, by delivering it to Level 21, 111 George Street, Brisbane.

A copy of the written statement must also be provided electronically by email at [REDACTED] with the subject line "Requirement for Written Statement".

If you believe that you have a reasonable excuse for not complying with this notice, you will need to satisfy me of this by the above date.

DATED this 15th day of July 2022

[REDACTED]  
Walter Sofronoff QC

**Commissioner**

Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland



Notice 2022/ 00027

### Schedule of topics for statement

#### Senior Sergeant Ewen Taylor

1. State your current rank and position in the QPS.

#### Qualifications and experience

2. List your post-graduate qualifications, the year obtained, and the institute from which the qualifications were obtained.
3. Provide your work history since you commenced in the QPS. Include the year you commenced, each position you held, and the location and year(s) each position was held. In providing the work history:
  - (a) Explain the role/responsibilities/duties of the Officer in Charge, Scenes of Crime, Hendra. Include details about how many staff you are responsible for and what roles those staff members have and the jurisdiction you cover. Include who you report to, that person's role and rank and name.
  - (b) Explain the role/responsibilities/duties you held as Senior Sergeant of the DNA Management Section. Include the people who you reported to and the people who reported to you. Include their name, rank and positions. Include information about the handover you received entering the position, and attach a copy of any handover brief/emails/file notes/diary notes.
  - (c) Explain the role/responsibilities/duties you held as Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Section. Include the people you reported to and the people who reported to you. Include their name, rank and positions. Include information about the handover you received entering the position and the handover you gave when leaving the position. Identify the people by name, rank and position that you took over from and who took over from you. Attach a copy of any handover brief/emails/file notes/diary notes.
4. Attach a current CV.
5. Explain the structure of the Forensic Services Group (**FSG**), and where the sections/units you worked in fit into the structure.

**Options Paper**

6. Explain how you first became aware of the **report entitled** *A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration* (January 2018) (**the Options Paper**).
7. Explain what you were asked to do with the Options Paper, and by whom you were asked. Include what you did with the Options Paper. Identify by name, rank and position who you discussed the Options Paper with and the nature of the discussions.
8. Attach any correspondence you were party to regarding the Options Paper.
9. What meetings did you have with Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services (**QHFSS**) regarding the Options Paper? When were the meetings held and who attended the meetings? What representations were made by QHFSS about the Options Paper at those meetings? Attach any file note/diary note you made/have/possess relating to the Options Paper or meetings about the Options Paper.
10. What discussions/conversations/telephone calls did you have with the authors of the Options Paper about the Options Paper? Attach any file note/diary note you made, have or possess relating to those conversations.
11. When was the Options Paper accepted, how was it accepted and by whom (name, rank and position)?
12. At the time the Options Paper was accepted, what was your understanding of the Options Paper? What was your understanding of the consequences (both positives and negatives) of accepting the options presented to you/QPS/QHFSS and that the QPS/QHFSS accepted?
13. When were the changes proposed by the Options Paper put into practice and how were they put into practice?
14. What were/are the consequences (positive and negative) of the QPS having accepted the Options Paper?
15. Was there any internal QPS communication surrounding the implementation of the Options Paper/changes in testing (i.e. to investigators, scenes of crime officers, scientific officers)? If so, to who, by who, in what format (email, QPRIME entries) and when?

### **Communication between DNA Manager and QHFSS**

16. Upon starting as the Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Unit, were there regular meetings between the DNA Management Section and QHFSS? If so, who were the parties involved, what was the title/purpose of the meetings, how regularly were they held and were minutes/records kept of the meetings? If minutes/records were kept, attach copies.
17. Did you set about improving the communication between the QPS/DNA Management Section and QHFSS? If yes, how? Do you have any records regarding your attempts to improve the communication? If yes, attach copies.

### **Backlogs**

18. At the time you took over as Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Section, were there any DNA testing backlogs?
19. During your time in the role as Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Section, were there any DNA testing backlogs?
20. Did anybody explain to you or to other members of the QPS what the reasons were for any backlogs, and what rectifying steps were to be taken? Is there now a backlog?

### **Other issues**

21. At the time you commenced as Senior Sergeant of the DNA Management Unit and, at the time you commenced as Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Unit, were there any substantive issues or problems regarding DNA collection or testing?
22. During your time in the role of Senior Sergeant and then Acting Inspector of the DNA Management Unit, were there any substantive issues or problems regarding DNA collection or testing?

### **Olivia McIntyre**

23. Who is Olivia McIntyre and what position does she hold within the QPS? What role does she perform? What are her responsibilities?
24. What involvement, if any, did Olivia McIntyre have with respect to the Options Paper?

### **Troy O'Malley**

25. Who is Troy O'Malley? What role/position did he occupy within the QPS and when?
26. What involvement did Troy O'Malley have with the development and implementation of the Forensic Register?

- [REDACTED]
27. Outline any involvement you have had in the investigation into the murder of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] including collecting/submitting/testing/retesting/further testing of any  
samples for DNA.

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 June 2018 15:09  
**To:** Neville.DavidH[OSC]  
**Cc:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Subject:** Hand Over

Give me a call, [REDACTED] this would be better to do in person, but have a read and ring with questions.

- **PP21 Issue.** See updates. 2 loci not responding with Promega kits. Some limited interim results being released for single source profiles. Still unresolved, this will cause an increase in work for Results section once sorted. May well require overtime on weekends, will have to wait and see the impact.

'Since my last update, we've conducted a number of different experiments regarding the PP21 issue. The collation of the results from these and other experiments and several discussions has led us to the point whereby we are still yet to determine the cause of the issue.

Bearing this in mind, and the impact on the QPS and the community, we will re-commence processing of samples through to profile and reporting stage, whilst we continue to undertake our investigation into the cause. We have assessed the risk of this and will mitigate this by beginning with Major Crime and the higher concentration samples (thereby using less of the extracted DNA).

We will be continuing our investigation into the cause of this event and will advise on the outcome once known. Thank you for your patience during this period. I apologise for the disrupted flowing of results, which will now begin again, and I understand the impact that it has on the staff within the DNA Results Management Team and the wider forensic community of staff.'

- **FSS.** I have tried to meet with Cathie Allen and FSS management team monthly, either here or at Coopers Plains. This had blown out due to Comm games, but we are back on track now. Cathie is keen to provide you a tour to demonstrate local updates, improvements etc. I took the entire office out for staggered tours, they seems to get a lot out of it, I think you would also greatly benefit.
- **FSG elimination profile, destructions.** I have checked Gazette's as far back as when TC retired. Compiled a list of retired/resigned FSG staff and arranged destruction of their profiles. This is something that obviously hasn't been looked at since TC left.



Email to Kirsten Scott [REDACTED] with Volunteer elimination sample barcode number. Also email to Leo for FR record update. Peruse gazette each Friday. You will also receive requests for destruction from transferring/retiring SOCO's etc. From my perspective there is no obligation to destroy profiles from those 'transferring', unless it is requested. Do we consider assigning someone to peruse the Volunteer profile folders for currency, many admin staff have likely left which we have no knowledge of. I have updated a destruction advice spread sheet. Also kept copies of letters sent for advice.

- **FSG officers Contamination events.** You will receive an 'Intel report' from FSS Kirsten Scott or Kerry-Anne Lancaster advising of elimination sample contamination events. Reply to sender via email to advise if officer in question attended scene, and that result cannot be reported. Print up intel report and file in folder with relevant details added. You will also receive an FR task request for the same sample. Update spreadsheet if you wish to continue recording spreadsheet (*Once again spreadsheet was not maintained after TC left*). FR key kept in folder to check details of barcode through 'DNA Register'. Register will advise if officer wishes to be advised of event. The Inspector now has the access to modify this at the click of a button via the Personnel tab. Advise officer via email if elected. Update FR task request advising, 'No further action taken. For further info contact Inspector DMS'. Change request to case file notation. The majority of staff do NOT want to be advised. I have sent out 3 emails during my time, which has resulted in about 150 additional staff wanting to be advised, but some of them just don't want to know. Just about all contamination events involve Trace DNA tape lifts.
- **Intel reports.** You will receive various intel reports from FSS. I have commenced a folder. Some are just advising of instrument error etc, and won't require any further work on QPS side. Many will involve advice RE the presence of DNA from more than 1 contributor for a person sample. Forward these to Olivia to run QA and provide advice. Sometimes I will advise the investigators to attempt to obtain another sample.
- **Rehosting of Aus Lab.** Met with Peter MCNAMEE, and provided issues from QPS perspective. Haven't heard anything further. Conversations formalised in an email, see below. QPS IT advised to liaise with FSS about requirements and process.
- There is Forensics information stored in the current LIS (ASULAB) that is owned by QPS and that is subject to legislative requirements including DNA Analyses
- There is Forensics information stored in the current LIS (ASULAB) that is owned by Department of Justice (Coroners Court) consisting of Forensic pathology
- With respect to DNA analyses this is subject to a constraint provided by the Police Powers & Responsibilities Act with respect to hosting data in QLD
- The new Forensics Register system (FRS) manages and stores case information including person identification and this replaces the legacy process within the current LIS
- The current LIS receives the order for the DNA analysis from the FRS for any new requests for DNA analysis and no case information such as person identification is received in AUSLAB – Therefore for all new requests for DNA analysis processed within AUSLAB there is no association of the order to person identification within AUSLAB
- The new FRS receives the results of DNA analysis from the current LIS and records this against the case information

Based on this it was agreed that:

- Any future state processing of Forensic DNA in the new LIS would not include case information such as person identification – Therefore there would be no information stored in the new LIS that would associate a case and person to a DNA order and result
- Historic FSS DNA data within current LIS is subject to QPS ownership and legislative constraints
- Data migration and archiving of current LIS FSS DNA data is subject to QPS ownership and legislative constraints

The next steps are:

- Confirm the understanding outlined in this email with appropriate FSS resources
- Confirm the data migration requirements with appropriate FSS key stakeholders and decision makers considering the constraints and ownership of the FSS DNA data
- Advise Department of Justice (DOJ) key forensic pathology stakeholders of the move to the new LIS and identify any constraints
- Work with QPS and DOJ on data migration requirements where they are the owners of the data within current LIS

Regards

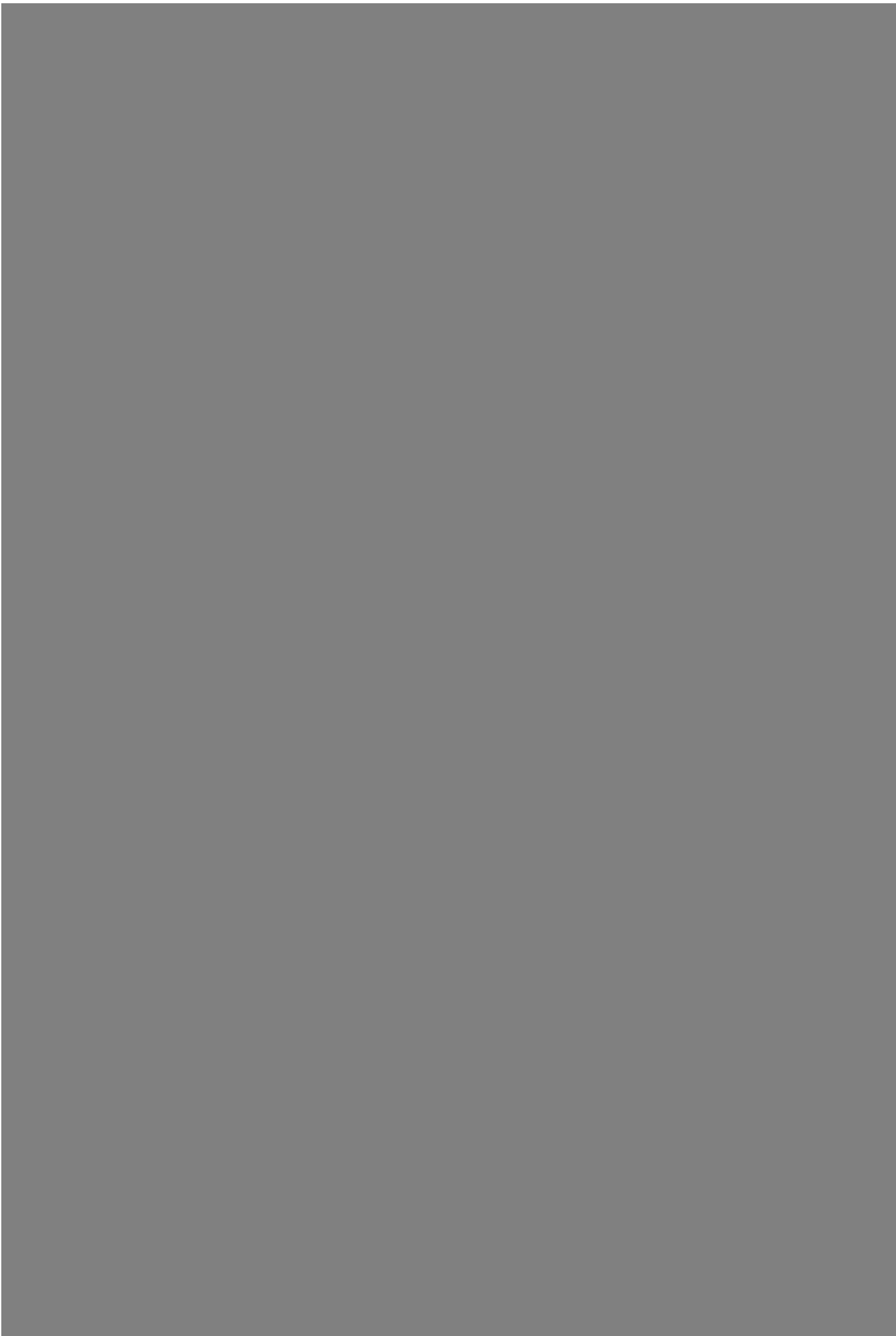


Peter McNamee

Program Architect  
LIS Program  
Health Support Queensland, Department of Health

a | [REDACTED]  
w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

- **Result Reports.** Each Monday you will receive a result report from the S/Sgt. To be honest it will be up to you whether you wish to continue receiving (*This information can be found on the FR if required*). Some of these processes seem to be like a comfort blanket for the staff, and they are reluctant to let go. I have saved the reports for reference and comparisons.



