Notice number: 2022/00294

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO FORENSIC DNA TESTING

IN QUEENSLAND

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

SECOND STATEMENT OF HELEN GREGG

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

1. On 24 October 2022, I was requested to provide a statement responding to Notice 2022/00294 "Requirement to Give Information in a Written Statement".

2. I have previously:

   a) provided a statement in this Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing (**Commission of Inquiry**) in Queensland dated 16 September 2022 in response to Notice 2022/127; and

   b) given oral evidence in the Commission of Inquiry on 4 October 2022.

Request to pause testing

Question 1 - Explain your understanding of the request made by QPS on 20 September 2022 to temporarily pause testing of P1 and P2 samples in the range 0.001 – 0.008 ng/uL, including:

a) when you were made aware of the request and by who; and

3. I was first made aware of the request by QPS in an email from Inspector David Neville (Forensic Services Group, QPS) on 20 September 2022 at 8.47AM (see **Exhibit HG-49**).

b) the reasons for the request to temporarily pause testing.

4. In summary, I understand:

[redacted]

Helen Gregg Witness

a) the reasons for the QPS' request to temporarily pause testing related to concerns held by Inspector Neville that microconcentration to a blanket volume of 35uL was risking the loss of evidence; and

b) this request was prompted by concerns raised by FSS scientists who contacted Inspector Neville conveying their concerns about the changes to the Forensic DNA Analysis process which had been implemented following the memorandum dated 19 August 2022 in relation to the testing of P1 and P2 samples in the range 0.0001 – 0.008 ng/u (see **Exhibit HG-50** which includes an email from Inspector Neville to Matthew Rigby (Executive Director, Office of the Director-General QH) dated 8 September 2022 outlining these concerns). In summary, the FSS scientist expressed the view that *'complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples'* and suggested alternative processes. I understand there were further concerns raised by FSS scientists (see **Exhibit HG-53**).

5. Prior to the QPS request on 20 September 2022:

a) There were various emails exchanged between QPS (Inspector Neville) and Queensland Health (Matthew Rigby) and FSS (Lara Keller and myself) between 8 and 16 September 2022 in relation to the concerns raised by FSS scientists (see **Exhibit HG-51**).

b) I attended a telephone call with Inspector Neville and Lara Keller on 14 September 2022. During this discussion, Inspector Neville communicated his concerns (as addressed above at paragraph 4.b)). Ms Keller and myself advised that any changes to the approved process would be a deviation from the approved SOP and would require rigorous collation and study of data which would take some time to complete.

[redacted]

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c) On 19 September 2022, I emailed three Forensic DNA Analysis scientists (Ingrid Moeller, Kylie Rika and Emma Caunt) requesting an initial meeting to scope a proposal for a study to investigate possible criteria for alternate microconcentration volumes (see **Exhibit HG-52**).

6. Following the QPS' request on 20 September 2022, there was some correspondence exchanged between Inspector Neville and Ms Keller in relation to the request, including by Ms Keller clarifying whether it amounted to a *'formal request'* (see **Exhibit HG-53**).

Question 2 - Explain your understanding of, and involvement in, QHFSS' response to the QPS request, including explaining:

a. any further correspondence between QPS and QHFSS;

b. any consultation sought of you or provided by you about the request to temporarily pause;

c. any briefing or information provided to any person within Queensland Health, or the Minister for Health;

d. any commentary provided by QHFSS scientists about the request to temporarily pause;

e. how the QPS request was implemented and your involvement in implementing it; and

f. the date on which testing was paused.

7. My involvement in FSS' response to the QPS request largely was limited to:

a) initiating the study to investigate possible criteria for alternate microconcentration volumes (as referred to above at paragraph 5.c)); and

b) the development of the interim proposed resolution along with other FSS scientists, including consultation with staff in the Forensic DNA Analysis Unit (**FDNA**) about these matters

[redacted]

Helen Gregg

[redacted]

Witness

a) Further correspondence between QPS and QHFSS

8. After the QPS request on 20 September 2022, various correspondence was exchanged between QPS and FSS in relation to:

   a) the nature of the request (as referred to above at paragraph 6). This correspondence is included in **Exhibit HG-53**;

   b) the progress of the study (as referred to above at paragraph 5.c)). This correspondence is outlined below at paragraph 9; and

   c) identifying and developing an interim resolution. This correspondence is outlined below in response to **Question 5**.

9. In relation to the progress of the study:

   a) On 16 September 2022, I emailed Inspector Neville advising that Ms Keller had passed his concerns (as outlined in his email dated 16 September 2022) onto me and that I would be able to provide a better indication of timeframes in respect of the study by the end of next week.

   b) Following my communication on 19 September (as referred to above at paragraph 5.c)), a meeting was held with Ms Moeller, Ms Rika, Ms Caunt and myself to discuss the study on 21 September 2022.

   c) On Sunday 24 September 2022, in response to my 16 September email, Inspector Neville emailed myself (including copying in Ms Keller) seeking initial feedback on the progress of the study.

   d) On 26 September 2022, I responded to Inspector Neville on the basis that progress was being made but that I envisaged it would *'be months not days or weeks'* until the proposal was properly evaluated. I was conscious that we needed to undertake a carefully-planned and robust validation analysis (including proper communication

[redacted]

Helen Gregg Witness

and consideration by relevant scientists) before any changes could be made to the approved process for processing P1 and P2 samples. I felt under pressure by Inspector Neville to 'rush' the validation process which I felt could compromise the scientific validity of the study.

e) In response to my 26 September email, Inspector Neville requested further information in relation to the timeframes involved with respect to the study and expressed concern about the anticipated timeframes. I did not respond to this email because I felt I did not have any relevant information to provide him at that time, including any research proposal documentation from the Reporting Scientists.

f) See **Exhibit HG-54** which is a bundle of correspondence referred to above between Inspector Neville, Ms Keller and myself.

b) Any consultation sought of you or provided by you about the request to temporarily pause

10. I did not seek any consultation in relation to the QPS request to pause. Ms Keller was the main point of contact with QPS in respect of the request.

11. As mentioned above at paragraph 6, there was some correspondence exchanged between Inspector Neville and Ms Keller in relation to whether the QPS request was a 'formal request'.

12. I provided technical information to Ms Keller and Inspector Neville (including at our meeting on 14 September 2022) advising that any changes in approved processes would need method validation and to comply with the NATA requirements about the competency of testing (ISO 17025).

c) any briefing or information provided to any person within Queensland Health, or the Minister for Health

13. I am aware that a draft briefing was provided to A/Professor Keith McNeil (who at this time was the Deputy Director-General, Prevention Division, Queensland Health) in

[redacted] [redacted]

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around 28 September 2022 (see **Exhibit HG-55**). I provided technical input in relation to the NATA requirements for competence of testing. While I am listed as the author on this draft, the briefing was prepared by Alison Slade (Principal Advisor, Office of Executive Director of FSS). I am unsure whether this briefing note was ultimately finalised.

14. I am aware that Ms Keller was liaising with Nick Steele (General Manager, Queensland Health) in relation to the QPS request, including by email correspondence (see **Exhibit HG-56** which includes emails exchanged between Ms Keller and Mr Steele) and in discussions.

15. I recall having a discussion with Ms Keller where she advised that she would take care of communications with Queensland Health and that I was to focus on the progress of the study.

16. On 30 September 2022, the Director General circulated a memorandum to the Forensic DNA Analysis unit confirming a pause in the testing of P1 and P2 samples until instructed by the QPS (See **Exhibit HG-57**).

d) any commentary provided by QHFSS scientists about the request to temporarily pause

17. I am not aware of any commentary provided by QHFSS scientists about the request to temporarily pause.

e) how the QPS request was implemented and your involvement in implementing it

18. To the best of my recollection, I received a telephone call from Ms Keller on 29 September 2022 requesting I brief all FDNA staff members about the QPS' request.

19. On 29 September 2022, I held meetings with all FDNA staff in-person and via Microsoft Teams to advise that QPS had directed us to pause testing.

20. At the meetings, I explained to staff that we needed to find validation data or find a way to be able to lift the pause. During the meetings, it was suggested by staff members

[redacted] [redacted]

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that we contact NATA for assistance with an urgent desktop review of the SOP to allow for any changes to our processes to enable testing of the P1 and P2 samples to resume (see **Exhibit HG-58** which is my file note of this meeting).

21. I subsequently contacted NATA seeking advice about this matter but never received a response.

f) the date on which testing was paused

22. Testing was paused on 29 September 2022 after the meetings with FDNA staff (as referred to above at paragraph 19).

Interim solution and restart

Question 3 - Explain generally the approach taken by Queensland Health and QHFSS to resolving the temporary pause of testing and restarting testing.

23. The general approach taken by Queensland Health and QHFSS to resolving the temporary pause of testing and restarting of testing was collaborative.

24. Given the feedback provided by the Commission of Inquiry at around this time, including their concern and criticism about the decision-making between FSS, Queensland Health and QPS and who and when staff are consulted, we were conscious about ensuring that we followed a robust consultation process with all parties.

Question 4 - Identify any internal correspondence, consultation or meetings within Queensland Health, including QHFSS, about the resolution of the temporary pause, and attach all correspondence and file notes, including:

a. the date of the meeting / correspondence;

b. what was discussed in the meeting / correspondence;

c. who was involved in the meeting / correspondence; and

d. the outcome of the meeting / correspondence.

[redacted] [redacted]

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25. On 6 October 2022, I emailed all FDNA staff advising that FSS and QPS met to discuss the current pause on DIFP samples to determine an interim solution while further validation studies were being completed (see **Exhibit HG-59**). The email requested feedback and advice from staff about the proposed interim solution (which was outlined in the email) prior to going back to QPS for their input by 10 October 2022. The email also explained that once feedback was received, Mr Matt Ford and myself would review the responses before going back to the QPS.

26. In response to my 6 October 2022 email, I received feedback from Emma Caunt, Claire Gallagher, Allan McNevin, Luke Ryan, Kerry-Anne Lancaster, Josie Entwhistle and Deborah Nicoletti (see **Exhibit HG-60** which is a collated bundle of the feedback from staff).

27. On 11 October 2022, I emailed all FDNA staff (see **Exhibit HG-61**):

    a) advising that there was overall support for the proposal (as outlined in my 6 October email) so it was sent to QPS for consideration;

    b) outlining the revised process for concentrating samples in the DIFP range and improvements to the process;

    c) requesting feedback from staff by Monday 17 October 2022 in relation to the revised process.

28. In response to my 11 October email, I received feedback from Emma Caunt, Sharon Johnstone, Josie Entwhistle, Allen McNevin and Adrian Pippia (see **Exhibit HG-62** which is a collated bundle of the feedback from those staff members).

29. On 17 October 2022, I emailed a draft *'Process for microcon (lifting the pause)'* to Kylie Rika, Allison Lloyd, Luke Ryan, Chelsea Savage, Kirsten Scott and Sharon Johnstone for their feedback (see **Exhibit HG-63**). Ms Johnstone, Ms Savage and Mr Ryan

[redacted]

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provided feedback (see **Exhibit HG-64** which a collated bundle of the feedback from those staff members).

30. On 18 October 2022, a meeting was held with all Forensic DNA Analysis staff members about the implementation of the interim solution process. Please refer to my response at **Question 8** in relation to this meeting.

31. On 20 October 2022, I sent an email to all Forensic DNA Analysis staff with an updated version of the process (referred to above at paragraph 29) and the updated SOP 17117 (Procedure for Case Management) for review and comment (see **Exhibit HG-65**).

Question 5 - Identify any correspondence, consultation or meetings between Queensland Health or QHFSS and the QPS about the resolution of the temporary pause, and attach all correspondence and file notes, including:

a. the date of the meeting / correspondence;

b. what was discussed in the meeting / correspondence;

c. who was involved in the meeting / correspondence; and

d. the outcome of the meeting / correspondence.

32. On 5 October 2022, representatives from FSS (Lara Keller, Matt Ford, Kirsten Scott and myself) met with QPS to discuss an interim solution via Microsoft Teams. At the meeting we discussed:

a) the interim proposal which FSS developed (see **Question 6** for further information), including the overall workflow;

b) that QPS did not want to have to approve exhaustion of each and every sample so the suggestion of a tickbox on the Forensic Register was put forward by them;

c) the restart testing workflow which might replace any email communications between FSS and QPS;

[redacted] [redacted]

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d) that validation needed to be undertaken in the long-term.

A copy of my file note of this meeting is **Exhibit HG-66.**

33. On 6 October 2022 (at 12.45PM), Senior Sergeant Stephan Foxover emailed Mr Ford attaching information on the process for QHFSS requesting QPS approval to restart testing (see **Exhibit HG-67**). The email:

a) set out the request process which should be followed by FSS (including sending the request via the forensic register as a 'request/task');

b) requested that specific comments be added to the pro-forma;

c) providing an example of a task/request that contains the information requested.

11 October 2022

34. On 11 October 2022 (at 9.11AM), I sent an email to QPS (Mr Aaron Suthers, Senior Sergeant Foxover and Acting Superintendent McCarthy):

a) advising that the interim solution discussed at the 5 October 2022 meeting had been considered by FDNA staff through consultation;

b) requesting their input and advice on the interim solution (which was outlined in the email);

c) advising that a specific enhancement to Forensic Register (adding a tick box to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of a sample) would be requested from BDNA to streamline the workflow in the interim solution process; and

d) suggesting a further meeting to discuss the interim proposal.

35. On 11 October 2022 (at 2.25PM), I received an email response from Inspector Neville advising *'the QPS supports the interim proposal as a solution to lift the pause'*. Inspector Neville indicated in respect of suggested improvements (including the use of

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a tick box) needed 'more thought' because *'this will be dependent on a number of factors that are outside of the knowledge of the QPS (e.g. quant, deg and Y values)'*.

36. In response to Inspector Neville's email, I informed him on 11 October 2022 (at 1.58PM) that we had requested BDNA to make changes to the Forensic Register to create the review list for DIFP samples (after which point we would request formal advice to lift the pause) and asked if QPS would request the tickbox from BDNA.

37. In response at 3.07PM, Inspector Neville advised that QPS would need to give further consideration to the tickbox (for the reasons set out in his previous email), to which I apologised and indicated that I would advise him when the list is ready.

38. See **Exhibit HG-68** which contains the emails referred to above at paragraphs 34 to 37.

12 October 2022

39. On 12 October 2022 (at 1.58PM), I responded to Inspector Neville's email clarifying a slight change to the workflow (as outlined in the interim proposal) (See **Exhibit HG-69**). I clarified that point (e) in my 11 October 2022 email should read *'QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to half/35 microcon if permission given by QPS or stop and store sample'* (and not *'QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample – stop. Store sample'*) on the basis that *'there is the possibility in this scenario where we have requested microcon to full, that QPS FLU will approve microcon to 35 and one amp'*. I also asked for feedback on this.

13 October 2022

40. On 13 October 2022 (at 4.12AM), Inspector Neville responded to my 12 October email indicating there were some aspects of the workflow change which QPS would need to consider, including in relation to decisions about exhausting a sample versus preserving a sample. In this regard, Inspector Neville noted that:

[redacted]

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a) the decision to exhaust a sample is made by the scientist based on the data and their experience which the QPS *'was not positioned to make these statements'*;

b) the QPS could assist by *'identifying exhibits that are critical to a case where such an assessment needs by undertaken in a more careful manner'* and suggested that such exhibits could be *'recorded as critical by use of a check box on the Forensic Register'*;

c) in response to my question about QPS approving microcon to 35uL, the QPS *'were not really equipped to make those decisions*' and that they *'sought a recommendation from QHFSS as to whether critical samples might be better tested elsewhere when they have very low concentrations of DNA'*.

41. Inspector Neville sent a further email on 13 October 2022 (at 7.00AM) advising the new version of the Forensic Register already had a tick box that indicates *'destructive techniques not authorised'* and suggested that QPS could use this to indicate where a scientist needs to consult with QPS about the decision to exhaust a sample.

42. At 8.57AM, Senior Sergeant Foxover responded to Inspector Neville's email:

a) providing an example of the interim text the DNA Management Section (**DMS**) were using to advise QHFSS that sample exhaustion is authorised;

b) advising that he did not support the DMS *'going further than the scope of the response above and providing additional permission to proceed to half/35 microcon'* on the basis that he believed *'any decision on the method of analysing a sample should rest with the appropriately qualified staff at QHFSS'* and *'advice from DMS via a tick box or text should be limited only to approval to consume'*.

43. **See Exhibit HG-69** which contains the emails referred to above from paragraphs 40 to 42.

[redacted] [redacted]

Helen Gregg Witness

14 October 2022

44. On 14 October 2022 (at 12.42PM), Acting Superintendent McCarthy emailed Ms Keller saying he was *'keen to provide feedback or other input to move ahead with the internal process proposed'* and asking if she was still *'happy with the proposed interim process'* **(See Exhibit HG-70)**.

17 October 2022

45. On 17 October 2022 (at 7.58AM), I responded to Acting Superintendent McCarthy on the basis that we were *'moving forward with the proposed interim process'*.

46. At 9.57AM, Inspector Neville responded on the basis that:

    a) *'QPS is happy for testing to recommence as advised on 11 October*';

    b) the QPS *'would be happy for scientists to exercise their own discretion when it comes to exhausting samples except those marked as "Destructive test not authorised'* but that this would be *'very rare'*.

47. In response to the email above, I responded to Inspector Neville (at 9.58AM) advising that we were *'working towards that outcome now'* and I would advise when testing had restarted.

48. **See Exhibit HG-70** which contains the emails referred to above from paragraphs 45 to 47 (and paragraph 44).

49. At 10.30AM, I responded to Inspector Neville's email clarifying the interim proposal and asking for clarification about step 4(b) (where I asked whether he wanted *'a case conference'* or *'a microcon to 35 and one amp'*).

50. Inspector Neville responded to my email at 10.45AM advising that in response to my question about step 4(b), *'if ticked* [referring to the request task function on Forensic Register] *a case conference was needed'* (but that this would be *'very rare'*).

[redacted] [redacted]

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51. In response to Inspector Neville's email (at 10.45AM), I sent a further email outlining the approved process for his confirmation at 10.50AM, to which he responded (at 11.09AM) indicating that he '*agreed*' with the proposal and hoped the need to case conference would 'be very rare' but if it becomes more frequent, it could be adjusted.

52. **See Exhibit HG-71** which contains the emails referred to above from paragraphs 49 to 51.

From 18 October 2022

53. On 18 October 2022, I emailed Inspector Neville and Senior Sergeant Foxover advising that (see **HG-72**):

    a) *'FSS is ready to lift the pause as we are happy with the enhancements to FR and our adjusted workflow*' and that we propose to start on 19 October 2022; and

    b) asking if they could advise QPS *'what the tickbox means; ie. That it is unticked and needs to be ticked by QPS if they do not want FSS to exhaust the sample as part of analysis*'.

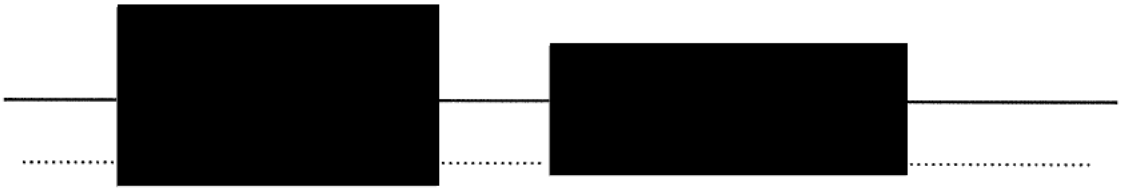
54. On 19 October 2022, I emailed Inspector Neville, Senior Sergeant Foxover and Acting Superintendent McCarthy with a copy of the memorandum of the Queensland Health Director General repealing the 19 August 2022 memorandum and 'lifting' of the temporary pause for P1 and P2 samples (See **Exhibit HG-73**).

Question 6 - Identify the proposed interim solution and identify:

a. who developed the proposed interim solution;

b. what feedback or consultation was sought on a proposed solution;

c. any feedback provided on the proposed interim solution (attaching correspondence or file notes); and



Helen Gregg Witness

d. how that feedback was or was not incorporated into the proposal, and why.

55. The proposed interim solution was largely outlined in my email of 11 October 2022 (with the agreed amendments with QPS as set out above) (see above **Exhibit HG-68**).

56. **In respect of a)**, the proposed interim solution was initially developed by FSS (mainly me, Dr Kirsten Scott and other Reporting Scientists), including by reviewing the existing validation data and SOPs and considering how it could work within the NATA requirements. I considered that we could deviate from the SOP (which outlined the current process for processing P1 and P2 samples) if express permission was provided by QPS in accordance with clause 7.2.1.1 of the ISO 170245 (which provides '*Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall only occur if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer*). The interim solution was then discussed in detail with QPS during our meeting on 5 October 2022 (as addressed above at **Question 5**).

57. **In respect of b)**, as explained above in my responses to **Questions 4 and 5**, feedback was sought from all FDNA staff through consultation and QPS.

58. **In respect of c),** all feedback provided by FDNA staff and QPS is outlined above and provided in correspondence referred to in my responses at **Questions 4 and 5**.

59. **In respect of d)**, all feedback was considered by me in the context of the proposal. I responded to each staff member's questions about the proposal, engaged with the QPS about their feedback (as discussed above at **Question 5**) and incorporated feedback into the proposal where appropriate.

Question 7 - Identify the interim proposal sent to the QPS on 11 October 2022 relating to the restart of testing including (attach correspondence):

a. who decided on the final interim proposal and on what basis;

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Helen Gregg Witness

b. what options were considered as part of the decision-making process; and

c. any feedback from the QPS on the final proposal.

60. The interim proposal was sent to the QPS by me on 11 October 2022 (see paragraph 0 above).

61. **In respect of a)**, the final interim proposal was decided in consultation with FSS and QPS (as outlined in the various correspondence exchanged between FSS and QPS set out above at **Question 5**).

62. **In respect of b) and c)**, all options considered as part of the decision-making process and feedback provided by the QPS is outlined above in my response to **Question 5**.

Question 8 - Identify how the finalised interim proposal solution was communicated to the DNA Analysis Unit (attach correspondence) and on what date/s.

63. The finalised interim proposal solution was communicated to the DNA Analysis Unit on 18 October 2022 during a Microsoft Teams meeting. A copy of the draft workflow was included in the appointment, and staff were asked to review prior to the meeting (see **Exhibit-73A**).

64. At that meeting, I went through each step of the proposed solution and invited any comments from staff. All staff indicated to me that they were comfortable with the proposal.

65. After the meeting on 18 October 2022 (at 3.27pm), Luke Ryan (FSS Scientist) circulated an email to the Analytical team in the DNA Analysis Unit confirming that the process reached on lifting the Microcon pause will come into effect from tomorrow and outlined details about the workflow (see **Exhibit HG-74**).

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Helen Gregg Witness

Question 9 - Identify how the finalised interim proposal solution was communicated to Queensland Health, including the Director General (attach correspondence) and any feedback, correspondence or response, including:

a. the memorandum dated 19 October 2022.

