Notice number: 2022/00127

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO FORENSIC DNA TESTING IN QUEENSLAND

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

STATEMENT OF HELEN GREGG

I, Helen Gregg, Quality Manager, of 39 Kessels Road Coopers Plains, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am the Quality Manager at Forensic and Scientific Services.

2. I have been issued with a requirement to provide a written statement by Commissioner Sofronoff QC, Notice 2022/127.

3. I have considered the schedule of topics provided by the Commissioner.

4. In this statement I have made reference to correspondence. For ease of reference to this correspondence, the file names have been updated to include the date and time at which the latest email was received. The Commission should note that the original file name of each document as included in this statement is exclusive of the date and time.

Background

Question 1 - Describe your qualifications, current position, how long you have held that position and duties and responsibilities.

5. I have a Bachelor of Science, and a Masters in Applied Science (Medical Laboratory Science). I also have a Diploma in Management.

6. I hold the position of Quality Manager at Forensic and Scientific Services.

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Helen Gregg

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Witness

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7. I have held this position since August 2006.

8. In this role I am responsible for maintaining and improving the organisation's quality management system and managing the activities of the Scientific Support Services unit.

Question 2 - Describe (in brief) your work history.

9. I worked as a pathology scientist in Sydney from 1991-1994, and in Brisbane from 1994-2006. I worked in Immunology and Cytogenetics laboratories.

10. In 2000, I worked in the United Kingdom in a routine pathology lab (Immunology).

11. In 2006 I began work at Forensic and Scientific Services as the Quality Manager. This role has grown in scope over time, and now includes the management of five sections in Scientific Support Services.

12. From 18 July 2022 to 31 August 2022, I was the acting Executive Director, Forensic and Scientific Services, while Lara Keller was on leave.

Question 3 - Describe any previous experience with forensic DNA testing or analysis.

13. I have no previous experience with forensic DNA testing or analysis.

Decision on 6 June 2022

Question 4 - What involvement, if any, did you have in two decisions made on or about 6 June 2022, namely:

a. **that the threshold for reporting samples as "DNA insufficient for further processing" be removed, and samples in the range 0.001—0.0088 ng/µL(range) be processed; and**
b. **that some or all new samples in the range 0.001—0.0088 ng/µL would go directly for amplification rather than for concentration.**

14. I had no involvement in the decisions made on 6 June 2022.

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Helen Gregg

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Question 5 - Explain your involvement in detail, with reference to material and information you had access to in relation to the decisions, meetings, discussions or correspondence in relation to the decisions, and others' contribution to the decisions.

15. I had no involvement.

Question 6 - If you had no involvement in the decisions made on or about 6 June 2022, what is your understanding, and explain the basis for your understanding, of the following:

a. Who made those decisions;

16. I understand the decisions were made by the Acting Director General, Shaun Drummond, who was given information in an email from the A/Executive Director, Lara Keller **HG-01-Forensic DNA testing impacts**. Lara's email appears to be based on information provided by Cathie Allen, Managing Scientist Police Services via email. **HG-02-Email of draft proposal to EDFSS 3.58 pm** and **HG-03-Email of draft proposal to EDFSS 4.38pm**.

b. When those decisions were made;

17. I do not know when the decisions were made.

c. The reasons for the decisions;

18. I do not know the reasons for the decisions.

d. The material or information on which the decisions were based;

19. I do not know all the material or information on which the decisions were based, however I believe the email to Shaun Drummond from A/Executive Director, Lara Keller played a role.

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Helen Gregg Witness

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e. The meetings, discussions or correspondence in relation to the decisions.

20. I am only aware of the two emails to Lara Keller from Cathie Allen, and the email from Lara Keller to Shaun Drummond.

Decision on 19 August 2022

Question 7 - Explain any discussion about or reconsideration of the decisions of 6 June 2022 that occurred between 6 June 2022 and 19 August 2022 and identify:

a. Who was involved;

21. The following people were involved:

- Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director General, Queensland Health.
- Cathie Allen, Managing Scientist, Police Services.
- Paula Brisotto, Team Leader, Forensic DNA Analysis.
- Justin Howes, Team Leader, Forensic DNA Analysis.
- Megan Fairweather, Chief Legal Counsel, Legal Services Unit, Queensland Health.
- Alison Slade, Principal Advisor, Forensic and Scientific Services.
- Helen Gregg, A/Executive Director, Forensic and Scientific Services.
- Matthew Rigby, A/Executive Director, Office of the Director-General.

b. What occurred in any correspondence or discussions;

16 August 2022

22. On Tuesday 16 August 2022 at 12.43pm I received a phone call from Dr David Rosengren. He advised me there was a risk of confusion regarding the 'pre-2018' process and threshold levels, and that the advice provided was not accurate. He wanted to clarify this with the Forensic DNA Analysis team. **HG-04-20220816 File note – conversation with David.**

23. At 1.06pm I received an email from Cathie Allen. **HG-05-20220816 Advice regarding information supplied.**

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Helen Gregg

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24. I contacted Justin Howes to get a better understanding of the 'pre-2018' process and summarised this in my notebook. **HG-06-20220816 Teams conversation with Justin**. Justin subsequently emailed me with the document number for the process. **HG-07-20220816 SOP**.

25. Between 1.06pm and 4.34pm Cathie and I drafted an email to Dr Rosengren. I was assisted with wording by Alison Slade. There was one phone call **HG-08-20220816 File note – conversation with Cathie** and I sent three emails:

- **HG-09-0220816 1604 RE_Advice regarding information supplied**
- **HG-10-20220816 1627 RE_Advice regarding information supplied**
- **HG-11- 20220816 1634 RE_Advice regarding information supplied**

26. At 4.39pm I sent a copy of my draft email for Dr Rosengren to Megan Fairweather copying in Alison Slade. This email has not been attached as it has been identified as subject to legal professional privilege.

27. I also had a discussion with Paula Brisotto to test my understanding of the 'pre-2018' process. This included confirmation that concentration was to 35 µL.

28. That evening, I went through my notes from Justin and recollection of conversation with Paula, as well as QIS documents to understand what the documented process was pre-2018. I mapped this onto my office window. **HG-12-20220816 Process photo**. My understanding was as follows:

a. 2012: STRMix and PP21: Volume and major crime (i.e. all priorities) straight through steps 1-4. If <0.0088ng/µL and volume crime – reported as insufficient. This saw turnaround times increase.

b. 2013: Volume crime went back to P+. No cut off. Better turnaround times.

c. 2015 (SOP 17117V17): STRMix and PP21 major crime. Automatic concentration for priority 1 (P1) and priority 2 (P2) <0.0088ng/µL (appendix 19.3) (i.e. step 2b)

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d. 2018: P+ no more.

29. Pre-2018 SOP V17117V19 was in effect. It was published in 2017, and appendix 19.4 shows the workflow.

30. I emailed appendix 19.4 to Megan Fairweather **HG-13-20220816 2018 Process re: 2018 - flowchart**.

17 August 2022

31. On Wednesday 17 August the draft email to David Rosengren was edited further. On 17 August 2022 at 10.29am I received an email from Megan Fairweather with the subject "FINAL DRAFT Wording to describe pre—2018 thresholds and options". This email has not been attached as it has been identified as subject to legal professional privilege.

32. The final email was sent to David Rosengren at 11.25am. **HG-14-20220817 1125 Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options**.

33. My phone records show I received a call from David Rosengren at 1.11pm. I have no records from this, but recall it was clarifying the process, and I referred to the flowchart (Appendix 19.4) when answering the questions.

34. Megan Fairweather began drafting a memo and I commented. **HG-15-20220817 1446 Re draft memo** and **HG-16-20220817 1708 R Draft memo**.

19 August 2022

35. On Friday 19 August 11.16am I received an email from Matthew Rigby requesting feedback on the updated draft memo. At 11.23am I forwarded Matthew's email and attached memo to Cathie Allen, Paula Brisotto and Justin Howes. **HG-17-20220819 1123 FW_Updated memo for consideration**.

36. At 11.30am I attended a Teams meeting along with Cathie Allen, Paula Brisotto, Justin Howes, Megan Fairweather and Alison Slade. My notes of the meeting show we were

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verbally advised by Megan that QPS want us to do everything we can but leave something for future testing. It was not acceptable for us to exhaust the whole sample. At this meeting I suggested getting QPS approval to do the second amp. **HG-18-20220819 File note - teams meeting re QPS instruction and decision**.

37. I put a draft into a word document and shared it with everyone on OneDrive for them to edit. **HG-19-20220819 second amp**.

38. At 12.58pm I received a phone call from Matt Rigby and let him know I was about to send an email. I sent this email at 1pm **HG-20-20220819 1300 RE_ Updated memo for consideration**. Matt sent this email to David Rosengren at 1.47pm. **HG-21-20220819 1347 FW_ Updated memo for consideration**.

39. At 2.17pm I received a phone call from Matt Rigby, followed by an email, that David wanted to include the 'second amp' wording in the memo. This email included a draft memo for feedback. **HG-22-20220819 1417 RE_ Updated memo for consideration**.

40. At 3.20pm the signed memo was received **HG-23-20220819 1520 - C-ECTF-22813557 – DG MEMO – from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health – Subject of memorandum**.

41. At 3.33pm I sent this memo and attachments to all Forensic DNA Analysis staff. **HG-24-20220819 1533 FW_C-ECTF-22813557 – DG MEMO – from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health – Subject of memorandum**

c. The reason for any discussion or reconsideration.

42. I have outlined the reason for any discussion or reconsideration above, in my responses to questions 7a and 7b.

Question 8 - What involvement, if any, did you have in a decision made on or about 19 August 2022, or consideration leading to that decision, to determine the process to be followed for Priority 1 or 2 samples with a quantitation value between 0.001 ng/µL

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and 0.0088 ng/µL? Explain your involvement in detail, with reference to material and information you had access to in relation to the decision, meetings, discussions, or correspondence in relation to the decision, and others' contribution to the decision.

Include in your answer your understanding of:

a. Who made that decision;

43. The decision was made by Dr David Rosengren. I believe the decision was informed by the information I provided to him via email and phone.

b. When the decision was made;

44. I believe the decision was made on 19 August 2022.

c. The reasons for the decision;

45. I believe the reason for the decision was informed by the information I provided to him via email and phone, which was based on information from the standard operating procedures as well as conversations and emails with Cathie Allen, Paula Brisotto and Justin Howes as detailed in Question 7 above.

d. The reason for reconsidering the decision made on 6 June 2022, and how, when and by what means that reason came to your attention;

46. I understand the decision made on 6 June was reconsidered as per the details outlined in Cathie Allen's email to me on Tuesday 16 August at 1.06pm.

e. The material or information on which the decision was based;

47. I do not know the material or information on which this decision to reconsider was based.

f. The meetings, discussions or correspondence in relation to the decision

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48. I understand Cathie Allen had a meeting as per the details outlined in her email to me on Tuesday 16 August at 1.06pm.

Question 9 - If you had no involvement in the decision made on or about 19 August 2022, or consideration leading to that decision, what is your understanding, and explain the basis for your understanding, of the following:

a. **Who made that decision;**

b. **When the decision was made;**

c. **The reasons for the decision;**

d. **The reason for reconsidering the decision made on 6 June 2022, and how, when and by what means that reason came to your attention;**

e. **The material or information on which the decision was based;**

f. **The meetings, discussions or correspondence in relation to the decision.**

49. Not applicable. I was involved in the decision made on or about 19 August 2022.

Question 10 - In relation to the memorandum of 19 August 2022, explain the consultation undertaken by you or (to your knowledge) by other members of the Department of Health, before or after the decision was made with:

a. **The Managing Scientist of the DNA laboratory;**

50. As detailed in question 7 above, I consulted with Cathie Allen on Tuesday 16th August and Wednesday 17th August regarding the wording of the email to David Rosengren.

51. Cathie was also consulted on the memo drafted by Megan Fairweather on Wednesday 17th August.

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52. I also consulted with Cathie about the volume that the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) in New Zealand would need for their analysis **HG-25-20220819 1706 RE_ Volume for DNA analysis.**

b. The management team of the DNA laboratory;

53. As detailed in question 7 above, I consulted with Paula Brisotto and Justin Howes on Tuesday 16th August regarding the 'pre-2018' process, however they were possibly not aware at the time that a clarification was being considered.

54. As detailed in question 7 above, I consulted with Paula Brisotto and Justin Howes on Friday 19th August regarding the updated memo for consideration from the Office of the Director-General, and the wording in the 'second amp' document.