## INSPECTORS PROCESSES.

- **Approving Whole items for FSS DNA submission.** (Saliva testing etc) Currently an email is needed from Inspector Scientific or Inspector DNA to FSS with exhibit details. I have recently submitted a User Story for FR to be changed so that this can be approved at the check of a box on the Exhibit page. Only Inspector and Gerard to have access to check box. Stay tuned.
- **Request for Priority 1 exhibits.** Monitor these carefully, most FC's are aware that these are carefully restricted, however you will receive pressure from I/O's. I have not approved many this year, but apparently I set a record last year (*Due to* [REDACTED]). I have kept a folder with Approved P1's for reference. Once again this is an email from the Inspector DMS to Cathie, Justin and Paula, listing the exhibits. Exhibits will also need to be checked to ensure DNA is ticked (*This is missed all the time*). Once again I have submitted another User Story to have this process streamlined to a check box.
- **Request for additional exhibits above 2 for Volume crime.** Once again an email to FSS with exhibit details. Another user story has been submitted for a streamlined check box. I usually write a comment on the exhibit page, and make a case file notation. You may wish to delegate this to Gerard? Monitor carefully, as you will get a few requests.
- **Request for sample reworks.** Please read 'A review of automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon' document on your desk. FSS are currently trialling a process where reworks are only being conducted (*Below 10% chance of success*) when requested by Inspector DNA. This was agreed between Supt, Paul CSOBAN, Cathie and myself, to better funnel effects and funds. Investigators are advised that they can request a rework if exhibit is still pertinent via Qprime unit - 3209. You will be forwarded a task for decision on re-testing if the investigators decide to request it. If approved to reactivate, send an FR task to Luke Ryan: eg.

"I have received a request for further processing of the below exhibit. I have reviewed this investigation and I am supportive of this exhibit Reactivation. Exhibit [REDACTED]"

Any issues please contact Inspector Ewen TAYLOR [REDACTED]

'FSS Result: [REDACTED] DNA INSUFFICIENT FOR FURTHER PROCESSING

This item/sample was submitted for DNA analysis. Low levels of DNA were detected in this sample and it was not submitted for further DNA profiling. Please contact the DNA Management Section if this sample is requested to be assessed for further processing via QPRIME task to Unit Code 3209'

"

- Collecting complainant reference samples at same time as **SAIK**. This is something we have talked about previously. Troy's preference was to prevent SAIK's being accepted by FSS until a Complainant reference sample was also collected and submitted to FSS. I had concerns with making it compulsory, which I know you shared, for various reasons. What I have done is amended the OPM's regarding the collection of reference samples. **2.6.3 Sexual offences**. Tara Pease from OIU has reviewed, amended and submitted my modifications. Although submitted late last year, these amendments have only recently been updated. I continually try to educate the investigators on this requirement. They do cause considerable work and delay for FSS. I'll keep pushing for FC's / OIC's to educate local Detectives.

Best I can give you via email.





**Ewen TAYLOR**  
Acting Inspector  
DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

June 2018

17  
Sunday

168 - 197 Week 24

7:30

7:45

8:00

Mond Over..

8:15

8:30

8:45

Elimination Destructions -

9:00

9:15

Contamination Events -

9:30

9:45

ESG Insp Meety - 10th June

10:00

10:15

Upload forms to PR - v 1, 2, 3 etc - (Go CHAN)

10:30

10:45

reck Separation Cxellr - Review folders?

11:00

11:15

Re hosting of Aus Lab.

11:30

11:45

12:00

12:15

Go through + update. Elimination Folder.

12:30

12:45

Visual Studio Submissions

1:00

1:15

Result Reports. Weekly RMT Reports

1:30

1:45

2:00

2:15

Requests for Reworks - Micro-con - Request - like RYAN.

2:30

2:45

3:00

3:15

3:30

3:45

Approving whole plans, P1, Additional Exhibits.

4:00

4:15

Stephens fishing System Under trial.

4:30

4:45

DNA Reference Samples with SALK - Compulsory?

5:00

5:15

ESC Compliance Audit 6/12/17. - WPMS x 2

5:30

5:45

6:00

6:15

6:30

Extra 200 Person sample

6:45

7:00

All reliability - Scientific

July							August							September							October							November							December							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

[REDACTED]

---

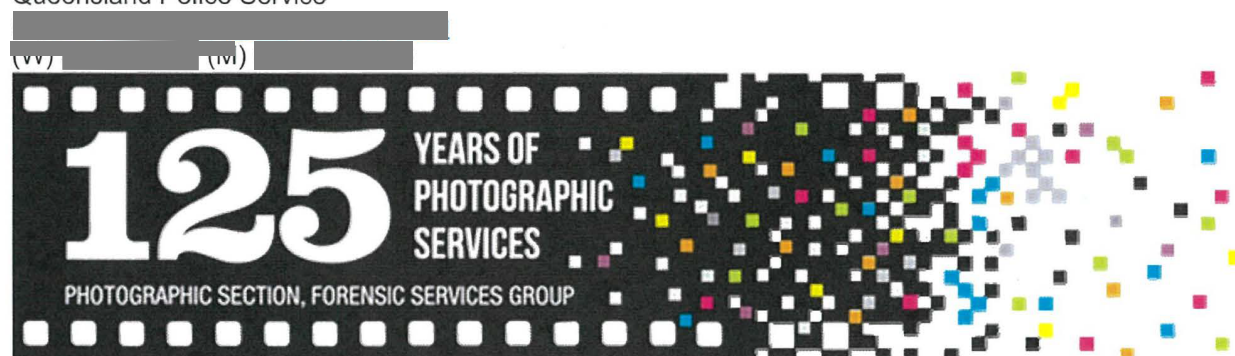
**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 21:37  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Cc:** Support Officer FSG  
**Subject:** FW: Options Paper for consideration  
**Attachments:** Review of efficacy of Microcons\_options for QPS.doc

Ewen,

Can you please take a look and provide advice.

D

Dale Frieberg  
Superintendent  
Operations Commander  
Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
Queensland Police Service  
[REDACTED]  
(vv) [REDACTED] (vi) [REDACTED]



**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 4:56 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; O'Malley.TroyS[OSC]  
[REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Options Paper for consideration

Hi Dale

Please find attached an Options paper regarding concentration of major crime samples that we have prepared for your consideration. I'd like to discuss this on Friday with you.

Cheers  
Cathie



## Cathie Allen

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**HSQ's vision** | Delivering the best health support services and solutions for a safer and healthier Queensland.

*Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*



**A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon® Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration.**

*January 2018*

Justin Howes and Cathie Allen

Great state. Great opportunity.



---

A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon® Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration.

Published by the State of Queensland (Queensland Health), January 2018



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For more information contact:

Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic and Scientific Services, Department of Health, GPO Box 48, Brisbane QLD 4001.

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A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon® Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration.

- 1 -



## Document Details

### Contact for enquiries and proposed changes

If you have any questions regarding this document or if you have a suggestion for improvements, please contact:

Contact officer: Justin Howes  
 Title: Team Leader – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team  
 Phone: [REDACTED]  
 Email: [REDACTED]

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## 1. Abstract

All casework DNA extracts that underwent a concentration step using the Microcon® process were evaluated and categorised into whether there was meaningful information obtained or not. This evaluation primarily focussed on samples that underwent an 'auto-microcon' process in 2016.

The findings of this evaluation are presented for the Queensland Police Service to advise on whether they would prefer their Priority 2 samples to continue with the 'auto-microcon' process, or to cease this automatic step and notify the laboratory if particular samples are requested to be reworked.

These options relate to Priority 2 (Major Crime) samples only, as the process developed in 2012 for Priority 3 (Volume Crime) samples will be reinstated with the operationally-required move to process these samples using PowerPlex® 21 system (PP21).

## 2. Definitions

**DNA Profile Intelligence:** DNA profile information available for interpretation by Forensic DNA practitioners that is able to be provided to clients.

**Fail:** In this report, this is DNA profile information that was not suitable for comparing to reference DNA profiles and other casework samples. This word was used to filter the data into two possible outcomes (fail/success).

**NCIDD:** National Criminal Investigation DNA Database.

**QPS:** Queensland Police Service.

**Success:** In this report, this is DNA profile information that was obtained that was suitable for comparing to reference DNA profiles and other casework samples. This word was used to filter the data into two possible outcomes (fail/success).

## 3. Introduction

Microcon® Centrifugal Filter Devices desalt and concentrate macromolecular solutions such as DNA-containing solutions. They employ Amicon's low binding, anisotropic, hydrophilic regenerated cellulose membrane<sup>[1]</sup>.

The use of Microcon® filters to concentrate extract has been a standard post-extraction process within Forensic DNA Analysis to reduce the volume of

extract from approximately 100uL to  $\leq 35\mu\text{L}$  for amplification with PowerPlex® 21 system.

Since the implementation of PP21 amplification kit within Forensic DNA Analysis for casework samples in December 2012, extracts with low Quantification values were recommended to be concentrated. Templates of  $<0.132\text{ng}$  (Quantification  $<0.0088\text{ng/uL}$ ) were found to exhibit marked stochastic effects after amplification [2]. Consequently, a workflow that directed extracts automatically to a concentration step based on Quantification value was implemented ('auto-microcon' process) for Priority 2 samples.

A workflow for Priority 3 samples remained within active Standard Operating Procedures to have the DNA extracts not amplified, nor automatically concentrated with Microcon® filters, but to be held after Quantification and QPS informed that low levels of DNA were obtained that were insufficient for further processing at that stage [3][4].

Anecdotally, the suitability to provide QPS with DNA profile Intelligence from extracts that have been concentrated has been noted to be limited, and added to scientist's time and availability to direct resources to samples with more DNA detected.

#### 4. Data interrogation

The 'auto-microcon' data was interrogated by assessing the DNA profile outcome results reported as Exhibit Report lines as a function of the Quantification value.

The Exhibit lines were interrogated and grouped into two interpretation outcomes as follows:

1. 'Fail': DNA profile interpretation outcomes of 'Complex unsuitable for interpretation', 'No DNA profile', 'Partial unsuitable for interpretation', 'No DNA Detected';
2. 'Success': All other DNA profile outcomes including single source DNA profiles matching assumed known contributors or different reference DNA profiles, mixtures that were suitable for comparison to reference DNA profiles, DNA profiles that were suitable for loading to NCIDD.

NB. These descriptions were used to filter the data. A 'fail' does not mean there was a Quality failure in the process; a 'success' does not necessarily mean a DNA match.

### 5.1.5. Assessment of 'auto-microcon' results

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#### Intent

Evaluate the 'success' or 'fail' outcomes for PP21 samples that were processed in 2016 through the 'auto-microcon' workflow.

#### Data Analysis

The samples applicable to this experiment had Quantification values in the range 0.001ng/μL to 0.0088ng/μL, and a total number of samples that were processed this way was determined. This total number excluded environmental samples, samples without Quantification values, samples not requested for further work, samples where quality flags were raised, and samples that had not returned results at the time of data collection.

DNA profile interpretation outcomes were grouped into either 'success' or 'fail' as a function of the Quantification value. A percentage of samples that fell into these categories was determined.

The 'auto-microcon' data could be expressed as a function of Quantification value.

The percentage of samples that had an 'auto-microcon' process and led to an NCIDD upload was obtained. This data could be filtered further into the outcome from the NCIDD load, at the time of data collection.

## 6. Datamine of the difference in pre- and post- Microcon® Quantification values

#### Intent

Evaluate the difference between the Quantification values obtained for samples prior to the 'auto-microcon' step, and then after the 'auto-microcon' process. This is to assess, through the Quantification data, the effectiveness of the Microcon® step in concentrating the DNA extract.

As this is purely a datamining experiment, only the samples that yielded a result of 'success' were examined.

#### Data Analysis

The samples applicable to this experiment had Quantification values above 0.001ng/μL and less than 0.015ng/μL where the final result was 'success'.

A review of the automatic concentration of DNA extracts using Microcon® Centrifugal Filter Devices: Options for QPS consideration.

- 5 -

This range was considered by the author to be able to provide a sufficient demonstration of the trend of the data (N=278 samples).