66. Aaron Suthers (Executive Director, Queensland Health Taskforce Lead, Commission of Inquiry) attended the meeting I had with staff on 18 October 2022 where the interim proposal solution was discussed.

67. After the meeting, Ms Keller and I received an email from Mr Suthers who provided a draft memorandum from the Director-General to support FSS' proposed processes that permit the lifting of QPS' pause on the testing of P1 and P2 samples for our review and comment. I responded that day saying the memorandum was fine (see **Exhibit HG-75**).

68. On 19 October 2022, the memorandum was circulated to all FDNA staff from the Director-General (see Exhibit **HG-76**).

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 Brisbane in the State of Queensland this 26th day of October 2022.

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.....

Helen Gregg

Witness

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Helen Gregg

Witness

SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITS

Question	Exhibit	Description
1	HG-49	Email from Inspector Neville dated 20 September 2022 (amongst other emails in email chain)
1	HG-50	Emails between Inspector Neville, Matthew Rigby and Lara Keller dated 17 August 2022 – 13 September 2022
1	HG-51	Emails between Lara Keller, Helen Gregg, Inspector Neville, Matthew Rigby dated 17 August 2022 – 16 September 2022
1	HG-52	Email from Helen Gregg to Ingrid Moeller, Kylie Rika and Emma Caunt dated 19 September 2022
1	HG-53	Emails between Inspector Neville and Lara Keller regarding QPS request
2	HG-54	Bundle of correspondence between Inspector Neville, Ms Keller and myself dated 17 August 2022 – 26 September 2022
2	HG-55	Draft briefing to A/Professor Keith McNeil
2	HG-56	Emails between Lara Keller and Nick Steele dated 17 August 2022 – 20 September 2022
2	HG-57	Memorandum from Director General dated 30 September 2022
2	HG-58	File note of meeting on 29 September 2022
4	HG-59	Email from Helen Gregg to FDNA staff regarding consultation in respect of interim solution dated 6 October 2022
4	HG-60	Collated bundle of feedback from FDNA staff members regarding interim solution
4	HG-61	Email from Helen Gregg to FDNA staff regarding consultation in respect of revised interim solution dated 11 October 2022
4	HG-62	Collated bundle of feedback from FDNA staff members regarding revised interim solution
4	HG-63	Email from Helen Gregg to FSS scientists attaching draft process for micron dated 17 October 2022
4	HG-64	Collated bundle of feedback from FDNA staff members regarding draft process for micron
4	HG-65	Email from Helen Gregg to FSS scientists providing updated version of process for micron and updated SOP
5	HG-66	File note of meeting on 5 October 2022
5	HG-67	Email from Senior Sergeant Stephan Foxover dated 6 October 2022
5	HG-68	Emails between QPS and FSS dated 11 October 2022
5	HG-69	Emails between QPS and FSS dated 11-13 October 2022
5	HG-70	Emails between QPS and FSS dated 11-17 October 2022
5	HG-71	Emails between QPS and FSS dated 11-17 October 2022
5	HG-72	Email from Helen Gregg to Inspector Neville and Acting Superintendent McCarthy dated 18 October 2022

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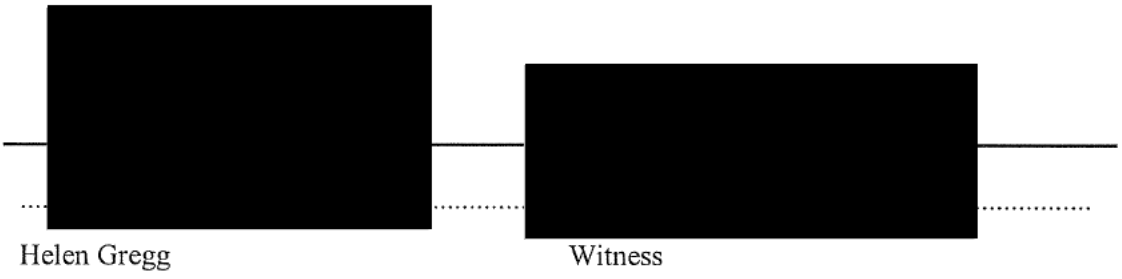
Helen Gregg Witness

5	HG-73	Email from Helen Gregg to QPS dated 19 October 2022
8	HG-73A	Meeting invitation and draft workflow circulated to FDNA staff
8	HG-74	Email from Luke Ryan to Analytical team dated 18 October 2022
9	HG-75	Emails between Helen Gregg and Aaron Suthers dated 18 October 2022
9	HG-76	Memorandum from Director-General dated 19 October 2022



Helen Gregg Witness

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Sent: Tuesday 20 September 2022 08:46:37 AM
To: Lara Keller;Helen Gregg
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen and Lara
I appreciate the efforts being undertaken to assess the concerns about the potential risk of evidence being lost if samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL (the range) are concentrated to a blanket volume.

Out an abundance of caution, I would request QHFSS temporarily pause testing P1 or P2 samples within the range until the matter is resolved, please.

This temporary pause of testing of samples in the range is contingent on QPS receiving advice on the outcome of your data analysis.

Could you please confirm by return email that such testing has been paused.

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

Alison Slade

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:18 AM
To: Lara Keller
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Lara
Recently I was contacted by the office of the Director-General of QH seeking advice on a proposed new workflow. My advice was basically that the QPS did not hold sufficient expertise to comment on the proposal. I was later given a copy of a memo sent to Helen Gregg that directed all samples in the low quant range to be concentrated to 35uL. Last week a scientist from your DNA lab reached out to me raising concerns that the blanket concentration to 35uL was risking the loss of evidence. As a result I forwarded that concern to Matt Rigby who was the contact in the first instance.

I apologise if at appears that I have gone over your head in this instance, that was not my intent, I was just trying to give information to the apparent decision maker in the instance. I am please that this matter has now been referred you.

Do you have any time today to discuss the matter, please. I have a meeting from 10-11, but I am free mostly after that.

Kind Regards

David Neville

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 08:06
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

We have carefully considered the issues raised in your email below.

Our primary objective is to undertake DNA testing in a manner that has been appropriately validated by FSS scientists and approved by QPS.

We understand that questions have been raised following the decision, on 19 August 2022, to revert to pre-2018 testing processes.

It seems there are also questions about the circumstances in which QPS should approve testing if the result will risk exhausting sample volume.

It might be beneficial for us to arrange a meeting between QPS and key personnel from FSS to discuss these matters. If you agree, can you please contact Lara Keller, A/Executive Director FSS (copied in for ease of reference) to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards, Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Heal h

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo
Importance: High

Dear Matt

I refer to your email below and to the attached directive from A/Director-General Dr Rosengren to the A/Executive Director of the QHFSS that prescribes the manner in which samples in the concertation range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL are to be processed. In particular I refer to the following instruction:

> "For clarity, all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process."

I have been contacted by a scientist at the QHFSS DNA laboratory who expressed concerns in relation to the attached directive.

To summarise the information provided by the scientist, I was advised that:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In short, the scientist expressed the view that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples.

The scientist further stated that the scientists should make a decision on the concentration volume based on the Quant Trio data, and that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. I was informed that other scientists hold the same view and that attempts had been made to raise these concerns with the QHFSS senior leadership team without success.

As outlined in my email response to you of 19 August 2022, the QPS desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be through services delivered by QHFSS, or by another provider. I mentioned my concern about the micro concentration process exhausting all samples in the context of a warning given by the Managing Scientist in 2018 when the QPS raised concern about the removal of the process. Recent information from the Managing Scientist to the effect that, after amplification, a volume of concentrate that was sufficient for further testing would remain, makes it clear that this original advice was quite incorrect.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that has a high likelihood of yielding a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

The QPS requests that attached directive be urgently reviewed in light of and having regard to the concerns raised by the scientist. Could I also be provided return advice on the result of such review, please.

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 16:29
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for providing your feedback below through to us.

For your information, the Acting DG has approved the attached and this has been provided through to FSS this afternoon.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Heal h

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 9:22 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Matt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the laboratory workflow involving automatic micro-concentration of samples in the concentration range of .001-.0088ng/uL.

The QPS agreed to the removal of this process in February 2018 following a recommendation that was initiated by the DNA laboratory and presented in an Options Paper. The QPS now has some concern about the information it was provided to make this decision including the manner in which the supporting data was derived.

In November 2018 the QPS first raised concern with the Managing Scientist that the removal of the automatic micro-concentration process may have resulted in evidence being missed. At that time the QPS was given an assurance that the success of micro-concentration was very low and that 'automatic progression of samples through the Microcon process means that all available DNA extract will be consumed, so no further testing can be conducted on these samples after this step'. Based on this advice, the QPS continued with the arrangement.

Due to limitations of the QHFSS DNA laboratory, from time to time the QPS seeks the services of other providers to undertake alternative testing, particularly for low concentration and degraded samples. If the advice from the Managing Scientist is correct, the automatic concentration of all samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL could result in the opportunity being lost to use another service provider to obtain important probative evidence. This is a consequence that the QPS is unable to accept as a matter of routine.

The risk is that the proposed directive may result in a sample being exhausted making alternative testing impossible. The QPS does not have the expertise to assess the likelihood of the risk given such an assessment can only be made based on information that is exclusively within the domain of QHFSS. As a result, the QPS considers the decision to reimplement automatic micro-concentration an internal matter that QH must decide in the context that the customer (the QPS) desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be by services delivered by QHFSS or by another provider that can deliver a service QHFSS is not resourced to deliver.

Regards

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 pm
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for your time today and as discussed with the Acting DG and myself this afternoon, please find attached a draft memo that has been prepared and the associated SOP extract to provide some further clarity to our staff at FSS.

Appreciate any feedback/input that you have from a QPS perspective.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

Matt Rigby
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
Queensland Heal h

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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From: Lara Keller
Sent: Friday 16 September 2022 08:04:15 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 7:17 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
I understand that DNA analysis is destructive and that consumption of the sample is unavoidable when the quantity present is low. Its hard to give a blanket decision that any sample can be completely consumed given it will depend on numerous factors, but there is also a risk in trying to preserve sample when the DNA is present in low concentration. As I understand it, if a sample is concentrated to a volume that is too dilute and half of it is processed, the likelihood of getting a result is very low meaning that half of the sample might be wasted with the remaining half now being too low in concentration to be of any use.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that is likely to yield a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. This might include microconcentration to an amount less than 35uL. We understand that there is no guarantee such testing will yield a profile. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

If QHFSS seeks the QPS to make a decision on testing a sample that may deplete the extract, that would need to be an informed decision based on a recommendation from the scientist.

I do appreciate that you are looking into the concerns raised around the blanket microoncentration policy, especially given the matter has now been raised separately by another scientist. I look forward to the outcome of the data analysis. Given that if the concerns are correct, the practice could be risking the loss of evidence, would it be possible to establish a timeframe around this please.?

Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 13:34
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]> Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

I trust that our conversation yesterday answered your questions and clarified the process in place since 19 August 2022 (per the attachments).
We look forward to receiving definitive advice from QPS regarding permission to consume remaining sample.

In the meantime, we will collate and analyse data (as discussed).

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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara and Helen
Thanks for taking the time to speak to me today. I understand the complexity involved with modifying procedure and validation requirements and the reasons for reverting to a previous processes. For clarity, could you please confirm that the newly adopted process of concentrating all samples to 35uL is the same process that was in place prior to February 2018.

I guess I am still left with the concerns raised by the lab member and whether they have any basis. The specific concerns were:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In essence I was advised that the QPS is losing evidence by the current process of blanket concertation to 35uL. Could I please be provided advice as to whether these concerns have any basis please.

Could I ask that the suggested change to the process that involves concentrating to a volume based on the quantity of DNA present be explored to examine its merits please.

Kind regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:17
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thanks David
Perfect. How about I call you at 11 am tomorrow?
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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 1:14 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Thanks for letting me know. If you have time for a phone call tomorrow that might be helpful. I could make time anytime you like.
Regards

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

Mob: [redacted]

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:11
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hello David

Thanks for the email.
I am not available this afternoon, but could make time tomorrow if there is a suitable time for you and/or Duncan?
Alternately, I understand we have our regular FSG-FSS meeting on Thursday?

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

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:18 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Recently I was contacted by the office of the Director-General of QH seeking advice on a proposed new workflow. My advice was basically that the QPS did not hold sufficient expertise to comment on the proposal. I was later given a copy of a memo sent to Helen Gregg that directed all samples in the low quant range to be concentrated to 35uL. Last week a scientist from your DNA lab reached out to me raising concerns that the blanket concentration to 35uL was risking the loss of evidence. As a result I forwarded that concern to Matt Rigby who was the contact in the first instance.

I apologise if at appears that I have gone over your head in this instance, that was not my intent, I was just trying to give information to the apparent decision maker in the instance. I am please that this matter has now been referred you.

Do you have any time today to discuss the matter, please. I have a meeting from 10-11, but I am free mostly after that.

Kind Regards

David Neville

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 08:06
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

We have carefully considered the issues raised in your email below.

Our primary objective is to undertake DNA testing in a manner that has been appropriately validated by FSS scientists and approved by QPS.

We understand that questions have been raised following the decision, on 19 August 2022, to revert to pre-2018 testing processes.

It seems there are also questions about the circumstances in which QPS should approve testing if the result will risk exhausting sample volume.

It might be beneficial for us to arrange a meeting between QPS and key personnel from FSS to discuss these matters. If you agree, can you please contact Lara Keller, A/Executive Director FSS (copied in for ease of reference) to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards, Matt

Queensland Government

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

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo
Importance: High

Dear Matt

I refer to your email below and to the attached directive from A/Director-General Dr Rosengren to the A/Executive Director of the QHFSS that prescribes the manner in which samples in the concertation range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL are to be processed. In particular I refer to the following instruction:

> "For clarity, all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process."

I have been contacted by a scientist at the QHFSS DNA laboratory who expressed concerns in relation to the attached directive.

To summarise the information provided by the scientist, I was advised that:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and

- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In short, the scientist expressed the view that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples.

The scientist further stated that the scientists should make a decision on the concentration volume based on the Quant Trio data, and that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. I was informed that other scientists hold the same view and that attempts had been made to raise these concerns with the QHFSS senior leadership team without success.

As outlined in my email response to you of 19 August 2022, the QPS desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be through services delivered by QHFSS, or by another provider. I mentioned my concern about the micro concentration process exhausting all samples in the context of a warning given by the Managing Scientist in 2018 when the QPS raised concern about the removal of the process. Recent information from the Managing Scientist to the effect that, after amplification, a volume of concentrate that was sufficient for further testing would remain, makes it clear that this original advice was quite incorrect.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that has a high likelihood of yielding a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

The QPS requests that attached directive be urgently reviewed in light of and having regard to the concerns raised by the scientist. Could I also be provided return advice on the result of such review, please.

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 16:29
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Dave,

Thanks for providing your feedback below through to us.

For your information, the Acting DG has approved the attached and this has been provided through to FSS this afternoon.

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 Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 9:22 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Matt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the laboratory workflow involving automatic micro-concentration of samples in the concentration range of .001-.0088ng/uL.

The QPS agreed to the removal of this process in February 2018 following a recommendation that was initiated by the DNA laboratory and presented in an Options Paper. The QPS now has some concern about the information it was provided to make this decision including the manner in which the supporting data was derived.

In November 2018 the QPS first raised concern with the Managing Scientist that the removal of the automatic micro-concentration process may have resulted in evidence being missed. At that time the QPS was given an assurance that the success of micro-concentration was very low and that 'automatic progression of samples through the Microcon process means that all available DNA extract will be consumed, so no further testing can be conducted on these samples after this step'. Based on this advice, the QPS continued with the arrangement.

Due to limitations of the QHFSS DNA laboratory, from time to time the QPS seeks the services of other providers to undertake alternative testing, particularly for low concentration and degraded samples. If the advice from the Managing Scientist is correct, the automatic concentration of all samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL could result in the opportunity being lost to use another service provider to obtain important probative evidence. This is a consequence that the QPS is unable to accept as a matter of routine.

The risk is that the proposed directive may result in a sample being exhausted making alternative testing impossible. The QPS does not have the expertise to assess the likelihood of the risk given such an assessment can only be made based on information that is exclusively within the domain of QHFSS. As a result, the QPS considers the decision to reimplement automatic micro-concentration an internal matter that QH must decide in the context that the customer (the QPS) desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be by services delivered by QHFSS or by another provider that can deliver a service QHFSS is not resourced to deliver.

Regards

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 pm
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for your time today and as discussed with the Acting DG and myself this afternoon, please find attached a draft memo that has been prepared and the associated SOP extract to provide some further clarity to our staff at FSS.

Appreciate any feedback/input that you have from a QPS perspective.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

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

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E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 19 September 2022 11:10:45 AM
To: Ingrid Moeller;Kylie Rika;Emma Caunt
Cc: Lara Keller
Subject: Microcon to full - project

Hello,

Following our meetings about microcon to full vs microcon to 35, I would like to work with you to collect data to investigate this proposal. Would you be interested in leading?

If so, perhaps we could meet this week to discuss, and start planning?

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Alison Slade

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 9:55 AM
To: Lara Keller
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
This week a third scientist made a request to concentrate to a different volume because they thought that concentrating to 35uL was not appropriate for that sample. We are in a position now that we have multiple experts indicating that the concerns raised initially may be valid.
This is a formal request from QPS made in consultation with A/Supt Larissa Miller. Please note that it is only a request for a temporary pause until Helen can advise as to whether there is any risk in the recent process adopted.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 08:56
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

Thank you for your email.
Could you be very specific about your request please, and confirm whether this represents a formal request from QPS?

We are presently under the direction of the QH A/Director General, as per the memo dated 19 August 2022. Any proposed change to current practice would require consultation and clearance by his office before implementation could even be considered.

I will await your advice.

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

p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 8:47 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen and Lara
I appreciate the efforts being undertaken to assess the concerns about the potential risk of evidence being lost if samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL (the range) are concentrated to a blanket volume.

Out an abundance of caution, I would request QHFSS temporarily pause testing P1 or P2 samples within the range until the matter is resolved, please.

This temporary pause of testing of samples in the range is contingent on QPS receiving advice on the outcome of your data analysis.

Could you please confirm by return email that such testing has been paused.

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

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 13:28
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen
Thankyou
David

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 11:57
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Re: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi David,

Lara has passed this on to me. I will be able to give you a better indication of timeframe by the end of next week.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p 07[redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4107
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 7:17 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
I understand that DNA analysis is destructive and that consumption of the sample is unavoidable when the quantity present is low. Its hard to give a blanket decision that any sample can be completely consumed given it will depend on numerous factors, but there is also a risk in trying to preserve sample when the DNA is present in low concentration. As I understand it, if a sample is concentrated to a volume that is too dilute and half of it is processed, the likelihood of getting a result is very low meaning that half of the sample might be wasted with the remaining half now being too low in concentration to be of any use.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that is likely to yield a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. This might include microconcentration to an amount less than 35uL. We understand that there is no guarantee such testing will yield a profile. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

If QHFSS seeks the QPS to make a decision on testing a sample that may deplete the extract, that would need to be an informed decision based on a recommendation from the scientist.

I do appreciate that you are looking into the concerns raised around the blanket microoncentration policy, especially given the matter has now been raised separately by another scientist. I look forward to the outcome of the data analysis. Given that if the concerns are correct, the practice could be risking the loss of evidence, would it be possible to establish a timeframe around this please.?

Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 13:34

To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

I trust that our conversation yesterday answered your questions and clarified the process in place since 19 August 2022 (per the attachments).
We look forward to receiving definitive advice from QPS regarding permission to consume remaining sample.

In the meantime, we will collate and analyse data (as discussed).

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
p (07)[redacted] m [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara and Helen
Thanks for taking the time to speak to me today. I understand the complexity involved with modifying procedure and validation requirements and the reasons for reverting to a previous processes. For clarity, could you please confirm that the newly adopted process of concentrating all samples to 35uL is the same process that was in place prior to February 2018.

I guess I am still left with the concerns raised by the lab member and whether they have any basis. The specific concerns were:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In essence I was advised that the QPS is losing evidence by the current process of blanket concertation to 35uL. Could I please be provided advice as to whether these concerns have any basis please.

Could I ask that the suggested change to the process that involves concentrating to a volume based on the quantity of DNA present be explored to examine its merits please.

Kind regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:17
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thanks David
Perfect. How about I call you at 11 am tomorrow?
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
p (07)[redacted] m [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 1:14 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Thanks for letting me know. If you have time for a phone call tomorrow that might be helpful. I could make time anytime you like.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:11
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hello David

Thanks for the email.
I am not available this afternoon, but could make time tomorrow if there is a suitable time for you and/or Duncan?
Alternately, I understand we have our regular FSG-FSS meeting on Thursday?

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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:18 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Recently I was contacted by the office of the Director-General of QH seeking advice on a proposed new workflow. My advice was basically that the QPS did not hold sufficient expertise to comment on the proposal. I was later given a copy of a memo sent to Helen Gregg that directed all samples in the low quant range to be concentrated to 35uL. Last week a scientist from your DNA lab reached out to me raising concerns that the blanket concentration to 35uL was risking the loss of evidence. As a result I forwarded that concern to Matt Rigby who was the contact in the first instance.

I apologise if at appears that I have gone over your head in this instance, that was not my intent, I was just trying to give information to the apparent decision maker in the instance. I am please that this matter has now been referred you.

Do you have any time today to discuss the matter, please. I have a meeting from 10-11, but I am free mostly after that.

Kind Regards

David Neville

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 08:06
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

We have carefully considered the issues raised in your email below.

Our primary objective is to undertake DNA testing in a manner that has been appropriately validated by FSS scientists and approved by QPS.

We understand that questions have been raised following the decision, on 19 August 2022, to revert to pre-2018 testing processes.

It seems there are also questions about the circumstances in which QPS should approve testing if the result will risk exhausting sample volume.

It might be beneficial for us to arrange a meeting between QPS and key personnel from FSS to discuss these matters. If you agree, can you please contact Lara Keller, A/Executive Director FSS (copied in for ease of reference) to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards, Matt

Queensland Government

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

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo
Importance: High

Dear Matt

I refer to your email below and to the attached directive from A/Director-General Dr Rosengren to the A/Executive Director of the QHFSS that prescribes the manner in which samples in the concertation range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL are to be processed. In particular I refer to the following instruction:

> "For clarity, all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process."

I have been contacted by a scientist at the QHFSS DNA laboratory who expressed concerns in relation to the attached directive.

To summarise the information provided by the scientist, I was advised that:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In short, the scientist expressed the view that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples.

The scientist further stated that the scientists should make a decision on the concentration volume based on the Quant Trio data, and that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. I was informed that other scientists hold the same view and that attempts had been made to raise these concerns with the QHFSS senior leadership team without success.