55. We also consulted about the volume that ESR in New Zealand would need for their analysis.

c. Scientists working in the DNA laboratory;

56. I did not consult, and am not aware of any consultation with, scientists working in the DNA laboratory regarding the memorandum of 19 August 2022.

d. Any Deputy Director-General or Acting Deputy Director-General;

57. I forwarded the email I sent to the Acting Director-General to the Acting Deputy Director-General on 17 August 2022. **HG-26-20220817 1136 FW_ Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options.**

58. Dr Keith McNeil received a copy of the memo at 3.20pm on 19 August 2022.

e. Mr Shaun Drummond;

59. I did not consult with, and am not aware of any consultation with Mr Shaun Drummond regarding the memorandum of 19 August 2022

f. The Queensland Police Service.

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60. I did not consult with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) regarding the memorandum of 19 August 2022. I received an email from David Neville on 17 August 2022 but did not respond until 3.41pm after the memo was sent on 19 August 2022. **HG-27-20220819 1542 RE_ Further clarification previous email_ Assessment of low quant DNA samples report**.

61. I am aware that QPS had communicated with Queensland Health, as advised by Megan Fairweather in a Teams meeting held 19 August 2022 at 11.30am.

Question 11 - In relation to the memorandum of 19 August 2022, explain what steps were put in place by you or other members of the Department of Health to communicate and explain the decision, and the reasons for the decision, to scientists and management of the DNA laboratory.

62. On 19 August at 5.18pm Paul Brisotto sent an email to Justin, Cathie, Alison and I about possible questions from staff. Cathie and I each responded. **HG-28-20220822 1221 RE_ clarification.**

63. Justin sent an email on Monday 22 August to which I responded **HG-29-20220822 1241 RE_ clarification**.

64. Justin worked on a flowchart to be added to SOP 17117, shared this with me, and I responded **HG-30-20220824 0850 RE_ chart of workflow**.

65. Thursday 25 August 2022, Justin sent me an email chain of staff questions. I was also receiving emails directly, so I decided that it would be best to have a meeting with all staff. **HG-31-20220825 1158 RE_ Workflow - Exhaustion of extract, HG-32-20220825 1048 From Claire Gallagher, HG-33-20220825 1103 From Matthew Hunt**.

66. After organising the Teams meeting, I received a number of emails with further questions **HG-34-20220825 1305 From Ingrid Moeller, HG-35-20220825 1341 From Kylie Rika, HG-36-20220825 1342 From Matthew Hunt.**

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Helen Gregg

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67. The first teams meeting held at 2pm on Thursday 25 August 2022. Staff invited were as per **HG-37-25 August meeting**.

68. The second teams meeting was held at 11.30am on Tuesday 30 August 2022. Staff invited were as per **HG-38-30 August meeting**.

Question 12 - If any meetings were held with any staff members of the DNA laboratory in relation to the decision of 19 August 2022, identify:

a. The reason for the meeting/s;

b. When the meeting/s took place;

69. The first Teams meeting was held on Thursday 25 August 2022 at 2pm to clarify any questions that staff had regarding the memo.

70. The second Teams meeting was held on Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 11.30am to provide staff with a follow up on the action from the first meeting.

c. Who attended the meeting/s;

71. I did not keep records of who attended the meetings. Staff invited were as per lists provided in question 11.

d. How you prepared for the meeting/s, including who you discussed or corresponded with, when and what was said in preparation for the meeting/s;

72. In preparation for the first Teams meeting, I met with Justin Howes at approximately 12.15pm on Thursday 25 August, where I reiterated the two concepts behind the memo:

a. A return to pre-2018 processes.

b. Cannot exhaust the sample without QPS approval.

73. In preparation for the first Teams meeting, I printed the emails from staff and highlighted the questions.

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74. In preparation for the second Teams meeting, I went through QIS documents again to understand what the microcon process was pre-2018. Section 4.8.1.14 and appendix 9.4 from **HG-39-SOP 24012V13** and section 1, section 6.5.2 and section 7.2.10 from **HG-40-SOP 34040V2**.

75. In preparation for the second Teams meeting, I wrote some notes that I could refer to. **HG-41-20220830 prep notes**.

e. What was discussed during the meeting/s and by who;

76. At the first Teams meeting, staff discussed their concerns with the pre-2018 process, in particular the automatic concentration to 35µL. Some staff said they would like to have the option to go straight to full concentration, which the memo does not allow. I kept coming back to the intent which was;

a. To return to pre-2018 processes.

b. Cannot exhaust the sample without QPS approval.

77. At the second Teams meeting, I discussed that a return to pre-2018 processes was the direction, that I had again reviewed SOPs pertaining to that time, and automatic concentration to 35µL was the process.

f. Your role in any discussions;

78. My role at the first Teams meeting was that I answered questions and took away an action to determine if we could pause the process prior to the concentration step to give scientists an option to microcon to full, instead of an auto-microcon to 35µL.

79. My role at the second Teams meeting was to update the staff on the outcome from the action I had taken away from the first Teams meeting.

g. The outcome of any meeting/s.

80. After the first Teams meeting, I received an email from Allan McNevin, who wrote 'I want to make it clear that the opinions expressed by a number of the reporting staff are

not necessarily shared by all of the members of the reporting teams' **HG-42-20220825 email from Allan McNevin**. I also had a visit from Thomas Nurthen who said the same. I also had a conversation with Cathie Allen about this meeting, and that decisions need to be based on data, not examples, or as stated in Allans email 'confirmation bias'. I also received an email from Alison Lloyd who reiterated Allan's comments. **HG-43-20220905 1304 Thanks for your help with DNA**.

81. The actionable outcome from the first Teams meeting was for me to determine if we could pause the process prior to the concentration step, to give scientists an option to microcon to full, instead of an auto-microcon to 35µL.

82. The outcome of the second meeting was the matter was finalised. I advised staff that a return to pre-2018 processes was the direction, that I had reviewed the SOPs from the time for the process, and that the process at that time was automatic concentration to 35µL. There was a separate issue raised regarding reworks requested by QPS, and what to disclose about testing methodologies used.

Question 13 - Attach all notes, minutes or correspondence related to any meetings held with staff members of the DNA laboratory in relation to the decision of 19 August 2022.

83. Additional notes, minutes or correspondence related to these meetings are listed below;

a. **HG-44-20220825 1205 RE_ Workflow - Exhaustion of extract**

b. **HG-45-20220825 1209 RE_ DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)**

c. **HG-46-20220825 1245 Re_ DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)**

d. **HG-47-20220825 notes made during meeting**

e. **HG-48-20220830 Meeting notes**

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Helen Gregg

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Witness

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All the facts and circumstances declared in my statement, are within my own knowledge and belief, except for the facts and circumstances declared from information only, and where applicable, my means of knowledge and sources of information are contained in this statement.

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

TAKEN AND DECLARED before me at ## in the State of Queensland this ## day of ## [month] 2022

[redacted]

Helen Gregg

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Witness

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Helen Gregg

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Witness

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (QUALIFIED) QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT Reg.No.: 100186 DEPT OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY-GENERAL

From: Lara Keller
Sent: Friday, 3 June 2022 5:10 PM
To: Shaun Drummond
Subject: Forensic DNA testing impacts

Good afternoon Shaun

Kindly find below two options for the term-of-review process. Please note that these figures are estimates only.

Option 1 – Process Only (Preferred)
Revert to pre 2018 workflow – which is where all samples above a quant value of 0 are **processed through** to DNA profiling. Samples that are identified as being beneficial for concentration can be based on the DNA profile achieved, item criticality and case context.
Will increase TAT to report, plus generate approx. 6 weeks backlog per 6 months
Estimated cost of kits plus IT = $60K
Overtime likely

Option 2 – Concentrate and Process (Least Preferred)
Discontinue 2018 workflow and **concentrate** all samples with a quant value between 0 and 0.0088ng/uL and then **process through** to DNA profiling stage.
Risks:
1. concentration step creates a risk of there being no DNA sample available for testing by other technologies not undertaken in Queensland, future technologies or testing requested by Defence.
2. in previous discussions, the QPS did not support an automatic concentration process, as the sample hadn't been assessed in the context of the case and may leave no sample remaining for future testing.
3. concentration step is a manual process so will impact labour and TAT

Will increase TAT to report, plus generate approx. 3 months backlog per 6 months
Estimated cost of kits plus IT = $80K
Overtime likely

To address subsequent backlog will require 5+ HP3 staff, noting that achieving minimum competency takes 3 months, full competency takes 12 months.

Thanks and Kind Regards
Lara

Lara Keller B App Sc (MLS), Grad Cert Health Mgt, MAIMS, CMgr FIML
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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

Cathie Allen

From: Alison Slade
Sent: Friday, 3 June 2022 4:38 PM
To: Lara Keller
Cc: Cathie Allen
Subject: FW: Data and costs

Hi Lara

See below

Cheers

Option 1 – Preferred:

Revert to pre 2018 workflow – which is where all samples above a quant value of 0 are **processed through** to DNA profiling. Samples that are identified as being beneficial for concentration can be based on the DNA profile achieved, item criticality and case context.

Consumable costs (non-labour):
Under this change, approx 2,200 additional samples would be have to be **processed through** to DNA profiling in a 6 month period (based on sample volumes from 2021 calendar year). Additional costs of reagents would be: Profiling Kits: $55,000.

Labour costs:

- Note: It takes 12 months to fully train a DNA scientist to report results and provide a Statement of Witness and give court evidence, however this option would not deliver timely assistance in managing the immediate additional workload created by reverting to the pre-2018 workflow.
- An alternative option to full-capability training: **Recruit 7 x HP3 Scientists** to work across a limited number of tasks to target high-volume and 'bottle-neck' processes, allowing fully-trained scientists to remain focussed on core responsibilities. The training required for this type of work could be completed within 14 weeks.

Option 2 – Least preferred:

Discontinue 2018 workflow and **concentrate** all samples with a quant value between 0 and 0.0088ng/uL and then **process through** to DNA profiling stage. Note, the concentration step creates a risk of there being no DNA sample available for testing by other technologies not undertaken in Queensland, future technologies or testing requested by Defence. In previous discussions, the QPS did not support an automatic concentration process, as the sample hadn't been assessed in the context of the case and may leave no sample remaining for future testing.

Costs: As per Option 1 plus $20,000 for concentration kits.

Risks:

- Option 1: The DNA concentration step requires significant manual labour – any significant volume increase for this part of the process could result in manual injury to staff (WH&S), fatigue and increase in lab errors.
- Both Options: Additional cost in overtime is highly likely in order for scientists to manage increased throughput, particularly until new additional HP3 scientists are adequately trained.

- Both Options: Increase in TAT for results to the QPS (adding approximately 1+ month's work to a 6 month period – ie 7+ months' work to process in 6 months) – which may equate to an increase of at least 1 week TAT - increase from 2 weeks to 3+ weeks.
- Without additional staffing, the increase in TAT will likely create a backlog situation.
- Note also, there can be a decrease in throughput during training as competent staff members are producing less work due to the training burden.

Cathie Allen **BSc, MSc (Forensic Science) (She/Her*)**
Managing Scientist

Social Chair, Organising Committee for 25th International Symposium of the
Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS), Brisbane, 11 – 15 Sept 2022

Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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

*If you're wondering about the use of pronouns She/Her on this signature block, I encourage you to read some resources available here

Cathie Allen

From: Cathie Allen
Sent: Friday, 3 June 2022 3:58 PM
To: Lara Keller; Alison Slade
Subject: Data and costs

Hi Lara & Alison

Option 1 – Preferred:

Revert to pre 2018 workflow – which is where all samples above a quant value of 0 are processed through to DNA profiling. Samples that identify as being beneficial for concentration can be based on DNA profile achieved, item criticality and case context.

Option 2 – Not the preferred:

Discontinue 2018 workflow and concentrate samples with a quant value between 0 and 0.0088ng/uL and then process through to DNA profiling stage. This has a risk of there being no DNA sample available for testing by other technologies not undertaken in Queensland, future technologies or testing requested by Defence. In previous discussions, the QPS did not support an automatic concentration process, as the sample hadn't been assessed in the context of the case and may leave no sample remaining for future testing.

Costs:
Approx 4,400 samples were marked as DNA Insufficient during 2021 (calendar year).

Therefore 2,200 samples would be processed in a 6 month period. Additional costs of reagents would be: Profiling Kits: $40,000 and Concentration Kits (if option 2 chosen) $15,000.