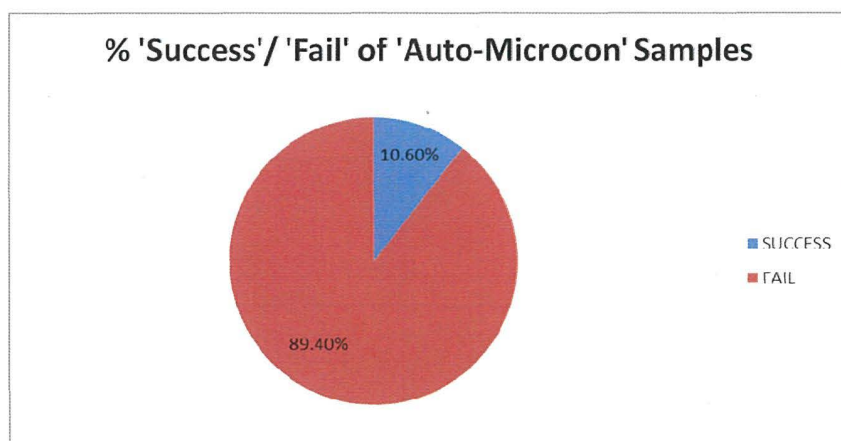
## 6.7. Results and Discussion

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### 7.1 Assessment of 'auto-microcon' results

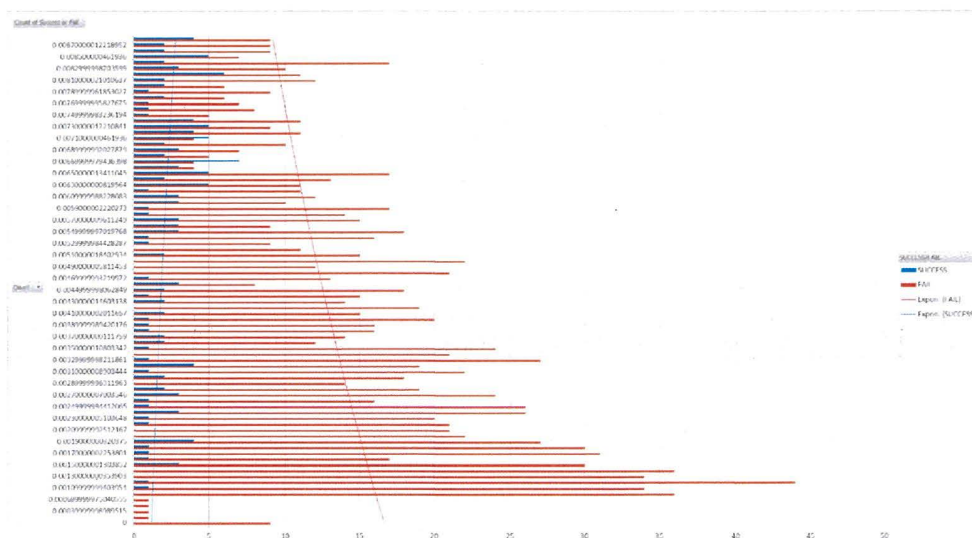
There were N=1449 samples in the 'auto-microcon' Quantification range, excluding certain samples as per Section 5.

The percentage of samples that resulted in a determination of 'fail' was 89.4% (Fig 1). As expected, the number of 'fails' increased when the Quantification decreased and approached the Limit of Detection of Quantification ie. 0.001ng/μL (Fig 2). This was considered to be due to there being less DNA detected in the extract, and therefore less DNA to concentrate.



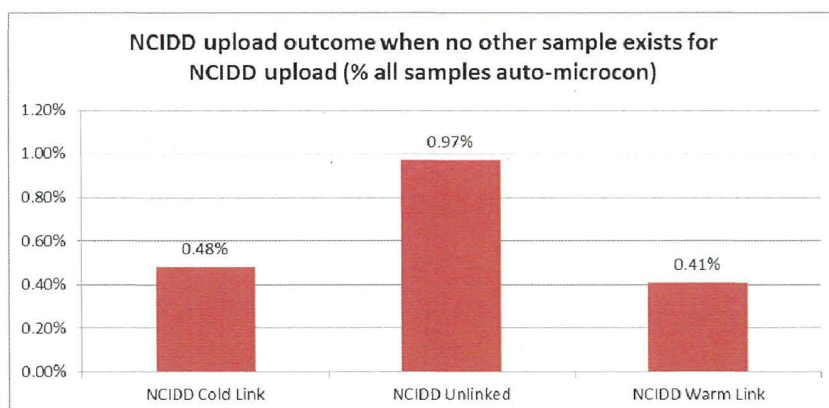
**Figure 1:** Percentage 'Success' / 'Fail' of 'Auto-Microcon' samples.





**Figure 2:** Spread of data and categorised as 'Success'/ 'Fail' for 'Auto-Microcon' samples.

If samples were not processed through the 'auto-microcon' process, what DNA Intelligence would the client miss out on? To evaluate this, the 'success' data was drilled down to the samples that had some NCIDD interaction and in particular, where they were the only samples in the case that were NCIDD-suitable for that particular profile. This represented 1.86% of all 'auto-microcon' samples. In looking at samples that provide *new* Intelligence, that is DNA information available for future linking, or has provided a cold-link, this equated to 1.45% of all 'auto-microcon' samples (Fig 3)..



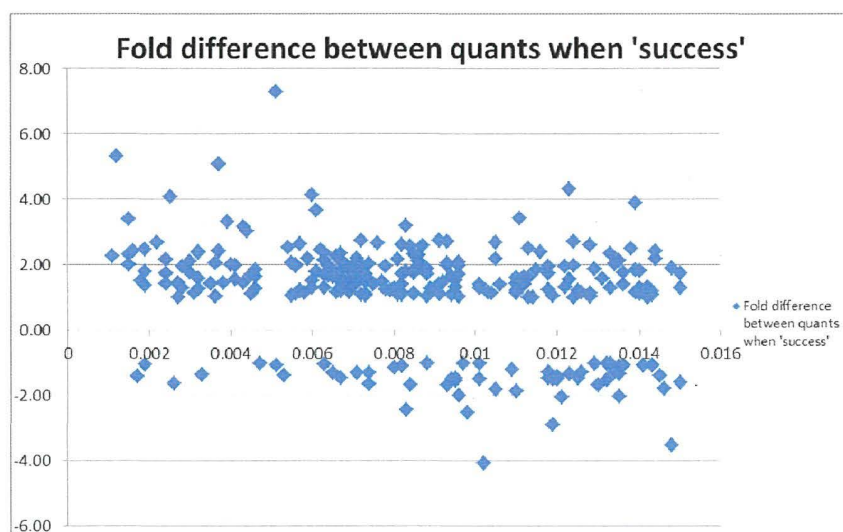
**Figure 3:** NCIDD outcome for samples that were loaded to NCIDD

This 1.45% of 'auto-microcon' samples is considered to be the pertinent value for the client to assess if the 'auto-microcon' process was not performed.

## 7.2 Datamine of the difference in pre- and post- Microcon® Quantification values

The samples applicable to this experiment had Quantification values above 0.001ng/μL where the final result was 'success'.

As the Microcon® process concentrates the DNA extract from approximately 100μL to approximately 35μL, in theory it would be a reasonable expectation to obtain approximately two to three-fold increases in DNA Quantification after concentration. Figure 4 shows the plot of the differences found for samples that resulted in 'success'.



**Figure 4:** Quantification differences pre and post concentration

The findings are not unexpected as the scatter focusses mostly around two-fold increases in Quantification. It was also not unexpected to observe the variable results. Anecdotally, variability in success rates is found at profile management stage when assessing results of samples that have had this concentration step.

DNA can be lost in the process as seen in Fig 4 where the Quantification values decreased after concentration (below the horizontal axis). Variability in results could be attributed to a number of things, including but not limited to the slight

differences between operators and instrumentation, the differences in substrate type and level of degradation, and the variability in Quantification result.

## 8. Options for consideration

The options to consider are:

1. Continue with 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 (Major Crime) casework; or,
2. Cease the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 (Major Crime) casework and report the exhibit result of 'DNA insufficient for further processing' based on Quantification result.
  - a. Priority 1 samples could proceed with the 'auto-microcon' process. If a DNA concentration rework is required, the Microcon® process can be ordered manually by the scientist.

In considering continuing or discontinuing the automatic concentration of DNA extracts for Priority 2 (Major Crime) samples, some key elements to consider include, but are not limited to:

- The opportunity to link DNA profiles on NCIDD would not be initially possible (without automatic concentration) for approximately 1.45% of samples that would qualify for this process. Of the 'auto-microcon' data set (N=1449 samples) evaluated, 1.45% equates to 21 samples;
- Time and cost for processing all samples in the 'auto-microcon' range, including batch preparation, Quality checking and control;
- Time and cost for processing these samples further with additional rework options, as one would expect with low levels of DNA detected initially;
- The ability to potentially reallocate staff time currently allocated to processing, interpreting and reporting 'auto-microcon' samples, to samples with higher DNA yield, thus improving the turnaround time for results on these samples;
- The opportunity to conserve DNA extract for further processing with other technologies should that be considered (eg. Y-STR analysis, Low Copy Number analysis);



- 
- The improved ability to provide quick results to QPS (using the Forensic Register at Quantification stage) indicating low levels of DNA detected, thus enabling QPS to employ further strategies at their discretion (eg. further sampling of items, request the rework);
  - The continued ability to process the DNA extract upon client request or depending on priority (eg Priority 1 – Critical Priority).

## **7.9. References**

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- [1] QIS 19544v11 – Concentration of DNA Extracts Using Microcon Centrifugal Filter Devices
- [2] PowerPlex® 21– Amplification of Extracted DNA Validation. Megan Mathieson, Thomas Nurthen, Cathie Allen. December 2012. Forensic DNA Analysis.
- [3] QIS 23008v15 – Explanation of EXR/EXH Results
- [4] QIS 24012v13 – Miscellaneous Analytical Section Tasks

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 11:21  
**To:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC]; Harris.LibbyA[OSC]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Thanks Olivia,

As discussed, I am in agreement. The 'auto-microcon' process would appear inefficient in this context, with time and resources appearing to be better spent in more worthwhile endeavours.

I am inclined to recommend your option 1, with an additional line added to the Q-prime update advising investigators of their option to request this additional process if required.

Does anyone have any further comment before I reply?

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
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**From:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED] Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
 [REDACTED] Gee Kee.KenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Good morning Ewen,

Further to our conversation, based on the statistics provided by FSS, it would appear it is not worthwhile continuing with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 samples.

If FSS ceases continuing with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 samples, I would imagine QPS can still request certain samples that are pertinent to an investigation be submitted through the 'auto-microcon' case, if it is required.

To identify these samples, I would imagine one of the following scenarios would apply:

1. If investigating police contact the DNA Management Section to inquire about testing, DMS staff can facilitate the 'auto-microcon' process on results that have been validated as "DNA insufficient for further processing", or

2. Results that are 'DNA insufficient for further processing', from unsolved occurrences are sent to a worklist for assessment by staff from DMS to determine whether further testing should be initiated.

Given the statistics provided by FSS, in relation to 'success' rates for these samples, I would imagine that Management may want to go with option 1.

Forwarded for your information.

Kind regards

Olivia McIntyre | DNA Management Officer | Profile Management Team | DNA Management Section  
Forensic Services Group | Operations Support Command | Queensland Police Service  
GPO Box 1440 | Brisbane QLD 4001 | Australia  
[REDACTED] Police Headquarters | 200 Roma Street | Brisbane QLD 4000 | Australia

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 7:05 AM

**To:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]

[REDACTED] Harris.LibbyA[OSC] [REDACTED]; McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]

**Subject:** FSS Options paper

Good morning,

For your advice please.

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
Acting Inspector  
DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 12:48  
**To:** Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Cheers Lib



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

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**From:** Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]; McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
 <McIntyre.OliviaM@police.qld.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Yes I would agree with Olivia - Adding a comment would be more appropriate.

Lib

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 11:21 AM  
**To:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED] Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC] <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

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Does anyone have any further comment before I reply?

Cheers,

**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector



DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
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Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED] Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
[REDACTED]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

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If FSS ceases continuing with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 samples, I would imagine QPS can still request certain samples that are pertinent to an investigation be submitted through the 'auto-microcon' case, if it is required.

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2. Results that are 'DNA insufficient for further processing', from unsolved occurrences are sent to a worklist for assessment by staff from DMS to determine whether further testing should be initiated.

Given the statistics provided by FSS, in relation to 'success' rates for these samples, I would imagine that Management may want to go with option 1.

Forwarded for your information.

Kind regards

Olivia McIntyre | DNA Management Officer | Profile Management Team | DNA Management Section  
Forensic Services Group | Operations Support Command | Queensland Police Service  
GPO Box 1440 | Brisbane QLD 4001 | Australia  
[REDACTED] Police Headquarters | 200 Roma Street | Brisbane QLD 4000 | Australia  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 7:05 AM  
**To:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] [REDACTED]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]  
[REDACTED]; Harris.LibbyA[OSC] [REDACTED]; McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FSS Options paper

Good morning,



For your advice please.

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
Acting Inspector  
DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 15:28  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Subject:** FW: Options Paper for consideration



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge  
 Hendra Scenes of Crime | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 13:41  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Options Paper for consideration

Good afternoon Dale,

I trust you had a pleasant trip to Toowoomba!

I have reviewed the attached document and conferred with senior staff within the DNA Unit (mainly Olivia) and Forensic Register Tech - Troy O'Malley.