As outlined in my email response to you of 19 August 2022, the QPS desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be through services delivered by QHFSS, or by another provider. I mentioned my concern about the micro concentration process exhausting all samples in the context of a warning given by the Managing Scientist in 2018 when the QPS raised concern about the removal of the process. Recent

information from the Managing Scientist to the effect that, after amplification, a volume of concentrate that was sufficient for further testing would remain, makes it clear that this original advice was quite incorrect.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that has a high likelihood of yielding a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

The QPS requests that attached directive be urgently reviewed in light of and having regard to the concerns raised by the scientist. Could I also be provided return advice on the result of such review, please.

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 16:29
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]> David Rosengren <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for providing your feedback below through to us.

For your information, the Acting DG has approved the attached and this has been provided through to FSS this afternoon.

Thanks Matt

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

Queensland Government

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 9:22 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Matt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the laboratory workflow involving automatic micro-concentration of samples in the concentration range of .001-.0088ng/uL.

The QPS agreed to the removal of this process in February 2018 following a recommendation that was initiated by the DNA laboratory and presented in an Options Paper. The QPS now has some concern about the information it was provided to make this decision including the manner in which the supporting data was derived.

In November 2018 the QPS first raised concern with the Managing Scientist that the removal of the automatic micro-concentration process may have resulted in evidence being missed. At that time the QPS was given an assurance that the success of micro-concentration was very low and that 'automatic progression of samples through the Microcon process means that all available DNA extract will be consumed, so no further testing can be conducted on these samples after this step'. Based on this advice, the QPS continued with the arrangement.

Due to limitations of the QHFSS DNA laboratory, from time to time the QPS seeks the services of other providers to undertake alternative testing, particularly for low concentration and degraded samples. If the advice from the Managing Scientist is correct, the automatic concentration of all samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL could result in the opportunity being lost to use another service provider to obtain important probative evidence. This is a consequence that the QPS is unable to accept as a matter of routine.

The risk is that the proposed directive may result in a sample being exhausted making alternative testing impossible. The QPS does not have the expertise to assess the likelihood of the risk given such an assessment can only be made based on information that is exclusively within the domain of QHFSS. As a result, the QPS considers the decision to reimplement automatic micro-concentration an internal matter that QH must decide in the context that the customer (the QPS) desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be by services delivered by QHFSS or by another provider that can deliver a service QHFSS is not resourced to deliver.

Regards

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 pm
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for your time today and as discussed with the Acting DG and myself this afternoon, please find attached a draft memo that has been prepared and the associated SOP extract to provide some further clarity to our staff at FSS.

Appreciate any feedback/input that you have from a QPS perspective.

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 Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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Alison Slade

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 26 September 2022 12:22 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC]; Lara Keller
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Helen
Thanks for this information. Can you confirm that testing of samples in the range has been paused and when that might have occurred, please. This pause was requested whilst you considered and reported back on the concerns raised by your staff about the appropriateness of concentrating to a blanket volume. Is the timeframe below an indication of when you might get back to us as to whether or not there is any basis to the concerns raised (by one scientist and corroborated by two others independently)? Is it possible to get some indication as to whether this has any basis sooner please? We cant really wait months to test some of these samples.
Regards

David

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 26 September 2022 09:50
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]> Lara Keller <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi David,

We are making progress, but as with any scientific idea, it needs enough of the right data with robust analysis. This takes time. I envisage it will be months not days or weeks until this proposal is properly evaluated.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 24 September 2022 11:41 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: Re: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Helen
I am just following up on your email dated 16th indicating some initial feedback this week. I wondered if this could be provided soon given the temporary pause. I apologise if I missed this.
Regards

David Neville
Inspector, FSG
[redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 2:52 pm
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thank you Lara
I hope you and your team are being looked after at this difficult time.
Dave

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 14:51
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

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Good afternoon David

Thanks for the email and request.
I have briefed up and will be in contact when Iâ€™m able.

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

p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 9:55 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Lara
This week a third scientist made a request to concentrate to a different volume because they thought that concentrating to 35uL was not appropriate for that sample. We are in a position now that we have multiple experts indicating that the concerns raised initially may be valid.
This is a formal request from QPS made in consultation with A/Supt Larissa Miller. Please note that it is only a request for a temporary pause until Helen can advise as to whether there is any risk in the recent process adopted.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 08:56
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Queensland Police Service. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning David

Thank you for your email.
Could you be very specific about your request please, and confirm whether this represents a formal request from QPS?

We are presently under the direction of the QH A/Director General, as per the memo dated 19 August 2022. Any proposed change to current practice would require consultation and clearance by his office before implementation could even be considered.

I will await your advice.

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
p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 8:47 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen and Lara
I appreciate the efforts being undertaken to assess the concerns about the potential risk of evidence being lost if samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL (the range) are concentrated to a blanket volume.

Out an abundance of caution, I would request QHFSS temporarily pause testing P1 or P2 samples within the range until the matter is resolved, please.

This temporary pause of testing of samples in the range is contingent on QPS receiving advice on the outcome of your data analysis.

Could you please confirm by return email that such testing has been paused.

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

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 13:28
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen
Thankyou
David

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 11:57
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Re: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi David,

Lara has passed this on to me. I will be able to give you a better indication of timeframe by the end of next week.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p 07[redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4107
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 7:17 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
I understand that DNA analysis is destructive and that consumption of the sample is unavoidable when the quantity present is low. Its hard to give a blanket decision that any sample can be completely consumed given it will depend on numerous factors, but there is also a risk in trying to preserve sample when the DNA is present in low concentration. As I understand it, if a sample is concentrated to a volume that is too dilute and half of it is processed, the likelihood of getting a result is very low meaning that half of the sample might be wasted with the remaining half now being too low in concentration to be of any use.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that is likely to yield a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. This might include microconcentration to an amount less than 35uL. We understand that there is no guarantee such testing will yield a profile. However, if in the scientistâ€™s view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientistâ€™s decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

If QHFSS seeks the QPS to make a decision on testing a sample that may deplete the extract, that would need to be an informed decision based on a recommendation from the scientist.

I do appreciate that you are looking into the concerns raised around the blanket microoncentration policy, especially given the matter has now been raised separately by another scientist. I look forward to the outcome of the data analysis. Given that if the concerns are correct, the practice could be risking the loss of evidence, would it be possible to establish a timeframe around this please.?

Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 13:34

To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

I trust that our conversation yesterday answered your questions and clarified the process in place since 19 August 2022 (per the attachments).
We look forward to receiving definitive advice from QPS regarding permission to consume remaining sample.

In the meantime, we will collate and analyse data (as discussed).

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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara and Helen
Thanks for taking the time to speak to me today. I understand the complexity involved with modifying procedure and validation requirements and the reasons for reverting to a previous processes. For clarity, could you please confirm that the newly adopted process of concentrating all samples to 35uL is the same process that was in place prior to February 2018.

I guess I am still left with the concerns raised by the lab member and whether they have any basis. The specific concerns were:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In essence I was advised that the QPS is losing evidence by the current process of blanket concertation to 35uL. Could I please be provided advice as to whether these concerns have any basis please.

Could I ask that the suggested change to the process that involves concentrating to a volume based on the quantity of DNA present be explored to examine its merits please.

Kind regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:17
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thanks David
Perfect. How about I call you at 11 am tomorrow?
Kind Regards
Lara

Lara Keller B App Sc (MLS), Grad Cert Health Mgt, MAIMS, CMgr FIML
A/Executive Director
Forensic and Scientific Services
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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 1:14 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Thanks for letting me know. If you have time for a phone call tomorrow that might be helpful. I could make time anytime you like.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:11
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hello David

Thanks for the email.
I am not available this afternoon, but could make time tomorrow if there is a suitable time for you and/or Duncan?
Alternately, I understand we have our regular FSG-FSS meeting on Thursday?

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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:18 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Recently I was contacted by the office of the Director-General of QH seeking advice on a proposed new workflow. My advice was basically that the QPS did not hold sufficient expertise to comment on the proposal. I was later given a copy of a memo sent to Helen Gregg that directed all samples in the low quant range to be concentrated to 35uL. Last week a scientist from your DNA lab reached out to me raising concerns that the blanket concentration to 35uL was risking the loss of evidence. As a result I forwarded that concern to Matt Rigby who was the contact in the first instance.

I apologise if at appears that I have gone over your head in this instance, that was not my intent, I was just trying to give information to the apparent decision maker in the instance. I am please that this matter has now been referred you.

Do you have any time today to discuss the matter, please. I have a meeting from 10-11, but I am free mostly after that.

Kind Regards

David Neville

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 08:06
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

We have carefully considered the issues raised in your email below.

Our primary objective is to undertake DNA testing in a manner that has been appropriately validated by FSS scientists and approved by QPS.

We understand that questions have been raised following the decision, on 19 August 2022, to revert to pre-2018 testing processes.

It seems there are also questions about the circumstances in which QPS should approve testing if the result will risk exhausting sample volume.

It might be beneficial for us to arrange a meeting between QPS and key personnel from FSS to discuss these matters. If you agree, can you please contact Lara Keller, A/Executive Director FSS (copied in for ease of reference) to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards, Matt

Queensland Government

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

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo
Importance: High

Dear Matt

I refer to your email below and to the attached directive from A/Director-General Dr Rosengren to the A/Executive Director of the QHFSS that prescribes the manner in which samples in the concertation range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL are to be processed. In particular I refer to the following instruction:

> â€œFor clarity, all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process.â€

I have been contacted by a scientist at the QHFSS DNA laboratory who expressed concerns in relation to the attached directive.

To summarise the information provided by the scientist, I was advised that:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In short, the scientist expressed the view that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples.

The scientist further stated that the scientists should make a decision on the concentration volume based on the Quant Trio data, and that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. I was informed that other scientists hold the same view and that attempts had been made to raise these concerns with the QHFSS senior leadership team without success.

As outlined in my email response to you of 19 August 2022, the QPS desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be through services delivered by QHFSS, or by another provider. I mentioned my concern about the micro concentration process exhausting all samples in the context of a warning given by the Managing Scientist in 2018 when the QPS raised concern about the removal of the process. Recent

information from the Managing Scientist to the effect that, after amplification, a volume of concentrate that was sufficient for further testing would remain, makes it clear that this original advice was quite incorrect.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that has a high likelihood of yielding a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. However, if in the scientistâ€™s view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientistâ€™s decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

The QPS requests that attached directive be urgently reviewed in light of and having regard to the concerns raised by the scientist. Could I also be provided return advice on the result of such review, please.

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 16:29
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]> David Rosengren <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for providing your feedback below through to us.

For your information, the Acting DG has approved the attached and this has been provided through to FSS this afternoon.

Thanks Matt

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

Queensland Government

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 9:22 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Matt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the laboratory workflow involving automatic micro-concentration of samples in the concentration range of .001-.0088ng/uL.

The QPS agreed to the removal of this process in February 2018 following a recommendation that was initiated by the DNA laboratory and presented in an Options Paper. The QPS now has some concern about the information it was provided to make this decision including the manner in which the supporting data was derived.

In November 2018 the QPS first raised concern with the Managing Scientist that the removal of the automatic micro-concentration process may have resulted in evidence being missed. At that time the QPS was given an assurance that the success of micro-concentration was very low and that â€˜automatic progression of samples through the Microcon process means that all available DNA extract will be consumed, so no further testing can be conducted on these samples after this stepâ€™. Based on this advice, the QPS continued with the arrangement.

Due to limitations of the QHFSS DNA laboratory, from time to time the QPS seeks the services of other providers to undertake alternative testing, particularly for low concentration and degraded samples. If the advice from the Managing Scientist is correct, the automatic concentration of all samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL could result in the opportunity being lost to use another service provider to obtain important probative evidence. This is a consequence that the QPS is unable to accept as a matter of routine.

The risk is that the proposed directive may result in a sample being exhausted making alternative testing impossible. The QPS does not have the expertise to assess the likelihood of the risk given such an assessment can only be made based on information that is exclusively within the domain of QHFSS. As a result, the QPS considers the decision to reimplement automatic micro-concentration an internal matter that QH must decide in the context that the customer (the QPS) desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be by services delivered by QHFSS or by another provider that can deliver a service QHFSS is not resourced to deliver.

Regards

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 pm
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for your time today and as discussed with the Acting DG and myself this afternoon, please find attached a draft memo that has been prepared and the associated SOP extract to provide some further clarity to our staff at FSS.

Appreciate any feedback/input that you have from a QPS perspective.

Thanks Matt

Queensland Government

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

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E [redacted]
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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Queensland Health
DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

C-ECTF-22/[Insert No]
Forensic and Scientific Services

SUBJECT: Queensland Police Service request to pause testing of certain Forensic DNA Analysis samples

☐ Approved ☐ Not approved ☐ Noted ☐ Further information required (see comments)	Signed…… Date……/……/…… Shaun Drummond, Acting Director-General, Queensland Health Comments:

ACTION REQUIRED BY
28~~30~~ September 2022 to meet the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) expected timeframe for response.

RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended the Director-General:

- **Note** that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has requested that all P1 and P2 Forensic DNA samples submitted with a quantitation value between 0.001ng/uL and 0.0088ng/uL **not** be automatically processed through to micro-concentration and amplification, but~~and~~ rather be set-aside for testing at a later date, pending a new study to ascertain the efficacy of a hypothesised alternative process.
- **Approve** that all samples, as described above, continue to be processed in accordance with the Acting Director-General's memorandum of 19 August 2022 (Attachment 1) until the completion of the abovementioned study, and/or until the conclusion of the DNA Commission of Inquiry. This would effectively decline QPS's request to pause testing of the relevant P1 and P2 samples.

ISSUES

1. On 19 August 2022, the Acting Director-General at the time, Dr David Rosengren, provided a memorandum directing Forensic DNA Analysis to revert to the concentration process for Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples as stipulated in Standard Operating Procedure 17117V19 (Attachments 1 and 2).
2. On Thursday 8 September 2022, Inspector David Neville (Forensic Services Group, QPS) sent an email to Matthew Rigby (Executive Director, Office of the Director-General QH) conveying concerns about changes to the Forensic DNA Analysis process which had been implemented following the memorandum dated 19 August 2022. In this email, Inspector Neville indicated that he had been contacted by a scientist from within Forensic DNA Analysis who expressed the view, "that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples", and included suggested alternative processes (Attachment 3).
3. A meeting was held on Friday 9 September with the Office of the Director-General where it was agreed that the concentration process would continue as per the 19 August memorandum, and that FSS representatives would meet with Inspector Neville to discuss.
4. On Tuesday 13 September 2022, Matthew Rigby provided a response to Inspector Neville proposing that a meeting take place between QPS and key personnel from FSS to further discuss the concerns.
5. A telephone meeting occurred on Wednesday 14 September between Lara Keller (A/Executive Director, FSS), Helen Gregg (Quality Manager, FSS), and Inspector David Neville. Inspector Neville reiterated his concerns, and Lara Keller and Helen Gregg advised that such a proposal would be a deviation from approved standard operating procedures and any change to the approved process would require the rigorous collation and study of data and that this would take some time to complete. FSS further agreed to progress the commencement of such a study~~project~~.
6. In a subsequent email from Inspector Neville on Friday 16 September, Helen Gregg responded that FSS would be able to provide advice by 23 September 2022 as to how long it might take to complete the study.
7. On Monday 19 September, Helen Gregg wrote to three Forensic DNA Analysis Scientists (Ingrid Moeller, Kylie Rika and Emma Caunt) requesting an initial meeting to scope a proposal for a study to investigate possible criteria for alternate microconcentration volumes. This meeting was subsequently held on Wednesday 21 September.
8. Inspector Neville wrote to Lara Keller and Helen Gregg on Tuesday 20 September 2022 requesting that FSS temporarily pause testing of P1 and P2 samples within the quantitation range of 0.001ng/uL to 0.0088ng/uL until "the matter is resolved" (that is – until the results of the study are completed). That same day, Lara Keller sought clarification as to whether this request reflects a formal request by QPS, and Inspector Neville responded that it is (Attachment 4).
9. Inspector Neville wrote again to Lara Keller and Helen Gregg on 24 September 2022 seeking feedback on the progress of the study, and to seek confirmation that the QPS' request to temporarily pause the

processing of P1 and P2 samples in the relevant range had been enacted. Helen Gregg responded that it would take "months", not "days or weeks" until the results of a properly evaluated study would be known.

10. Inspector Neville wrote again to Lara Keller and Helen Gregg on Monday 26 September 2022 seeking confirmation of a pause in testing (as described above) (Attachment 5).
11. Section 7.2 of ISO 17025 prescribes that the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories requires method validation and verification to be a planned activity, that is supported by data gathered and recorded in a scientific manner. Specifically:
    11.1. Section 7.2.1.5: The laboratory shall verify that it can properly perform methods before introducing them by ensuring that it can achieve the required performance. Records of the verification shall be retained. If the method is revised by the issuing body, verification shall be repeated to the extent necessary.
    11.2. Section 7.2.1.6: When method development is required, this shall be a planned activity and shall be assigned to competent personnel equipped with adequate resources. As method development proceeds, periodic review shall be carried out to confirm that the needs of the customer are still be fulfilled. Any modifications to the development plan shall be approved and authorised.
    11.3. Section 7.2.1.7: Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorised, and accepted by the customer.
12. On this basis and the fact that any significant pause would create a significant backlog of work, it is recommended that the Acting Director-General approve the continued use of current Forensic DNA Analysis processes as described in the memorandum of 19 August 2022, until a rigorous analysis of any alternative processes can be appropriately designed, evaluated and considered, and/or until the conclusion of the DNA Commission of Inquiry. This would effectively decline QPS's request to pause testing of the relevant P1 and P2 samples.

BACKGROUND

13. The 19 August 2022 memorandum provided direction to Forensic DNA Analysis that all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should 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.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

14. Helen Gregg, Quality Manager FSS, provided information relating to NATA accreditation and the required processes for appropriate validation of scientific methods.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. Nil

SENSITIVITIES/RISKS

16. If the recommendation is not approved, and P1 and P2 samples in the relevant range are paused for testing until the completion of the study, and/or until the conclusion of the DNA Commission of Inquiry, it is anticipated that this would a generate a very significant backlog of work for the Forensic DNA Analysis Unit. The QPS has already indicated that they "can't really wait months" for analysis of certain samples.
17. There are differing views within the Forensic DNA Analysis laboratory regarding concentration to 35uL, and some concern that a pause in testing, as requested by QPS, or the introduction of discretionary alternative processes, may be counter-productive to the timely issuing of results.
18. Until the results of the study can be rigorously analysed and considered, FSS cannot be certain that the current processes deliver superior results compared to any other process that has not yet been validated.

ATTACHMENTS

19. Attachment 1: C-ECTF-22/13557 A/Director-General Memorandum: Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range
    Attachment 2: Attachment to memorandum C-ECTF-22/13557 – Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19
    Attachment 3: Email from Inspector David Neville, 8 September 2022
    Attachment 4: Email from Inspector David Neville, 20 September 2022
    Attachment 5: Email from Inspector David Neville, 26 September 2022

Queensland Health
DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

C-ECTF-22/[Insert No]
Forensic and Scientific Services

Author	**Cleared by (Dir/Snr Dir)**	**Content verified by (DDG/CE)**
Name: Helen Gregg Position: Quality Manager Unit: Forensic and Scientific Services Tel No: [redacted] Date Drafted: 26 September 2022	Name: Lara Keller Position: A/Executive Director Branch: Forensic and Scientific Services Tel No: [redacted] Date Cleared: 26 September 2022 **Note clearance contact is also key contact for brief queries**	Name: Insert text Position: Insert text Division: Insert text Tel No: Insert text Date Verified: Insert text

From: Lara Keller
Sent: Tuesday 20 September 2022 06:52:21 PM
To: Nick Steele
Cc: Helen Gregg
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Good evening Nick

(CC Helen Gregg as the lead on the experiment mentioned below)

Further to our conversation this afternoon, I understand the following:

- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, during which Helen will launch the project to scientifically review the processes and outcomes for the period 6 June 2022 – 19 August 2022. This will be initiated in accordance with current change management SOPs for the Forensic DNA Analysis Unit. Please note that scope is yet to be documented and may change
- It is recommended that the A/Director General direction in the memo dated 19 August 2022 is maintained, pending the results and interpretation of the findings of the above-mentioned experiment.

I understand that this may result in formal notification to QPS.

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

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From: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 2:43 PM
To: Neville.DavidH <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thanks David

Larissa Miller
Acting Superintendent
Operations Commander
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Ph: (07) [redacted] | Mob: [redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 09:55
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
This week a third scientist made a request to concentrate to a different volume because they thought that concentrating to 35uL was not appropriate for that sample. We are in a position now that we have multiple experts indicating that the concerns raised initially may be valid.
This is a formal request from QPS made in consultation with A/Supt Larissa Miller. Please note that it is only a request for a temporary pause until Helen can advise as to whether there is any risk in the recent process adopted.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 08:56
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

Thank you for your email.
Could you be very specific about your request please, and confirm whether this represents a formal request from QPS?

We are presently under the direction of the QH A/Director General, as per the memo dated 19 August 2022. Any proposed change to current practice would require consultation and clearance by his office before implementation could even be considered.

I will await your advice.

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
p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 8:47 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Miller.LarissaN[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen and Lara
I appreciate the efforts being undertaken to assess the concerns about the potential risk of evidence being lost if samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL (the range) are concentrated to a blanket volume.

Out an abundance of caution, I would request QHFSS temporarily pause testing P1 or P2 samples within the range until the matter is resolved, please.

This temporary pause of testing of samples in the range is contingent on QPS receiving advice on the outcome of your data analysis.

Could you please confirm by return email that such testing has been paused.

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

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 13:28
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Helen
Thankyou
David

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 11:57
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Re: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi David,

Lara has passed this on to me. I will be able to give you a better indication of timeframe by the end of next week.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager

Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health

p 07 [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4107
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 16 September 2022 7:17 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
I understand that DNA analysis is destructive and that consumption of the sample is unavoidable when the quantity present is low. Its hard to give a blanket decision that any sample can be completely consumed given it will depend on numerous factors, but there is also a risk in trying to preserve sample when the DNA is present in low concentration. As I understand it, if a sample is concentrated to a volume that is too dilute and half of it is processed, the likelihood of getting a result is very low meaning that half of the sample might be wasted with the remaining half now being too low in concentration to be of any use.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that is likely to yield a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. This might include microconcentration to an amount less than 35uL. We understand that there is no guarantee such testing will yield a profile. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result,

consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

If QHFSS seeks the QPS to make a decision on testing a sample that may deplete the extract, that would need to be an informed decision based on a recommendation from the scientist.

I do appreciate that you are looking into the concerns raised around the blanket microoncentration policy, especially given the matter has now been raised separately by another scientist. I look forward to the outcome of the data analysis. Given that if the concerns are correct, the practice could be risking the loss of evidence, would it be possible to establish a timeframe around this please.?

Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 13:34
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Good morning David

I trust that our conversation yesterday answered your questions and clarified the process in place since 19 August 2022 (per the attachments).
We look forward to receiving definitive advice from QPS regarding permission to consume remaining sample.

In the meantime, we will collate and analyse data (as discussed).