Risks: additional Labour required to process – could result in manual injury to staff (WH&S), fatigue and increase in lab errors, additional cost in overtime to maintain throughput; Increase in TAT for results to the QPS (essentially adding 1 months work to a 6 month period – ie 7 months work to process in 6 months) – which may equate to an increase in 1 week TAT - increase from 2 weeks to 3 weeks. This may create a backlog situation and require additional resources to clear the backlog, however training needs to be considered. It takes 12 months to train a staff member to report results and provide a Statement of Witness and give court evidence. There is a decrease in throughput during training as competent staff members are producing less work due to the training burden.

Cheers
Cathie

Cathie Allen **BSc, MSc (Forensic Science) (She/Her*)**
Managing Scientist

Social Chair, Organising Committee for 25th International Symposium of the
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Date 16.8.2022

Topic

Meeting Objectives

Attendees
David Rosengren
Helen Gregg
(Alison Slade)

Notes

- David called Helen. Helen put David on speaker so Alison could hear.

- Risk of confusion "pre-2018" & threshold levels
- Advice provided not accurate
- Wants to clarify with DNA team.

16.8.2022

Megan
Helen
(Alison

- cathie will send me email, clarifying option 1 & 2.
- HA then send to David, who will then make decision

Option 1: discretionary / risk based
- full profile 4 steps
- case by case conc.
(been doing since June)

Action Items

Option 2: conc step @ grant stage (step 2) (pre-2018) except P1 & P2 which is concentrate everything

Pre June 2022 ← 0.0088 conc if X step indicated

Post June 2022 → profile conc if indicated.

From: Cathie Allen
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 1:06 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Cc: Megan Fairweather; Karen Watson
Subject: Advice regarding information supplied
Attachments: Email of draft proposal to EDFSS 4.38pm_20220603.pdf; Email of draft proposal to EDFSS 3.58pm_20220603.pdf; Forensic DNA testing impacts

Hi Helen

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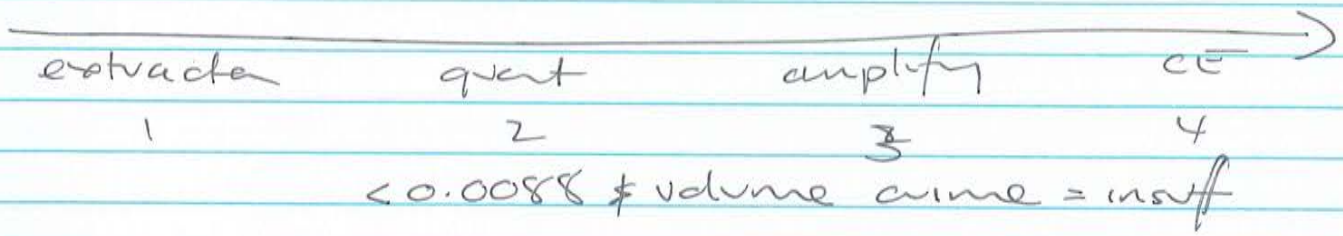
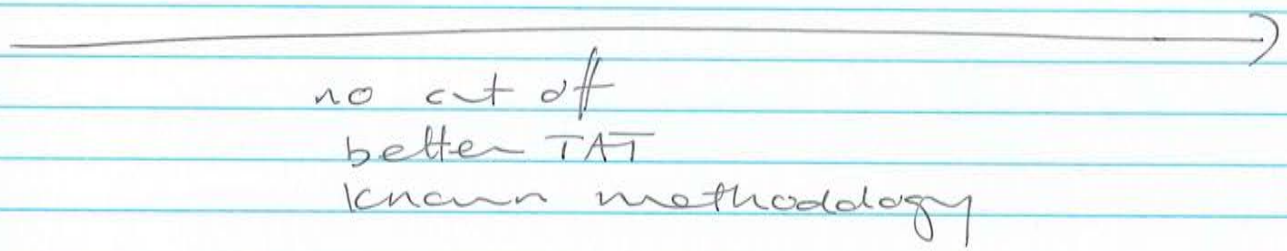
6/8/2022

Teams conv with dustin

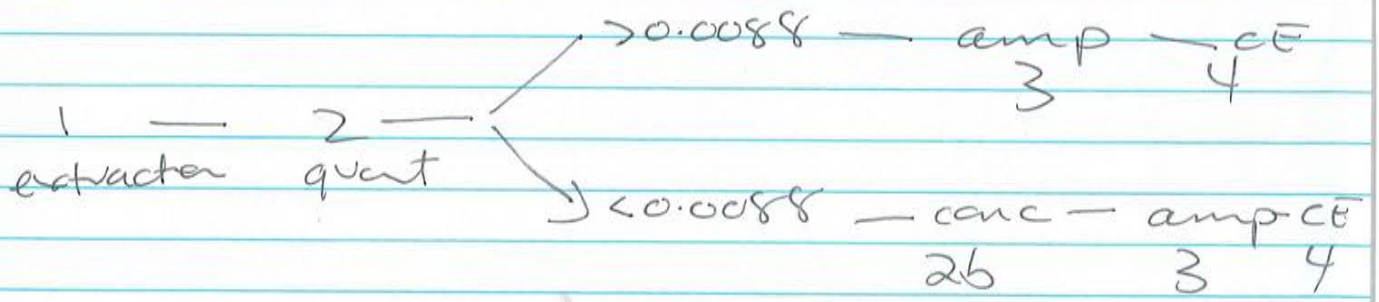
2012: STRmix & PP21
volume & mayacrime
Amplify everything



2012: went back to PPNS for
volume crime only



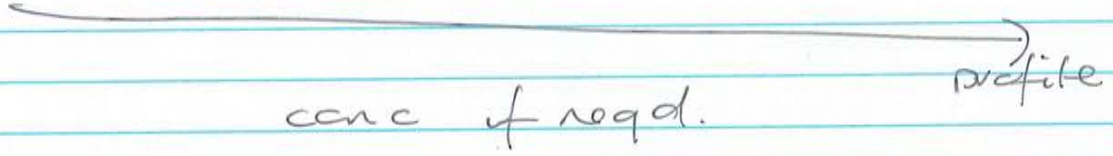
Dec 2018 STRmix & PP21
mayacrime
<0.0088 automatic conc



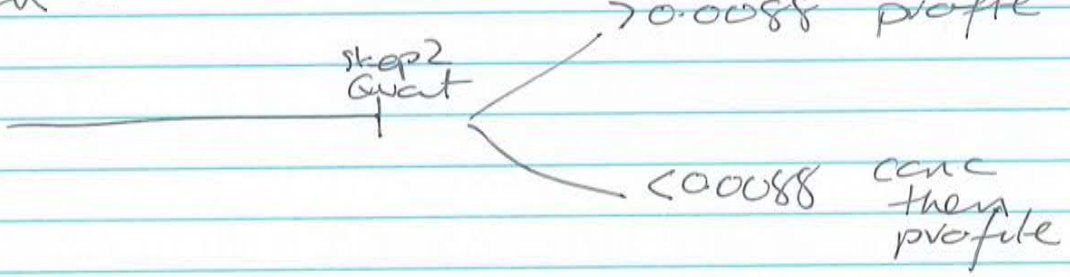
6/6/2022

~~Pre 6 June 22~~

Option 1



Option 2



priority 1 & urgent concentrate.

~~Trauma~~

Pre 2018
- volume crime PPUs
- major crime STR mix & PP21
  P1/urgent not treated differently.

PPUs no longer exists - we got last bit in the world

From: Justin Howes
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 3:13 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: SOP

Hi
SOP 17117v18 was immediately prior to the Options Paper. Section 6.3.6 has words, Appendix 4 has a diagram workflow.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The best contact method is via email.

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Date 16.8.2022

Topic

Meeting Objectives
Amendment to option 2
email 16.8.2022 1.06 PM
Phone call 2.25PM

Attendees
cathie
(Alison)
Helen,

Notes

- Cathie confirmed that she agreed to add "which are rationally concentrated as per sep' to last sentence in option 2.

- 16.8.2022 ~1900 → change not incorporated.

Amended wording sent to Cathie via email for comment/approval.

Action Items

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 4:04 PM
To: Cathie Allen
Subject: RE: Advice regarding information supplied

Importance: High

Tracking:

Recipient	Recall
Cathie Allen	Failed: 16/08/2022 4:26 PM

Hi Cathie – could you please confirm my additional edits (green)

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Importance: High

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Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 4:34 PM
To: Cathie Allen
Subject: RE: Advice regarding information supplied

Thanks Cathie. I will try that!

From: Cathie Allen <Cathie.Allen@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 4:31 PM
To: Helen Gregg <Helen.Gregg@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice regarding information supplied

Hi Helen

Perhaps it might be better to say:

'Option 1 – Discretionary concentration

Discontinue the 2018 workflow and progress all samples with a quant value above 0.001ng/uL through to DNA profiling. During the DNA profile review ~~is~~ process, samples that are identified….'

I'm cautious about saying 'during the process' as this could mean during the DNA profiling process, whereas in Option 1, concentration would happen after extraction, quant, amp, CE, profile review → decide if concentration is beneficial.

Option 2 – Concentration of all samples in range

'…. In ~~previous~~ discussions with the QPS regarding the 2018 workflow, the QPS ~~did not~~ supported an automatic concentration process for ~~(the exception to this is~~ Priority 1 or urgent samples~~),~~ The QPS were aware that automatic concentration of ~~as~~ the sample ~~hadn't been assessed in the context of the case and~~ may leave no sample remaining for future testing.'

I have also clarified in the above about 'previous discussions' as this is an opportunity to be more specific about that.

As the above is probably confusing, I've copied it below with the amendments for your peer review.

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I believe that I made this unintended human error regarding an inadequate explanation of the information due to the work pressure from the negative media attention for the work unit over the past 6 months, the error that I discovered relating to the Shandee Blackburn case that required a Hot Issues Brief to be drafted and the short timeframe to provide information.

I understand that given the above clarification, this information may need to be put forward to the Director-General and with this additional information a different option may be chosen, and the Director-General may liaise with QPS regarding this.

To ensure that unintended human errors of this kind don't occur again, I would consider requesting one of my Team Leaders to peer review the information to ensure that it is clear to the reader of the intent.

Cheers
Cathie

Cathie Allen **BSc, MSc (Forensic Science) (She/Her*)**
Managing Scientist

Social Chair, Organising Committee for 25th International Symposium of the
Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS), Brisbane, 11 – 15 Sept 2022

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Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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*If you're wondering about the use of pronouns She/Her on this signature block, I encourage you to read some resources available here


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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 10:18 PM
To: Megan Fairweather
Subject: Process re: 2018 - flowchart
Attachments: 2018 and thresholds.pdf

Hi Megan,

This flowchart explains how samples were processed pre-2018. PP21 is for major crime (person). P+ is for volume crime (property)

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:25 AM
To: David Rosengren
Cc: Megan Fairweather; Cathie Allen; Karen Watson; Glen Rice; FSS Corro
Subject: Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options
Attachments: Forensic DNA testing impacts; Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19.pdf

Importance: High

Dear David

I have received advice from Cathie Allen, Managing Scientist for Police Services FSS, that on Monday afternoon, she had a meeting with Mr Glen Rice QC, Megan Fairweather, Chief Legal Counsel, and Karen Watson, Crown Law. During that meeting, Cathie conceded that the **attached** email of 3 June 2022 was not sufficiently clear in explaining the 'options' put forward as alternative workflows to the one currently in place for *'DNA insufficient for further processing'* .

The email wording had been provided following an urgent request by Lara Keller, A/Executive Director, to devise options that could be put forward to the Director-General on alternative workflows that did not include the 'DNA insufficient for further processing' workflow and some costing data associated with this.

Cathie would like to acknowledge her unintended human error and provide a correction to the previous information put forward.

Information about DNA testing prior to 2018

It is helpful to explain that DNA Analysis is performed using 4 basic steps: 1. Extraction; 2. Quantification; 3. Amplification and 4. Capillary Electrophoresis.

The DNA samples processed at the laboratory are broadly divided as:

- Major crime (committed against a person, such as murder), categorised as Priority 1 or Priority 2
- Volume crime (committed against property, such as break and enter), categorised as Priority 3.

In early 2018, a process was approved by QPS to modify the DNA testing process for Priority 1 and 2 (major crime) samples with a quant value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL. The new process meant that this cohort were no longer subjected to a 'microcon' process following stage 2 (of 4) in the DNA testing process, and were effectively 'paused' at that stage 2 unless the further processing steps were requested by QPS or initiated at the discretion of the Forensic DNA Analysis Scientist.