From our perspective, we are in agreement that:

- There is clear data that it is not an efficient use of time and resources to continue with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 (*Major Crime*) samples.
- Option 2. "Cease the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 casework...." Would appear to be a more productive & efficient choice.
- Scientists time and resources would be better spent working samples with a higher DNA yield and more potential.
- It would be beneficial to amend the Forensic Register to provide an automated Q-Prime update advising the Investigators of the option to request further 'Auto-microcon' processing for those samples for unsolved crime, which may prove worthwhile.
- DNA staff can request this additional processing if/when a request is received from the investigators.

We will no doubt discuss this further on Friday.

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

---

**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 9:37 PM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Support Officer FSG [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Options Paper for consideration

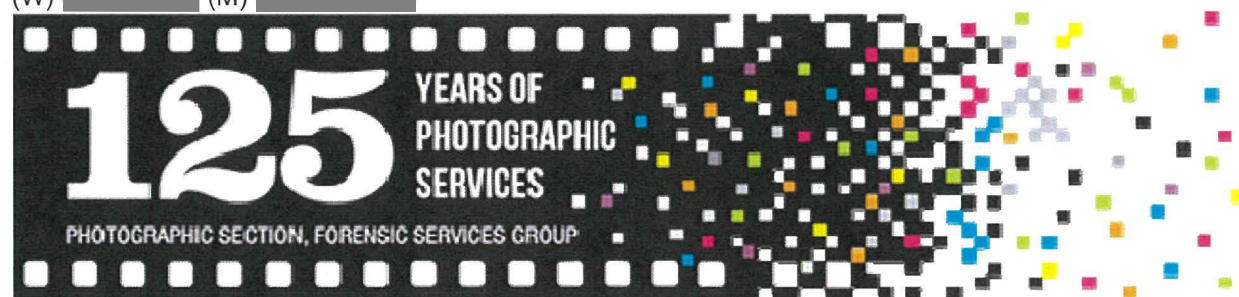
Ewen,

Can you please take a look and provide advice.

D

Dale Frieberg  
 Superintendent  
 Operations Commander  
 Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service

[REDACTED]  
 (W) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED]




---

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 4:56 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; O'Malley.TroyS[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Options Paper for consideration

Hi Dale

Please find attached an Options paper regarding concentration of major crime samples that we have prepared for your consideration. I'd like to discuss this on Friday with you.

Cheers  
 Cathie



## Cathie Allen

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED]  
a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**Taylor.EwenN[OSC]**

**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 February 2018 15:38  
**To:** Cathie Allen; O'Malley.TroyS[OSC]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** RE: Options Paper for consideration

Hi Cathie and Paul,

Thank you for your time this afternoon and for discussion around this options paper. Thank you also to both Troy and Ewen with your assistance and expertise/advice around the paper.

As discussed, I am in agreement that:

- There is clear data that it is not an efficient use of time and resources to continue with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 (*Major Crime*) samples.
- Option 2. "Cease the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 casework...." Would appear to be a more productive & efficient choice.
- Scientists time and resources would be better spent working samples with a higher DNA yield and more potential.
- It would be beneficial to amend the Forensic Register to provide an automated Q-Prime update advising the Investigators of the option to request further 'Auto-microcon' processing for those samples for unsolved crime, which may prove worthwhile.
- DNA staff can request this additional processing if/when a request is received from the investigators.

I trust this is of assistance.

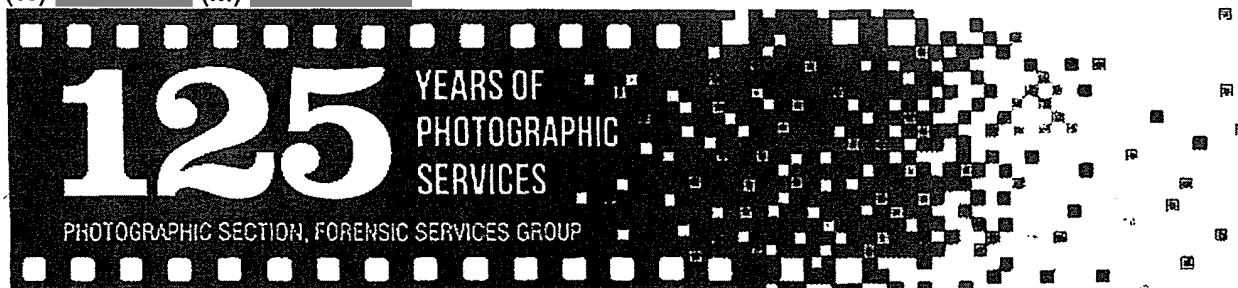
Kind regards,

Dale.

Dale Frieberg  
 Superintendent  
 Operations Commander  
 Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service

(W)

(M)





**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 4:56 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; O'Malley.TroyS[OSC]  
 <OMalley.TroyS@police.qld.gov.au>; Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Options Paper for consideration

Hi Dale

Please find attached an Options paper regarding concentration of major crime samples that we have prepared for your consideration. I'd like to discuss this on Friday with you.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, Department of Health

[REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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*Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

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\*\*\*\*\*

February 2018

1

Thursday

32 - 333 Week 5

7.30

7.45 FSS Meeting - Cathie Allen / Justin Howe / Paula BRISOTTO.

8.00

8.15

8.30 12 - 1300h FSS - CR102 - Conference Room.

8.45

9.00

9.15

9.30 / Morgue Contamination Issue - Papa Shanthan.

9.45

10.00 / Familial Searching - FSS - Capability.

10.15

10.30 / PP21 - Volume Crime - impact / Solutions.

10.45

11.00

11.15 DNA Unit - Structure - Reshuffle desks - New Phone Numbers

11.30 Processes.

11.45

12.00

12.15

12.30 Suspect Checks Kulraj RILJA ✓

12.45 - Imogene Check - Matthew HUNT Amanda REVER

1.00 - Statement A NORTON, ✓

1.15 - Intelligence team email Sharon JOHNSTONE - Justin

1.30 - PP21 Upgrade case assessed - Justin

1.45 - PZ. + Additional exhibit request Justin, Cathie, Paula.

2.00 Allen McNEVIN - Request kiosk

2.15 - Stats affected.

2.30 - Future Cases similar to Thorium - Single Purpos samples

2.45 data-base for familial searching

3.00

3.15 - SAIK kits - OPM's amended - Further training.

3.30 - Person kit with SAIK's?

3.45 - Consideration for SOC to check for reference sample prior to barcoding SAIK.

4.00

4.15

4.30

4.45

5.00 - Additional submission of exhibits volume crime

5.15 - Meeting if need. -

5.30

5.45

6.00 5 weeks Comm - Limited leave embargo

6.15 - Sexual Assault -

6.30 Mortuary - Copper Plans

6.45 - High Profile.

7.00

July							August							September							October							November							December							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
30	31				1		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	31					1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
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February 2018

2  
Friday

33 - 332 Week 5

7.30  
7.45  
8.00  
8.15  
8.30  
8.45  
9.00  
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9.30  
9.45  
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11.00  
11.15  
11.30  
11.45  
12.00  
12.15  
12.30

Meeting with Supt + FSS - Paul + Cathie.

2p - 3p - Supt. Conference Room.

Communications - 3 main -

Cold Cases - Paula, Josh, Cathy.

MEETING

No Person kit with SAIR

2002 - Forensic under the Microscope.

QPrime - Prompt.

Kit won't be looked at till - Reference sample.

January							February							March							April							May							June										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																			
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31																										

# February 2018

## 4

Sunday

35 - 330 Week 5

7.30 DNA FSS Meeting. Paul CSOBAN, Cathie ALLEN  
 7.45 Supt FRIEBERG, Insp O'MALLEY.  
 8.00 90% Do not Improve.  
 8.15  
 8.30 1.5% Results. of remaining 10% provide a result.  
 8.45  
 9.00 Decided to invest Time + Resources into exhibits with  
 9.15 higher DNA Yield.  
 9.30  
 9.45 Supt to Forward Email advice to Cathie approving  
 10.00 Option 2.  
 10.15  
 10.30  
 10.45  
 11.00  
 11.15  
 11.30  
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 6.00  
 6.15  
 6.30  
 6.45  
 7.00

January							February							March							April							May							June						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4	30				1		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3		
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29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2018

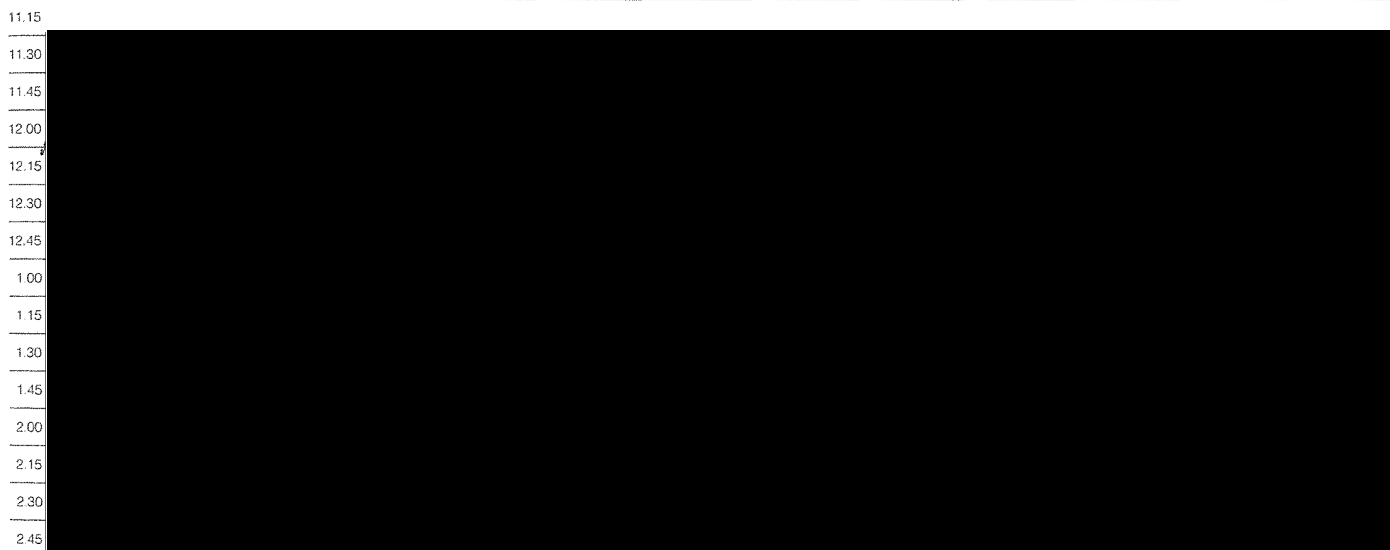
19  
Monday

50 - 315 Week 8



Decrease boxes on Exhibit information.

Phone Conference FSS - 10.30 - 11.30 @MS.



FSS - Conference.

KEATINGE, Jamie + Rachelle COOK, Anne FEWSON -  
 FSS - Justin, HOWES, Allen McNEVIN, Paula BRISOTTO.

Exhibit Screen. Exhibit - Record.

Description Field - Blood - Put into DNA Statement, \*  
 Descriptions between 'Category' - 'Description'.

Blood, size, shape, colour, wet/dry. - Not needed by FSS.

Uniform Descriptions in Exhibit.

Surfaces no longer inhibit - Samples (Improved DNA Extraction Process Improved)

July							August							September							October							November							December						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



## February 2018

20

Tuesday

FSS - Meeting

51 - 314 Week 8

7.30

7.45

8.00

8.15

8.30

8.45

9.00

9.15

9.30

9.45

10.00

10.15

10.30

10.45

11.00

11.15

11.30

11.45

12.00

12.15

12.30

12.45

1.00

1.15

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4.45

5.00

5.15

5.30

5.45

6.00

6.15

6.30

6.45

7.00

Image - True, no longer required. soco. Exam summary.

located / Owner -

- When ownership is known

(Shirt taken off suspect)

- Not shirt lying on ground

Unknown if not possible

Unknown new box in 'Relationship' folder

Washed &amp; Diluted useful

X  
Leather Donim Jacket✓  
Washed Diluted

Oil, Grease, Vegetal

Finger Print

Seminal

Saliva

Other

Sample. In tube item - disregard.

Quebec Markup.

Paula. - 2007.

2008 - Result not reported

January							February							March							April							May							June											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	4	30				1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21				12	13	14	15	16	17	18					9	10	11	12	13	14	15		14	15	16	17	18	19	20					11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				19	20	21	22	23	24	25					16	17	18	19	20	21	22		21	22	23	24	25	26	27					18	19	20	21	22	23	24
29	30	31								26	27	28								23	24	25	26	27	28	29		28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

March 2018

13

Tuesday

72 - 293 Week 11

7.30	1pm	Meeting	Justin	HOWES / Sharon	JOHNSTONE
7.45					
8.00					
8.15					
8.30					
8.45	Patson	- Multiple samples	- FR		
9.00					
9.15		- FR unique			
9.30					
9.45					
10.00	Profoto	within	FR	- 3 years worth	FR - if required
10.15					
10.30					
10.45					
11.00					
11.15					
11.30					
11.45	INS	- Outline	if a work cover claim is made		
12.00		Further	investigation		
12.15					
12.30					
12.45					
1.00					
1.15					
1.30					
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5.00					
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6.30					
6.45					
7.00					

Leave with no pay

July							August							September							October							November							December						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31					1	1	2	3	4	5			1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31							31					1	2
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 2018

13

Wednesday

Shannon.