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
p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara and Helen
Thanks for taking the time to speak to me today. I understand the complexity involved with modifying procedure and validation requirements and the reasons for reverting to a previous processes. For clarity, could you please confirm that the newly adopted process of concentrating all samples to 35uL is the same process that was in place prior to February 2018.

I guess I am still left with the concerns raised by the lab member and whether they have any basis. The specific concerns were:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In essence I was advised that the QPS is losing evidence by the current process of blanket concertation to 35uL. Could I please be provided advice as to whether these concerns have any basis please.

Could I ask that the suggested change to the process that involves concentrating to a volume based on the quantity of DNA present be explored to examine its merits please.

Kind regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:17
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Thanks David
Perfect. How about I call you at 11 am tomorrow?
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
p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 1:14 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Lara
Thanks for letting me know. If you have time for a phone call tomorrow that might be helpful. I could make time anytime you like.
Regards

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

From: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 13:11
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hello David

Thanks for the email.
I am not available this afternoon, but could make time tomorrow if there is a suitable time for you and/or Duncan?
Alternately, I understand we have our regular FSG-FSS meeting on Thursday?

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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a Administration, Level 1, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD, 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:18 AM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Lara
Recently I was contacted by the office of the Director-General of QH seeking advice on a proposed new workflow. My advice was basically that the QPS did not hold sufficient expertise to comment on the proposal. I was later given a copy of a memo sent to Helen Gregg that directed all samples in the low quant range to be concentrated to 35uL. Last week a scientist from your DNA lab reached out to me raising concerns that the blanket concentration to 35uL was risking the loss of evidence. As a result I forwarded that concern to Matt Rigby who was the contact in the first instance.

I apologise if at appears that I have gone over your head in this instance, that was not my intent, I was just trying to give information to the apparent decision maker in the instance. I am please that this matter has now been referred you.

Do you have any time today to discuss the matter, please. I have a meeting from 10-11, but I am free mostly after that.

Kind Regards

David Neville

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 08:06
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

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Hi Dave,

We have carefully considered the issues raised in your email below.

Our primary objective is to undertake DNA testing in a manner that has been appropriately validated by FSS scientists and approved by QPS.

We understand that questions have been raised following the decision, on 19 August 2022, to revert to pre-2018 testing processes.

It seems there are also questions about the circumstances in which QPS should approve testing if the result will risk exhausting sample volume.

It might be beneficial for us to arrange a meeting between QPS and key personnel from FSS to discuss these matters. If you agree, can you please contact Lara Keller, A/Executive Director FSS (copied in for ease of reference) to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards, Matt

Queensland Government

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

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W heal h.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo
Importance: High

Dear Matt

I refer to your email below and to the attached directive from A/Director-General Dr Rosengren to the A/Executive Director of the QHFSS that prescribes the manner in which samples in the concertation range of 0.001-0.0088ng/uL are to be processed. In particular I refer to the following instruction:

> "For clarity, all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process."

I have been contacted by a scientist at the QHFSS DNA laboratory who expressed concerns in relation to the attached directive.

To summarise the information provided by the scientist, I was advised that:

- The volume a sample should be concentrated to is dependent on the actual quantity of DNA present; and
- Samples with a concentration at the lower end of the 0.001-.0088ng/uL range should be concentrated to a lower volume to ensure the concentration is sufficient to develop a reliable profile; and
- For those samples at the low end of that range, adhering to the directive, results in a concentrate that is too dilute to provide a result for some samples and the process, as described, wastes half of the already diminished sample.

In short, the scientist expressed the view that by complying with the directive they were wasting evidence and potentially losing the opportunity to obtain a profile from some samples.

The scientist further stated that the scientists should make a decision on the concentration volume based on the Quant Trio data, and that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. I was informed that other scientists hold the same view and that attempts had been made to raise these concerns with the QHFSS senior leadership team without success.

As outlined in my email response to you of 19 August 2022, the QPS desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be through services delivered by QHFSS, or by another provider. I mentioned my concern about the micro concentration process exhausting all samples in the context of a warning given by the Managing Scientist in 2018 when the QPS raised concern about the removal of the process. Recent information from the Managing Scientist to the effect that, after amplification, a volume of concentrate that was sufficient for further testing would remain, makes it clear that this original advice was quite incorrect.

If QHFSS is able to reliably undertake a test that has a high likelihood of yielding a useful profile, the testing should be undertaken even if it might exhaust the extract. However, if in the scientist's view the technology used at QHFSS is unlikely to yield a forensically meaningful result, consideration needs to be given to allowing the QPS the opportunity to engage the services of another laboratory that has the requisite technology. The scientist's decision should also take into account the existence and nature of any other DNA evidence already available for the particular case.

The QPS requests that attached directive be urgently reviewed in light of and having regard to the concerns raised by the scientist. Could I also be provided return advice on the result of such review, please.

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 16:29
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: RE: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for providing your feedback below through to us.

For your information, the Acting DG has approved the attached and this has been provided through to FSS this afternoon.

Thanks Matt

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

Queensland Government

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W heal h.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2022 9:22 AM
To: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: FW: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Matt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the laboratory workflow involving automatic micro-concentration of samples in the concentration range of .001-.0088ng/uL.

The QPS agreed to the removal of this process in February 2018 following a recommendation that was initiated by the DNA laboratory and presented in an Options Paper. The QPS now has some concern about the information it was provided to make this decision including the manner in which the supporting data was derived.

In November 2018 the QPS first raised concern with the Managing Scientist that the removal of the automatic micro-concentration process may have resulted in evidence being missed. At that time the QPS was given an assurance that the success of micro-concentration was very low and that 'automatic progression of samples through the Microcon process means that all available DNA extract will be consumed, so no further testing can be conducted on these samples after this step'. Based on this advice, the QPS continued with the arrangement.

Due to limitations of the QHFSS DNA laboratory, from time to time the QPS seeks the services of other providers to undertake alternative testing, particularly for low concentration and degraded samples. If the advice from the Managing Scientist is correct, the automatic concentration of all samples in the range of .001-.0088ng/uL could result in the opportunity being lost to use another service provider to obtain important probative evidence. This is a consequence that the QPS is unable to accept as a matter of routine.

The risk is that the proposed directive may result in a sample being exhausted making alternative testing impossible. The QPS does not have the expertise to assess the likelihood of the risk given such an assessment can only be made based on information that is exclusively within the domain of QHFSS. As a result, the QPS considers the decision to reimplement automatic micro-concentration an internal matter that QH must decide in the context that the customer (the QPS) desires to maximise the potential to obtain a profile from every sample, whether that be by services delivered by QHFSS or by another provider that can deliver a service QHFSS is not resourced to deliver.

Regards

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

From: Matthew Rigby <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:10 pm
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: David Rosengren <[redacted]
Subject: FSS SOP draft memo

Hi Dave,

Thanks for your time today and as discussed with the Acting DG and myself this afternoon, please find attached a draft memo that has been prepared and the associated SOP extract to provide some further clarity to our staff at FSS.

Appreciate any feedback/input that you have from a QPS perspective.

Thanks Matt

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

Queensland Government

M [redacted]
E [redacted]
W heal h.qld.gov.au
A Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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30.9.2022

Department of Health

Queensland Government

MEMORANDUM

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

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

From: Shaun Drummond, Acting Director-General

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

Subject: Temporary pause to DNA testing of certain samples

Reference: C-ECTF-22/15825

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

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

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

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

[redacted]

Shaun Drummond
Acting Director-General
30/09/2022

Date 29.9.2022

Topic

Meeting Objectives GPS Pause.

Attendees All FDNA F2F

Notes

- GPS have asked for us to pause P1 & P2 in the DIFP range until we arkable to validate
- my reading of SCPS

Pre 2018	Post 2018
A to to 35	Discretion for new DIFP
No discretion	(see over.)
Discretion for rework	

* - Ask NATA → Desktop variation
** - Maybe send "result" line (Claire Gallagher)
• - Asked everyone to check my understanding of SCP.
- Find validation data

Action Items

- left message with Kirsty Dutsey - no response

Adam Connolly

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
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: Matt Ford; Lara Keller
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Importance: High

Good morning,

Yesterday, FSS and QPS met to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples, to determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed. FSS representatives at the meeting were Lara Keller, Matt Ford, myself and Kirsten Scott.

The following interim solution was proposed in conjunction with the QPS, and we are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution prior to going back to the QPS for their input. Please note: **This is not a change yet – at this stage it is merely a proposal - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

<u>Interim proposal</u>

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (I suggest there be a dedicated roster for this)
3. Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full
    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via email documenting reasons for request to microcon to full, get permission via email from QPS FSG to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Record in FR and proceed to full microcon

I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements
The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127
- Implement 'restart testing' workflow using 'request task' to FLU group. This will replace emailing to QPS FSG (point 3b above)

Long term:
(pending any COI Directions)

- validation performed and finalised resulting in data supporting/not supporting microcon to full for initial analysis
- SOPs updated and NATA accreditation continued

Could you please provide any comments, suggestions or concerns to Matt and myself **by COB Monday 10 October**, or feel to contact us.

Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry

Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health

p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Emma Caunt
Sent: Thursday 6 October 2022 10:28:55 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

I think it's a great idea 😊

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
Allan McNevin <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <
Amy Cheng <[redacted] Amy Morgan <[redacted] Angela
Adamson <[redacted] Angelina Keller
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<[redacted] Biljana Micic <[redacted] Cassandra
James <[redacted] Cathie Allen <[redacted] Cecilia
Flanagan <[redacted] Chantal Angus <
Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Cindy Chang <[redacted]
Claire Gallagher <[redacted] Dasuni Harmer
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Emma Caunt <[redacted] FSS.FDNA.Admin
<[redacted] Generosa Lundie <[redacted]
Helen Williams <[redacted] Ingrid Moeller
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<[redacted] Suzanne Sanderson
<[redacted] Tara Prowse <[redacted] Tegan

Dwyer < [redacted] Thomas Nurthen < [redacted]
Valerie Caldwell < [redacted] Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <Vicki.Pendlebury- [redacted] Wendy Harmer < [redacted] Yvonne Connolly < [redacted]
Cc: Matt Ford < [redacted] Lara Keller < [redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

Good morning,

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The following interim solution was proposed in conjunction with the QPS, and we are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution prior to going back to the QPS for their input. Please note: **This is not a change yet – at this stage it is merely a proposal - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

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7.2.1.7 Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements

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Long term:

(pending any COI Directions)

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Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
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: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 09:07:49 PM
To: Luke Ryan;Matt Ford
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Luke,

Matt and I met with the Senior Scientists in FRIT today, and it was decided that at the moment it was best to not have documented guidelines, and to leave it to the scientists discretion.

It was proposed that the scientist who makes the decision on the microcon volume also be the scientist that does the PDA. I will include this in the updated proposal to staff that I aim to put together tomorrow (I want to go to sleep now.....)

As always - happy to discuss this with you
Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4107
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au

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From: Luke Ryan <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 1:40 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Helen and Matt
I have only one suggestion:

Regarding " Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full" – I think there needs to be documented criteria and/or considerations used for this process. I acknowledge that all circumstances could never be covered, however to ensure a broadly consistent approach across all scientists, some guidelines are required. This will also assist when training new staff who do not currently hold expertise.
Thanks
Luke

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Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
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Cc: Matt Ford < [redacted] Lara Keller < [redacted]
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Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Sunday 9 October 2022 07:08:16 PM
To: Luke Ryan;Matt Ford
Cc: Kylie Rika;Sharon Johnstone;Allison Lloyd
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Thanks Luke - Allan also had the same feedback.

I will ask the Senior Scientists to develop this as a matter of priority

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p 07 [redacted] m [redacted]
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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au

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p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 08:17:12 PM
To: Josie Entwistle;Matt Ford
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Josie,

Thanks for the feedback - much appreciated!
Please see below for my comments - you have asked a lot of questions in the last paragraph, so it is easier this way. Please let me know if I have misunderstood your feedback!

Regards
Helen

From: Josie Entwistle <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 8:44 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Helen and Matt,

I have some feedback and clarification points regarding the interim proposal.

With respect to the DIFP worklists, I would recommend that:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action.
- for all DIFP sample decisions, the entire case is allocated to that scientist

I can see that this may be useful, but I am concerned that this could slow down processing of the sample. I think we need to put this idea to the team to see whether they are in agreement. I will do that next!
Regarding the improvements, I have missed some content provided in non-MSteams discussions and it may be that explanations have already been provided. Is it the intention that the tick-box would replace the QPS FSG permission seeking? Yes - it was a suggestion from QPS that there be a tickbox that defaults to allowing us to exhaust the sample - without having to get QPS approval. Is the 'restart testing' workflow intended to apply to samples with DIFP results already reported, or samples with DIFP quant values currently on hold, or both? I am not sure about the 'restart testing' workflow. I believe it is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. Kerry-Anne has suggested this as well, and I think it should be considered. Another consideration that has been raised previously by other staff is the possibility of us reserving a portion of sample prior to any exhaustion processing (eg microcon to full). Is this something that has been broached with the QPS, or may be assessed in the validation study? Reserving a portion of sample has not been broached with QPS to my knowledge. I was focussed on sticking to the pre-2018 process but also allowing discretion in the microcon volume - so this wasn't on my radar. Given that one of the main concerns raised at the

Commission was about not using all the available sample to have the best possible chance of getting a result, I am hesitant to suggest witholding 15ul prior to exhaustion. I think we should consider and investigate this in the future.

Kind regards

Josie

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 07:22:34 PM
To: Kerry-Anne Lancaster
Cc: Matt Ford
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Thanks Kerry-Anne. I appreciate the feedback.

You are correct - we should be sending a task request in FR instead of an email. I think some of the info you have listed may not be required to be provided to QPS (e.g. undergone concentration Yes/no, etc), but the gist of the information is there.

I am also in agreement to add the exhibit/sample barcode to the request/task as that seems to have benefits.

I believe we could use the 'restart request' workflow you have outlined for this as well.

I will work on a 'final draft' process for people to comment on, so we can continue to move forward. So far the feedback has been positive - with details to be worked out such as the 'restart request' etc. I believe we can put the proposal to QPS to consider while we sort out the details

Regards
Helen

From: Kerry-Anne Lancaster <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 2:47 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Helen

Here's a few comments for you…. I think that's all I have to add……

Thanks
Kerry-Anne

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To:
Cc: Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

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As of the 1st September, we have been sending a FR Task/Request to request a microcon to full – not sure if you want to keep it this way… (I sent an email to DNA results management yesterday asking if a DIFP sample was to be processed further and Carolyn Hoffman replied and asked if I could send the information through the request/task process).

Allocate to 'Action Unit' - FLU.
(I have been assigning the request/task type as "Review" – but not sure if that is the best type to have)

In the comments please add as follows:

Brief outline explaining the request, including any request from DPP etc.

Additional information to assist: (example responses given below)
- Quant value: …… ng/uL
- Undergone concentration (Microcon): Yes/No
- Current Volume Remaining: ~…..uL
- Further Processing Requested eg. Additional amplification of 15uL

- Will further processing exhaust the sample: Yes (~5uL of extract will remain)
- Description of DNA profile obtained to date: Low level mixed DNA profile, difficult to interpret
- Scientific Opinion on the likelihood that further internal testing may provide additional probative information: Further work may assist in the confirmation of information currently obtained. Further work may alternatively confirm that the profile is too complex to interpret.
- Recommendation as to whether the sample may be better tested by an external service provider: If this item is critical to the outcomes of the case then a discussion is requested to explore all possible options.

(I also suggest adding the exhibit/sample barcode to the request/task, so it can be hyperlinked to for easier access to be looked at).

I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP. *(I agree – hopefully this will allow us to progress with NATA say so)*

7.2.1.7 Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements
The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127
- Implement 'restart testing' workflow using 'request task' to FLU group. This will replace emailing to QPS FSG (point 3b above) *(see comment against 3b above)*

Also, bdna have created a new request type in the request/tasks when actioned by QPS – this is "restart request" (is only accessible to some QPS units to use and automatically puts "PSD" into the Action Unit field) and they are going to use this for any samples they want to have restarted – either through the taskforce that is looking at which DIFP samples are to be reworked, as well as any routine rework requests. The functionality works, and I've put a draft workflow together for Allison, Kylie and Sharon to have a look at to see how we are to handle them, I've just checked the list they go to and it looks like we now have a couple on the list.
I'm wondering if eventually (and this is just a thought and will need input from others…….), we could use the same request/task type when asking to exhaust the sample?

Long term:
(pending any COI Directions)

- validation performed and finalised resulting in data supporting/not supporting microcon to full for initial analysis
- SOPs updated and NATA accreditation continued

Could you please provide any comments, suggestions or concerns to Matt and myself **by COB Monday 10 October**, or feel to contact us.

Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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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: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 07:15:12 PM
To: Deborah Nicoletti;Matt Ford
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Deborah,

Thanks for your feedback. Please see below (easier for me to answer your questions). If I have misunderstood the point you were making please let me know!

Regards
Helen

From: Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 10 October 2022 11:01 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi,

In considering the proposed Interim process I have had some thoughts.

If these samples are on a list and we assess one at a time, it will often be necessary to look at what else is in the case before making a decision of how to proceed with the sample. That might mean case managing other samples in the case first if they havn't already been done, which is a good practice, it just means that the list may not be cleared each day depending on what else is in each case. There isn't really a difference then in assessing/PDAing these samples from a list than any other sample on the PDA list, and I wonder whether they could go on the current PDA lists like all other samples. I'm wondering why they would be treated with a higher priority by giving them a daily roster compared to other P2 samples on the PDA lists? I was thinking about making sure there wasn't a delay in processing the sample, so that analytical can keep it progressing through to reporting. I am conscious that it would automatically go to microcon, and review by a reporting scientist is a pause in the current process. I did not want to extend the pause more than one working day.

Regarding Long term proposal:

Will the current DNA extraction method be validated to elute to a lower volume as suggested by external experts in the COI so that microconing is not required as a routine method? Given this has been raised in the commission by the experts (Linzi I think) as well as the experts who came to visit the lab, I believe it will need to be something that will have to be done. I don;t know when that will happen - but

I would say at least after we have received the report from the Commission (in case there are other validations we could incorporate at the same time)

Regards,

Deborah.

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
Allan McNevin <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted]
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Dwyer <[redacted] Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]

Valerie Caldwell <[redacted] Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <Vicki.Pendlebury-[redacted] Wendy Harmer <[redacted] Yvonne Connolly <[redacted]
Cc: Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

Good morning,

Yesterday, FSS and QPS met to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples, to determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed. FSS representatives at the meeting were Lara Keller, Matt Ford, myself and Kirsten Scott.

The following interim solution was proposed in conjunction with the QPS, and we are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution prior to going back to the QPS for their input. Please note: **This is not a change yet – at this stage it is merely a proposal - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (I suggest there be a dedicated roster for this)
3. Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full
    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via email documenting reasons for request to microcon to full, get permission via email from QPS FSG to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Record in FR and proceed to full microcon

I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127
- Implement 'restart testing' workflow using 'request task' to FLU group. This will replace emailing to QPS FSG (point 3b above)

Long term:

(pending any COI Directions)

- **validation performed and finalised resulting in data supporting/not supporting microcon to full for initial analysis**
- **SOPs updated and NATA accreditation continued**

Could you please provide any comments, suggestions or concerns to Matt and myself **by COB Monday 10 October**, or feel to contact us.

Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Sunday 9 October 2022 07:06:35 PM
To: Allan McNevin;Peter Culshaw;Sharon Johnstone;Kylie Rika
Cc: Matt Ford;Lara Keller
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Allan,

I am all in favour of having guidelines to try to standardise this. I will ask the Senior Scientists to come up with this.

I believe NDNAD are still being reported as NDNAD.

Regards
Helen

From: Allan McNevin <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 10:04 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Peter Culshaw <[redacted]
Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted]
Cc: Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Good morning,

Regarding the interim proposal below:

3. Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full
    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via email documenting reasons for request to microcon to full, get permission via email from QPS FSG to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Record in FR and proceed to full microcon

There may be a variation in different staff members having different ideas on how this should be done, given the current environment within the reporting teams, I believe some simple guidelines from the management team would be of great assistance. They could include some simple ideas – e.g. is the sample more likely to yield a single or low number of contributors based on the sample type (e.g. blood swabs, sperm fracs)? If it is something like an SFRAC or EFRAC would Y-STR testing likely be of assistance in the future (therefore M'con to 35 more likely to be a better approach)? Etc.

I also have a question – are No DNA detected samples still going to go out as no DNA detected?

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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a 39 Kessels Rd Coopers Plains, Qld, 4108
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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
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Cc: Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

Good morning,

Yesterday, FSS and QPS met to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples, to determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed. FSS representatives at the meeting were Lara Keller, Matt Ford, myself and Kirsten Scott.

The following interim solution was proposed in conjunction with the QPS, and we are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution prior to going back to the QPS for their input. Please note: **This is not a change yet – at this stage it is merely a proposal - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
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I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

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Long term:
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Could you please provide any comments, suggestions or concerns to Matt and myself **by COB Monday 10 October**, or feel to contact us.

Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 09:08:19 PM
To: Allan McNevin;Peter Culshaw;Sharon Johnstone;Kylie Rika
Cc: Matt Ford;Lara Keller
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Allan,

Matt and I met with the Senior Scientists in FRIT today, and it was decided that at the moment it was best to not have documented guidelines, and to leave it to the scientists discretion.

It was proposed that the scientist who makes the decision on the microcon volume also be the scientist that does the PDA. I will include this in the updated proposal to staff that I aim to put together tomorrow (I want to go to sleep now.....)

As always - happy to discuss this with you
Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au

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From: Allan McNevin <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 10:04 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Peter Culshaw <[redacted]
Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted]
Cc: Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Good morning,

Regarding the interim proposal below:

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Al

Allan McNevin
Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic and Scientific Services
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e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
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Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

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Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 10 October 2022 09:31:35 AM
To: Claire Gallagher
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

No. I have not heard from NATA

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 10 October 2022 9:31 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Thanks Helen.

Has our original validation been given the tick by NATA yet?

Thanks,
Claire

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 9 October 2022 7:01 PM
To: Claire Gallagher <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Kylie Rika <[redacted]
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

HI Claire,

I am only proposing it as an interim solution to the current pause. Wes till need to work on validating and documenting the microcon to full.

There is no need to use this for reworks as this was already in our documented SOPs

Regards
Helen

From: Claire Gallagher <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:55 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara
Keller <[redacted]

Cc: Kylie Rika <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback

Hi Helen

Does this process cover all DIFP results (pre 2018, post 2018 and current) that we have had? I have assumed that this is new samples only. So based on that, if it is ok with NATA for us to deviate from the SOP when it is authorised by our stakeholder, then can we use this reasoning to deviate from the SOP with regards to using scientist discretion for all samples within the DIFP range regardless on when they were received or whether results have been sent over?