Immediately prior to this, as described in the **attached** workflow (*Extract 19.4 SOP 17117V19*), all Priority 1 and 2 samples in this cohort would undergo the workflow for the PP21 profiling kit (Powerplex21 and STRMix) which included 'microcon' to maximise the chances of a DNA result being obtained after processing through stages 3 and 4 of the profiling process.

The other workflow used, immediately before the 2018 changes, was for Priority 3 (volume crime) samples using the ProfilerPlus profiling kit. These samples were processed through all 4 stages of DNA profiling process, without concentration. The ProfilerPlus profiling kit has since been discontinued and the volume crime samples are also now processed through Powerplex21 and STRMix.

The two options provided in the email from Lara Keller to the Acting Director-General on 3 June 2022 were intended to differentiate that volume crime (Priority 3) samples would not be included in any recommendation for returning to the microcon process, given that this had never been conducted on these samples. It was also intended to provide an option to allow for some scientific discretion for using the microcon process, taking into consideration other case information, against the risk of the process using up sample volume. It is now necessary to clarify any misconception that may have arisen following the short form of the options put forward urgently on 3 June 2022. The new or corrected information is highlighted in yellow or strikethrough.

Clarification about the 3 June 2022 options

Option 1 – ~~Preferred~~ Discretionary concentration

Discontinue the 2018 workflow and progress all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quant value above 0.001ng/uL through to DNA profiling. Samples that are identified as being beneficial for concentration can be, based on the DNA profile achieved, item criticality and case context. This workflow was used in the laboratory prior to the implementation of PowerPlex 21 (ie prior to 2012). This option ensures that resources are applied to samples that will benefit from the additional concentration in the context of the case. In 2012, an in-house laboratory recommendation, regarding processing with PP21, was put forward suggesting that samples with low quantitation values would benefit from concentration. Laboratory review of this recommendation hasn't been undertaken since that time, and new equipment has been introduced into the laboratory.

Option 2 – ~~Least preferred:~~ Concentration of all samples in range

Discontinue the 2018 workflow and concentrate all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quant value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL and then process through to DNA profiling stage in accordance with the **attached** workflow for PP21. This workflow was used within the laboratory between 2012 and early 2018. Note, the concentration step creates a risk of there being no DNA samples available for testing by other technologies not undertaken in Queensland, future technologies or testing requested by Defence. In discussions with the QPS regarding the 2018 workflow, the QPS supported an automatic concentration process for Priority 1 or urgent samples, and were aware that automatic concentration of the sample may leave no sample remaining for future testing.

If option 2 is preferred, it may be prudent to consult with QPS given the potential impact on reduced sample quantity being available for future testing.

In light of this updated advice from Cathie Allen, Option 2 is the closest to the process used immediately prior to 2018, however requires an estimated additional 2FTE and $35,000 per annum in consumables. Option 1 (in place since 6 June 2022) requires additional FTE which we are in the process of recruiting to (MOHRI granted but no funding). If Option 2 is preferred, a revised funding brief will be prepared.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Megan Fairweather; Cathie Allen
Cc: Karen Watson; Glen Rice
Subject: RE: DG Memo - Required amendment to FSS SOP 17117V19 - 17 August 2022

Importance: High

Hi Megan,

I believe the first paragraph needs to be changed

Following the announcement of the DNA Commission of Inquiry, on 6 June 2022, the A/DG Shaun Drummond made a decision about removal of thresholds in relation to ~~for 'microcon'~~ testing of ~~Priority 1 and 2~~ samples with a quantitation result of between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL

I'm also not a fan of the term 'microcon testing'– maybe we could use something better? Microconcentrating? Concentrating? Process? Step?

H

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 2:35 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Cc: Karen Watson <[redacted]>; Glen Rice <[redacted]>
Subject: DG Memo - Required amendment to FSS SOP 17117V19 - 17 August 2022
Importance: High

Hi all

I have been asked to prepare a memo for the A/DG in case option 2 is preferred./

I have started a rough draft attached for your (sorry, urgent) input please.

Kind regards, Megan

Queensland Government

Megan Fairweather
A/Chief Legal Counsel
Legal Branch | Corporate Services Division | Queensland Health

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A [redacted]

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 5:08 PM
To: Cathie Allen; Megan Fairweather
Cc: Karen Watson
Subject: RE: Email re Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options | Draft A/DG memo

Suggested subject 'reversion to concentration of all P2 samples in range'

From: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 5:00 PM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Karen Watson <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Email re Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options | Draft A/DG memo

Hi Megan & Helen

During the meeting held in Feb 2018, the Supt verbally indicated that Priority 1 samples should be processed like Priority 2 samples (email attached – Thursday 15 November 2018 refers).

From 6 December 2018 onwards, QPS approved for Priority 1 samples that fell into the range were automatically concentrated (email attached – Thursday, 6 December 2018 refers).

So between Feb and early Dec 2018, Priority 1 samples were only concentrated after they'd been through stages 1 to 4. After Dec 2018, Priority 1 samples were automatically concentrated if they were in the specified range after stage 2. Priority 1 samples are still automatically concentrated now – this didn't change.

So from my reading the below isn't incorrect – given we state early Feb. Perhaps we could add 'From December 2018 onwards, QPS approved for Priority 1 samples to be automatically concentrated and this has continued.'

I don't have any feedback for the Memo.

Cheers
Cathie

Cathie Allen **BSc, MSc (Forensic Science) (She/Her*)**
Managing Scientist

Social Chair, Organising Committee for 25th International Symposium of the
Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS), Brisbane, 11 – 15 Sept 2022

Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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*If you're wondering about the use of pronouns She/Her on this signature block, I encourage you to read some resources available here

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 4:39 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Cc: Glen Rice <[redacted]>; Karen Watson <[redacted]>
Subject: Email re Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options | Draft A/DG memo
Importance: High

Hi Helen and Cathie

We think a correction needs to be made to the email sent this morning to the A/DG – to delete the words *"1 and"* as follows:

> *In early 2018, a process was approved by QPS to modify the DNA testing process for Priority ~~1 and~~ 2 (major crime) samples with a quant value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL. The new process meant that this cohort were no longer subjected to a 'microcon' process following stage 2 (of 4) in the DNA testing process, and were effectively 'paused' at that stage 2 unless the further processing steps were requested by QPS or initiated at the discretion of the Forensic DNA Analysis Scientist.*

This is because we understand that the 2018 Options Paper proposed the modification would only apply to P2 samples, and the initial email 'approval' from QPS mentions only P2 samples.

The memo has been updated to capture this (with some other non-controversial edits), and is **attached** for your final careful read through and approval before we send to the ODG team tonight please. Helen/Cathie – can you please insert an appropriate subject line for the memo?

Kind regards, Megan

Queensland Government

Megan Fairweather
A/Chief Legal Counsel
Legal Branch | Corporate Services Division | Queensland Health

P [redacted]
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W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:23 AM
To: 'Paula Brisotto'; Justin Howes; Cathie Allen
Subject: FW: Updated memo for consideration
Attachments: DG Memo - Required amendment to FSS SOP 17117V19 - 19 August 2022 updated DR.docx

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:16 AM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Megan and Helen,

Can I please seek your feedback on this updated memo. Once you are comfortable with the content, I will seek David's final approval and arrange for this to be issued from DG Corro.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:00 PM
To: Megan Fairweather; Matthew Rigby
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration

Importance: High

HI Megan and Matt,

The wording I would like to send out with the memo (unchanged) is;

Background:
Our current processes are that after concentration, the remaining sample is approximately 35uL which is enough volume for one quantitation and two amplifications in-house. Conducting a second amplification will exhaust the sample and there will be no remaining sample available for further testing by anther organisation in the future.

The risk associated with undertaking a second amplification needs QPS involvement.

Therefore; our processes from now on will be;

1. Concentrate to a volume of 35uL and perform one amplification.
2. If the scientist determines there may be benefit in performing a further amplification (therefore exhausting the concentrated sample), QPS written approval must be gained before the second amplification commences.

This will become a change to our SOP

Regards
Helen

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 12:51 PM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Matt and Helen

In speaking to the lab scientists this morning, I understand a plan is in place to include a consultation step with QPS to discuss any risk of sample exhaustion or reduction, essentially case by case, or in groups of cases (if able to be described). While those details are being refined operationally, do you see any reason why the A/DG should not send his memo to give effect to his decision now?

Kind regards, Megan

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:16 AM

To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Megan and Helen,

Can I please seek your feedback on this updated memo. Once you are comfortable with the content, I will seek David's final approval and arrange for this to be issued from DG Corro.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

M [redacted]
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A [redacted]

From: Matthew Rigby
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:47 PM
To: David Rosengren
Cc: Megan Fairweather; Helen Gregg
Subject: FW: Updated memo for consideration
Attachments: DG Memo - Required amendment to FSS SOP 17117V19 - 19 August 2022 updated DR.docx

Hi David,

Please see attached and the advice below from Helen to supplement the memo (attached) for your approval.

Contact details in the memo will be finalised in DG corro prior to any distribution of the memo.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:03 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration

Matt, the memo just needs a contact person included in the table (top of page 1).

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:00 PM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration
Importance: High

HI Megan and Matt,

The wording I would like to send out with the memo (unchanged) is;

Background:

Our current processes are that after concentration, the remaining sample is approximately 35uL which is enough volume for one quantitation and two amplifications in-house. Conducting a second amplification will exhaust the sample and there will be no remaining sample available for further testing by anther organisation in the future.

The risk associated with undertaking a second amplification needs QPS involvement.

Therefore; our processes from now on will be;

1. Concentrate to a volume of 35uL and perform one amplification.
2. If the scientist determines there may be benefit in performing a further amplification (therefore exhausting the concentrated sample), QPS written approval must be gained before the second amplification commences.

This will become a change to our SOP

Regards
Helen

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 12:51 PM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Matt and Helen

In speaking to the lab scientists this morning, I understand a plan is in place to include a consultation step with QPS to discuss any risk of sample exhaustion or reduction, essentially case by case, or in groups of cases (if able to be described). While those details are being refined operationally, do you see any reason why the A/DG should not send his memo to give effect to his decision now?

Kind regards, Megan

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:16 AM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Megan and Helen,

Can I please seek your feedback on this updated memo. Once you are comfortable with the content, I will seek David's final approval and arrange for this to be issued from DG Corro.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

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W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

From: Matthew Rigby
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 2:17 PM
To: Helen Gregg; Megan Fairweather
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration
Attachments: DG Memo - Required amendment to FSS SOP 17117V19 - 19 August 2022 updated DR.docx

Hi Helen and Megan,

I had a discussion with David in relation to this. His preference is to include all of the information into the memo to go to staff and he has edited the memo accordingly.

Can you please make an edits and come back to me so I seek his approval and arrange distribution.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:00 PM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration
Importance: High

HI Megan and Matt,

The wording I would like to send out with the memo (unchanged) is;

Background:
Our current processes are that after concentration, the remaining sample is approximately 35uL which is enough volume for one quantitation and two amplifications in-house. Conducting a second amplification will exhaust the sample and there will be no remaining sample available for further testing by anther organisation in the future.

The risk associated with undertaking a second amplification needs QPS involvement.

Therefore; our processes from now on will be;

1. Concentrate to a volume of 35uL and perform one amplification.

2. If the scientist determines there may be benefit in performing a further amplification (therefore exhausting the concentrated sample), QPS written approval must be gained before the second amplification commences.

This will become a change to our SOP

Regards
Helen

From: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 12:51 PM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Matt and Helen

In speaking to the lab scientists this morning, I understand a plan is in place to include a consultation step with QPS to discuss any risk of sample exhaustion or reduction, essentially case by case, or in groups of cases (if able to be described). While those details are being refined operationally, do you see any reason why the A/DG should not send his memo to give effect to his decision now?

Kind regards, Megan

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 11:16 AM
To: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Updated memo for consideration

Hi Megan and Helen,

Can I please seek your feedback on this updated memo. Once you are comfortable with the content, I will seek David's final approval and arrange for this to be issued from DG Corro.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Health

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A [redacted]

From: DG correspondence
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 3:20 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Cc: Keith McNeil; David Rosengren; Matthew Rigby; Megan Fairweather
Subject: C-ECTF-22/13557 - DG MEMO - from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health - Subject of memorandum
Attachments: DG Memo - Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range.pdf; Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19.pdf

Good Afternoon

Please see attached the Memorandum from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health, for your attention.