164 - 201 Week 24

7.30

FSS Tour

7.45

8.00

8.15

Group 1

Group 2

8.30

8.45

9.00

9.15

9.30

9.45

10.00

10.15

10.30

10.45

11.00

11.15

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4.45

5.00

5.15

5.30

5.45

6.00

6.15

6.30

6.45

7.00

80 days -


17-18 PD cycle.

Taviche.

July							August							September							October							November							December						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
30	31				1		1	2	3	4	5			1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6	7							31					1	2	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

Meeting Opened: 1000hrs.

Meeting Chaired: Acting Inspector Ewen TAYLOR

Attendees	Absent
Megan Lamsam	
Carolyn Palmer	
Libby Harris	
Kelly Hall	
Abby Lye	
Olivia McIntyre	
Marney Nauschutz	
Stella Condoleon	
Lize Bloomfield	
Alan Kollmann	
Jen Dung	
Paul McPhee	
Carolyn Hoffman	
Ruben Colloopen	
Ken Gee Kee	
Stephen Foxover	
<b>Guest Speaker</b> Cathie ALLEN.	

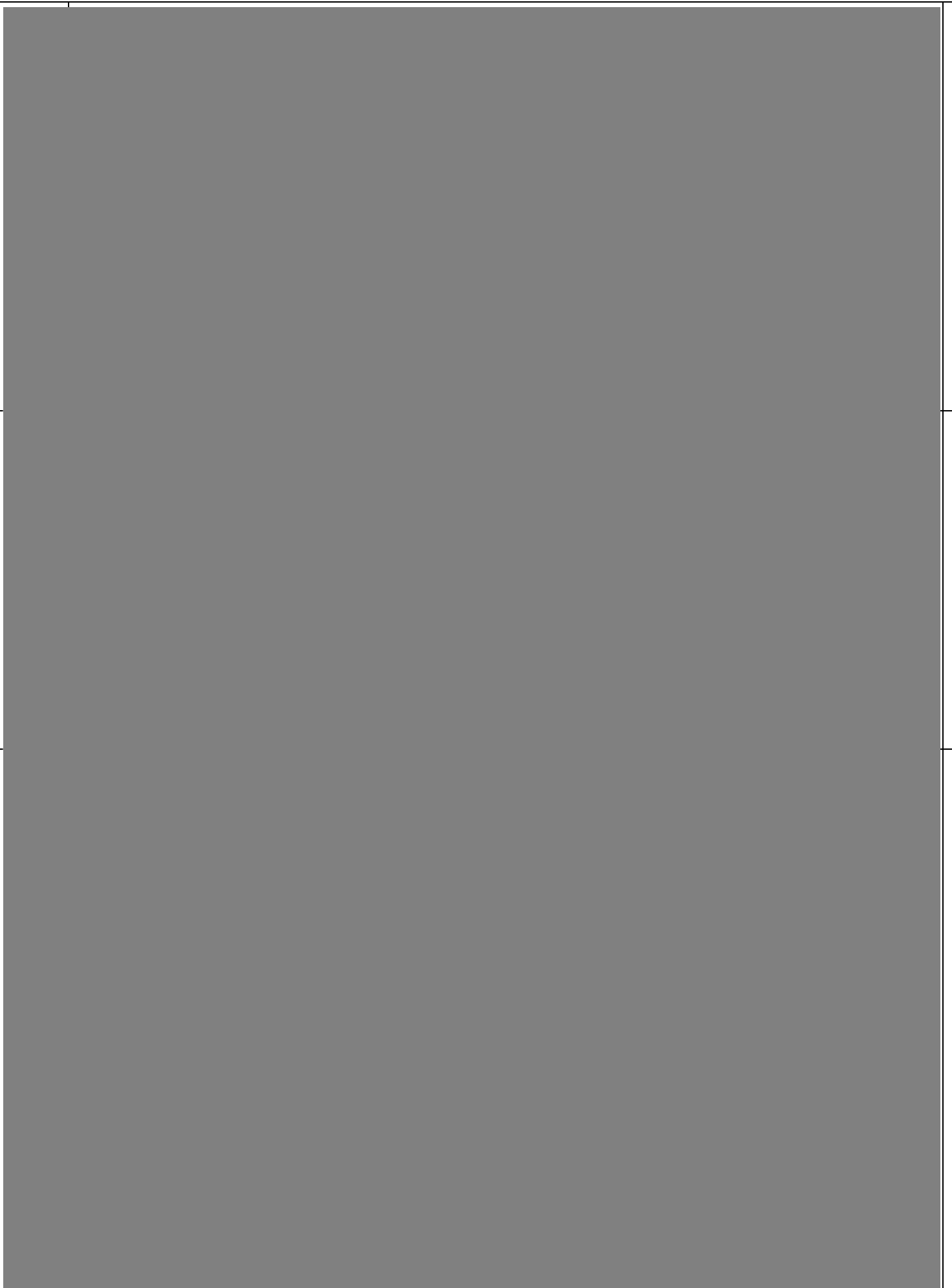
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION -
2	<p><b>Guest attendee.</b></p> <p>Cathie ALLEN, Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream, FSS.</p> <p>Cathie provided an update on processes, staffing and current contacts.</p> <p>FSS Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspect checks: Kylie RIKA</li> <li>• Time frame checks: Amanda REEVES</li> <li>• Statements: Andrea NORTON</li> <li>• Intelligence team: Email Sharon JOHNSTONE, Justin HOWE.</li> <li>• PP21 upgrade exhibit assessment: Justin HOWE.</li> <li>• P1 + Additional exhibit requests. Cathie ALLEN, Justin HOWE Paula BISCAYA.</li> </ul>

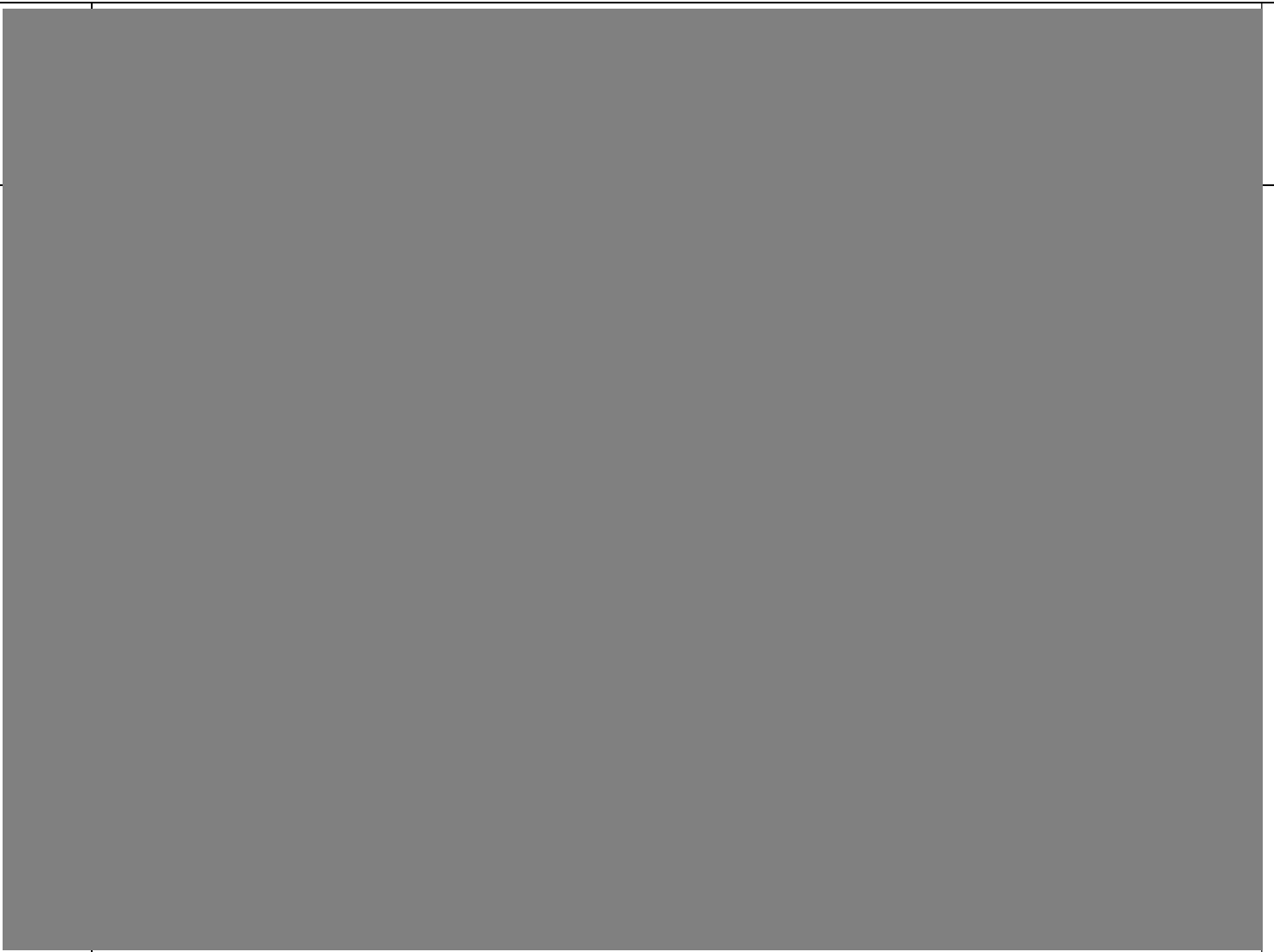


5	<p><b>Meeting with FSS. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.</b></p> <p>Meetings. Future meetings to be regularly scheduled with senior DMU staff and FSS, with locations to alternate between Coopers Plains and Police HQ.</p> <p>Tour FSS. Tour of FSS facilities; Cathie has offered for a tour of the FSS facilities for Sergeant FOXOVER, and other interested persons who have not attended recently. Limited to 4-5 persons. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll organise a car.</p> <p>Profiler Plus. Profiler Plus consumables are depleted, all Volume crime and Major crime scene exhibits will be processd via PP21.</p> <p>Familial Searches – FSS? Certainly potential for Familial searches in the future, but FSS unlikely to have that capability this year. Sharon JOHNSTONE will be receiving training - NIFA. Y-STR, Mitochondrial etc.</p> <p>Procedural Changes, Major Crime exhibits . Procedural changes agreed between Supt FRIEBERG and Paul CSOBAN &amp; Cathie ALLEN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is clear data that it is not an efficient use of time and resources to continue with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 (<i>Major Crime</i>) samples.</li> <li>• Option 2. "Cease the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 casework...." Would appear to be a more productive &amp; efficient choice.</li> <li>• Scientists time and resources would be better spent working samples with a higher DNA yield and more potential.</li> <li>• It would be beneficial to amend the Forensic Register to provide an</li> </ul>

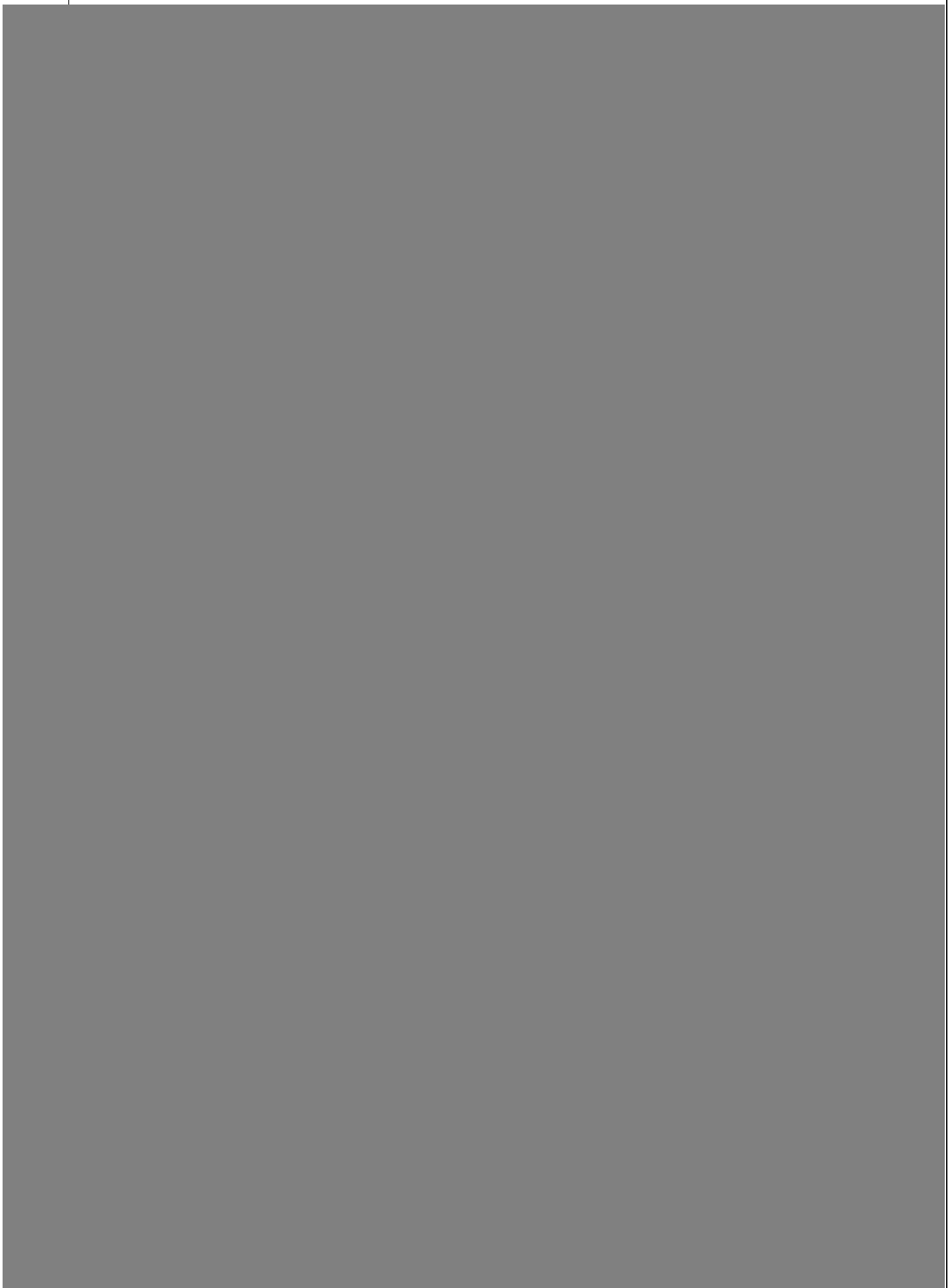
	<p>automated Q-Prime update advising the Investigators of the option to request further 'Auto-microcon' processing for those samples for unsolved crime, which may prove worthwhile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DNA staff can request this additional processing if/when a request is received from the investigators.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for providing input.</p> <p>FSS Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspect checks: Kylie RIKA</li> <li>• Time frame checks: Amanda REEVES</li> <li>• Statements: Andrea NORTON</li> <li>• Intelligence team: Email Sharon JOHNSTONE, Justin HOWE.</li> <li>• PP21 upgrade exhibit assessment: Justin HOWE.</li> <li>• P1 + Additional exhibit requests. Cathie ALLEN, Justin HOWE, Paula BRISOTTO.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Sample Management. Sergeant HOFFMAN.</b></p> <p>Evidence Sample Submission.</p> <p>Please don't write anything on the rear of the envelope. If in doubt please confirm correct procedure with Sergeant HOFFMAN.</p> <p>New process for Property Numbers.</p> <p>Currently we are stapling property tags to the sample envelopes or alternately attaching post it notes to the envelopes. Both of these come with their own problems.</p> <p>So from this point forward when we process a DNA evidence sample (drop safe/reg post/intel to evidence) we will be writing the property number in the <b><u>top left corner</u></b> on the <b><u>front</u></b> of the envelope.</p> <p>If this is the only thing you write on the envelope you are not required to date/sign/reg as you do for changes made to key info eg QP#'s etc. No information is to be placed on the rear of the envelopes where possible. You will no longer be required to retain or attach the printed property tags to the samples – so no staples and no post its.</p> <p>This change will also assist us in identifying the correct sample if we get returns from submission days.</p> <p>This change of process will be built into the SOP's once reviewed.</p>

