
MEMORANDUM

To: Lara Keller, Acting Executive Director, Forensic and Scientific Services

Copies to: Professor Keith McNeil, Deputy Director-General and
Chief Medical Officer, Prevention Division and Chief Clinical Information

From: Shaun Drummond, Acting
Director-General

Enquiries to: Aaron Suthers,
Executive Director,
Queensland Health
Taskforce Lead,
COI into Forensic
DNA Testing in
Queensland
07 [REDACTED]

Subject: Temporary pause to DNA testing of certain samples

Reference: C-ECTF-22/15825

It has been brought to my attention that Queensland Police Service (QPS) have formally requested, by email on 20 September 2022, that the Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) laboratory temporarily pause testing of all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples that return a quantitation result within the range of 0.001ng/ μ L - 0.0088ng/ μ L.

I understand QPS issued this direction due to concerns they hold around the potential risk of evidence being lost if such samples are concentrated to a blanket volume of 35 μ L. Before resuming testing of these samples, QPS are seeking advice from FSS as to whether these concerns are valid.

As the samples remain the property of QPS during investigations, please immediately implement this direction to pause testing Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples that return a quantitation result within the range 0.001ng/ μ L - 0.0088ng/ μ L. Testing may resume when instructed to do so by QPS. All FSS staff should be informed of this direction.

Should you require further information, the Department of Health's contact is Mr Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, Taskforce Lead for Queensland Health's Response to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland, who can be contacted via email at [REDACTED] and on telephone number [REDACTED].

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Shaun Drummond
Acting Director-General
30/09/2022