Should you have any questions in relation to this advice, please contact Professor Keith McNeil, Acting Deputy Director-General on telephone [redacted]

Kind Regards

Queensland Government

Ministerial & Executive Services Unit, Office of the Director-General | Queensland Health

E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 3:33 PM
To: Abigail Ryan; Adam Kaity; Adrian Pippia; Alanna Darmanin; Alicia Quartermain; Allan McNevin; Allison Lloyd; Amy Cheng; Amy Morgan; Angela Adamson; Angelina Keller; Anne Finch; Belinda Andersen; Biljana Micic; Cassandra James; Cathie Allen ([redacted]); Cecilia Flanagan; Chantal Angus; Chelsea Savage; Cindy Chang; Claire Gallagher; Dasuni Harmer; Deborah Nicoletti; Emma Caunt; FSS.FDNA.Admin; Generosa Lundie; Helen Williams; Ingrid Moeller; Jacqui Wilson; Janine Seymour-Murray; Josie Entwistle; Julie Brooks; Justin Howes; Kerry-Anne Lancaster; Kevin Avdic; Kim Estreich; Kirsten Scott; Kristina Morton; Kylie Rika; Lai-Wan; Lisa Farrelly; Luke Ryan; Madison GULLIVER; Maria Aguilera; Matthew Hunt; Melissa Cipollone; Michael Goodrich; Michael Hart; Michelle Margetts; Naomi French; Nicole Roselt; Paula Brisotto; Penelope Taylor; Phillip McIndoe; Pierre Acedo; Rhys Parry; Ryu Eba; Sandra McKean; Sharelle Nydam; Sharon Johnstone; Stephanie Waiariki; Suzanne Sanderson; Tara Prowse; Tegan Dwyer; Thomas Nurthen; Valerie Caldwell; Vicki Pendlebury-Jones; Wendy Harmer; Yvonne Connolly
Cc: Alison Slade; FSS Corro; Lara Keller; Keith McNeil; Petra Derrington
Subject: FW: C-ECTF-22/13557 - DG MEMO - from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health - Subject of memorandum
Attachments: DG Memo - Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range.pdf; Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19.pdf

Good afternoon everyone,

Please see attached memo. I have asked for an enhancement to FR to assist with this change.

Please hold all quants effective immediately, until the FR enhancement is complete. Paula has specific details for the analytical team.
For batches that have already progressed beyond quant, proceed as per this morning's processes.

Could you please update SOPs asap.

Contact me if you have any queries.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Good Afternoon

Please see attached the Memorandum from Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health, for your attention.

Should you have any questions in relation to this advice, please contact Professor Keith McNeil, Acting Deputy Director-General on telephone [redacted]

Kind Regards

Queensland Government

Ministerial & Executive Services Unit, Office of the Director-General | Queensland Health

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From: Cathie Allen
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 5:06 PM
To: Paula Brisotto; Helen Gregg; Justin Howes
Cc: Alison Slade
Subject: RE: Volume for DNA analysis

Yes, 15uL would be ok for either Mini or Y's. Thanks for confirming this Helen – much appreciated.

From: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 5:03 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Volume for DNA analysis

From this info, yes it appears 15uL is sufficient.

Thanks,
Paula

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 4:57 PM
To: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Volume for DNA analysis

Hi Everyone,

Minifiler: max amp volume is 10ul
Y-Filer Plus: same as ID+ which is 5ul

Full email trail attached

So 15ul is fine

Agree?

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 2:09 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Volume for DNA analysis

Hi, I think we need to ask about Minifiler and Y-Filer Plus amplifications as well.

They are the two processes that QPS seek assistance from ESR with.

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The best contact method is via email.

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 2:07 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Volume for DNA analysis
Importance: High

Hi!

So my reading is that we are OK with 15uL. Can you please confirm?

Thanks
Helen

From: Turlough Thomas-Stone <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 1:36 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Volume for DNA analysis

Hello,

We use the Identifiler + kit for casework.

We amp a maximum of 5ul per amp. This is normally for samples that have low levels of DNA.

Do you have quant values for the samples in question? If so then if there is a decent amount of DNA present then we may amp less than 5ul per amp.

Our optimal amp vol is 1.0ng/ul.

So to answer you question if we amp at max then we could do 3 amps out of the 15ul you have remaining from your extracted DNA

Thanks

Regards

Turlough

Turlough Thomas-Stone BSc (Hons)
Team Leader / Senior Scientist (Forensic Biology)

Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR)
[redacted], Auckland 1025

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Science for Communities

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 3:14 pm
To: Turlough Thomas-Stone <[redacted]>
Cc: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Volume for DNA analysis

Hi Turlough,

I got a out of office response from Sarah Cockerton, which referred me to you.

I am acting Executive Director at FSS for a few weeks, and am interested in the minimum volume your lab would require for DNA analysis.

We concentrate to a volume of 35ul, and use about 20ul in our amplification and CE. We have about 15uL left over if we want to go back and do another amp.

If we were to want to have the amp and CE done by ESR, would 15uL be sufficient?

Thanks in advance
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p [redacted] **m** [redacted]
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:37 AM
To: Keith McNeil; Petra Derrington
Subject: FW: Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options
Attachments: Forensic DNA testing impacts; Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19.pdf

Importance: High

FYI

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:25 AM
To: David Rosengren <[redacted]>
Cc: Megan Fairweather <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Karen Watson <[redacted]>; Glen Rice <[redacted]>; FSS Corro <[redacted]>
Subject: Wording to describe pre-2018 thresholds and options
Importance: High

Dear David

I have received advice from Cathie Allen, Managing Scientist for Police Services FSS, that on Monday afternoon, she had a meeting with Mr Glen Rice QC, Megan Fairweather, Chief Legal Counsel, and Karen Watson, Crown Law. During that meeting, Cathie conceded that the **attached** email of 3 June 2022 was not sufficiently clear in explaining the 'options' put forward as alternative workflows to the one currently in place for *'DNA insufficient for further processing'* .

The email wording had been provided following an urgent request by Lara Keller, A/Executive Director, to devise options that could be put forward to the Director-General on alternative workflows that did not include the 'DNA insufficient for further processing' workflow and some costing data associated with this.

Cathie would like to acknowledge her unintended human error and provide a correction to the previous information put forward.

Information about DNA testing prior to 2018

It is helpful to explain that DNA Analysis is performed using 4 basic steps: 1. Extraction; 2. Quantification; 3. Amplification and 4. Capillary Electrophoresis.

The DNA samples processed at the laboratory are broadly divided as:

- Major crime (committed against a person, such as murder), categorised as Priority 1 or Priority 2
- Volume crime (committed against property, such as break and enter), categorised as Priority 3.

In early 2018, a process was approved by QPS to modify the DNA testing process for Priority 1 and 2 (major crime) samples with a quant value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL. The new process meant that this cohort were no longer subjected to a 'microcon' process following stage 2 (of 4) in the DNA testing process, and were effectively 'paused' at that stage 2 unless the further processing steps were requested by QPS or initiated at the discretion of the Forensic DNA Analysis Scientist.

Immediately prior to this, as described in the **attached** workflow (*Extract 19.4 SOP 17117V19*), all Priority 1 and 2 samples in this cohort would undergo the workflow for the PP21 profiling kit (Powerplex21 and STRMix) which included 'microcon' to maximise the chances of a DNA result being obtained after processing through stages 3 and 4 of the profiling process.

The other workflow used, immediately before the 2018 changes, was for Priority 3 (volume crime) samples using the ProfilerPlus profiling kit. These samples were processed through all 4 stages of DNA profiling process, without concentration. The ProfilerPlus profiling kit has since been discontinued and the volume crime samples are also now processed through Powerplex21 and STRMix.

The two options provided in the email from Lara Keller to the Acting Director-General on 3 June 2022 were intended to differentiate that volume crime (Priority 3) samples would not be included in any recommendation for returning to the microcon process, given that this had never been conducted on these samples. It was also intended to provide an option to allow for some scientific discretion for using the microcon process, taking into consideration other case information, against the risk of the process using up sample volume. It is now necessary to clarify any misconception that may have arisen following the short form of the options put forward urgently on 3 June 2022. The new or corrected information is highlighted in yellow or strikethrough.

Clarification about the 3 June 2022 options

Option 1 – ~~Preferred~~ Discretionary concentration

Discontinue the 2018 workflow and progress all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quant value above 0.001ng/uL through to DNA profiling. Samples that are identified as being beneficial for concentration can be, based on the DNA profile achieved, item criticality and case context. This workflow was used in the laboratory prior to the implementation of PowerPlex 21 (ie prior to 2012). This option ensures that resources are applied to samples that will benefit from the additional concentration in the context of the case. In 2012, an in-house laboratory recommendation, regarding processing with PP21, was put forward suggesting that samples with low quantitation values would benefit from concentration. Laboratory review of this recommendation hasn't been undertaken since that time, and new equipment has been introduced into the laboratory.

Option 2 – ~~Least preferred:~~ Concentration of all samples in range

Discontinue the 2018 workflow and concentrate all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quant value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL and then process through to DNA profiling stage in accordance with the **attached** workflow for PP21. This workflow was used within the laboratory between 2012 and early 2018. Note, the concentration step creates a risk of there being no DNA samples available for testing by other technologies not undertaken in Queensland, future technologies or testing requested by Defence. In discussions with the QPS regarding the 2018 workflow, the QPS supported an automatic concentration process for Priority 1 or urgent samples, and were aware that automatic concentration of the sample may leave no sample remaining for future testing.

If option 2 is preferred, it may be prudent to consult with QPS given the potential impact on reduced sample quantity being available for future testing.

In light of this updated advice from Cathie Allen, Option 2 is the closest to the process used immediately prior to 2018, however requires an estimated additional 2FTE and $35,000 per annum in consumables. Option 1 (in place since 6 June 2022) requires additional FTE which we are in the process of recruiting to (MOHRI granted but no funding). If Option 2 is preferred, a revised funding brief will be prepared.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 3:42 PM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Cc: Foxover.StephanP[OSC]; McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
Subject: RE: Further clarification previous email: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

Good afternoon David, Duncan and Stephan,

I am now able to confirm that all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, shall be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process.
If further amplification is considered beneficial, and if this process will exhaust the remaining sample volume, then written approval must be obtained from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) prior to that process being initiated.

A review of the laboratory information system is being undertaken to identify any sample results within this quantitation range from 6 June 2022 to today's date inclusive. Any such samples are now to be subjected to the concentration process, if not already undertaken.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
A/Executive Director

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 8:19 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]>; McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Further clarification previous email: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

Hi Helen
I am just following up on an email sent to me by Darren Pobar. I note that all samples are run through the process now without any intial micro-con of low quant ones. The Options Paper indicated that samples below a concentration of .0088ng/uL were prone to stochastic effects. Is there a risk of profiles being missed if samples below this concentration, particularly at the lower range, are run through without micro-concentration? Is there a policy/trigger in relation to the circumstances where a sample would be reworked and what this might involve, e.g. micro-concentration. Also, was there any advantage to microconing the low quat samples before they were amplified?
Regards

David Neville
Inspector
Biometrics
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Ph: [redacted]
Mob: [redacted]

From: Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC] <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 07:14
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Further clarification previous email: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

Darren Pobar | Inspector
Scientific Section
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Queensland Police Service

[redacted] | [redacted]
200 Roma Street Brisbane
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg

<Helen.Gregg@health.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 12:36
To: Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC] <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Further clarification previous email: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

Hi Darren,

I have reached out to my colleagues to assist me with this response:

In 2018, an Options Paper was provided to the QPS with options regarding processing. The QPS reviewed the options and approved for the implementation of the Option where samples with a quant value between 0.0001 and 0.0088ng/ul would be advised as 'DNA Insufficient for processing' and QPS officers could request testing of these samples, which would involve a concentration step prior to amplification.

A Follow-up paper was provided to the QPS last month or so ago, regarding samples that had been concentrated prior to amplification and the outcome of those samples.

Prior to the announcement of the commission of inquiry, the DG requested options for processing that did not include the 'DNA insufficient' process. Options were provided and the Premier announced that Cabinet had decided the DNA insufficient process was no longer being used, and all samples were being processed. From this, we take it that the Premier and Cabinet did not appear to choose the option that included concentration of samples within a particular range, given potential workplace health and safety issues.

Lara advised Supt McNab of the decision and process in the attached email, given the announcement by the Premier of the Cabinet's decision.

Samples are processing through DNA profiling and upon review of the profile obtained, staff will assess if concentration of the sample would be of benefit, within the context of the case. The option of concentration is available, as it has always been since it's implementation in the late 1990's.

From a Forensic DNA Analysis perspective, the most conservative option has been chosen – in that all samples are being profiled, concentration can be done once an appropriate evaluation of the resulting profile has been reviewed, and allows the work unit to gather data on the effectiveness of the concentration step when applied to samples with low quantitation values.