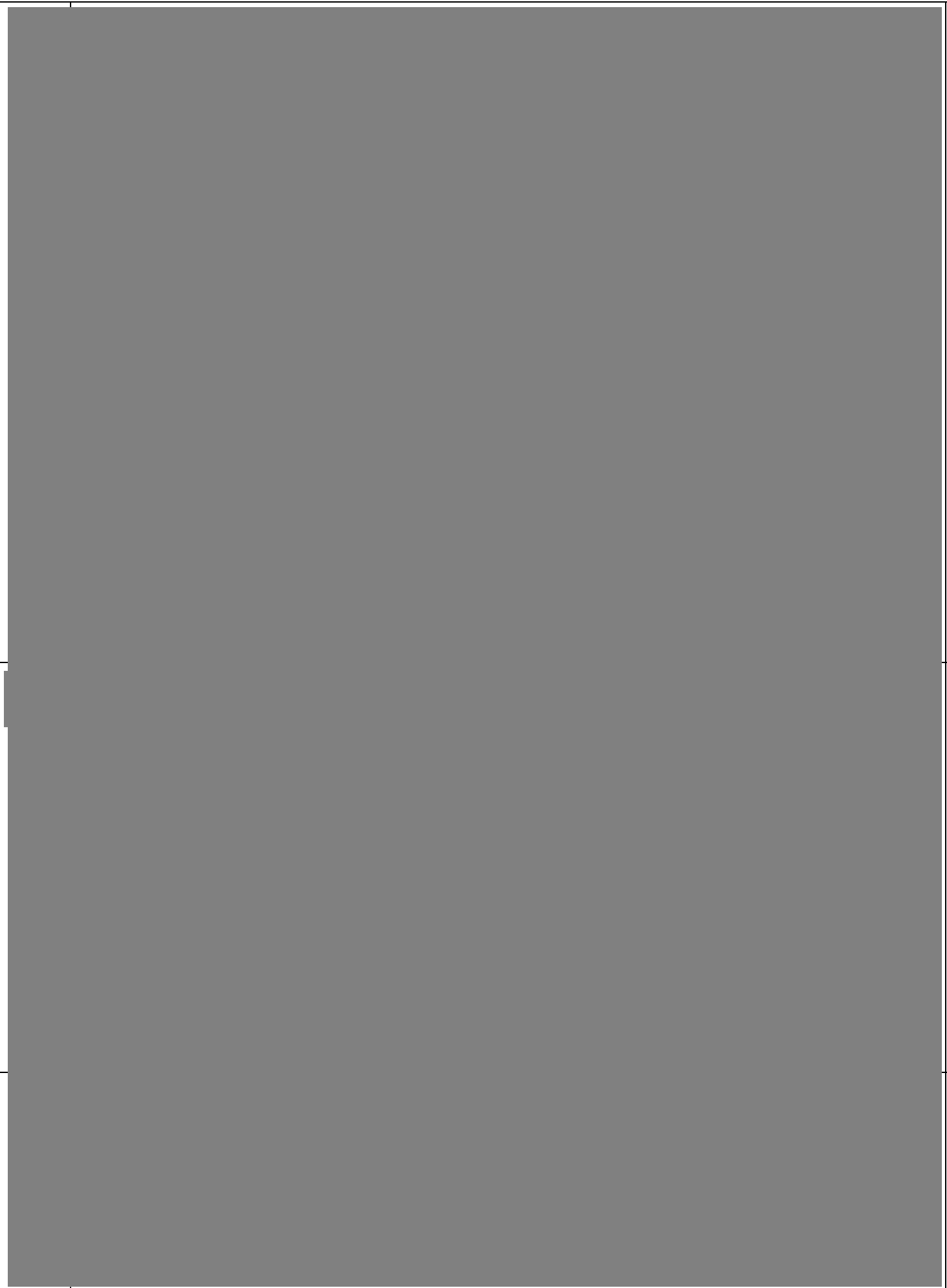
	Please speak with Sergeant HOFFMAN in you need any clarification.
7	<p><b>Forensic Register.</b></p> <p>A/Inspector Troy O'MALLEY and Ben MORGAN's last shift Friday.</p> <p>Farewell morning tea, level 4 Training room from 9.30am. Cards to sign at Forensic Reception.</p> <p>Future of the Forensic Register - Tech Support.</p> <p>The inspectors of all sections have been provided access to Visual Studio Projects web site. Inspector DNA management has been provided instruction on how to log FR Work Requests/Bug notifications etc.</p> <p>Numerous work flows already created and appears to be working well. Some matters already resolved.</p> <p>Any issues, problems ideas for change etc please advise Inspector who will commence a work flow if appropriate.</p> <p>Thank you Olivia for your invaluable assistance identifying these changes.</p>
8	<p><b>Staffing.</b></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>













**18****Keep up the great work!**

Senior Management are very aware of the hard work presently being conducted by all members within our unit. You do yourselves proud. DNA results currently 60% higher than this time last year. All areas currently experiencing increased work load.

Superintendent is very aware of the current work loads. Very supportive of overtime etc when required. Mindful of fatigue management.

I am very aware of hard work currently being undertaken by all members within the unit. You have my complete gratitude.

Additional staffing positions is now my priority.

**Around the Table**

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 April 2018 08:42  
**To:** Van Panhuis.Arthur[OSC]  
**Subject:** RE: Issue with PP21 kit

Are you on the phone?



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Van Panhuis.Arthur[OSC]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 April 2018 8:40 AM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Do we need to brief our team on this issue or just let it flow until things are sorted?

*Artie Van Panhuis*

Artie Van Panhuis  
 Inspector, Forensic Manager, Central Region  
 Operations Support Command  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]



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**Proudly working with White Ribbon to create a safer workplace**  
**Australia's campaign to stop violence against women**

**From:** Maguire.JennaL[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 3:26 PM  
**To:** Van Panhuis.Arthur[OSC] [REDACTED] Baker.PaulL[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]; Freeman.AdrianH[OSC] [REDACTED]  
 Koplick.KennethA[OSC] [REDACTED]; McKay.DonniP[OSC]  
 [REDACTED] Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Keatinge.DavidJ[OSC]



[REDACTED] White.JoshuaC[OSC] [REDACTED];

Stanley.AndrewR[OSC] [REDACTED]; Arthy.LloydF[OSC] [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Heit.KarenL[OSC] [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Inspectors/FC's,

Forwarded for your information.

Regards,

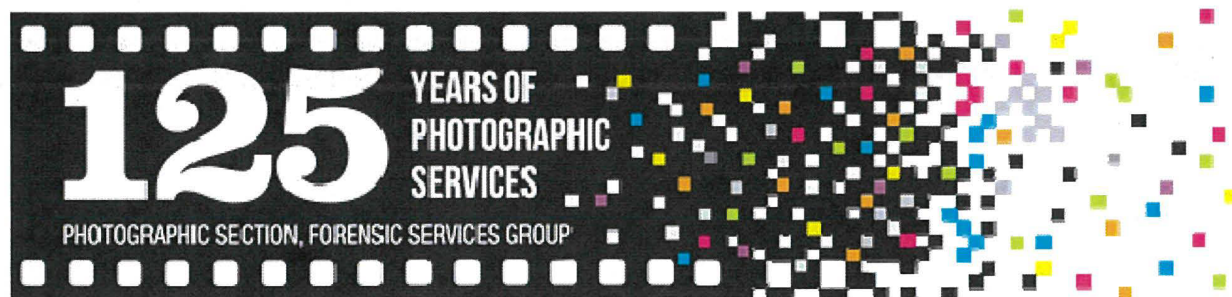
Jenna

### Jenna Maguire

Administration Officer | Office of the Superintendent | Forensic Services Group

Operations Support Command | Queensland Police Service

[REDACTED], 200 Roma Street, Brisbane City QLD 4000



**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]

**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 3:03 PM

**To:** Support Officer FSG [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Could you please let the Insp's know.

D

Dale Frieberg

Superintendent

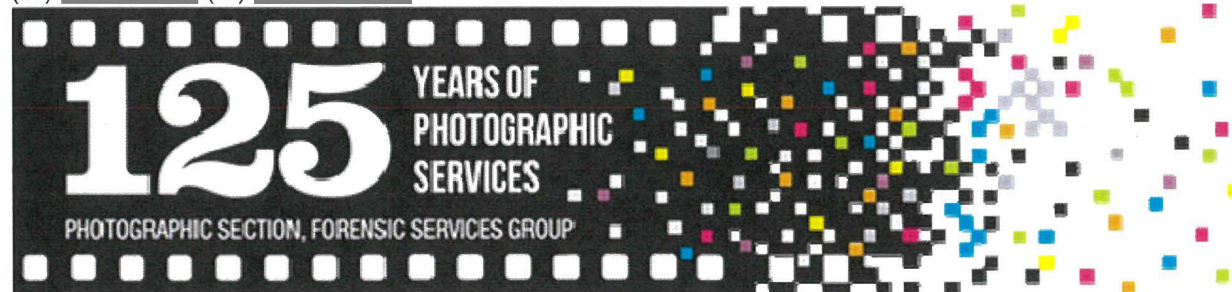
Operations Commander

Forensic Services Group

Operations Support Command

Queensland Police Service

(W) [REDACTED] (M) [REDACTED]



**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM

**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**  
 p | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 08:54  
**To:** Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC]; Neville.DavidH[OSC]; Keatinge.DavidJ[OSC]; Brock.AdrianC[OSC]; McKay.DonniP[OSC]; Moseley.RussellJ[OSC]; Freeman.AdrianH[OSC]; Baker.PaulL[OSC]; Van Panhuis.Arthur[OSC]; Arthy.LloydF[OSC]; Koplick.KennethA[OSC]; Stanley.AndrewR[OSC]  
**Cc:** Frieberg.DaleJ[ESC]; Support Officer FSG  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Good morning Ladies and Gents,

I'm just advising that FSS are continuing to experience issues with the new batch of PP21 kits. This is being addressed as high priority, and will hopefully be resolved soon. The collection and submission of DNA exhibits will not be effected, but expect possible delays in non-urgent routine sample results.

I will provide further advice and updates once known.

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received the new lot of PP21 kits and have tested them. Unfortunately, this new lot does not resolve the issue for the 2 loci not amplifying properly. We will continue to investigate and work with the manufacturer on supplying us with a different lot number.

We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Cathie Allen**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED]; A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]**Cc:** Paul Csoban**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the PP21 kits.

The new lot of PP21 kits have arrived at FSS and are currently being tested, with results known late this afternoon. If the test results show normal DNA profiles, tomorrow morning a batch of Volume Crime samples will be processed to ensure that crime scene samples profile appropriately. If this processes well, then processing of Major Crime samples will proceed from late Wednesday.

