



Scientific Review
Forensic DNA Analysis
Forensic & Scientific Services

31 January 2017



Background

An issue has been raised specifically regarding spermatozoa negative, acid phosphatase negative sexual assault samples, however a review of the processing of SAIKs would be appreciated in the spirit of continuing quality improvement.

An independent review regarding evidence recovery processing with respect to sexual assault investigation kits (SAIKs) is requested of the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited (ESR), a Crown Research Institute in New Zealand.

Terms of Reference

The objective of the scientific review is to examine the processing of sexual assault investigation kits in the Forensic DNA Analysis laboratory to ascertain its validity as an acceptable, scientific process.

Specifically, the review will consider the following:

- the current Standard Operating Procedure for Examination of Sexual Assault Cases
- associated Standard Operating Procedures – The Acid Phosphatase Screening Test for Seminal Stains, Examination For & Of Spermatozoa and Detection of Azoospermic Semen in Casework Samples
- small report titled ‘AP Paper – False Positive Investigation’
- other documents requested by ESR that are pertinent to sexual assault cases

Documents to be provided

Current versions of the above SOPs and small report will be provided via email (Procedure for Examination of Sexual Assault Cases QIS #32106v4; The Acid Phosphatase Screening Test for Seminal Stains QIS #17186v12, Examination For & Of Spermatozoa QIS #17189v13 and Detection of Azoospermic Semen in Casework Samples QIS #17185v10)

Provision of work

Assessment of the SOPs and report can be conducted remotely with any follow-up being conducted either by via email, phone, teleconference, video conference or in person.