Thanks,
Claire

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:06 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
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Valerie Caldwell < [redacted] Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <Vicki.Pendlebury-[redacted] Wendy Harmer < [redacted] Yvonne Connolly
< [redacted]
Cc: Matt Ford < [redacted] Lara Keller < [redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal for your feedback
Importance: High

Good morning,

Yesterday, FSS and QPS met to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples, to determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed. FSS representatives at the meeting were Lara Keller, Matt Ford, myself and Kirsten Scott.

The following interim solution was proposed in conjunction with the QPS, and we are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution prior to going back to the QPS for their input. Please note: **This is not a change yet – at this stage it is merely a proposal - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (I suggest there be a dedicated roster for this)
3. Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full

    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via email documenting reasons for request to microcon to full, get permission via email from QPS FSG to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Record in FR and proceed to full microcon

I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127
- Implement 'restart testing' workflow using 'request task' to FLU group. This will replace emailing to QPS FSG (point 3b above)

Long term:

(pending any COI Directions)

- validation performed and finalised resulting in data supporting/not supporting microcon to full for initial analysis
- SOPs updated and NATA accreditation continued

Could you please provide any comments, suggestions or concerns to Matt and myself **by COB Monday 10 October**, or feel to contact us.

Once we have received your feedback Matt and I will have a teams meeting to review the responses before going back to the QPS, noting they are keen to end the " Pause " also as soon as we both can agree on a way forward.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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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.

Adam Connolly

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 11 October 2022 01:14 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: Lara Keller; Matt Ford
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Importance: High

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for your feedback on the interim proposal for QPS to consider to lift the pause on concentrating samples in the 'DIFP' range. Overall, there was support for the proposal, so I have sent this to QPS for their consideration. There were a few suggestions/tweaks to the proposal that I wanted to circulate for your input. These tweaks don't have an impact on the proposal that QPS has been sent (it is tweaks for what we do).

Could you please provide any feedback you have on the proposal by **COB Monday 17th October**. New info in green and red text. Please note: **This is not a change yet - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
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    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full

        a. Brief outline explaining the request. Additional information to QPS to assist
        - Quant value: …… ng/uL
        - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
        - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

4. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
5. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There has been a suggestion for point 3 above:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action.
- for all DIFP sample decisions, the entire case is allocated to that scientist

I am particular interested in feedback on this – is this feasible? Will it slow down decision making for the list? I am concerned that this could slow down processing of the sample – please advise your thoughts!

There was also a couple of questions about how this proposal works with the 'restart testing' workflow: I understand that that workflow is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. **Could you please provide feedback on whether this is a possibility?**

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry

Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 05:31:54 PM
To: Josie Entwistle
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Thanks Josie,

Apologies for my late email.

I believe I have incorporated checking samples for case allocation in the process discussed and approved today. In the case of allocating a whole case to one scientist if it has a DIFP, this was not adopted - I received feedback from a few others that it was not favoured.

I take your point that we could be reworking samples when the scientist is reviewing the whole case. Long term - I would like to get to a point where we have more consistency in interpretation amongst scientists. Some people have mentioned getting an 'outside expert' in to assist us with interpreting profiles and getting consistency, and I think this is an idea worth pursuing. Better consistency should resolve the issues you raise, instead of having to allocate entire cases.

Regards
Helen

From: Josie Entwistle <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 3:38 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,

I wanted to provide some clarity regarding my previous feedback in relation to the concerns you have stressed in your response and email below around timeliness. Part of the reason why I suggested maintaining scientist allocation of a case was to avoid instances of double (or more handling), which impacts on the time and effort spent in reporting a sample and case.
An allocated scientist will assess all of the samples in the case, prior to reporting a statement. If another scientist interprets a sample (and this may be reviewed also), this is time and effort spent, however the allocated scientist will still assess this sample and the case reviewer will as well, which is additional time and effort spent. In some instances, the allocated scientist may not agree with the work performed by the other scientist, and this may result in 'incorrects' or reallocation of the entire case and a reassessment of all existing samples.
The current PDA worklist has a column for 'PDS analyst' (sample scientist) and 'reporter' (case scientist). I am unsure of the possible format of the new worklist, but if these fields could be carried over, and people were asked to observe allocations, this may help mitigate the scenarios I've described above. An exception to this is where a statement has already been issued. In this scenario, the allocation to a scientist drops off. This is why I made the suggestion

of checking for allocation, to avoid the scenarios described above, and possible re-issuing of statements that may occur where cases have been reported.
I'm happy to discuss further if you'd like.

Kind regards

Josie

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 1:13 PM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
Allan McNevin <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted]
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Caldwell < [redacted] Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <Vicki.Pendlebury-
[redacted] Wendy Harmer < [redacted] Yvonne Connolly
< [redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller < [redacted] Matt Ford < [redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for your feedback on the interim proposal for QPS to consider to lift the pause on concentrating samples in the 'DIFP' range. Overall, there was support for the proposal, so I have sent this to QPS for their consideration.
There were a few suggestions/tweaks to the proposal that I wanted to circulate for your input. These tweaks don't have an impact on the proposal that QPS has been sent (it is tweaks for what we do).

Could you please provide any feedback you have on the proposal by **COB Monday 17th October**. New info in green and red text. Please note: **This is not a change yet - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

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4. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
5. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There has been a suggestion for point 3 above:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action.
- for all DIFP sample decisions, the entire case is allocated to that scientist

I am particular interested in feedback on this – is this feasible? Will it slow down decision making for the list? I am concerned that this could slow down processing of the sample – please advise your thoughts!

There was also a couple of questions about how this proposal works with the 'restart testing' workflow: I understand that that workflow is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. **Could you please provide feedback on whether this is a possibility?**

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 09:39:06 AM
To: Sharon Johnstone
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Great thanks

From: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 9:04 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: FW: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,
From what I can see either the points trying to be made have been taken into consideration or they have been considered and not incorporated (allocating a whole case to one scientist if it has a DIFP). The list appears to have a column for reporting scientist so a previously allocated case should be obvious.

Regards,
Sharon

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Sharon Johnstone
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 3:02 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

I'm sorry Helen. Is there some original feedback not included in this chain?

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 2:56 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: FW: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Sharon,

I must admit I am a bit lost with this. Can you please explain in terms I may understand?

H

From: Josie Entwistle <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 3:38 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,

I wanted to provide some clarity regarding my previous feedback in relation to the concerns you have stressed in your response and email below around timeliness. Part of the reason why I suggested maintaining scientist allocation of a case was to avoid instances of double (or more handling), which impacts on the time and effort spent in reporting a sample and case.
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Cc: Lara Keller < [redacted] Matt Ford < [redacted]
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There was also a couple of questions about how this proposal works with the 'restart testing' workflow: I understand that that workflow is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. **Could you please provide feedback on whether this is a possibility?**

Interim proposal - improvements

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Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 04:49:41 PM
To: Emma Caunt
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Emma,

Thanks for the feedback.

From: Emma Caunt <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 1:24 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen

These are my thoughts:

There has been a suggestion for point 3 above:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action. Yes definitely, but it would be good to say that this is on the proviso that if a person has allocated themselves a case, or has case managed all other samples they allocate the case to themselves in FR using the CM request. This makes it easier to see if a case is allocated rather than looking through all of the samples individually. Happy to explain this more if it doesn't make sense 😊 That makes sense. I believe this info will be in the review list
- for all DIFP sample decisions, the entire case is allocated to that scientist This is a concern for me. If I am working on the DIFP list for a day, and the list has 30 samples on it, I could end up allocating 30 cases to myself. This is not a caseload anyone would want to carry. I don't think this option is feasible. It has been decided to keep it at sample allocation level

There was also a couple of questions about how this proposal works with the 'restart testing' workflow: I understand that that workflow is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. I don't think I understand this. If a line has gone back to QPS to say that the sample is on hold then yes we need to do this, but if a line hasn't gone back to QPS I don't see why this is necessary. But I could have missed the point 😉 I was getting confused – please ignore

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Emma

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 1:14 PM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
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[redacted] Wendy Harmer <[redacted] Yvonne Connolly
<[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal - update
Importance: High

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for your feedback on the interim proposal for QPS to consider to lift the pause on concentrating samples in the 'DIFP' range. Overall, there was support for the proposal, so I have sent this to QPS for their consideration.
There were a few suggestions/tweaks to the proposal that I wanted to circulate for your input. These tweaks don't have an impact on the proposal that QPS has been sent (it is tweaks for what we do).

Could you please provide any feedback you have on the proposal by **COB Monday 17th October**. New info in green and red text. Please note: **This is not a change yet - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

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2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (as per roste)
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4. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
5. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There has been a suggestion for point 3 above:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action.
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I am particular interested in feedback on this – is this feasible? Will it slow down decision making for the list? I am concerned that this could slow down processing of the sample – please advise your thoughts!

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- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 04:51:38 PM
To: Allan McNevin
Cc: Sharon Johnstone
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

HI Allan,

Thanks for the feedback. There is a more refined process that is in draft that I believe will address the items you raise - see below

---

From: Allan McNevin <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 2:07 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Thanks Helen,

Sorry if all of the below has already been considered. But some further thoughts to consider.

We will likely need to then, in our Task to QPS have an explicit list of options from which QPS choose to advise of how to proceed:
Proceed to Microcon to Full
Proceed to Micron to 35 and amp once
Halt processing until further advised Will be address in new version

We will also need to be explicit in our instructions to staff on what to do results-wise whilst awaiting response, and also what to do if we are sked to halt processing. New process – there should not be a pause while waiting for a response

e.g. when sending a Request / Task add result line SOHAA – Sample on-hold awaiting advice, and add to On-Hold, Awaiting advice worklist and get the result line validated (unless it is auto-validated, I forget sorry);
once a response is received, add result line TRQ – testing restarted on QPS request (again not sure if needs validating or is auto); or if told to hold add NWQPS – No further work on QPS advice

This will ensure it clear to QPS what samples are in process, what ones are not being acted on etc. And ensure samples don't unnecessarily clog up PDA worklists, 28-day audit worklists etc. so it will be more clearly visible to us what is outstanding and what is not

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: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 1:59 PM
To: Allan McNevin <[redacted]
Cc: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Thanks Allan – I have put that proposal to QPS

HI David, Duncan and Stephan,

As discussed, we have a slight change to the workflow to suggest. My previous email stated:

> e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There is the possibility in this scenario where we have requested microcon to full, that QPS FLU will approve microcon to 35 and one amp. So the point should read:
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to half/35 microcon if permission given by QPS or stop and store sample

I would appreciate your thoughts on this

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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From: Allan McNevin <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 7:47 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hiya,

Regarding the following part of the workflow:

"b. If microconned to full – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full
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Why do we have to stop for step 5? In the instance where the scientist wants to microcon to full, and QPS don't want to exhaust the sample, shouldn't there be an option where QPS can request we still microcon to 35 and only amp once?

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

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Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
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Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
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e [redacted] **w** **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Josie Entwistle
Sent: Tuesday 11 October 2022 03:38:19 PM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: Re: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,

I wanted to provide some clarity regarding my previous feedback in relation to the concerns you have stressed in your response and email below around timeliness. Part of the reason why I suggested maintaining scientist allocation of a case was to avoid instances of double (or more handling), which impacts on the time and effort spent in reporting a sample and case.
An allocated scientist will assess all of the samples in the case, prior to reporting a statement. If another scientist interprets a sample (and this may be reviewed also), this is time and effort spent, however the allocated scientist will still assess this sample and the case reviewer will as well, which is additional time and effort spent. In some instances, the allocated scientist may not agree with the work performed by the other scientist, and this may result in 'incorrects' or reallocation of the entire case and a reassessment of all existing samples.
The current PDA worklist has a column for 'PDS analyst' (sample scientist) and 'reporter' (case scientist). I am unsure of the possible format of the new worklist, but if these fields could be carried over, and people were asked to observe allocations, this may help mitigate the scenarios I've described above. An exception to this is where a statement has already been issued. In this scenario, the allocation to a scientist drops off. This is why I made the suggestion of checking for allocation, to avoid the scenarios described above, and possible re-issuing of statements that may occur where cases have been reported.
I'm happy to discuss further if you'd like.

Kind regards

Josie

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 1:13 PM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
Allan McNevin <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted]
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Cc: Lara Keller < [redacted] Matt Ford < [redacted]
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Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w **www.health.qld.gov.au/fss**

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 04:47:10 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Sharon,

I think the revised process covers some of the item you raise.

From: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 3:04 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,
There are some detail in this process that I think could be fleshed out a little further some of which will need QPS to do to assist.

In point 3 The reason behind the decision to mic to either 35uL or Full must be documented on the PDA page at the time of allocating the sample and ordering the further processing or raising the task to QPS. In new process

I agree that it is important to make sure that all samples are checked to make sure that if there is a person allocated to a case that the DIFP is sent to that person to evaluate. In new process

I am hesitant to allocate whole cases to a scientist. My hesitation predominantly is based on the delays that can happen when whole cases are allocated to one person. The whole idea behind using lists is that the oldest samples are addressed first. When you treat samples as part of a case, samples are not necessarily addressed in order of receipt. I also believe that the processing of the DIFP list will take longer if for every case there is a DIFP that they allocate the case to themselves. If the reason behind the decision is documented on the PDA page I don't see there necessarily being a benefit in allocating the whole case. No problem – sample allocation only

Instead of using the DIFP process: The response from QPS to either give / not give permission is sort by raising a task to FLU. The return of the response can be sent directly back to the forensic officer that raises the task. This should be easily identifiable by QPS and then the response will be actioned by the person who raised it and not need to be on a list to be monitored by someone else. These tasks instead will appear on an individual's personal worklist. No longer applicable with new process (I think)

There needs to be some instruction as to how to go about having a sample stored if permission is not granted. I am not in the best position to advise what would work the best as I assume that either lab assistants or AS staff will do that. Agree – but from the communication I have had from David Neville, it is highly unlikely that permission will not be granted

Happy to discuss anything further

Cheers,
Sharon

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
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Cc: Lara Keller < [redacted] Matt Ford < [redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal - update
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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 04:44:30 PM
To: Adrian Pippia
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Thanks Adrian,

There is a new version of this process that I believe will address the points you raised. I have given specific feedback in red

Cheers
Helen

From: Adrian Pippia <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 3:06 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: QPS pause - interim proposal - update

Hi Helen,

I have considered all this info and ideally I think the 3500xL CE instrument needs to be optimised, as per the recommendations in Project # 186, prior to further processing.

Furthermore, I feel there needs to be a study completed to assess the merits of both the microcon to full and microcon to 35uL process and the benefit of having remaining sample for alternative processing (especially where there may be a low level male proportion). I feel opinions on what is the best microcon strategy is based on anecdotal evidence, the majority of which is based on 3130xL processing experience which is no longer applicable due to the increased sensitivity of the 3500xL CE instrument, meaning the correlation of quant value to expected profile may differ greatly. Agree – I have asked Kylie, Ingrid and Emma to document this and then will circulate to staff for their feedback. Please ensure this is covered when you get the document.

At this stage without the above study or similar, I am not confident in being able to decide which avenue of microconning is best and would advocate for Microcon to 35uL as it allows the option for a second amp to help with assessing profiles with low level information (difficult to interpret stochastic level profiles as there can be high variability in the information observed between runs), and allows sample to be used for technologies not available at this lab . Happy for you to microcon to 35. The new process is that the sample will be allocated to you, so you can take it from there.

This aside, I agree with the extended Pt 3 information. I would encourage the allocation of samples but would also push to to go one step further and allocate the entire case. In my opinion, the allocation of all major crime cases is beneficial as it would increase efficiency, allow for ease of decision making, including the potential to triage samples in consultation with QPS and promote accountability. I took feedback from others, and it was decided to leave with sample allocation for the time being

In summary, I reckon have a crack and assess after a couple of weeks. Workflows usually need some fine tuning but we have to start somewhere and unfortunately I can't always see the finer detail until I'm actually on task.

Apologies for the rambling. All good! I don't think you were rambling – all the points you bring up seem valid to me.

Regards,
Adrian

Adrian Pippia
Reporting Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 1:14 PM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted] Adam Kaity <[redacted]
Adrian Pippia <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin
<[redacted] Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]
Allan McNevin <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted]
Amy Cheng <[redacted] Amy Morgan <[redacted] Angela
Adamson <[redacted] Angelina Keller
<[redacted] Anne Finch <[redacted] Belinda Andersen
<[redacted] Biljana Micic <[redacted] Cassandra
James <[redacted] Cathie Allen <[redacted] Cecilia
Flanagan <[redacted] Chantal Angus <[redacted]
Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Cindy Chang <[redacted]
Claire Gallagher <[redacted] Dasuni Harmer
<[redacted] Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]
Emma Caunt <[redacted] FSS.FDNA.Admin
<[redacted] Generosa Lundie <[redacted]
Helen Williams <[redacted] Ingrid Moeller
<[redacted] Jacqui Wilson <[redacted] Janine
Seymour-Murray <[redacted] Josie Entwistle
<[redacted] Julie Brooks <[redacted] Justin Howes
<[redacted] Kerry-Anne Lancaster <[redacted]
Kevin Avdic <[redacted] Kim Estreich <[redacted] Kirsten
Scott <[redacted] Kristina Morton <[redacted] Kylie
Rika <[redacted] Lai-Wan Le <[redacted] Lisa Farrelly

< [redacted] Luke Ryan < [redacted] Madison GULLIVER
< [redacted] Maria Aguilera < [redacted]
Matthew Hunt < [redacted] Melissa Cipollone
< [redacted] Michael Goodrich < [redacted]
Michael Hart < [redacted] Michelle Margetts
< [redacted] Naomi French < [redacted] Nicole
Roselt < [redacted] Paula Brisotto < [redacted]
Penelope Taylor < [redacted] Phillip McIndoe
< [redacted] Pierre Acedo < [redacted] Rhys Parry
< [redacted] Ryu Eba < [redacted] Sandra McKean
< [redacted] Sharelle Nydam < [redacted] Sharon
Johnstone < [redacted] Stephanie Waiariki
< [redacted] Suzanne Sanderson
< [redacted] Tara Prowse < [redacted] Tegan
Dwyer < [redacted] Thomas Nurthen < [redacted]
Valerie Caldwell < [redacted] Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <Vicki.Pendlebury-
[redacted] Wendy Harmer < [redacted] Yvonne Connolly
< [redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller < [redacted] Matt Ford < [redacted]
Subject: QPS pause - interim proposal - update
Importance: High

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for your feedback on the interim proposal for QPS to consider to lift the pause on concentrating samples in the 'DIFP' range. Overall, there was support for the proposal, so I have sent this to QPS for their consideration.
There were a few suggestions/tweaks to the proposal that I wanted to circulate for your input. These tweaks don't have an impact on the proposal that QPS has been sent (it is tweaks for what we do).

Could you please provide any feedback you have on the proposal by **COB Monday 17th October**. New info in green and red text. Please note: **This is not a change yet - samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health.**

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (as per roste)
3. Reporting scientist reviews the list and determines (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full. Reporting scientist allocates the sample to themselves so that they then do the PDA (reasoning – eliminate concern about differing approaches between reporting scientists, and provide feedback on success of decisions made about microcon volume)
    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis

b. If microconned to full – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full
    a. Brief outline explaining the request. Additional information to QPS to assist
    - Quant value: ..... ng/uL
    - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
    - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

4. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
5. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There has been a suggestion for point 3 above:

- when checking the list, each sample be checked for case allocation, and if a case is allocated to a scientist (and/or if one scientist is managing all of the other samples), that the DIFP sample/s be directed to that scientist for their processing recommendation/action.
- for all DIFP sample decisions, the entire case is allocated to that scientist

I am particular interested in feedback on this – is this feasible? Will it slow down decision making for the list? I am concerned that this could slow down processing of the sample – please advise your thoughts!

There was also a couple of questions about how this proposal works with the 'restart testing' workflow: I understand that that workflow is intended for DIFP results already reported, but that it could be used for DIFP quant values on hold. **Could you please provide feedback on whether this is a possibility?**

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see QP127

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Adam Connolly

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 02:58 PM
To: Kylie Rika; 'Paula Brisotto'; Allison Lloyd; Luke Ryan; Chelsea Savage; Kirsten Scott; Sharon Johnstone
Subject: Restart - draft process
Attachments: Restart - draft process.docx

Importance: High

Hello,

We are getting closer to lifting this pause. Could I please ask you to review the attached 'sop' and advise any changes. I really want to avoid confusion as to the process being proposed.

Feedback asap would be appreciated. I believe the list is almost ready

Regards
Helen

Queensland Health

Forensic and Scientific Services

Process for microcon (lifting the pause)

1. DIFP Samples automatically go to the 'microcon review' list in FR

2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist

3. The reporting scientist will check the sample to see if the sample has already been allocated to a person. If so, send the decision re: microcon volume to that person

4. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full.

5. Reporting scientist document decision making reasons on PDA page in sample notes

6. Reporting scientist allocates sample to themselves (so they do the interpretation)

7. The reporting scientist review the ‘exhibit search’ tab ‘exhibit warning’ section to determine if ‘destructive techniques not authorised’ has been ticked
    a) If not ticked – proceed with microcon (full or 35)
    b) If ticked – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR for case review.