If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers

Cathie

**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, Department of Health

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 10:51  
**To:** Colloopen.RubenB[OSC]; Harris.LibbyA[ESC]  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

FYI



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED] Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to let you know that we've asked other jurisdictions if they've had the same issue with the PP21 kits and yesterday we were advised by one jurisdiction that they had also seen it. This indicates that the issue is kit based, rather than process or instrument based. We will continue to work with the manufacturer and I'll keep you updated as we progress.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**  
 Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**  
 p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received the new lot of PP21 kits and have tested them. Unfortunately, this new lot does not resolve the issue for the 2 loci not amplifying properly. We will continue to investigate and work with the manufacturer on supplying us with a different lot number.

We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [REDACTED] **m** | [REDACTED]  
**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
**w** | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) **e** | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the PP21 kits.

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If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

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We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
Cathie



## Cathie Allen

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [REDACTED] **m** | [REDACTED]  
**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
**w** | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) **e** | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*



**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 07:56  
**To:** Cathie Allen  
**Cc:** Justin Howes  
**Subject:** RE: Issue with PP21 kit

Thanks Cathie,

I'm on a day off Friday, but in all day today.

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:48 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED] Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED] Paula Brisotto [REDACTED] Justin Howes [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received a new lot number and have tested it, unfortunately we are still experiencing the issue. We anticipate receiving a new lot number and a new batch number this Friday and will keep you advised of the testing.

In the meantime, Justin will work with A/Insp Taylor on some strategies on what samples are able to be reported in the meantime.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**  
 Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**  
 p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]



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---

**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to let you know that we've asked other jurisdictions if they've had the same issue with the PP21 kits and yesterday we were advised by one jurisdiction that they had also seen it. This indicates that the issue is kit based, rather than process or instrument based. We will continue to work with the manufacturer and I'll keep you updated as we progress.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [REDACTED] **m** | [REDACTED]  
**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
**w** | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) **e** | [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received the new lot of PP21 kits and have tested them. Unfortunately, this new lot does not resolve the issue for the 2 loci not amplifying properly. We will continue to investigate and work with the manufacturer on supplying us with a different lot number.

We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
**w** | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) **e** | [redacted]

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [redacted] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [redacted]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the PP21 kits.

The new lot of PP21 kits have arrived at FSS and are currently being tested, with results known late this afternoon. If the test results show normal DNA profiles, tomorrow morning a batch of Volume Crime samples will be processed to ensure that crime scene samples profile appropriately. If this processes well, then processing of Major Crime samples will proceed from late Wednesday.

If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [redacted] **m** | [redacted]  
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---

**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, Department of Health  
 p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
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 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 10:43  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[ESC]; Support Officer FSG; Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC]; Neville.DavidH[OSC]; Keatinge.DavidJ[OSC]; Brock.AdrianC[OSC]; McKay.DonniP[OSC]; Moseley.RussellJ[OSC]; Freeman.AdrianH[OSC]; Baker.PaulL[OSC]; Van Panhuis.Arthur[OSC]; Arthy.LloydF[OSC]; Koplick.KennethA[OSC]; Stanley.AndrewR[OSC]  
**Cc:** Harris.LibbyA[ESC]  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kits

Good morning ladies and gents,

FSS have completed testing the new PP21 lot numbers, and unfortunately they are still experiencing the same issue. I am advised that WA and NSW are experiencing varying degrees of the same problem. FSS are anticipating the arrival of a new lot number on Friday, with testing expected to be finalised early next week.

In the interim I have approved a trial process for **single source volume crime** profiles to be uploaded to NCIDD within a workflow that will mitigate risks and not affect the ability for profiles to be searched and linked.

I will advise once the issue is resolved.

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001



**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:14  
**To:** Cathie Allen; Frieberg.DaleJ[ESC]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes  
**Subject:** RE: Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Thanks for the advice Cathie,

Can you please advise how the interim work flow proposed by Justin is progressing? Once this issue is resolved, do we envisage a large sudden increase in released results?

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED] Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED] Paula Brisotto [REDACTED] Justin Howes [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the issue with the Promega PP21 kits that we and two other jurisdictions are experiencing.

We have tried three different lot numbers of the PP21 kit and the issue is still present. We have tried a Promega Fusion kit (this kit includes the 2 loci that we are experiencing issues with) and this kit also showed that the issue is present (presumably due to using the same primers in both PP21 and Fusion).

We've conducted an experiment, as requested by the American Manufacturer, however this showed the issue was still present, but assisted them with more information.

Today we will be conducting four experiments to provide the American Manufacturer with more information. Included in these experiments is a different instrument (to rule out instrumentation, although we believe it's unlikely that the instrument is the issue, testing will be conducted to rule it out) and a kit from a different manufacturer that includes the 2 problematic loci.

We have compiled all of the data that we've gathering from the different experiments that have been conducted and have not been able to detect a trend (ie it's not sample dependent, its not position on a run dependent etc).

We will continue working with the manufacturer on this issue. And we will continue to process urgent samples that are requested by the QPS or are required for Statements and Court matters.

The laboratory hasn't experienced an issue like this previously and we have liaised with our counterparts in other jurisdictions regarding this issue. I apologise for the impact that this has on the QPS and the community. We have allocated a large number of resources to this issue to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:48 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received a new lot number and have tested it, unfortunately we are still experiencing the issue. We anticipate receiving a new lot number and a new batch number this Friday and will keep you advised of the testing.

In the meantime, Justin will work with A/Insp Taylor on some strategies on what samples are able to be reported in the meantime.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 9:03 AM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

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Cheers

Cathie

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Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

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We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

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If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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Cathie

**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

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Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers

Cathie

**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
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\*\*\*\*\*



**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2018 15:13  
**To:** Slade.StephenG[OSC]; Harris.LibbyA[ESC]; McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

For your information.

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 3:07 PM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED] Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED] Paula Brisotto [REDACTED] Justin  
 Howes [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Ewen

The interim workflow has been implemented and results that can be processed are being processed. Please liaise with Justin if you have any specific questions regarding this from a QPS perspective.

Amplifying the samples can be achieved very quickly, however other downstream processes will take resources and time, so whilst we anticipate higher than normal level of results being progressed to the QPS, we don't anticipate an avalanche once we can process again.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**  
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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:14 AM  
**To:** Cathie Allen; Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes  
**Subject:** RE: Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Thanks for the advice Cathie,

Can you please advise how the interim work flow proposed by Justin is progressing? Once this issue is resolved, do we envisage a large sudden increase in released results?

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban [REDACTED]; Paula Brisotto <[REDACTED]>; Justin Howes [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the issue with the Promega PP21 kits that we and two other jurisdictions are experiencing.

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The laboratory hasn't experienced an issue like this previously and we have liaised with our counterparts in other jurisdictions regarding this issue. I apologise for the impact that this has on the QPS and the community. We have allocated a large number of resources to this issue to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:48 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received a new lot number and have tested it, unfortunately we are still experiencing the issue. We anticipate receiving a new lot number and a new batch number this Friday and will keep you advised of the testing.

In the meantime, Justin will work with A/Insp Taylor on some strategies on what samples are able to be reported in the meantime.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [redacted] **m** | [redacted]

**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108

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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 12:26  
**To:** Support Officer FSG  
**Subject:** RE: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Good afternoon,

Please find below dot points with regards to the Promega PP21 kit issue.

Background. Pre-February 2018, Queensland Health used **PP21 kits** for Major crime (*Improved/more sensitive kits*), and **Profiler Plus** for Volume crime. Post Feb-2018, FSS consumed the last supplies of Profiler Plus throughout the world, and have adopted PP21 for all crime.

- 13<sup>th</sup> April, Forensic Scientific Services (FSS) identified an issue with the current lot of PowerPlex 21 (PP21) DNA kits.
- The issues means 2 loci (Out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly.
- Additional lots of current PP21 kits have been received from the American manufacturer, however the problem remains.
- FSS are working the issue in conjunction with the American Manufacturer.
- FSS have liaised with fellow Australian jurisdictions and established that those using PP21 are experiencing the same problems.
- The issue effects approximately 60% of samples.
- The only Australian jurisdictions unaffected are those using Globalfiler.
- The Inspector DNA Management Section (DMS) has negotiated a temporary work flow with FSS, where single source profiles for volume crime are being processed with temporary results released for intel.
- The temporary work flow cannot be used for 2 -3 person mix profiles, due to the complexity.
- FSS are treating the issue as their highest priority are addressing the most likely causes first (*Experimenting with clean up kits, instruments, equipment, water, extraction processes etc*).
- FSS are unable to provide any type of time frame as to when the issue will be resolved.

#### Risks.

- DNA Samples potentially linking serial offenders may be delayed until the issue is resolved.
- High Priority (Homicide) analysis may be delayed if sample extract is too low to risk re-amplification, until matter resolved. (*Risk of consuming all of the DNA sample for a process which may not work*)

#### Solutions.

- The Inspector DMS is working closely with FSS to identify and prioritise high priority cases.
- Inspector DMS negotiating with FSS RE samples which present a risk of consuming the extract through additional re-works.
- FSS to consider additional government funding (So more samples can be examined now, and reworked if necessary at a later date)
- Representative from American manufacturer to attend FSS and assist with solving the issue.

I have attempted to use layman terms, please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind Regards,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

---

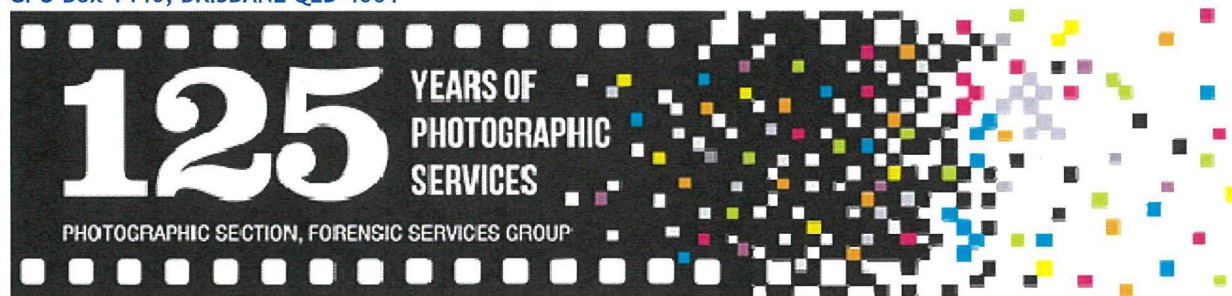
**From:** Heit.KarenL[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 11:27 AM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Maguire.JennaL[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Can you please draft dot points as requested below?

*Karen Heit*

Karen Heit | Sergeant | Support Officer | Office of the Superintendent | Forensic Services Group | Operations Support Command | Queensland Police Service

[REDACTED]  
 GPO Box 1440, BRISBANE QLD 4001




---

**From:** Hahn.RichardJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 11:04 AM  
**To:** Supt FSG [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Super,

Can this issue be summarised in dot points for the DC please, with a focus on potential risks to the QPS?

Rgds and thanks

RJH

---

**Richard Hahn**  
 Inspector  
 Strategy and Performance  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service  
 [REDACTED]



**From:** Dabinett.StephenJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 11:01 AM  
**To:** Hahn.RichardJ[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Richard, has this been briefed to Deputy and if not do we need to do some dot points up to provide a preliminary brief.

Steve Dabinett  
 A/ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
 OPERATIONS SUPPORT COMMAND  
 [REDACTED]

**From:** Hahn.RichardJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 10:51 AM  
**To:** Dabinett.StephenJ[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** McPhee.FionaM[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

FYI

Richard Hahn  
 Inspector  
 Strategy and Performance  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]



**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 9:02 AM  
**To:** Strategy and Performance Officer [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Support Officer FSG [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]



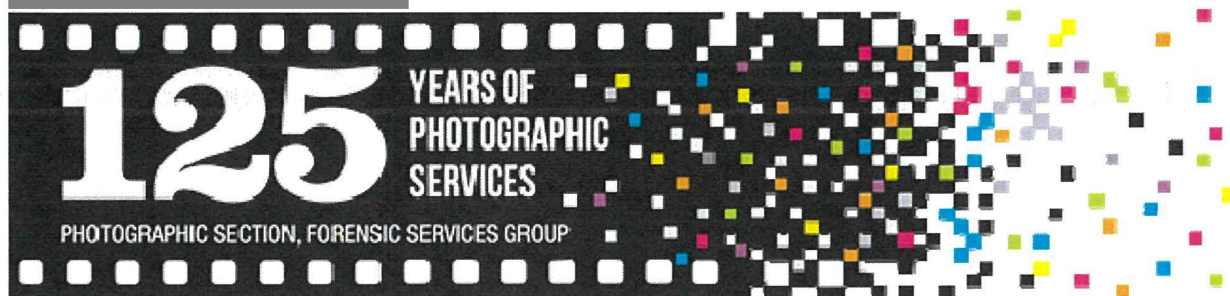
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Richard,

I mentioned this at OSMG yesterday. Update received last night. We are monitoring this closely.

Dale,

Dale Frieberg  
 Superintendent  
 Operations Commander  
 Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service



**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 May 2018 5:56 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lee Smythe <[REDACTED]>; Paul Csoban [REDACTED]; Paula Brisotto  
 [REDACTED] Kirsten Scott [REDACTED]; Justin Howes  
 [REDACTED]; Michel Lok [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

I just wanted to provide you with an update on the issue with the PP21 kit.