Regards
Helen

From: Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC] <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 9:51 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Further clarification previous email: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

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Good morning Helen

Further to the below query, I am seeking further clarification of the current testing process by QHFSS announced by the Minister. With the 0.0088ng/ul threshold removed, are some samples now being processed without any microconcentration step in place. Ie those between .001 and .0088 which would potentially benefit from concentration.

Regards
Darren

Darren Pobar | Acting Superintendent
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Queensland Police Service

[redacted] | [redacted]
200 Roma Street Brisbane
[redacted]

From: Pobar.DarrenJ[OSC]
Sent: Friday, 15 July 2022 12:00
To: [redacted]
Subject: Assessment of low quant DNA samples report

Good morning Helen

I am currently relieving for a short term in Superintendent Bruce Mcnab's role in Forensic Services Group.

I refer to attached report provided by Acting Executive Director Lara Keller to Supt Mcnab on 24 June 2022 regarding a review assessment of low quant DNA samples and I thank QHFSS for compiling and providing this new report. I note that the success rate in this new review of the micro-concentration process is approximately 25%. This is considerably higher than predicted in the 2018 Options Paper that recommended the removal of the process as a matter of routine. We are still considering the material provided and hope to discuss the options with QHFSS in the near future.

I understand the Health Minister announced on 30 May 2022 the .0088ng/uL processing threshold has been removed and that all samples are now processed as a matter of routine. I am seeking clarification on the current process on testing low quant value samples. If correct that all samples from priority 1 to 3 are being processed despite low quant values, the QPS has concerns how this change will impact anticipated backlogs and turn around times of results. Should this present as a risk, could you also please advise what strategies are in place to mitigate this issue.

Thank you again for providing the report and I look forward to receiving your advice on these queries.

Regards

Darren Pobar | Acting Superintendent
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Queensland Police Service

[redacted] | [redacted]
200 Roma Street Brisbane
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 12:21 PM
To: Cathie Allen; Paula Brisotto; Justin Howes
Cc: Alison Slade
Subject: RE: clarification

Hi,

See below in green

Regards
Helen

From: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 8:15 AM
To: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: clarification

Good questions Paula!

I've responded in blue below for ease.

From: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 5:18 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: clarification

Hi all,

A couple of things have popped into my head, which may be questions from staff come Monday (or may be my tired Friday afternoon thoughts):

For any samples processed prior to 5 June 2022~~18~~ that were reported as *DNA Insufficient for Further Processing* and **are requested by QPS to proceed to testing** (which as per previous process, involves microconning), QPS have already approved additional processing, so further approval is not required? **From my perspective, I would say the 2nd amp would require approval, however if 2nd amp has already proceeded then it has occurred before the QPS direction of 19th Aug 2022. Agree – 2nd amp approval required if we are doing post 19 August. If 2nd amp started pre-19 August we cannot get approval.**

For any samples processed after 5 June 2022~~18~~ until today, where FSS staff requested a microcon, before proceeding to a second amplification, approval from QPS is required? **Yes, written approval required agree – written approval required**

For any samples after 5 June where a microcon by FSS staff was requested to full, or a second amplification has already occurred and all sample is consumed, as this was previous process, no further advice is required…? **In these instances, do we need to formally advise the QPS – Helen, what's your thoughts? We'd need bdna to search the FR to find these ones (any in the quant range, that have Microcon and have 2 amps after Microcon). As above, the request for 2nd amp was prior to 19th August, so QPS approval is not possible, and the sample has been exhausted. I don't think QPS can do anything with the additional information we could provide except to know that the sample has been exhausted. Also - who would we give that message to so that it would get through (would we put it in FR/on the statement)? Given TAT are going up, and the information is unactionable, I think we do not need to do anything.**

Thanks,
Paula

Paula Brisotto
Team Leader – Evidence Recovery & Quality Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 12:41 PM
To: Justin Howes; Cathie Allen; Paula Brisotto
Cc: Alison Slade
Subject: RE: clarification

I agree

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 12:38 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: clarification

Hi all
I have had some questions from staff, so one point to ensure we all understand the same thing:

The staff question was: '*samples that are 0.010 and have bene amped on their initial run, and we would like to M'con it to 35uL and then amp it again after that, potentially using up all of the extract? Do we need to ask permission from QPS for those too? If we do, does this mean m'conning to full can only happen if we request permission from QPS to use up all of the extract?*'

My answer was

- My understanding from the seeking of approval for a second amp is that QPS want extract volume retained, and only with approval, are QPS fine to accept the consumption of the extract. So with the scenario below, any work that would totally consume the extract (ie. full microcon, or second amp after microcon) would need prior approval from QPS.

Do we all agree that the general point is that any decision which could use up all the extract would need QPS approval? This would be second amp after microcon, or if microconned to full.

Regards
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 12:21 PM
To: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: clarification

Hi,

See below in green

Regards
Helen

From: Cathie Allen <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 8:15 AM
To: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: clarification

Good questions Paula!

I've responded in blue below for ease.

From: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 5:18 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Cathie Allen <[redacted]>; Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: Alison Slade <[redacted]>
Subject: clarification

Hi all,

A couple of things have popped into my head, which may be questions from staff come Monday (or may be my tired Friday afternoon thoughts):

For any samples processed prior to 5 June 2022~~18~~ that were reported as *DNA Insufficient for Further Processing* and **are requested by QPS to proceed to testing** (which as per previous process, involves microconning), QPS have already approved additional processing, so further approval is not required? **From my perspective, I would say the 2nd amp**

would require approval, however if 2nd amp has already proceeded then it has occurred before the QPS direction of 19th Aug 2022. Agree – 2nd amp approval required if we are doing post 19 August. If 2nd amp started pre-19 August we cannot get approval.

For any samples processed after 5 June 2022~~18~~ until today, where FSS staff requested a microcon, before proceeding to a second amplification, approval from QPS is required? **Yes, written approval required agree – written approval required**

For any samples after 5 June where a microcon by FSS staff was requested to full, or a second amplification has already occurred and all sample is consumed, as this was previous process, no further advice is required…? **In these instances, do we need to formally advise the QPS – Helen, what's your thoughts? We'd need bdna to search the FR to find these ones (any in the quant range, that have Microcon and have 2 amps after Microcon). As above, the request for 2nd amp was prior to 19th August, so QPS approval is not possible, and the sample has been exhausted. I don't think QPS can do anything with the additional information we could provide except to know that the sample has been exhausted. Also - who would we give that message to so that it would get through (would we put it in FR/on the statement)? Given TAT are going up, and the information is unactionable, I think we do not need to do anything.**

Thanks,
Paula

Paula Brisotto
Team Leader – Evidence Recovery & Quality Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 8:50 AM
To: Justin Howes
Cc: Alison Slade
Subject: RE: chart of workflow
Attachments: Draft workflow_19082022.docx

Thanks Justin – that looks good.

I also suggest that the SOP states that

any process that is going to exhaust all the sample is required to have written approval from QPS to proceed prior to the process being conducted. The aim is to not exhaust samples, and only to do so with QPS approval in writing.

Or something like that, so we are clear as to the intent of the QPS' wishes

Regards
Helen

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:39 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: chart of workflow

Hi
This is the workflow I am adding to 17117, which is currently in review.

Hope this helps if you get questions from staff.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:58 AM
To: Justin Howes
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Justin – absolutely – I would love to speak to you and your team. I am getting emails direct

H

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:48 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Helen
Would you please have time to speak with me after 12pm today on this thread? There are a few threads, but below has most information to assist our chat.

Pls let me know – whether today, or tomorrow.

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Justin Howes
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 9:12 AM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
My understanding is the overriding principle is to not exhaust any DNA extract without QPS written approval.

I will seek word from Helen Gregg whose office the memo can through. Hopefully, she will get back today on this.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 5:03 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

So for samples that are not P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/ul – can we exhaust them? I am really confused – and it is very difficult to give the correct guidance to staff when we don't have all the information.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:53 PM

To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi, yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo. The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:50 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

So just to clarify:

The new workflow only applies to P1 and P2 samples within the 0.001-0.0088ng/uL quant range?

All other P1, P2 and P3 samples outside of this quant range (0.0089 and above) are case managed as usual?

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM

To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
The answers to below really all come back to the Memo. The background/context isn't known but I think we are able to work with the memo directive as it is. The A/DG mentions in the memo that consultation with QPS has occurred and I do know that they are not keen on material exhaustion unless with their approval. With this overall principle in not exhausting extract without prior approval from QPS, Helen Gregg gave words to me on this today to ensure it is in the SOP (now back in QIS as 17117v21.5 for your review). I don't know when or what circumstances QPS would not approve a second amp post mic, but the hope is that there is approx. 15uL for this effort, which could also be used externally.

As per the memo, we need to find the samples that have not been microconned that had initial quants in this range. Bdna are working on finding these samples at the moment, and then these samples will have the mic process as per the memo and SUFP line added unless a final interp has not been added (in which case the end result would be reported). Data is not available on this yet – Paula will let me know when more is known.

There isn't any change to the P3 process to my knowledge – it is as per the SOP. These will not have the mic process, and will be amped straight after quant. I am not aware of any further information.

Paula asked Helen about the second quant and she mentioned that the A/DG wanted the process to be the same as what we have had before, and there is no change to this process with the memo release ie a second quant is performed. In thinking further on it too, the quant post mic will also help the client in external consultation if required.

Hope that helps!

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 3:50 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi,

Thanks for forwarding the new workflow, it generally makes sense, but I have a few initial questions about it:

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Appreciate your thoughts on these points.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
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a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, Qld, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:59 PM
To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Exhaustion of extract

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From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
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Please try this workflow first Kylie which has been made available to Helen Gregg. I did this to get my head around it and am hoping that this is clear on what samples go where, and the overriding principle. This is in 17117 as an Appendix which is currently in review.

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From: Claire Gallagher
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:48 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Helen

I know you are probably really busy. There is a lot of confusion on the instructions for a new workflow.

From the memo, it is my understanding that this instruction only applied to P1 and P2 samples within the quant range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Please see email below from Justin saying he thought it was all samples, and was seeking advice. Kylie has referred us to ask you because of the lack of direction received from our team leader.

Kind regards,
Claire

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:37 AM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
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Hi all

I understand this is all confusing. I am confused myself. At this point I would suggest if there are further questions or points needing clarification, that you send a message to Helen Gregg directly (she mentioned in her email she was OK with this).

Sorry I can't be of more assistance with this as I don't have the context/background of the decisions made.

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If I hear more on this I will let you know

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Hi Matt (and RT2),

Some more info from Justin for you..

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Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM

To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
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From: Matthew Hunt
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:03 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Hi Helen,

I am writing with a query relating to the new workflow for microcon of low Priority 2 DNA samples, initiated by the DG's memo which you forwarded to us last Friday, 19/08.

- Is the mic to full rework strategy no longer available for any sample type, due to the need to prevent DNA extract exhaustion?

Apologies for asking you directly as I can appreciate how busy you must be, but as you can see from the email chain below, there has been a good deal of discussion and confusion around this point within our section over the last few days. The issue is relevant to us Reporting Scientists as we have been successfully applying the microcon to full rework strategy to samples for some time now, and feel the microcon to 35uL may not provide as good an opportunity to produce interpretable DNA profiles from lower template samples.

Thanks,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
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- How much extract is it necessary to preserve before it is classified as 'exhausted'? Can we presume 15uL is required, to allow for a potential future amp to max?
- With a view to preserving extract and maximising DNA concentration and profile peak heights, could we consider altering the microcon to 35uL workflow, so that a second quantification step is not performed after microcon, but the concentrated extract is immediately amplified at 15uL?

- In my view the number of samples within the low template category which would be overamplified by a straight amp at max is extremely low. For multi-contributor mixtures the quant may indicate total DNA as requiring a reduction in the extract added to SV1 – in reality if we are trying to interpret these profiles, it is only the 'major' peaks which are potentially going to be meaningful, if at all. We should give them the best possible chance by amping at max, without wasting resources on another quant and potentially lowering the amp vol added. This may help offset some of the impact of the absence of the 'mic to full' rework option.
- The workflow note about P3 sample states 'Reworks are limited and only performed in exceptional circumstances'. Does the prior policy of not allowing microcons (of any type) as an option for this priority type, or could this be considered as a possible option now (for the occasional profile where this may yield an upload, where another amp to max would be unlikely to).