Queensland Government

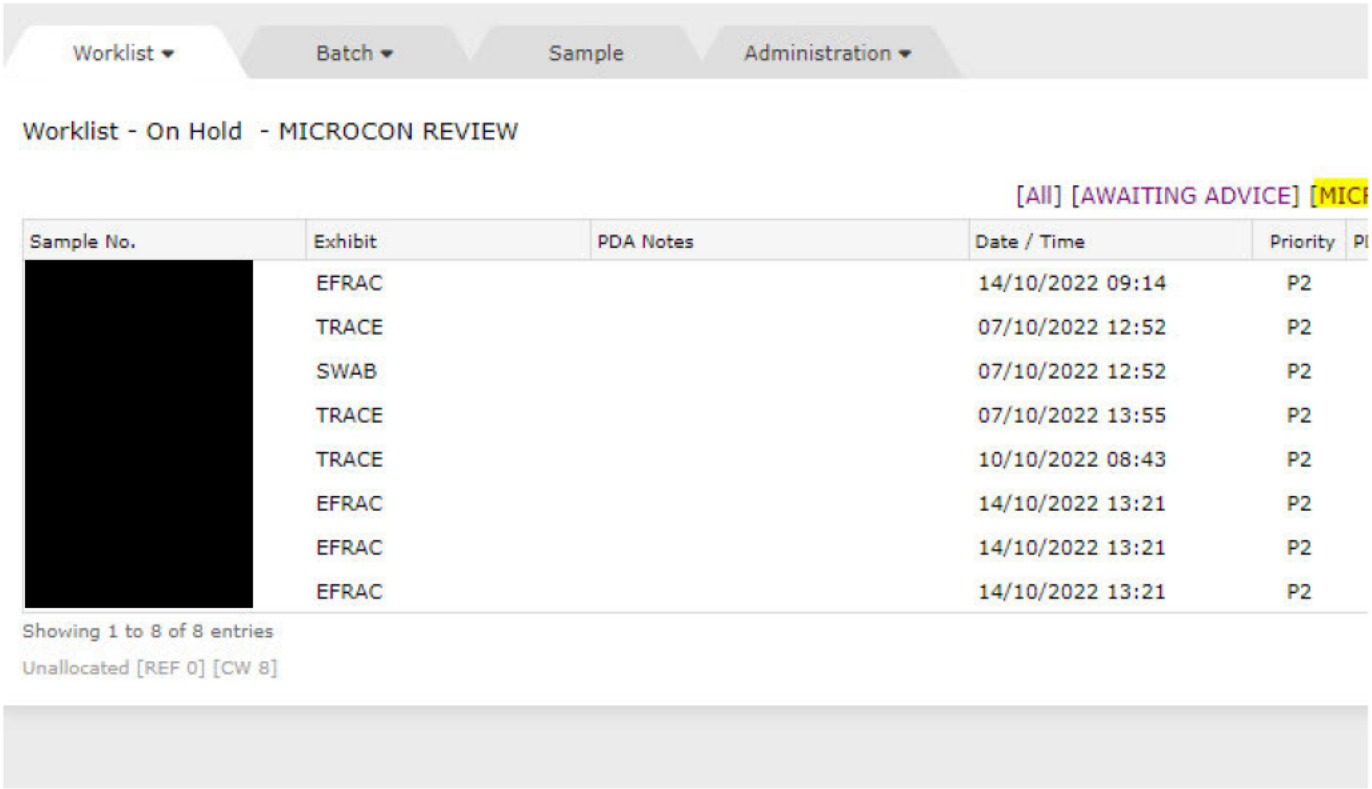
From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 08:23:44 AM
To: Chelsea Savage;Luke Ryan;Sharon Johnstone;Kylie Rika;Paula Brisotto;Allison Lloyd;Kirsten Scott;Kerry-Anne Lancaster
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

I am not sure. @Kerry-Anne Lancaster will know

From: Chelsea Savage <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 8:14 AM
To: Luke Ryan <[redacted] Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

Hi all,

I agree with Allison's and Sharon's feedback, I have nothing further to add. The CA's noticed a new list in the FR yesterday, is this the one we are waiting on?



Chelsea

From: Luke Ryan <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 4:10 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

Hi All
I agree with Sharon's feedback regarding the addition of criteria taken into consideration regarding decision making.

Thanks
Luke

From: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 3:37 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Luke Ryan <[redacted] Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

Hi,
Just a minor change as in blue for me
Cheers,
Sharon

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 2:58 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted]
Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Luke Ryan <[redacted] Chelsea
Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Sharon
Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: Restart - draft process
Importance: High

Hello,

We are getting closer to lifting this pause. Could I please ask you to review the attached 'sop' and advise any changes. I really want to avoid confusion as to the process being proposed.

Feedback asap would be appreciated. I believe the list is almost ready

Regards
Helen

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 10:34:32 AM
To: Sharon Johnstone;Kerry-Anne Lancaster
Cc: Helen Gregg
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Thanks. I will come over soon to chat. I will convey your wishes to David Neville – that he makes all QPS aware that this is what the checkbox means – that the sample will be consumed by default, and they must check this if they want to the sample to be kept

- Can you see the checkbox?

From: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:26 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kerry-Anne Lancaster <Kerry-[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen,
I can see that the proposed ticking of "destructive techniques not authorised" would work for us. The condition to this is that it is understood that all of our testing consumes sample. So the reference to the use of this box being ticked by QPS is that they are aware that amplification is required for us to do any testing and that is OK to do and that the use of this box is simply to indicate that the **entire** sample is not to be consumed with testing that we do. The other assumption is that QPS will communicate this information to all investigators and we assume in good faith that we use this information assuming that investigators understand. It also appears that the default will be an unchecked box.

We could easily incorporate such a process and would be much less onerous than individuals asking for permission.

Regards,
Sharon

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:01 AM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Kerry-Anne Lancaster <Kerry-[redacted]
Subject: FW: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi,

A change to the process. We don't have to ask for approval to exhaust – there is a tick box that will do that for us. Could you please advise if this is something we can easily add to our workflow?

H

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 9:57 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

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Hi Helen
Thanks for the reply. For clarity, the QPS is happy for testing to recommence as advised on 11 Oct. We would be happy for scientists to exercise their own discretion when it comes to exhausting samples except those marked as "Destructive test not authorised". I think this would be very rare. I am told they keep the spin baskets which can be reextracted in any case.

Regards

David Neville

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 07:58
To: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller

<[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott
<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
<[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

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HI All,

We are moving forward with the proposed interim process.
David – apologies for not replying to your email earlier. I had a personal emergency to deal with

Regards
Helen

From: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 12:42 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott
<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
<[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg
<[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

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Good afternoon Lara,

Following on from David's email from yesterday, I am keen to provide feedback or other input to move ahead with the interim process proposed. I had a meeting with BDNA today on other matters, however I raised the potential changes to the FR that may be needed for this proposal. I stated I supported the work should it need priority attention in terms of our QPS arrangements, however they were unaware of any related requests.

Could you confirm please that you are still happy with the proposed interim process and let me know if further discussion is needed on any matters that may have arisen.

Kind regards,

Duncan

Duncan McCarthy
Acting Superintendent, Forensic Services Group, Queensland Police Service.
Adjunct Fellow of the University of Queensland.
Level 4, PHQ 200 Roma Street Brisbane, QLD 4000
[redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 07:00
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
Further to the below, I just observed that the new version of the FR already has a tick box that indicates "destructive techniques not authorised". See below. Perhaps we use this to indicate when a scientist needs to consult with QPS over the decision to exhaust. What do you think? No FR change is then required.
It is important to read this in conjunction with the below to give context to the decision making process.
Dave

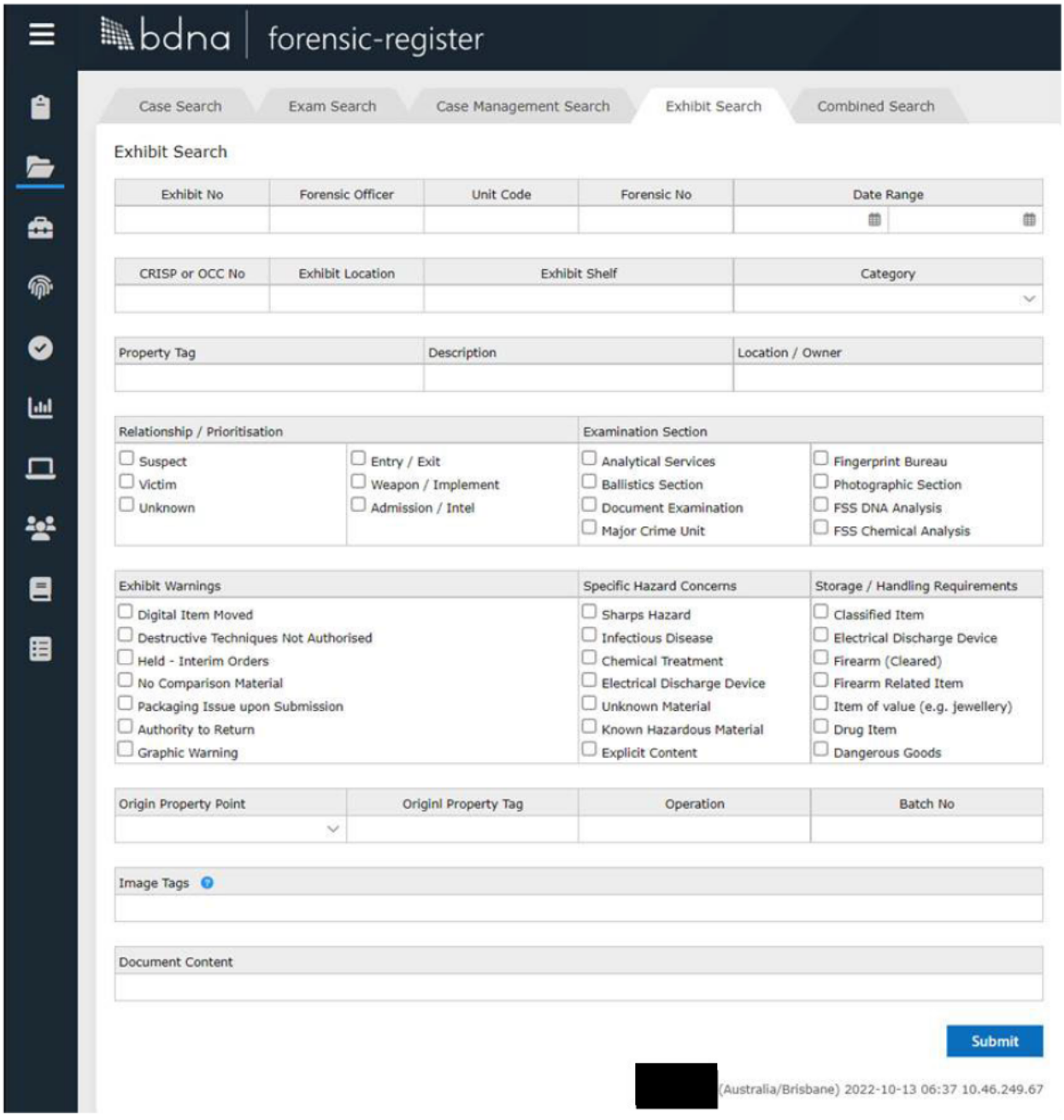

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Exhibit Search

Exhibit No	Forensic Officer	Unit Code	Forensic No	Date Range

CRISP or OCC No	Exhibit Location	Exhibit Shelf	Category

Property Tag	Description	Location / Owner

Relationship / Prioritisation		Examination Section	
☐ Suspect	☐ Entry / Exit	☐ Analytical Services	☐ Fingerprint Bureau
☐ Victim	☐ Weapon / Implement	☐ Ballistics Section	☐ Photographic Section
☐ Unknown	☐ Admission / Intel	☐ Document Examination	☐ FSS DNA Analysis
		☐ Major Crime Unit	☐ FSS Chemical Analysis

Exhibit Warnings	Specific Hazard Concerns	Storage / Handling Requirements
☐ Digital Item Moved	☐ Sharps Hazard	☐ Classified Item
☐ Destructive Techniques Not Authorised	☐ Infectious Disease	☐ Electrical Discharge Device
☐ Held - Interim Orders	☐ Chemical Treatment	☐ Firearm (Cleared)
☐ No Comparison Material	☐ Electrical Discharge Device	☐ Firearm Related Item
☐ Packaging Issue upon Submission	☐ Unknown Material	☐ Item of value (e.g. jewellery)
☐ Authority to Return	☐ Known Hazardous Material	☐ Drug Item
☐ Graphic Warning	☐ Explicit Content	☐ Dangerous Goods

Origin Property Point	Originl Property Tag	Operation	Batch No

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[redacted] (Australia/Brisbane) 2022-10-13 06:37 10.46.249.67

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 04:12
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]>
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
There are a few aspects to this that we need to give some consideration to. The QPS understands that DNA testing is a destructive process and that exhaustion of the sample will occur when very low amounts are present. Also, attempts to preserve a sample when the amount present is low can prevent a profile from being obtained. It has never been that case that QPS would prefer to preserve sample over obtaining a profile.

In the overwhelming majority of cases the QPS would prefer testing to be undertaken if there is a reasonable chance of obtaining useful information, even if the testing consumes the sample. However from time to time we may have a case where a particular DNA sample is pivotal and we may need to seek the services from another provider that offers alternative testing options.

The decision to exhaust a sample is something that is best made by a scientist based on the data present and their experience. It should include an assessment of the likelihood of obtaining useful information using QHFSS methodology vs the likelihood of obtaining useful information using alternative methodology. It should also be informed by the existence of other DNA evidence within the case or lack thereof. The QPS is not positioned to make these assessments.

The QPS can assist by identifying exhibits that are critical to a case where such an assessment needs by undertaken in a more careful manner. Such exhibits could be recorded as critical by use of a check box on the Forensic Register. If an exhibit is recorded as critical, the scientist should liaise with the QPS prior to making a decision to exhaust the sample. This would remove the overly onerous interim system in place and hopefully streamline the process.

In terms of your question about QPS approving microcon to 35uL, we are not really equipped to make those decisions. It would appear that the microcon volume is something that should be based on the quantity of DNA in the sample. If the quantity is low and QPS approves microcon to 35uL, we may have effectively wasted DNA in a sample that is already very low in DNA. What we are really seeking is a recommendation from QHFSS as to whether critical samples might be better tested elsewhere when they have very low concentrations of DNA. We would assume that this would be very rare.

David Neville
Inspector, FSG
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:58:15 PM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

HI David, Duncan and Stephan,

As discussed, we have a slight change to the workflow to suggest. My previous email stated:

e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There is the possibility in this scenario where we have requested microcon to full, that QPS FLU will approve microcon to 35 and one amp. So the point should read:
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to half/35 microcon if permission given by QPS or stop and store sample

I would appreciate your thoughts on this

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
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a 39 Kessels Road
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 2:25 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
<[redacted]
Subject: FW: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
I have been forwarded your email by Duncan to respond to. The QPS supports the interim proposal as a solution to lift the pause. For clarity we support:

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full

    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full
        c. Brief outline explaining the request. Additional information to QPS to assist
        - Quant value: ..... ng/uL
        - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
        - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

    d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
    e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

In terms of the suggested improvements including the tick box, we might need to give this some more thought as this will be dependent on a number of factors that are outside of the knowledge of the QPS (e.g. quant, deg and Y values).

Thank you for coming up with the solution in such a timely manner. It is much appreciated.

Regards

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

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:11:02 AM
To: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted]
Cc: Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: Interim proposal for current pause

Good morning,

Thank you for the meeting held Wednesday 5th October to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples and determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed.

The following interim solution was discussed at the meeting and has been has considered by FDNA staff – thank you for your patience while we consulted internally. We are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution. Please note: **This is not a change yet – samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health, and testing will not resume until QPS advises.**

FSS believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full

    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
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        - Quant value: …… ng/uL
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d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see Q127

We would appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and suggest that we have another meeting at a date and time of your choosing to discuss and progress – please advise when this would be suitable.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or Matt (note Matt will be on leave from Friday 14 October to Sunday 23 October).

We look forward to continuing to work with QPS to resolve this matter as soon as practicable.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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****

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 04:25:52 PM
To: Luke Ryan;Sharon Johnstone;Kylie Rika;Paula Brisotto;Allison Lloyd;Chelsea Savage;Kirsten Scott
Cc: Peter Culshaw;Lara Keller
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process
Attachments: Restart - draft process v0.2.docx
Importance: High

OK. I will take that out as it was determined that no criteria was available at this point in time.

I will also leave in the point that Allison raised (highlighted in yellow) . Final (still draft) document attached if anyone else want to provide feedback.

I am happy to progress now. Are we ready to hit go soon? Should we meet with all staff prior to 'go' to explain the new process?

H

From: Luke Ryan <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 4:10 PM
To: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

Hi All
I agree with Sharon's feedback regarding the addition of criteria taken into consideration regarding decision making.

Thanks
Luke

From: Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 3:37 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Luke Ryan <[redacted] Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Restart - draft process

Hi,
Just a minor change as in blue for me
Cheers,

Sharon

Sharon Johnstone
Senior Scientist – Forensic Reporting and Intelligence Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Police Services Stream
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
Please note that I may be working from a different location during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best contact method is via email.
p 07 [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 2:58 PM
To: Kylie Rika <[redacted] Paula Brisotto <[redacted] Allison Lloyd <[redacted] Luke Ryan <[redacted] Chelsea Savage <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]
Subject: Restart - draft process
Importance: High

Hello,

We are getting closer to lifting this pause. Could I please ask you to review the attached 'sop' and advise any changes. I really want to avoid confusion as to the process being proposed.

Feedback asap would be appreciated. I believe the list is almost ready

Regards
Helen

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Thursday 20 October 2022 07:24:30 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: Lara Keller;Peter Culshaw
Subject: Updated SOP and minor change request - lifting of the pause
Attachments: 17117V21.7.doc, 31548V6 Minor change - Microconcentration discretion volume and lifting of the pause.doc

Hi Everyone,

Please excuse the spam, but I wanted to make sure I included everyone.

Please see attached minor change request for the lifting of the pause. Please review and suggest changes. Once finalised I will send to Lara to sign (and will add to the minor change record – it is open by someone atm so can't add to it)

Please also see attached the updated SOP 17117 – I thought this was a better place to put the new process than 33773 (sorry Emma!). Again, please review and advise any changes. I will then put in QIS for final signoff.

Thanks to everyone for your assistance with this.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Forensic and Scientific Services

Minor Process Change

Stage 2

		Project #:	N/A
Proposed by :	Commission of Inquiry/QPS	**Date:**	19/10/2022
Title:	Microconcentration discretion volume and lifting of the pause		
Comment to be added to SOP:	☒ Yes QIS#17117V22 ☐ No	**Completed date:**	24/10/2022
Email communication sent:	☒ Yes Team meeting held to communicate change ☐ No	**Completed date:**	18/10/2022
Add to minor change register	☒ Yes	**Completed date:**	20/10/2022

Outline of Minor Change:

1. Memo from A/Director General 19 August 2022 for P2 samples in the 'DIFP' range to be microconcentrated to 35uL

   DG Memo - Reversion to concen

   Extract 19.4 from SOP 17117V19.pdf

2. QPS requested a pause to samples in this range until QPS received advice from FSS as to the validity of concerns around the potential risk of evidence being lost if samples are concentrated to a blanket volume of 35uL. Memo dated 30 Sept 2022

   DG Memo - Temporary pause to

3. The following communications occurred to discuss the proposed interim solution
   a. 5 October 2022: Initial teams meeting with QPS
   b. 6 October 2022: Internal consultation: email to all FDNA staff 'interim proposal for your feedback'
   c. 11 October 2022: External consultation: email to QPS 'Interim proposal for current pause'
   d. 11 October 2022: Email to all FDNA staff 'QPS pause – interim proposal – update'
   e. 13 October 2022: Email from QPS re 'tickbox' for 'destructive techniques not authorised'
   f. 17 October 2022: Email to QPS clarifying and finalising process
   g. 18 October 2022: Teams meeting with FDNA staff with documented interim proposal
4. Memo 19 October 2022 repealing 19 August memo

   DG Memo - repealing memoranc

5. Pause lifted 19 October 2022

Line Manager Signature:	Lara Keller	**Comments:**
Quality & Projects Signature:	Kirsten Scott	**Comments:**

Please convert to PDF, e-sign and lock document on completion.

Queensland Health
Forensic and Scientific Services

Procedure for Case Management

1 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the components of a case record, processes involved in compiling and completing a case record and tracking of case records.

2 Scope

This procedure shall apply to all Forensic DNA Analysis staff that case manage any component of a case record.

3 Definitions

AUSLAB	Laboratory Information System (routinely used prior to the FR)
Case managing scientist	The scientist(s) that has (or have) been involved in the assessment of results and compilation of the case file in preparation for statement writing or peer review.
Case record	All information relating to a particular case. This can include all case histories, receipts, communication with clients, examination notes, Analytical data, internal communications, results and reports.
CE	Capillary Electrophoresis
DAD	DNA Analysis Database
DNA Master	Repository of DNA profiling information prior to FR
DNA Mgt	DNA Management Unit – A QPS Unit that transfers the exhibit results and link results from the Forensic Register to QPRIME. They also perform quality checks on the validity of the information/results received.
EPG	Electropherogram
Examining scientist	The scientist/s who has/have examined exhibits for a case.
FR	Forensic Register – Laboratory Information Management System since July 2017.
GMIDX	GeneMapper ID-X, software used for allele designation after capillary electrophoresis
In tube	An item that has been sub-sampled by the QPS and submitted to the laboratory in a tube ready for analysis.
LR	Likelihood Ratio
NCIDD	National Criminal Investigation DNA Database
OLA	Off ladder allele
PDA	Profile Data Analysis – page in the FR to record the DNA profile interpretation and actions
Profiler Plus	AmpF*l*STR® Profiler Plus®: The amplification kit made by Life Technologies
PP21	PowerPlex® 21 system kit
Paperless	A type of case that does not involve a traditional paper case file.
PowerPlex® 21 system kit	The amplification kit made by Promega that is currently used for all samples.
QFLAG	Quality checking procedure to investigate potential staff and elimination database matches

QPRIME	Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (Post 2008)
Reporting Scientist	The scientist who is responsible for writing a Statement of Witness outlining the results of a case and for presenting evidence in a court of law.
RFU	Relative Flourescent unit (a measure of peak heights in electropherograms)
SCI	QPS Scientific Officer
SOCO	QPS Scenes of Crimes Officer
SSLU	Scientific Services Liaison Unit
StatsPWG	Statistics Project Working Group
STRmix™	A statistical program used during case management to interpret certain types of DNA profiles.
UKN	Unknown DNA profile
ULP	Unlabelled allele
VAR	Variant allele
XOVER	Cross over allele, allele migrates into an adjacent marker bin.

4 Case file overview

Since the 1st of September 2009, low priority Volume Crime cases have been treated as 'paperless' and therefore do not have case files. In April 2010, paperless case management and review was expanded to also include all cases of both high and low priority (Volume and Major Crime) and some Sexual Assault cases except for cases involving excessive numbers of crime scene/reference samples or complex profiles. In April 2015 all cases are initially managed as paperless cases.

Case files are generally created

- At the time of case management (for complex cases) or
- When a statement is requested or
- When a case manager/reporter deems it necessary for efficient case management.

For cases previously managed paperlessly that become reactivated upon receipt of further items, they may be considered for conversion to a paper file. Case and examination notes (when the case was managed paperlessly) are stored in 'Paperless' folders stored in Evidence Recovery, Reporting and Admin areas.

As of 20 September 2021, case files will only be prepared by Admin team for all Sexual Assault cases and case considered to be Category 3, unless specifically requested.

If a case has been converted from paperless to paper, it is not necessary to annotate all of the EPGs with the item description or interpretations unless a statement has been requested. At such a time, the reporting scientist may continue with EPGs not being annotated as long as the casefile also includes a printout of the relevant PDA page from the FR.

4.1 How to create a case file

To request a casefile to be created, email [redacted] with instructions. Admin edit the Statement Request/Task that a casefile is being created, assign a barcode for the casefile and create a storage location (see QIS 33773 and 34248).

4.2 Additional Elements of a case file

Upon completion, a case file may also contain:

1. Examination notes
2. Diagrams, photographs and/or photocopies
3. Statistical calculations.
4. Copies of results (GeneMapper ID-X printouts).
    a. As a minimum, reference samples require the final/reported profile. Casework samples should have all EPGs printed.
5. Interpretations of results
6. Copy of statement or intelligence report
7. Records of any internal or external communication relating to the case, e.g. Casefile Notations, Requests/Tasks or emails.
8. STRmix™ output files/report. STRmix™ v2.7 and beyond, it is not recommended to include the STRmix™ report, rather a printout of the PDA page with the EPG is sufficient.