We've conducted experiments, however we've found no evidence to suggest that any of the below have affected the PP21 process:

- Extraction method used in the lab
- Instruments used in the lab
- Water used in the lab

We are conducting further experiments in an attempt to rule out consumables that are used and could affect the PP21 process.

We are still working with the manufacturer on this issue and continuing to identify samples that are able to be processed, whilst ensuring that critical crime scene extract is not wasted unnecessarily.

We appreciate that this is affecting a number of cases, but are monitoring the court list and ensuring that samples are processed to meet court timeframes and any urgent requests made by the QPS.

Please let me know if there is further information that you'd like me to provide.

Cheers  
Cathie



### Cathie Allen

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [REDACTED]  
**a** | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 10:44 AM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban; 'Paula Brisotto'; 'Justin Howes'

**Subject:** Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the issue with the Promega PP21 kits that we and two other jurisdictions are experiencing.

We have tried three different lot numbers of the PP21 kit and the issue is still present. We have tried a Promega Fusion kit (this kit includes the 2 loci that we are experiencing issues with) and this kit also showed that the issue is present (presumably due to using the same primers in both PP21 and Fusion).

We've conducted an experiment, as requested by the American Manufacturer, however this showed the issue was still present, but assisted them with more information.

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We will continue working with the manufacturer on this issue. And we will continue to process urgent samples that are requested by the QPS or are required for Statements and Court matters.

The laboratory hasn't experienced an issue like this previously and we have liaised with our counterparts in other jurisdictions regarding this issue. I apologise for the impact that this has on the QPS and the community. We have allocated a large number of resources to this issue to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

**p** | [REDACTED] **m** | [REDACTED]  
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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:48 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED]; A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received a new lot number and have tested it, unfortunately we are still experiencing the issue. We anticipate receiving a new lot number and a new batch number this Friday and will keep you advised of the testing.

In the meantime, Justin will work with A/Insp Taylor on some strategies on what samples are able to be reported in the meantime.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to let you know that we've asked other jurisdictions if they've had the same issue with the PP21 kits and yesterday we were advised by one jurisdiction that they had also seen it. This indicates that the issue is kit based, rather than process or instrument based. We will continue to work with the manufacturer and I'll keep you updated as we progress.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received the new lot of PP21 kits and have tested them. Unfortunately, this new lot does not resolve the issue for the 2 loci not amplifying properly. We will continue to investigate and work with the manufacturer on supplying us with a different lot number.

We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
 Cathie


**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the PP21 kits.

The new lot of PP21 kits have arrived at FSS and are currently being tested, with results known late this afternoon. If the test results show normal DNA profiles, tomorrow morning a batch of Volume Crime samples will be processed to ensure that crime scene samples profile appropriately. If this processes well, then processing of Major Crime samples will proceed from late Wednesday.

If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers

Cathie


**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED]; A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban  
**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, Department of Health

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 a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
 w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 May 2018 09:36  
**To:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]; Harris.LibbyA[ESC]; Simpfendorfer.GerardM[FDDIV]  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed processing

FYI,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Justin Howes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 May 2018 4:25 PM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED] Paula Brisotto [REDACTED] Kirsten Scott [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed processing

Hi Ewen

I tried calling this afternoon to discuss the following:

The Mgt team met today to discuss some ways forward for processing at present while continuing to experience difficulties with our PP21 technology.

As Cathie has briefed, we are conscious of amount of extract available and the consumption of said extract through potentially multiple reworking techniques. We believe we can identify high quant/yielding samples and process these because we have enough extract redundancy such that processing multiple times will still be possible. We also believe we can use other 'interim' reporting lines to enable some information to go to QPS on P3 samples.

In light of this, I wanted to inform you that we can immediately process High Priority samples with high quantification values (that require minimal extract use), and we can process all Low Priority samples and use interim lines to report results. I will be in contact with FR Developers to ensure these lines can be used in the system.

Before we commence with these strategies, I am after your endorsement and am happy to talk finer details with yourself and/or delegate in result management particularly as the workflow strategies include using interim lines, which are infrequently used.

Regards  
 Justin



## Justin Howes

Team Leader – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
w | [Queensland Health](#) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 May 2018 09:42  
**To:** Justin Howes  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed processing

Thanks Justin,

Olivia is having a look now. We will get back to you soon,

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Justin Howes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 May 2018 4:25 PM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]; Paula Brisotto <[REDACTED]>; Kirsten Scott [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed processing

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Regards  
 Justin



## Justin Howes

Team Leader – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

p | [REDACTED] m | [REDACTED]  
a | 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108  
w | Queensland Health e | [REDACTED]

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**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 May 2018 07:04  
**To:** Slade.StephenG[OSC]  
**Subject:** FW: Update 7: Issue with PP21 kit



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 May 2018 4:12 PM  
**To:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED] Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lee Smythe [REDACTED]; Paul Csoban [REDACTED]; Paula Brisotto [REDACTED]; Kirsten Scott [REDACTED]; Justin Howes [REDACTED]; Michel Lok [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Update 7: Issue with PP21 kit

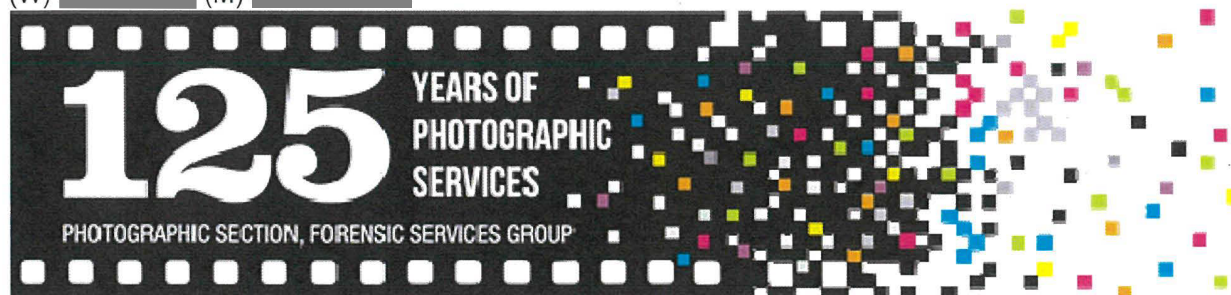
Thanks Cathie for the update. Nice to catch up at ANZFEC. Have a good weekend.

Dale.

Dale Frieberg  
 Superintendent  
 Operations Commander  
 Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
 Queensland Police Service

(W) [REDACTED]

(M) [REDACTED]



**From:** Cathie Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 May 2018 3:40 PM  
**To:** Frieberg.DaleJ[OSC] [REDACTED]; Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
 <[REDACTED]>



**Cc:** Lee Smythe [REDACTED]; Paul Csoban [REDACTED] Paula Brisotto [REDACTED]; Kirsten Scott [REDACTED] Justin Howes [REDACTED]; Michel Lok [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update 7: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

Thank you for your feedback regarding our proposal to report more samples (particularly mixed DNA samples) through an 'Interim' reporting process and we appreciate that this was not a workable solution for the QPS and we will not proceed with this proposal.

Since my last update, we've conducted a number of different experiments regarding the PP21 issue. The collation of the results from these and other experiments and several discussions has led us to the point whereby we are still yet to determine the cause of the issue.

Bearing this in mind, and the impact on the QPS and the community, we will re-commence processing of samples through to profile and reporting stage, whilst we continue to undertake our investigation into the cause. We have assessed the risk of this and will mitigate this by beginning with Major Crime and the higher concentration samples (thereby using less of the extracted DNA).

We will be continuing our investigation into the cause of this event and will advise on the outcome once known.

Thank you for your patience during this period. I apologise for the disrupted flowing of results, which will now begin again, and I understand the impact that it has on the staff within the DNA Results Management Team and the wider forensic community of staff.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further clarification.

Cheers  
 Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
 Forensic & Scientific Services,  
 Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**  
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---

**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 May 2018 5:56 PM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lee Smythe; Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Kirsten Scott; Justin Howes; Michel Lok  
**Subject:** FW: Update 6: Issue with PP21 kit

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Please let me know if there is further information that you'd like me to provide.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 May 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Paul Csoban; 'Paula Brisotto'; 'Justin Howes'  
**Subject:** Update 5: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale and Ewen

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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---

**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:48 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received a new lot number and have tested it, unfortunately we are still experiencing the issue. We anticipate receiving a new lot number and a new batch number this Friday and will keep you advised of the testing.

In the meantime, Justin will work with A/Insp Taylor on some strategies on what samples are able to be reported in the meantime.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 9:03 AM**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]**Cc:** Paul Csoban**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to let you know that we've asked other jurisdictions if they've had the same issue with the PP21 kits and yesterday we were advised by one jurisdiction that they had also seen it. This indicates that the issue is kit based, rather than process or instrument based. We will continue to work with the manufacturer and I'll keep you updated as we progress.

Cheers  
Cathie

**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream

Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 9:29 AM**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]**Cc:** Paul Csoban**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have received the new lot of PP21 kits and have tested them. Unfortunately, this new lot does not resolve the issue for the 2 loci not amplifying properly. We will continue to investigate and work with the manufacturer on supplying us with a different lot number.

We will not re-commence routine processing of crime scene samples at this stage. We will continue to process urgent samples – for court purposes or ongoing investigations.

I will provide you with a further update when it comes to hand.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April 2018 12:21 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** FW: Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

I just wanted to provide you with an update regarding the PP21 kits.

The new lot of PP21 kits have arrived at FSS and are currently being tested, with results known late this afternoon. If the test results show normal DNA profiles, tomorrow morning a batch of Volume Crime samples will be processed to ensure that crime scene samples profile appropriately. If this processes well, then processing of Major Crime samples will proceed from late Wednesday.

If the test process doesn't work appropriately, I will advise you asap.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers  
Cathie



**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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**From:** Cathie Allen

**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 2:05 PM

**To:** Supt Dale Frieberg [REDACTED] A/Insp Ewen Taylor [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Paul Csoban

**Subject:** Issue with PP21 kit

Hi Dale

We have identified an issue with the current lot number of PowerPlex 21 kit that is being used. The issue means that 2 loci (out of the 20 loci) are not amplifying properly, which affects the results and any associated work required in the statistical package, STRmix.

Urgent crime scene samples will be processed, however, we have ceased processing of routine crime scene samples with this lot, to ensure that we don't waste the sample as it's the only lot number we have available to us. This doesn't affect reference samples and they will continue to be processed.

We have contacted the manufacturer, who expects to ship us a new lot number on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of April, from Melbourne. Once we receive the new lot presumably on Tuesday afternoon, we anticipate verifying it overnight, with analysis of results on Wednesday morning. Once the new lot has been verified, routine testing of crime scene samples will re-commence.

I will keep you up to date on our progress and apologise for this inconvenience as I understand that it has an effect on the QPS' forensic work.

Cheers  
Cathie

**Cathie Allen**

Managing Scientist – Police Services Stream  
Forensic & Scientific Services,  
Health Support Queensland, **Department of Health**

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w | [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) e | [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 11:21  
**To:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC]; Harris.LibbyA[OSC]; Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Thanks Olivia,

As discussed, I am in agreement. The 'auto-microcon' process would appear inefficient in this context, with time and resources appearing to be better spent in more worthwhile endeavours.

I am inclined to recommend your option 1, with an additional line added to the Q-prime update advising investigators of their option to request this additional process if required.

Does anyone have any further comment before I reply?

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
 Acting Inspector  
 DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
 Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

Phone [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Address GPO Box 1440 Brisbane 4001

**From:** McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 8:17 AM  
**To:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC] <[REDACTED]>; Harris.LibbyA[OSC]  
 [REDACTED] Gee Kee.KenN[OSC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FSS Options paper

Good morning Ewen,

Further to our conversation, based on the statistics provided by FSS, it would appear it is not worthwhile continuing with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 samples.

If FSS ceases continuing with the 'auto-microcon' process for Priority 2 samples, I would imagine QPS can still request certain samples that are pertinent to an investigation be submitted through the 'auto-microcon' case, if it is required.

To identify these samples, I would imagine one of the following scenarios would apply:

1. If investigating police contact the DNA Management Section to inquire about testing, DMS staff can facilitate the 'auto-microcon' process on results that have been validated as "DNA insufficient for further processing", or

2. Results that are 'DNA insufficient for further processing', from unsolved occurrences are sent to a worklist for assessment by staff from DMS to determine whether further testing should be initiated.

Given the statistics provided by FSS, in relation to 'success' rates for these samples, I would imagine that Management may want to go with option 1.

Forwarded for your information.

Kind regards

Olivia McIntyre | DNA Management Officer | Profile Management Team | DNA Management Section  
Forensic Services Group | Operations Support Command | Queensland Police Service  
GPO Box 1440 | Brisbane QLD 4001 | Australia  
[REDACTED] Police Headquarters | 200 Roma Street | Brisbane QLD 4000 | Australia

---

**From:** Taylor.EwenN[OSC]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 January 2018 7:05 AM

**To:** Collophen.RubenB[OSC]

[REDACTED] Gee Kee.KenN[OSC]

[REDACTED] Harris.LibbyA[OSC]

[REDACTED]; McIntyre.OliviaM[OSC]

**Subject:** FSS Options paper

Good morning,

For your advice please.

Cheers,



**Ewen TAYLOR**  
Acting Inspector  
DNA Management Unit | Forensic Services Group  
Operations Support Command  
**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE**

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