Appreciate your thoughts on these points.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, Qld, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:59 PM
To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Exhaustion of extract

FYI

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
Please try this workflow first Kylie which has been made available to Helen Gregg. I did this to get my head around it and am hoping that this is clear on what samples go where, and the overriding principle. This is in 17117 as an Appendix which is currently in review.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:28 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

I am wondering if a meeting with staff would be a good way for staff to better understand the changes? and allow all questions to be answered in one go.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:02 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
I know there have been some questions regarding the A/DG Memo and extract volumes. I just spoke to Helen Gregg who asked if I thought the message on extract availability is clear with staff.

I said there have been some questions to me, and perhaps more with seniors but that I would reiterate the message that the overarching principle in any situation (eg. whether second amp post mic, or consideration of mic to full) from the DG memo is that the DNA extract cannot be exhausted without QPS approval. She was happy with this and I mentioned it is already in the draft SOP for further review (17117v21.4).

Could you pls ensure that staff understand the key principle?

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Ingrid Moeller
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 1:05 PM
To: Helen Gregg

Hi Helen,

Regarding the Teams meeting- thought I would send my questions in advance.

-Who made the decision regarding microconing to 35ul?

-Are the QPS/DG aware that:

-the chance of getting a profile from a microcon to full is a lot higher?

-the workflow places emphasis on conserving sample for future testing, however are the QPS/DG aware that conserving sample reduces the ability of the scientist to get the best result for the case now?

- Submitting all samples in the quant range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL for a microcon to 35uL is not appropriate for those samples at the lower end of the quant range.

-Are the QPS and DG a**ware** that reverting to a previous process (2018) is possibly not relevant anymore? The previous process is outdated particularly since the improvement of STRmix modelling allowing STRmix to better model low level profiles and the implementation of the more sensitive 3500xL genetic analyser.

-The laboratory has been microconing to full and exhausting samples up until last Thursday – why has that now become unacceptable?

Regards,

Ingrid

Ingrid Moeller
Scientist

Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Kylie Rika
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 1:41 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: new workflow implemented by the DG - potential issues

Hi Helen

I know you are coming over to talk with us soon. I just wanted to give you the heads up on a few potential issues a few of us see with the new process:

The workflow does not provide the scientist the ability to assess everything in relation to the sample to get the best result. It may be that the sample could be pooled (or combined) with another sample in the case to maximise the amount of DNA, or if the sample was at the higher end of the quant range, the scientist might want to try amping first rather than microconning particularly if conserving sample is a requirement.

Places undue restrictions on the scientist to get the best result as permission is required from the QPS to perform a second amp. The QPS may not necessarily be in the position to determine whether a second amp might make a profile interpretable.

The workflow does not enable the scientist to assess which rework strategy would be the best based on their scientific knowledge and the circumstances to the case.

The workflow places emphasis on conserving sample for future testing, however in doing so reduces the ability of the scientist to get the best result for the case now. Perhaps the better option would be for the QPS to let us know if any particular sample requires conserving before testing commences.

One process for all samples is not appropriate. Each sample should be assessed on its own merits

Under the new process, all P3 samples are not being microconned – they are still being amped at 15uL. Why aren't P3 samples being treated the same as P2 samples, especially since conservation of sample is less of an issue with P3 samples?

Cold cases in this range are held after quant to enable the scientist to make a decision on further processing – why is this not the case for all samples

With the process that was implemented post 6 June 2022 where samples went straight for a 15uL amp we were able to subsequently microcon to full. If a sample has a 15uL amp and then has a microcon to full then there is a 4.9 times concentration.
With this new process of the sample going straight to microcon at 35uL there is only a 2.5 times concentration.
This means that the new process is much worse than that implemented 6 June 2022.

Thanks
Kylie

Kylie Rika
Senior Scientist, Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted]u **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Matthew Hunt
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 1:42 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Hi Helen,

As todays meeting will be on MSTeams and I don't have a microphone or camera on my PC, I thought sending written questions in advance may be sensible:

> How much DNA extract is it necessary to preserve before a sample is classified as 'exhausted' - is it 15uL?
>
> Do we need to inform QPS of the microcon to full samples which have previously been processed (with DNA extract likely exhausted)?
>
> Microcon to full has been a common (alternative) rework strategy for several years and typically seems more effective for very low template samples (DIFP) than the default Microcon to 35.
> Is 'Microcon to Full" no longer available as a rework strategy for any samples, or just those within the 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL range, due to the risk of DNA extract exhaustion?
>
> Given the COI interest in "No DNA detected" samples as well as DIFP, should we be considering sending these for microcon too? Personally I have been surprised as to how many DIFP samples have yielded usable profiles.

Thanks again for your assistance.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p [redacted]
a [redacted]
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:45 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

No problem!

Get Outlook for Android

From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 12:42:42 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]u>
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Thanks very much Helen, I really appreciate you taking the time out to do this.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
[redacted]
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:10 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

All good! I will set up a meeting to answer everyone;s questions

---

From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:03 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Hi Helen,

I am writing with a query relating to the new workflow for microcon of low Priority 2 DNA samples, initiated by the DG's memo which you forwarded to us last Friday, 19/08.

- Is the mic to full rework strategy no longer available for any sample type, due to the need to prevent DNA extract exhaustion?

Apologies for asking you directly as I can appreciate how busy you must be, but as you can see from the email chain below, there has been a good deal of discussion and confusion around this point within our section over the last few days. The issue is relevant to us Reporting Scientists as we have been successfully applying the microcon to full rework strategy to samples for some time now, and feel the microcon to 35uL may not provide as good an opportunity to produce interpretable DNA profiles from lower template samples.

Thanks,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au **w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:37 AM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]> Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi all

I understand this is all confusing. I am confused myself. At this point I would suggest if there are further questions or points needing clarification, that you send a message to Helen Gregg directly (she mentioned in her email she was OK with this).

Sorry I can't be of more assistance with this as I don't have the context/background of the decisions made.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:23 AM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Kylie

Please see the email below from yourself, with advice from Justin yesterday when I sought clarification on this.

Hi Claire

I checked with Justin and he said that yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo - The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:10 AM
To: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer [redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Ingrid

I checked with Justin and his reply was:

"Hi
My understanding is the overriding principle is to not exhaust any DNA extract without QPS written approval.

I will seek word from Helen Gregg whose office the memo can through. Hopefully, she will get back today on this.

Justin"

If I hear more on this I will let you know

Thanks
Kylie

From: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti [redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

So we can exhaust other samples??????????????????????

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:00 PM
To: Claire Gallagher [redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen [redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

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Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:45 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Kylie

Can I please clarify?

The new workflow only applies to P1 and P2 samples within the 0.001-0.0088ng/uL quant range.

All other P1, P2 and P3 samples outside of this quant range (0.0089 and above) are case managed as usual?

Thanks,
Claire

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:23 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti [redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Matt (and RT2),

Some more info from Justin for you..

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
The answers to below really all come back to the Memo. The background/context isn't known but I think we are able to work with the memo directive as it is. The A/DG mentions in the memo that consultation with QPS has occurred and I do know that they are not keen on material exhaustion unless with their approval. With this overall principle in not exhausting extract without prior approval from QPS, Helen Gregg gave words to me on this today to ensure it is in the SOP (now back in QIS as 17117v21.5 for your review). I don't know when or what circumstances QPS would not approve a second amp post mic, but the hope is that there is approx. 15uL for this effort, which could also be used externally.

As per the memo, we need to find the samples that have not been microconned that had initial quants in this range. Bdna are working on finding these samples at the moment, and then these samples will have the mic process as per the memo and SUFP line added unless a final interp has not been added (in which case the end result would be reported). Data is not available on this yet – Paula will let me know when more is known.

There isn't any change to the P3 process to my knowledge – it is as per the SOP. These will not have the mic process, and will be amped straight after quant. I am not aware of any further information.

Paula asked Helen about the second quant and she mentioned that the A/DG wanted the process to be the same as what we have had before, and there is no change to this process with the memo release ie a second quant is performed. In thinking further on it too, the quant post mic will also help the client in external consultation if required.

Hope that helps!

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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m [redacted]
a [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The best contact method is via email.

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From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 3:50 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi,

Thanks for forwarding the new workflow, it generally makes sense, but I have a few initial questions about it:

- Microcon to full was a common (though not default) strategy in use for many years and recently became quite a common strategy for reporters after DIFP samples started to appear on the worklists again. It was widely seen as more effective with very low template samples than the usual microcon to 35 to give the best chance of obtaining useable profile info (I note this is based on conversations with other reporters and therefore maybe somewhat subjective).
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Appreciate your thoughts on these points.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
[redacted]
a [redacted], Qld, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:59 PM
To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti [redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Exhaustion of extract

FYI

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Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

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Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
[redacted]
w **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:28 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

I am wondering if a meeting with staff would be a good way for staff to better understand the changes? and allow all questions to be answered in one go.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:02 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>

Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: Exhaustion of extract

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I know there have been some questions regarding the A/DG Memo and extract volumes. I just spoke to Helen Gregg who asked if I thought the message on extract availability is clear with staff.

I said there have been some questions to me, and perhaps more with seniors but that I would reiterate the message that the overarching principle in any situation (eg. whether second amp post mic, or consideration of mic to full) from the DG memo is that the DNA extract cannot be exhausted without QPS approval. She was happy with this and I mentioned it is already in the draft SOP for further review (17117v21.4).

Could you pls ensure that staff understand the key principle?

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
[redacted] **m** [redacted]
a [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**
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Helen Gregg

Subject: Follow up to clarification of process
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Tue 30/08/2022 11:30 AM
End: Tue 30/08/2022 12:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Lara Keller
Required Attendees: Justin Howes; Adrian Pippia; Alicia Quartermain; Allan McNevin; Angela Adamson; Angelina Keller; Anne Finch; Cassandra James; Claire Gallagher; Deborah Nicoletti; Emma Caunt; Ingrid Moeller; Jacqui Wilson; Josie Entwistle; Kerry-Anne Lancaster; Kylie Rika; Matthew Hunt; Penelope Taylor; Rhys Parry; Sharon Johnstone; Tegan Dwyer; Thomas Nurthen; Kirsten Scott; Chelsea Savage; Paula Brisotto; Allison Lloyd; Luke Ryan; Helen Gregg
Optional Attendees: Megan Fairweather

Dear All

Further to last week's meeting, Helen Gregg A/EDFSS has requested a follow up meeting regarding workflow as per the A/DG memo on 19 August 2022.

Kind regards
Andrew

Andrew Sligo
A/Executive Support Officer
Executive Directorate, Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p [redacted]
a [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 488 944 493 789
Passcode: nFryrf
Download Teams | Join on the web

Join with a video conferencing device

qldhealth@m.webex.com

Video Conference ID: 138 615 882 6

Alternate VTC instructions

Queensland Government

From: Allan McNevin
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 3:34 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Cc: Cathie Allen; Justin Howes; Paula Brisotto
Subject: Clarification of process meeting

Hi Helen,

I just wanted to write you a little message about the Clarification of Process meeting today. I'm sorry that it seemed to go a bit sideways for you. It is symptomatic of the problems that DNA Analysis has been facing for some time. I want to make it clear that the opinions expressed by a number of the reporting staff are not necessarily shared by all of the members of the reporting teams.

It would seem to me that there is a lot of confirmation bias when it comes to some opinions on the value of certain reworking and even sampling strategies. A lot staff seem to forget that triaging starts at a scene before a glove is even donned, and progresses through to submission etc. I see choices such as Quant and Hold, not exhausting extract, options to cease processing, or re-start processing and any other various processes put in place are all part of the triaging process. This even includes limiting the number of submissions to FSS.

I was amazed at some of the opinions expressed during the meeting and was amazed at Justin's ability to maintain a straight face. If you would like to discuss further, I am happy to do so.

Cheers
Al

Allan McNevin
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Allison Lloyd
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2022 1:04 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: Thanks for your help with DNA

Hi Helen,

I was away sick for the last week and a half but listened into your Teams meetings with the Reporting staff of Forensic DNA Analysis.
I wanted to say thankyou for stepping up for us under difficult circumstances particularly not knowing our processes particularly well. I also wanted to let you know that the opinions of some staff that you encountered during the Teams meetings are not the consensus of all staff.

Thank you for trying to help us navigate through this Commission. It is obvious to me that you put in a huge effort on our behalf.

Kind regards,

Allison

Allison Lloyd
Senior Scientist – Evidence Recovery and Intelligence Teams

DNA Analysis
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:05 PM
To: Justin Howes
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

I'll come to you in about 5

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:04 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Thanks, please let me know a good time to come over to discuss key points.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:58 AM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Justin – absolutely – I would love to speak to you and your team. I am getting emails direct

H

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:48 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Helen
Would you please have time to speak with me after 12pm today on this thread? There are a few threads, but below has most information to assist our chat.