4.3 Handwritten results and corrections within a case file

As is required by NATA ISO 17025 - as case notes etc. are subject to subpoenas; no pencil is to be used in the case file (unless used in diagrams or pictorial representations).

Any calculations, interpretations or changes to notes or results must be initialled and dated by the person performing the action.

4.4 Case file storage and movement

Case files are required to be kept indefinitely as per accreditation requirements.

Exhibits are not to be stored in the case file. This includes external proficiency samples. Original QPS property tags or reference sample envelopes are also NOT to be stored in the case file.

Case file movements are to be recorded in the FR. If a case previously managed within AUSLAB is reactivated, remove the tracking from AUSLAB, create a casefile in the FR (using the same barcode) and track in the FR.

Active case files are stored with the case analyst or in a designated storage location for the work area.

Upon completion, scientists should transfer cases to Admin via the FR. Administration assistance slips are available to attach to the front of the case file to direct the storage of the file or to outline any further administrative tasks that need to be performed prior to storage. Admin In-Tray – Casefile Finish is the location from which administrative staff will track case files (sequentially) into the compactus or another designated storage location. No further administrative tasks will be carried out on these cases.

If a casefile in the custody of the case scientist is taken out of the laboratory for court, or for court preparation, movement of the casefile should be recorded as a casefile notation in the FR.

5 Workflows

5.1 Priorities

Table 1 details the DNA priorities that are used in Forensic DNA Analysis. These are not to be confused with case priorities eg. one sample may be processed as Priority 1, but the case as a whole is Priority 2 (Major Crime).

Table 1 - DNA Priorities in Forensic DNA Analysis

Priority	Description	CW Use	Ref Use
1	Urgent	Urgent	Priority/investigation
2	High Pri	Major crime	High priority
3	Low Pri	Volume	Normal

Urgent (5-day Turnaround (TAT)) cases are specifically allocated to a case scientist and/or reporting scientist as they arrive into the department. The Managing Scientist and Team Leaders will be notified of the arrival of an urgent case by email and appropriate notes will be entered. A supervising scientist will allocate to an appropriate case manager. This does not mean that the case managing scientist will necessarily become the reporting scientist should a statement be required, however this is preferred to maintain consistency in reporting.

P1 samples must be managed as soon as results become available and reviewed as soon as results are interpreted. To ensure there is no delay in QPS being informed of 5-day TAT results as soon as they are available, a workflow has been created for samples that are expected to be completed on a Friday (see QIS 23968, 33773 and 34006).

5.2 PowerPlex®21 system kit vs AmpFℓSTR® Profiler Plus® case management

Since the end of testing with AmpFℓSTR® Profiler Plus® (Profiler Plus) in January 2018, all samples are received and processed with PowerPlex®21 system kit (PP21).

This does not mean the reporting method for Profiler Plus samples is invalid; therefore, in consultation with a senior scientist, samples may be re-processed with PP21 for case consistency or only newly received items will be processed and reported with PP21 and STRmix™.

5.3 STRmix™ versions

The date of first installation and processing of cases with various versions of STRmix™ are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – STRmix™ version use

Date case received	Decon	LR (at time of receival)	LR (New comparison)
19 Dec 2012	v1.05	v1.05	v2.0.6
1 July 2014	v2.0.1	v2.0.1	v2.7.0
30 Jan 2015	v2.0.6	v2.0.6	v2.7.0
16 Jan 2019	v2.6.0	v2.6.0	v2.7.0
24 June 2019	v2.6.2	v2.6.2	v2.7.0
10 Feb 2020	v2.7.0	v2.7.0	v2.7.0

13 May 2021	V2.8.0	V2.8.0	V2.8.0

If new samples are received for cases that had other samples in the case previously analysed with earlier STRmix™ versions, they are to be analysed with the current version of STRmix™. Discussion with a Senior Scientist on whether to migrate previously reported samples to the current version should be held. Some considerations include reporting in statements with the previously-used version and declare the differences between samples (if there are others processed with different versions), or convert the profiles to a format amenable to the current STRmix™ version.

5.4 Case management workflows

For the process to allocate samples and/or cases, see QIS 33773.

For worklists and information on how these are populated, refer to QIS 33773.

Allocation of cases to a particular scientist usually only happens if a statement is required, the case is large or has been assigned an Operation by QPS. These cases will otherwise be routinely case managed by the competent case managers. However, to reduce the amount of double handling by case managers, individual samples initially case managed by a particular person will be completed by the same person. This includes reworking and STRmix™ deconvolutions.

Unallocated paper case files may be stored in the filing cabinets stored in the far end of the reporting area in Block 3.

Internal controls, external and internal proficiency (where applicable), internal and external environmental monitoring samples are case managed by the Analytical, Evidence recovery and Quality teams.

Various tools may be employed to assist in meeting timeframes and to cover absence such as scheduling Outlook appointments or tasks.

6 Case management

The purpose of case management is to collate and report any DNA results that have been obtained and to prepare the case file for a statement (if required) or for peer review. To achieve this, the case managing scientist may be required to:

1. Assess DNA results to determine whether reworking is required to improve or confirm results.
2. Enter final Exhibit reports via the Profile Data Analysis (PDA) page in the FR.
3. Compile case file.

6.1 Check quality

Samples should not be progressed or reported until the various quality checks that are in place have been completed. These checks are designed to identify potential issues with samples before they are reported to the QPS.

6.1.1 Batch statuses

Check that the statuses of the processing batches are fully completed (see QIS 33773).

If there has been an issue noted during processing of a sample, the Analytical staff member/delegate will enter a status of 'See batch'. The case managers (PDA operator and reviewer) **MUST** check the batch audit and add a Sample Note to detail that they have deemed the sample OK to report.
It is acceptable that the note is added by the PDA operator or reviewer. If there is a critical element to a Batch that could affect the sample processing or interpretation strategy, and there is no note added by the PDA operator, then a discussion between the PDA operator and reviewer should occur.

Results can be released prior to the batches being formally 'passed'. In these instances, the PDA operator and reviewer will need to check the relevant batches and added a comment or sample notation to describe this.

6.1.2 Casefile Notations

Check Case Management tab in the FR for Casefile Notations and Request/Tasks (and UR notes for cases processed with AUSLAB) for relevant information related to the case. This may include information such as allocation to an individual case manager/reporter, court timeframes, communication with DNA Management etc.

6.1.3 Notations

Check for relevant information in the Exhibit Testing tables for notations and Analytical Notes (see QIS 33773), and Specimen Notes for cases processed with AUSLAB.

6.2 Check case information

Case information may be relevant to only particular samples or the whole case. This information may be used to guide the case manager's choice of processing and reporting.

If checking case information, a Request/Task can be sent to the generic Action Unit of 'FLU' when checking ownership of items, if marked as No Testing Required (NTR), requesting the item to be ticked for Biology, Suspect check and Post Mortem sample queries.

6.2.1 Check for reference samples associated to the case

The presence or absence of reference samples may affect the workflow path a sample takes. If reference samples have been received for a case, these will be compared against all single source DNA profiles, and all interpretable mixed DNA profiles to generate a LR.

See QIS 33773 and 34006.

6.2.2 Check for case allocation

It is necessary to check if a case has been allocated to a particular case manager or reporter before case managing a sample.
Check the Case Management tab in the FR for details or on the PDA page, it can be viewed in the 'Case Scientist' field. See QIS 33773.

In AUSLAB (if some or all of the case was processed with AUSLAB (pre July 2017), it may be recorded in the UR notes and/or the CS page.

6.2.3 Check for paper file/case notes.

Check the Exhibit Register for a barcode created for a casefile to enable storage and tracking (see QIS 33773).

6.2.4 Check ownership of item

Ownership of an item may be required before interpretation of a DNA profile or an exhibit is sampled. If unknown, send a Request/Task to the Action Unit 'FLU' in the FR, or directly to the SOCO or SCI.

6.2.5 Finalising samples no longer required

See QIS 34006.

6.3 Assess results

All samples have alleles designated as per QIS 34112.

When results become available for a sample, an assessment needs to be made as to whether reworks are required or whether sufficient information has already been obtained. This can be performed as each result becomes available. Not all results need to be available at the same time for these assessments to take place.

If viewing a case via AUSLAB and with samples processed with Profiler Plus, the EPGs were saved to AUSLAB as jpegs, or if they were samples from major crime cases, they had their EPGs saved to the P drive.

If the case was processed before implementation of the FR, the EPG PDF will be stored on the network.

To assess the stutter percentages, a worksheet or macro may be used to perform the calculation checks (see QIS 35008 or QIS 35406). The former requires manual addition of the alleles and peak heights to calculate the stutters, and the latter spreadsheet uses a macro to calculate the stutters after importation of the STRmix™ text file generated by the FR.

If performing a multi-kit analysis of stutter, QIS 36045 may be used.

6.3.1 Assess the number of contributors to the DNA profile

The number of contributors to a DNA profile is required to perform interpretation. Counting the number of alleles at each locus (above and below Limit of Reporting threshold, above Limit of Detection) is the first step in assessing the number of contributors.

However, counting called alleles alone may not be suitable in determining the number of contributors due to the presence of PCR artefacts such as stutter. Allelic imbalance (AI) also known as heterozygote balance (Hb) can also be used as an indication of the number of contributors. Forensic DNA Analysis does not have a threshold for AI for casework DNA profiles because STRmix™ is designed to model the heterozygote balance as a continuous

system. Although internal validation studies (Nurthen et al 2013) indicate that the calculated AI threshold varies depending on the DNA input, the values detailed in the study can be used as a guide.

See Appendix 1 for a workflow designed within the internal Change Management project #149 to assist in deciding on a reasonable number of contributors to the DNA profile. Note that the stochastic range in RFU values will be different depending on the CE instrument. The workflow is a guide only.

The validated stutter thresholds (as published in QIS 34112) are used as a guide to aid in the determination of number of contributors to a DNA profile.

6.3.2 Assess the overall quality of the DNA profile

The quality of the DNA profile in conjunction with the number of contributors will determine if a DNA profile is suitable for interpretation.
The following factors should be considered

1. Whether a reasonable assumption of the number of contributors can be made.
2. The degradation slope (the tendency for higher molecular weight loci to have lower peak heights compared with smaller molecular weight loci).
3. The total amount of DNA input used in the amplification
4. Adverse events affecting the sample.

6.3.3 Check VAR/OLA/ULP/XOVER calculations

If a variant and/or off ladder allele or stutter has been observed on a GeneMapper ID-X (GMIDX) profile it is not necessary to re-amplify to confirm its presence.

For mixed DNA profiles with variant and/or off ladder alleles, the repeat of these samples is at the case manager/reporter's discretion. Things to consider include whether the profile with variant and/or off ladder alleles has already had this questioned allele confirmed, matches a deconvoluted contribution, or if the sample description suggests the mixed DNA profile could be conditioned on the reference DNA profile (with variant and/or off ladder alleles).

A case manager must independently perform the calculation for allele designation including if the calculated allele falls in the stutter position. Refer to QIS 33773.

Variant/OLA/ULP/crossover calculations do not require checking if the DNA profile has been assessed as unsuitable for interpretation.

If there are broad peaks observed in the EPG and the sample has not been Re-CE'd, the case manager may order a Re-CE. This is especially important if the DNA profile is to be assessed by STRmix™, or if the case manager determines that the broad peak could be masking other peaks such that it may affect the number of contributors assessment.

6.3.4 NAD samples

If a sample is flagged as No Analysed Data (NAD) at CE quality checking stage, the sample will be re-prepared by Analytical staff.

6.3.5 Edit DNA profiles

See QIS 33773 and 34006.

6.3.6 Rework DNA extract if necessary.

For processes relating to ordering reworks, see 33773.

See Appendix 2 for information on reworking strategies and considerations when assessing sample information and profiles.

If a sample was completed in DNAMaster/DAD and AUSLAB, any subsequent reworks that are required are requested in the FR.

As of 30 June, 2019, any rework on a previously reported Major Crime (Priority 2) result is not to be ordered without Managing Scientist or Executive Director authorisation. A MS Form can be used to provide information to the Managing Scientist of Executive Director to assess the reasons for the rework, and the potential risks associated with proceeding (or not proceeding) with a requested rework. This form can be accessed via Office 365, then selecting MS Forms. The operator fills out the details in the DNA Rework Authorisation form. After submission, the form then goes to the Team Leader for consideration and endorsement prior to the Managing Scientist (or Executive Director) for final consideration.

In 2008, QPS in conjunction with Forensic DNA Analysis decided that for Low priority Volume Crime (Priority 3) cases, samples are only to be reworked via re-amplification, or Re-CE'ing until 12 alleles are obtained (National Criminal Investigation DNA Database-NCIDD uploading threshold). NucleoSpin cleanups or Microcon concentrations are not to be ordered on low priority samples, unless in exceptional circumstances. Other valid reasons for reworking these samples include investigations of adverse events or if other quality issues are suspected.

If a partial profile or NSD profile is obtained for a sample, an assessment should be made as to whether reworking that sample will be beneficial or if there are other profiles within the case that satisfy reporting requirements.

Amplification products are not kept indefinitely. The availability of a PCR product should be checked prior to ordering a Re-CE. For more recent batches, the Analytical Section enters audit notes against the amplification batch when the PCR product has been discarded.

Rework strategies and microconcentration:

~~Any process that is likely to exhaust all the DNA extract 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.~~

If it is determined that a better profile is required, the following should be considered when determining the best rework strategy:

1. **The type of sample**
   e.g. blood versus cells. Due to the generally high number of nucleated white cells in whole blood, a DNA profile is usually obtained from such samples. If a DNA profile

is not obtained, this may be due to insufficient nucleated cells in the sample, or could indicate an issue with the efficacy of the processing, or it could be that the sample is inhibited. Reworks may assist in obtaining an interpretable profile.

2. **The Quantitation value**
   The quantitation value is displayed in the FR. The quantitation value is an estimate and should be assessed in conjunction with other factors.

Sample workflows based on the quantitation value are listed below:

1. PP21 samples with a quantitation value <0.001 ng/µL will not be further processed and will be reported post-quant with the result line 'No DNA detected', regardless of priority.
2. ~~2.~~ Samples reported as 'No DNA detected' or 'DNA insufficient for further processing' prior to 6 June 2022 can be requested by QPS for further processing via the Request/Task system to the senior scientist of the Analytical section.~~-~~
2.
3. Priority 1 and 2 PP21 samples with an initial quantitation value of between 0.001ng/µL and 0.0088ng/µL are automatically-microconned (see below)~~ned~~

Automatic Microconcentration

- Samples in the range 0.001ng/µL and 0.0088ng/µL are automatically sent to the 'microcon review' list which is reviewed by a reporting scientist each day, in accordance with the roster. The reporting scientist determines the microconcentration volume (full or ~~to~~ 35µL).
- The reporting scientist adds an 'analytical notation' of microcon to full is required
- The reporting scientist documents their decision making reason on the PDA page in sample notes, and allocates the sample to themselves (so they do the PDA)
- The reporting scientist reviews the 'exhibit search' tab 'exhibit warning' section to determine if 'destructive techniques not authorised' has been ticked
  - If not ticked – proceed with microcon
  - If tick – contact QPS FSG via 'reques/task' to FLU (type 'review') in FR to request a case review.
- The reporting scientist adds a notation after ordering the microcon to remove the sample from the 'microcon review' list

~~3. If a scientist considers the DNA profile obtained would benefit from a second amplification, a Request/ Task should be sent to the relevant Forensic Officer.~~

~~As per direction on 19 August 2022, issued as a Memorandum from the A/Director-General Qld Health, Priority 2 samples in the range 0.001ng/uL to 0.0088ng/µL will undergo an automatic Microcon concentration step to 35uL. If the scientist considers it might be beneficial for a second amplification after the Microcon process, written approval is required from QPS due to point that there would be a full consumption of the DNA extract after this second process. See Appendix 3.~~

To seek approval from QPS, a Request/Task should be sent to the 'FLU' group, found in the dropdown menu for 'Action Unit' within the Request/Task in the FR, with the relevant crime scene barcode linked. ~~Suggested wording for the Request/ Task is:~~

~~*Hello, a DNA profile has been obtained from the linked crime scene sample. I am seeking approval for additional work to be undertaken on the sample, in an attempt to obtain a suitable DNA profile for interpretation. Please be advised if this additional work is approved, the DNA extract will be consumed. This means*~~

~~*there will be no opportunity for further processing in this laboratory, or elsewhere if alternative technologies are under consideration. We understand that consultation with the Investigating Officer may be necessary and will await the outcome of those discussions. Once finalised, please advise via return Request/Task if the additional work is approved. If approval is not provided, the DNA profile obtained will be reported.*~~

~~*Additional information to assist:*~~

- ~~*Quant value:*~~
- ~~*Undergone concentration (Microcon): No/Yes*~~
- ~~*Current Volume Remaining: uL*~~
- ~~*Further Processing Requested eg. Microcon to full, additional amplification*~~
- ~~*Will further processing exhaust the sample: No/Yes*~~
- ~~*Description of DNA profile obtained to date: eg. Low level DNA profile difficult to interpret, complex DNA profile, Low level profile that may not be suitable for interpretation*~~

- ~~*Scientific Opinion on the likelihood that further internal testing may provide additional probative information: eg. further work is likely to/ may assist in the confirmation of information currently obtained. Further work may also confirm that the profile is too complex to interpret.*~~
- ~~*Recommendation as to whether the sample may be better tested by an external service provider: If this item is critical to the outcomes of the case then a discussion is requested to explore all possible options.*~~
- ~~*to whether the sample may be better tested by an external service provider:*~~

When sending the Request/Task, the exhibit result line 'SOHAA – Sample on hold, awaiting advice' should be added as an exhibit result, and validated by a second operator.

When QPS respond, the exhibit result line 'TRQ – Testing restarted on advice from QPS' should be added as an exhibit result irrespective of whether approval for further processing has been granted or not. ~~The result will either be reported based on the one amplification result, or~~ will be reported after the further processing.

~~Priority 1 samples in the range 0.001ng/uL to 0.0088ng/µL will have an automatic Microcon concentration to 35uL prior to amplification.~~

~~Samples reported as 'No DNA detected' or 'DNA insufficient for further processing' prior to 6 June, 2022 can be requested by QPS for further processing via the Request/Task system to the senior scientist of the Analytical section. For these samples, they will have an automatic Microcon concentration to 35uL prior to amplification.~~

Priority 3 samples continue to not have reworks performed unless in exceptional circumstances. If requested to be restarted, the exhibit result line of 'TRQ- Testing Restarted upon QPS advice' should be added as a result. After the final result is obtained, these are entered as per standard arrangement. 'Sample undergone further processing (SUFP)' does not need to be added if TRQ has been previously added. If the TRQ line had not been added at point of request, SUFP should be added at the same time as the final results.

A partial or NSD profile from a sample with a high quantitation value may indicate inhibition or may be due to degradation. The Degradation Index is available within the Quantification data and provides an indication that degraded DNA may be

present. It should be noted that while quantitation values can be used as an indicator for the presence of inhibitory compounds in an extracted sample, lack of inhibition in a quantitation amplification (as indicated by the IPCCT and possibly the CT as well) does not necessarily mean there will be no inhibition in an STR amplification. This is because different primers, target DNA and amplification conditions are used in each reaction and this could result in inhibition to one reaction and not the other. Also, 2 µL of extracted sample is added to a quantitation amplification, whereas in an STR amplification the sample may be diluted before being added (which would decrease the concentration of any inhibitory substances in the amplification reaction). Up to 15 µL of DNA extract can be used for a PP21 amplification (which would change the relative concentration of inhibitory substances in the amplification reaction). Further information on DNA quantification is found in QIS 34045.

3. The number of alleles obtained

A full DNA profile is the aim of any DNA amplification, but a partial DNA profile does not necessarily need to be reworked.

The minimum number of alleles required to upload to NCIDD is 12 alleles. Samples below this stringency, but above 6 alleles, may be loaded to NCIDD under special circumstances and searched against the database (refer to QIS 34246 and 33773).

If an assumption of a single contributor has been determined, partial DNA profiles do not have to be reworked to obtain a full DNA profile.

4. Examination notes

Certain substances are known to be inhibitory to the PCR process. This includes a variety of commonly encountered substances, such as dyes used in clothing (particularly denim dyes) and some biological material (in particular, the haem in blood). If managing a case where semen samples were extracted with Chelex – for example, if the case is reactivated for further processing - these samples were sometimes observed to return an NSD profile after initial extraction with no indication of inhibition. Performing a NucleoSpin clean up was noted to improve the chances of obtaining an interpretable DNA profile for these samples.

5. Offence Details (if available)

Information from the QPS entered into the FR, present on item packaging, or from case conferences may assist in determining the evidential value of a particular item.

6. Results already obtained

If multiple samples have been submitted for an item and one or more full profiles or mixtures have already been obtained there may be no need to continue reworking other samples from that same item. A partial 'matching' profile is often sufficient if other better profiles already exist for the same item. This must be considered carefully and in the context of the case. If it is a possibility that there may be a different profile present, such as in the case of multiple offenders, then reworks should be considered.

6.4 Manage samples

The sample management tab in the FR contains the worklists relevant to PDA entry and review (see 33773 and 33744).

Cases are not usually allocated to an individual case manager/reporter. The exception to this rule may be some urgent cases, QPS operations, linked cases or sensitive matters. Samples are case managed by staff from the worklists in the FR.

Cases with paper files may have EPGs annotated with the results and interpretations, although if the PDA page is also printed, this may be not required (see 33773). If annotated, as a minimum, the type of DNA profile. e.g. single source matching UKM1 is required. These annotations need to be signed and dated by the case manager.

6.4.1 Interpret

6.4.1.1 Paired Kinship/Paternity Trios

Any samples for Paternity trios etc. are interpreted as detailed in QIS 25303.

Reporting of the analysis outcomes is detailed in QIS 34006 and QIS 34308.

6.4.1.2 PP21 interpretation

Statistics for PP21 results are generated by the STRmix™ program as outlined in QIS 35007.

If a sample has replicate amplifications they must all be included in the STRmix™ deconvolution unless they have a particular processing issue such as excess peak heights and pull up, a Re-CE has been performed, or the runs are not consistent with each other (at the discretion of the case manager). A Re-CE and the source amplification results cannot be included in the same deconvolution as they come from the same amplification, a choice as to the best or most appropriate run must be made by the case manager and replaces the less informative result. At a minimum, a Sample Note should be added to explain why particular amplifications were not included.

All reference samples received for a particular case are to be compared against all interpretable mixtures (to generate a Likelihood Ratio - LR) and single source samples within a case.

The number of contributors will have been determined as per section 6.3.1 above.

STRmix™ V2.7 and beyond uses a stratified approach to reporting the Likelihood Ratio where the relative proportions of the population are factored into the final LR.

Single source DNA profiles

Deconvolution with STRmix™ is required if:

1. The sample is the first single source DNA profile that matches a reference sample and needs to be loaded to NCIDD, or
2. The sample requires loading to NCIDD (e.g. UNK), and/or
3. This DNA profile has less than 32 allelic peaks. The count of peaks is such that homozygous loci are counted as one peak. It is only through STRmix that single-peak loci are determined to be homozygous.