Pls let me know – whether today, or tomorrow.

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Justin Howes
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 9:12 AM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
My understanding is the overriding principle is to not exhaust any DNA extract without QPS written approval.

I will seek word from Helen Gregg whose office the memo can through. Hopefully, she will get back today on this.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 5:03 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

So for samples that are not P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/ul – can we exhaust them? I am really confused – and it is very difficult to give the correct guidance to staff when we don't have all the information.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:53 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi, yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo. The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:50 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

So just to clarify:

The new workflow only applies to P1 and P2 samples within the 0.001-0.0088ng/uL quant range?

All other P1, P2 and P3 samples outside of this quant range (0.0089 and above) are case managed as usual?

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
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Paula asked Helen about the second quant and she mentioned that the A/DG wanted the process to be the same as what we have had before, and there is no change to this process with the memo release ie a second quant is performed. In thinking further on it too, the quant post mic will also help the client in external consultation if required.

Hope that helps!

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From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 3:50 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

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- Microcon to full was a common (though not default) strategy in use for many years and recently became quite a common strategy for reporters after DIFP samples started to appear on the worklists again. It was widely seen as more effective with very low template samples than the usual microcon to 35 to give the best chance of obtaining useable profile info (I note this is based on conversations with other reporters and therefore maybe somewhat subjective).
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- If so, then do we need to inform QPS now of the microcon to full samples which have previously been processed (providing a list of the potentially exhausted extracts they are currently unaware of)? Is there any feasible way to collect this data if necessary?
- How much extract is it necessary to preserve before it is classified as 'exhausted'? Can we presume 15uL is required, to allow for a potential future amp to max?
- With a view to preserving extract and maximising DNA concentration and profile peak heights, could we consider altering the microcon to 35uL workflow, so that a second quantification step is not performed after microcon, but the concentrated extract is immediately amplified at 15uL?
- In my view the number of samples within the low template category which would be overamplified by a straight amp at max is extremely low. For multi-contributor mixtures the quant may indicate total DNA as requiring a reduction in the extract added to SV1 – in reality if we are trying to interpret these profiles, it is only the 'major' peaks which are potentially going to be meaningful, if at all. We should give them the best possible chance by amping at max, without wasting resources on another quant and potentially lowering the amp vol added. This may help offset some of the impact of the absence of the 'mic to full' rework option.
- The workflow note about P3 sample states 'Reworks are limited and only performed in exceptional circumstances'. Does the prior policy of not allowing microcons (of any type) as an option for this priority type, or could this be considered as a possible option now (for the occasional profile where this may yield an upload, where another amp to max would be unlikely to).

Appreciate your thoughts on these points.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:59 PM
To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor

<[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Exhaustion of extract

FYI

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
Please try this workflow first Kylie which has been made available to Helen Gregg. I did this to get my head around it and am hoping that this is clear on what samples go where, and the overriding principle. This is in 17117 as an Appendix which is currently in review.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:28 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

I am wondering if a meeting with staff would be a good way for staff to better understand the changes? and allow all questions to be answered in one go.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:02 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
I know there have been some questions regarding the A/DG Memo and extract volumes. I just spoke to Helen Gregg who asked if I thought the message on extract availability is clear with staff.

I said there have been some questions to me, and perhaps more with seniors but that I would reiterate the message that the overarching principle in any situation (eg. whether second amp post mic, or consideration of mic to full) from the DG memo is that the DNA extract cannot be exhausted without QPS approval. She was happy with this and I mentioned it is already in the draft SOP for further review (17117v21.4).

Could you pls ensure that staff understand the key principle?

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:10 PM
To: Matthew Hunt
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

All good! I will set up a meeting to answer everyone;s questions

From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:03 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Hi Helen,

I am writing with a query relating to the new workflow for microcon of low Priority 2 DNA samples, initiated by the DG's memo which you forwarded to us last Friday, 19/08.

- Is the mic to full rework strategy no longer available for any sample type, due to the need to prevent DNA extract exhaustion?

Apologies for asking you directly as I can appreciate how busy you must be, but as you can see from the email chain below, there has been a good deal of discussion and confusion around this point within our section over the last few days. The issue is relevant to us Reporting Scientists as we have been successfully applying the microcon to full rework strategy to samples for some time now, and feel the microcon to 35uL may not provide as good an opportunity to produce interpretable DNA profiles from lower template samples.

Thanks,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team

Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:37 AM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>

Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi all

I understand this is all confusing. I am confused myself. At this point I would suggest if there are further questions or points needing clarification, that you send a message to Helen Gregg directly (she mentioned in her email she was OK with this).

Sorry I can't be of more assistance with this as I don't have the context/background of the decisions made.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:23 AM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller [redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Kylie

Please see the email below from yourself, with advice from Justin yesterday when I sought clarification on this.

Hi Claire

I checked with Justin and he said that yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo - The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:10 AM
To: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Ingrid

I checked with Justin and his reply was:

"Hi

My understanding is the overriding principle is to not exhaust any DNA extract without QPS written approval.

I will seek word from Helen Gregg whose office the memo can through. Hopefully, she will get back today on this.

Justin"

If I hear more on this I will let you know

Thanks
Kylie

From: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

So we can exhaust other samples??????????????????????

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:00 PM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
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Hi Claire

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Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:45 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
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Thanks,
Claire

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:23 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]> Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Matt (and RT2),

Some more info from Justin for you..

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

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Hope that helps!

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:45 PM
To: Matthew Hunt
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

No problem!

Get Outlook for Android

From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 12:42:42 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Thanks very much Helen, I really appreciate you taking the time out to do this.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p [redacted]
a [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 12:10 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

All good! I will set up a meeting to answer everyone;s questions

---

From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 11:03 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: DG Memo Workflow (Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range)

Hi Helen,

I am writing with a query relating to the new workflow for microcon of low Priority 2 DNA samples, initiated by the DG's memo which you forwarded to us last Friday, 19/08.

- Is the mic to full rework strategy no longer available for any sample type, due to the need to prevent DNA extract exhaustion?

Apologies for asking you directly as I can appreciate how busy you must be, but as you can see from the email chain below, there has been a good deal of discussion and confusion around this point within our section over the last few days. The issue is relevant to us Reporting Scientists as we have been successfully applying the microcon to full rework strategy to samples for some time now, and feel the microcon to 35uL may not provide as good an opportunity to produce interpretable DNA profiles from lower template samples.

Thanks,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:37 AM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi all

I understand this is all confusing. I am confused myself. At this point I would suggest if there are further questions or points needing clarification, that you send a message to Helen Gregg directly (she mentioned in her email she was OK with this).

Sorry I can't be of more assistance with this as I don't have the context/background of the decisions made.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:23 AM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]> Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Kylie

Please see the email below from yourself, with advice from Justin yesterday when I sought clarification on this.

Hi Claire

I checked with Justin and he said that yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo - The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 25 August 2022 10:10 AM
To: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Ingrid

I checked with Justin and his reply was:

"Hi
My understanding is the overriding principle is to not exhaust any DNA extract without QPS written approval.

I will seek word from Helen Gregg whose office the memo can through. Hopefully, she will get back today on this.

Justin"

If I hear more on this I will let you know

Thanks
Kylie

From: Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

So we can exhaust other samples??????????????????????

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 3:00 PM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>;

Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Claire

I checked with Justin and he said that yes the A/DG bolded that part in the memo - The new workflow is only for P1/2 in the range 0.001-0.0088ng/uL.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:45 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted] Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Kylie

Can I please clarify?

The new workflow only applies to P1 and P2 samples within the 0.001-0.0088ng/uL quant range.

All other P1, P2 and P3 samples outside of this quant range (0.0089 and above) are case managed as usual?

Thanks,
Claire

From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:23 PM
To: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Cc: Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi Matt (and RT2),

Some more info from Justin for you..

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 2:14 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>; Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi
The answers to below really all come back to the Memo. The background/context isn't known but I think we are able to work with the memo directive as it is. The A/DG mentions in the memo that consultation with QPS has occurred and I do know that they are not keen on material exhaustion unless with their approval. With this overall principle in not exhausting extract without prior approval from QPS, Helen Gregg gave words to me on this today to ensure it is in the SOP (now back in QIS as 17117v21.5 for your review). I don't know when or what circumstances QPS would not approve a second amp post mic, but the hope is that there is approx. 15uL for this effort, which could also be used externally.

As per the memo, we need to find the samples that have not been microconned that had initial quants in this range. Bdna are working on finding these samples at the moment, and then these samples will have the mic process as per the memo and SUFP line added unless a final interp has not been added (in which case the end result would be reported). Data is not available on this yet – Paula will let me know when more is known.

There isn't any change to the P3 process to my knowledge – it is as per the SOP. These will not have the mic process, and will be amped straight after quant. I am not aware of any further information.

Paula asked Helen about the second quant and she mentioned that the A/DG wanted the process to be the same as what we have had before, and there is no change to this process with the memo release ie a second quant is performed. In thinking further on it too, the quant post mic will also help the client in external consultation if required.

Hope that helps!

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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From: Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 3:50 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid

Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Workflow - Exhaustion of extract

Hi,

Thanks for forwarding the new workflow, it generally makes sense, but I have a few initial questions about it:

- Microcon to full was a common (though not default) strategy in use for many years and recently became quite a common strategy for reporters after DIFP samples started to appear on the worklists again. It was widely seen as more effective with very low template samples than the usual microcon to 35 to give the best chance of obtaining useable profile info (I note this is based on conversations with other reporters and therefore maybe somewhat subjective).
- Is the mic to full rework strategy no longer available under any circumstances, due to the risk of DNA extract exhaustion?
- Could there be any negative consequences for our having previously used this strategy fairly liberally without informing QPS of the fact?
- If so, then do we need to inform QPS now of the microcon to full samples which have previously been processed (providing a list of the potentially exhausted extracts they are currently unaware of)? Is there any feasible way to collect this data if necessary?
- How much extract is it necessary to preserve before it is classified as 'exhausted'? Can we presume 15uL is required, to allow for a potential future amp to max?
- With a view to preserving extract and maximising DNA concentration and profile peak heights, could we consider altering the microcon to 35uL workflow, so that a second quantification step is not performed after microcon, but the concentrated extract is immediately amplified at 15uL?
- In my view the number of samples within the low template category which would be overamplified by a straight amp at max is extremely low. For multi-contributor mixtures the quant may indicate total DNA as requiring a reduction in the extract added to SV1 – in reality if we are trying to interpret these profiles, it is only the 'major' peaks which are potentially going to be meaningful, if at all. We should give them the best possible chance by amping at max, without wasting resources on another quant and potentially lowering the amp vol added. This may help offset some of the impact of the absence of the 'mic to full' rework option.
- The workflow note about P3 sample states 'Reworks are limited and only performed in exceptional circumstances'. Does the prior policy of not allowing microcons (of any type) as an option for this priority type, or could this be considered as a possible option now (for the occasional profile where this may yield an upload, where another amp to max would be unlikely to).

Appreciate your thoughts on these points.

Regards,

Matthew Hunt
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Forensic & Scientific Services, Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:59 PM

To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]>; Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]>; Matthew Hunt <[redacted]>; Claire Gallagher <[redacted]>; Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]>; Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]>; Penelope Taylor <[redacted]>; Angelina Keller <[redacted]>; Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Exhaustion of extract

FYI

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:46 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
Please try this workflow first Kylie which has been made available to Helen Gregg. I did this to get my head around it and am hoping that this is clear on what samples go where, and the overriding principle. This is in 17117 as an Appendix which is currently in review.

Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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From: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:28 PM
To: Justin Howes <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Exhaustion of extract

Thanks Justin

I am wondering if a meeting with staff would be a good way for staff to better understand the changes? and allow all questions to be answered in one go.

Thanks
Kylie

From: Justin Howes <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:02 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted]>; Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]>
Cc: Paula Brisotto <[redacted]>
Subject: Exhaustion of extract

Hi
I know there have been some questions regarding the A/DG Memo and extract volumes. I just spoke to Helen Gregg who asked if I thought the message on extract availability is clear with staff.

I said there have been some questions to me, and perhaps more with seniors but that I would reiterate the message that the overarching principle in any situation (eg. whether second amp post mic, or consideration of mic to full) from the DG memo is that the DNA extract cannot be exhausted without QPS approval. She was happy with this and I mentioned it is already in the draft SOP for further review (17117v21.4).

Could you pls ensure that staff understand the key principle?

Thanks
Justin

Justin Howes
Team Leader - Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream, Forensic & Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**
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