LR generation with STRmix™ is not required for single source DNA profiles:

1. If a reference sample does not match the single source sample.
2. If a matching reference sample has previously had an LR generated (and the new interpretation would not be more probative).
3. If the single source DNA profile has 32 or more allelic peaks, the sample can be reported with the appropriate result line (as per QIS 34229) and doesn't require deconvolution and an LR generated as per the recommendations in the document 'The determination of the threshold number of alleles, above which single source DNA profiles can confidently be ascribed a likelihood ratio in excess of 100 billion.' [Parry et al 2014] and further Risk Assessment after moving to STRmix™ V2.7.0.

If a single source DNA profile has one peak at a locus and another peak is visible sub threshold, STRmix™ may designate the locus as a homozygote (with a ≥99 % weighting), the case manager should consider ordering a rework in an attempt to amplify the second peak.

Homozygote alleles for single source samples that will not be loaded to NCIDD do not require editing in the FR PDA page.

A mixed DNA profile would be reported as a single source profile with sub-threshold peaks using the appropriate exhibit result line in the following circumstances:

1. If the only indication of a mixture is a labelled Y peak at Amelogenin or
2. If the only indication of a mixture is a labelled Y peak at Amelogenin and sub-threshold peaks that do not affect the called alleles.

This is done because STRmix™ cannot 'see' Amelogenin or sub-threshold peaks and the low-level contribution does not affect the interpretation of the 'single source' profile.

Further guidelines on Single Source interpretation is located in Appendix 2.

Mixed DNA profiles (two, three, four person mixtures)

Deconvolution with STRmix™ is not required if:

1. The case does not have any reference samples and the profile is not likely to be deconvoluted by STRmix™ into contributions for NCIDD, or
2. The case does not have any reference samples and if the DNA profile is likely to be deconvoluted into a contribution that matches an already reported unknown in the case.

If reference samples are later received then the deconvolution will be run and these reference sample profiles will be compared against the mixture and the LRs reported back via exhibit result lines.

Deconvolution with STRmix™ is required for all other two, three and four person mixtures.

Deconvolutions of mixed DNA profiles may run for extended periods of time. Additional support is provided by other staff in Forensic DNA Analysis (mostly Forensic Technicians) to run deconvolutions on dedicated STRmix™ computers. This releases Reporting Scientists' computers for other tasks.

To have another staff member run a deconvolution, see QIS 33773.

Conditioning mixtures

It may be possible to condition mixtures from intimate swabs and items (said to have come from a person). The decision to condition is at the discretion of the case manager (and reviewer). Additional information regarding ownership may be required.

Table 3 – Quick reference when to use STRmix™

Scenario	Decon	LR
SS <32 & matches assumed known contributor	No	No
SS <32 & matches a reference sample	Yes	Yes
SS <32 & new Unknown profile & NCIDD	Yes	N/A
SS <32 & matches an Unknown profile	No	N/A
First SS >32 DNA profile & matches a reference sample & NCIDD	Yes	No*
First SS >32 DNA profile & matches a reference sample no NCIDD	No	No*
SS >32 DNA profile & new Unknown profile & NCIDD	Yes	No
Subsequent SS >32 DNA profile and matches a reference sample/Unknown profile	No	No*
2P to 4P & no reference samples & not likely to resolve for NCIDD	No	N/A
2P to 4P cond & no other reference samples & not likely to resolve for NCIDD	No	N/A
2P to 4P & reference samples	Yes	Yes

*Where matching a reference samples, a Likelihood Ratio is not calculated in these instances, but they are reported in the FR as >100 billion favouring contribution.

STRmix™ results output

After the STRmix™ deconvolution and/or reference comparison has been completed and processed, the following quality checks must be performed on each result produced by STRmix™.

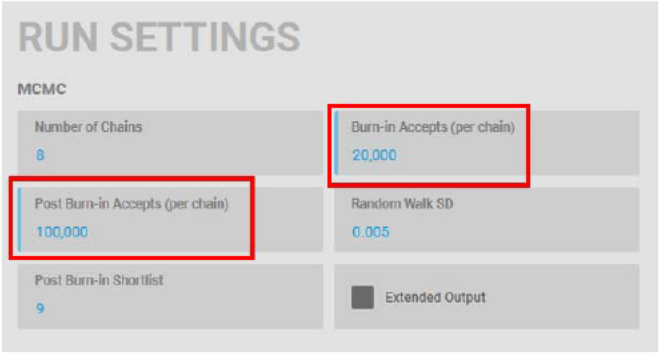
1. STRmix™ version
2. Casework sample number is correct
3. Reference sample number (if any) is correct
4. Number of contributors assumed to be present is correct
5. Casework DNA profile (correct allelic designations entered and correct run(s) have been included)
6. Individual locus LRs appear have an intuitive fit
7. Check all loci had successfully deconvoluted (component interpretation complete)
8. Check that the Diagnostic tools are all performing to expectation
9. Settings values (especially check full vs. half variances)
10. Reference DNA profile (correct allelic designations entered)
11. The overall LR is reasonable given the reference and casework DNA profiles

It is important when a STRmix™ analysis is carried out, that the results are interpreted by examining the weightings of various genotypes and the DNA profile(s) observed. There are instances when the results obtained do not intuitively seem correct. Sometimes (particularly if the model must account for drop-in) the failure of the Markov chain to properly converge means that some parameters will not have optimised properly. Examples of this are:

1. Large LRs are obtained for each locus, except one where the LR is low or 0
2. The mixture proportions do not reflect what is observed
3. The degradation does not reflect what is observed
4. Genotype combinations do not reflect all likely allele sets (especially likely if sub-threshold peaks are present at a locus)
5. The probability of dropout at a particular locus has been given a low value but sub-threshold peaks are clearly visible in the DNA profile.

Effectively, a zero LR means that the genotype of the POI has not been accepted by the MCMC at any time through the course of the analysis. Common causes for making a genotype an unlikely contributor are large dropouts, drop-ins or imbalances, or when the peak heights at a locus exceed the general degradation slope (and are therefore penalised). If further iterations are chosen, then the MCMC will have more opportunity to accept the less supported genotypes, however a reference sample with a poor fit to the DNA profile will still have a low LR for a particular locus or loci. It is best practice to attempt to resolve the mixture biologically first, that is through rework, prior to resorting to increased iterations.

It is possible that the deconvolution does not fit with the intuitive assessment of the DNA profile, e.g. there is a clear major profile but the deconvolution has not resolved C1 (Contributor 1) to ≥99%. There are a number of reasons why this may occur including there being insufficient accepts to enable STRmix to converge on the best probability space. In this instance, the user can increase the number of burnin accepts and post-burnin accepts by a factor of 2 (to 20,000 and 100,000 respectively) in the run settings when setting up the deconvolution.



If it is noted that the EPG has a plate reading error, such as a stutter peak that has been inappropriately removed or an artefact that has been left in, then the sample can be edited in the FR and EPGs manually edited as per QIS 33773.

It is not necessary for STRmix™ v2.6 (and beyond) cases to have the STRmix™ report printed and included in the casefiles. A printout of the PDA page and EPG is sufficient. All cases have the pdfs imported and retained in the FR (see QIS 33773).

Repeated Analysis

Each time a DNA profile is analysed using STRmix™ the results will vary slightly. This is a natural consequence of the random nature of the Monte Carlo property. To be as unbiased as possible, each analysis should only ever be run once and the result reported. If a STRmix™ result has been generated for a DNA profile at case management stage, then that same result should be the one used for statement writing. If additional reference samples are received in the case, the reference sample(s) should be run against all original deconvolutions for all samples in the case where mixtures are present. The exception to this is when an analysis has produced a result that requires further investigation and hence further analysis or if the underlying assumptions made about the profile have changed (eg. a two-person mix is reassessed as being a three-person mix).

Consequently, if at review or at a subsequent stage in reporting it is decided that a different number of contributors better fits the DNA profile, the deconvolution for that sample can be rerun using the new assumption. Case-managers/Reporters should discuss any decision to change a reviewed result with the original operator/s. For High Priority samples, if a rework after a result has been released, this will need Managing Scientist or Executive Director approval (see 6.3.6).

If multiple analyses have been conducted, then only the STRmix™ results from the most appropriate analysis should be reported (e.g. the higher number of acceptances or the more appropriate number of contributors). If there are printouts of the STRmix™ results in the casefile, the previous results will need to be removed.

The electronic STRmix™ results from the multiple analyses that are not used must be moved into a sub-folder labelled "Do not use" in the case folder in the STRmix™ results folder.

Use of Ignore Loci function

In certain circumstances a particular locus or loci may be dropped from the interpretation. These include where a Tri-allele pattern has been observed in a reference profile and inconsistent sizing of an allele is observed. See QIS 35007.

If a case has a reference sample with a mutation, all scene profiles within the case (except single-source profiles that do not match the reference sample in question) should have the loci removed from the interpretation. If the reference sample is received after the initial deconvolution was performed, the deconvolutions should be repeated with the relevant locus/loci ignored.

Amended Results

If an amended result is required to be released, this should be accompanied by an Intelligence Report (in most circumstances as per QIS 33773) and cleared by the Managing Scientist or Executive Director prior to release.

6.4.1.3 Profiler Plus interpretation

Since January 2018, Profiler Plus DNA profiles were no longer produced by Forensic DNA Analysis. Samples may still be added to statements (if requested) and reported in a binary fashion. This difference should be explained in the statement of witness.

Samples that are processed with Profiler Plus are not interpreted using STRmix™ as this system has not been validated for use with Profiler Plus data.

See QIS 33773 for the use of the FR in reporting Profiler Plus DNA profile interpretation results.

6.5 Report Results

All results are to be communicated as outlined in QIS 23968 and 34308.

Statements and intelligence reports are to be prepared according to QIS 34006 and 34308.

For cases processed and previously reported via AUSLAB, all new items received and/or updated interpretations should be reported via the FR.

If a sample cannot be explained by one of the result lines available, an intelligence letter should be sent to QPS to outline the interpretation. See QIS 34308.

When reporting 4p mixture interpretations where the LR is in the in the range 2-1million favouring contribution, a result is acceptable to be reported via Request/Task to Action Unit 'RMT' in the FR by using the following process:

- PDA Reviewer to ask for the Request/Task when reviewing the sample,
- Using a template (below), case manager/reporter to direct a Task to the reviewer with the information,
- PDA Reviewer directs to Action Unit 'RMT' at same time as reviewing.

- Template to use:
- *Sample barcode: XXXXXXXXX*

- *Result reported: Mixed DNA profile*
- *LR reported: Mix – Support for contribution 2 to 1 million: Person barcode YYYYYYYYY*
- *Actual LR: [number]: Person barcode YYYYYYYYY*

6.5.1 Exhibit Result lines

See QIS 33773 and 34006 for details on how to report result lines in the FR.

For urgent/Priority 1 samples only, an interim exhibit report may be entered.

6.5.2 Exhibit Result line updates and amendments

Exhibit result lines may require updating after additional information is available or additional testing has been completed. Commonly, these lines are updated after a reference sample for the case has been received and new information needs to be sent back to QPS eg. the profile is now to be 'conditioned'.

If the DNA profile has undergone further work and the result line 'SUFP: sample undergone further processing' has been used, the final interpretation result lines need to be added to the FR at the same time and supersede the previous result lines. This means all lines need to be added that are relevant to the updated DNA profile interpretation.

If an incorrect result is detected after having been released to QPS, the result line must be marked as 'incorrect' by Senior Scientists or Team Leaders in the FR. See QIS 33773 and 34006.

The correct result should be added and reviewed at the same time as marking the previous result as 'incorrect' (see QIS 34006).

If an Intelligence Report is required to be sent to the QPS Inspector of DNA Management Unit to explain an incorrect or amended result, this report needs to be initially sent to the Managing Scientist for awareness. See 34308 for a template for this report.

6.5.3 Suspect checks

If a suspect check has been requested by QPS for a reference sample profiled in Profiler Plus and the sample is not intuitively excluded from the mixture, the reference sample needs to be reworked in PP21 to increase the amount of data available for comparison.

Instructions for reworking reference samples are documented in QIS 34245.

Suspect checks have reserved Exhibit result lines for reporting; refer to QIS 34229.

LR reports from STRmix™ for Suspect Checks need to be retained in the FR. These can be attached as a sample notations for the crime scene sample, or attached to the Result line pertaining to the LR outcome for the comparison.

6.5.4 Samples with undetermined quantitation values or insufficient DNA

It is understood by QPS that samples reported post-quant as 'No DNA Detected' and for samples reported prior to 6 June 2022 as 'DNA Insufficient for further processing' can be requested for processing at any time.

This request for further processing is made by the QPS sending a Request/Task to the Senior Scientist of the Analytical section to reactivate the sample for processing.

Similarly, case managers may at their discretion order a rework in cases where low quants for samples are obtained.

6.5.5 Paternity Samples

For paternity cases, results are reported via the barcode for the child (see QIS 33773).

If the putative father sample is an intelligence sample, the relevant result line would be 'Intel report required for further Interpretation'. The Intel Report is issued as per QIS 34308.

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6.5.6 Using Coronial samples as Reference Samples in Exhibit results.

If a sample has been processed with casework conditions is to be used as a reference sample, it needs to be deconvoluted in STRmix™ because there is no homozygote threshold. This deconvoluted DNA profile is used as the reference in all comparisons.

6.5.7 Using Covert samples to compare to DNA profiles

Covert samples are ones that have been identified by the QPS as being taken in lieu of a official reference sample. Covert samples are treated as crime scene samples and can

present to the laboratory as items such as straw swabs, swabs of drink containers and cigarette butts, among others.

The DNA profiles obtained from these covert samples may be requested to be compared to specific, or all crime scene samples. The results of these comparisons should be entered in an Intelligence Report and issued to QPS DNA Management Section, unless specifically informed otherwise.

See QIS 34308, 33773 and 34006.

6.5.8 Intuitive Exclusions

Mixed DNA profiles assumed to be from two contributors may have reference samples intuitively excluded where alleles are higher than 250RFU.

Scientists interpretating these profiles may select to run all reference sample comparisons through STRmix; however intuitive exclusions should be considered first.

The following should be considered when performing an intuitive exclusion:

- Peaks in stutter position should not be used in isolation to exclude
- It is best to intuitively exclude on peaks that are distinct and isolated from those in stutter position and they must be above 250RFU

7 NCIDD

Case managers are responsible for choosing a representative profile for each unique profile seen within a case for upload to NCIDD. These profiles must have at least 12 alleles for NCIDD matching.

To upload an allele to NCIDD for PP21 samples, a 99% deconvolution is required at a locus as per the Statistics Project Working Group (StatsPWG) recommendations.

- ≥99% deconvolution at all PP21 loci is known as a 'full' NCIDD load
- ≥99% deconvolution at ≥ 12 PP21 loci is known as an 'Intel' NCIDD load.

In certain circumstances, a profile with less than 12 alleles (including sub-threshold information) can be loaded to NCIDD, and any matches will be reported back to QPS via an Intelligence report written by the case scientist or Intelligence Team member. This is an intel/upload process and is not for court purposes. Intel/NCIDD work does not get heard in court unless special authorisation is given by the Judge/Justice due to potential to prejudice court.

Only one representative DNA profile is loaded to NCIDD for a person in a case. Profiles that match known deceased persons or complainants in sexual assault cases are not to be uploaded to NCIDD. By the same rationale, unknown DNA profiles previously loaded to NCIDD that match known deceased and sexual assault victims are also removed from NCIDD. Refer to QIS 34246 and 33773.

7.1 Conditioned DNA profiles loading to NCIDD

After a mixed DNA profile has been conditioned in STRmix™, the deconvolution will list that each conditioned allele has been deconvoluted to 100%, a conditioned component of a mixed DNA profile can be loaded to NCIDD provided that :

- The upload alleles are able to be visually separated (i.e. major or minor)
- Upload matching alleles in an even mixture where there is a strong representation

Do not upload contributions from low level mixed minors where we may be confident enough to condition but not load to NCIDD.

8 Peer review

All results must be peer reviewed prior to release to the QPS. Peer review can be at a sample level or case level, Technical or Administrative (see QIS 34322 and 34006).

Peer review of 'No DNA detected' is usually performed by a competent Analytical Section staff member.

8.1 Difference of Scientific Opinion

Through the review process, either at PDA stage or statement stage, a difference of scientific opinion between competent scientists may occur.

Refer to QIS 36061 for workflow arrangements should this be experienced.

9 Reference sample management

Refer to QIS 34245.

10 Case Managing a file with a 'Just in Case' SAIK

'Just in Case' (JIC) kits are sexual assault investigation kits that are distributed to Pathology Queensland (PQ) Laboratories and are used in instances where a patient has disclosed a sexual assault but are not ready to involve police. A forensic examination can be requested "Just in Case" a police complaint may be made at a later date.

The JIC kits include swabs in a tamper evident bag (similar to standard SAIKs), pathology request form, JIC consent form and chain of custody form.

The JIC kits are registered in AUSLAB (Pathology) by Pathology Queensland and received at Forensic Property Point (FPP), FSS within AUSLAB (Pathology) and electronically tracked.

FSS will hold the JIC kits for 12 months, at which time they will be destroyed if the complaint has not progressed.

If the complaint progresses, the JIC kits will be registered in the Forensic Register (FR) by the Queensland Police Service using a barcode allocated by FPP. This may be different to the Pathology Queensland allocated barcode, as FR cannot currently accept the series 2 ten digit barcodes. The AUSLAB audit trail and notation in the FR will link these barcodes.

FPP will enter into the FR the delivery officer details as per the initial AUSLAB (Pathology) entry, with appropriate notes regarding the date and time fhe samples were originally received. The AUSLAB (Pathology) audit trail will be scanned to the FR. NB. the test code "TRAIL" in AUSLAB will output the entire audit trail for the case into a report.

At statement stage, the original barcode assigned by Pathology QLD and date received at FPP should be listed as received date and barcode with (SAIK [identifier]) listed next to it.

Testing will proceed through standard examination and analysis within Forensic DNA Analysis.

The consent form, pathology request form and Chain of Custody form will be scanned into the FR.

Refer to https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/hsq/forensics/response-to-sexual-assault for more information.

11 File compilation

11.1 Suggested order of pages (from top to bottom)

1. Case file particulars page (QIS 34307)
2. Copy of final statement (if written)
3. Most recent printout of casefile notations, emails*
4. Exhibit Register list
5. Reference samples – receipt page then profile
6. QP127 (if available)
7. Examination notes:
    i. Description of item
    ii. Diagrams
8. Photos/photocopies/packaging/envelope images*
9. DNA profiles (EPGs)
10. Statistical calculations (if applicable)#

* these items are not required to be printed if the case is not going to court
# STRmix™ v2.6.0 (and beyond) deconvolution and likelihood Ratio reports are not necessary for casefiles. The PDA page may be substituted as it displays the LRs.

11.2 Page numbering

Only cases that are going to court (Statements of Witness or Evidentiary Certificates) need to be page numbered. Assistance is available from the Administrative Team for page numbering.

1. The Case File Particulars page is always Page 1 (except upon reactivation when the additional Case File Particulars page will be numbered page 1 and the original Case File Particulars page will be renumbered as the next consecutive number in the case file).
2. Case Files are numbered from the back of the case file to the front.
3. Number and initial each page, including the reverse of the page if both sides have been used.
4. Ensure the Case number is recorded on each page.

5. Write the total number of pages on the front of the case file and initial and date as indicated.

For those cases that aren't going to court, the total number of pages simply needs to be counted and noted on the front of the case file, that is, each individual page does not need to be numbered.

11.3 Statement compilation

Refer to QIS 34006 for the correct format for statements or reports issued by Forensic DNA Analysis.

11.4 Preparing a case file for peer review

Prior to submitting a case file for final review or prior to a statement being issued, the following is required:

- Ensure that all items/exhibits have been examined or prioritised appropriately.
- Ensure that appropriate reworks have been performed.
- Establish whether further testing needs to be performed
- Ensure that all samples are finalised
- Samples that have been reported as 'No DNA detected' or 'DNA insufficient for further processing' need to be documented in the case file. This can be done by either printing the PDA page, annotation of the receipt or annotation of the packaging image.
- All profiles have been printed and included in the case file. It is not necessary for EPGs within a casefile to be labelled, instead a copy of the PDA page can be printed to accompany the EPG(s). The PDA page contains all of the sample and interpretation information and can be associated with the EPG via its barcode.
- Ensure that appropriate profiles have been selected for upload to NCIDD. Only one example of each profile is to be loaded to the database.
- Ensure that the reference sample receipt is printed for each evidence sample (AUSLAB only).
- If there are multiple EPGs for a particular reference sample, only the reported profile need be printed and annotated as the final profile.
- Ensure that all evidence samples associated with the case are present.
- STRmix™ printouts for all cases that used this program for statistical calculations. It is not necessary to print the report for STRmix™ v2.6.0 (or beyond) as it contains a large number of pages; a printout of the PDA page and EPG is sufficient.
- For Profiler Plus cases: if a statement has been requested, ensure that profiles requiring a genotype frequency have had the statistical calculation performed through the Kinship program (see QIS 25368) and that the results are printed and included in the file. Any mixture interpretation pages, including Popstats where appropriate, must be included in the casefile.

12 Working Remotely

See QIS 34006 for writing and reviewing statements from a location other than at work (eg. working from home).

In these situations, printed casefiles with all contents may not be necessary unless a court requirement eventuates. Casefiles will be needed to be created to contain, at the very least, the hard-copy of the Statement of Witness to enable tracking to occur in the FR.

At times where actions are performed (or not performed) that differ to the standard approach to casefile compilation, these actions should be recorded as casefile notations in the FR.

13 Case file management off-site

When case files are required for court appearances they should be tracked to the Reporting Scientist in the FR.

If a file is taken off-site (in exceptional circumstances eg. flight for court evidence outside Brisbane), then a casefile notation should be added to the FR to detail this occurrence.

14 Reactivated cases and cases requiring updated interpretations and testing in external laboratories

14.1 Reactivated and Cold Case Management

On occasion, some cases require further work after they have been finalised and reviewed. In compiling cases that were previously managed with AUSLAB, it is recommended to print UR notes and any associated communications for the reactivated case, and commence tracking within the FR (QIS 33773).

An assessment of previously reported and uploaded profiles should be undertaken. In July 2007, it was decided (in conjunction with QPS) that all crime scene profiles (except Known Deceased and complainants in sexual assault cases) would be uploaded. Prior to this any crime scene sample that matched a complainant profile for any case type was uploaded to NCIDD.

New evidence samples received for a case which has been profiled using Profiler Plus will be profiled using PP21. It should be discussed with a Senior Scientist or Team Leader and in consultation with DNA Management as to whether the case is transitioned to PP21 profiling.

Any interstate person samples submitted for analysis by the DNA Management Section (QPS) that have been obtained from people located interstate are to be treated as Evidence samples (as per advice from the QPS).

If a case is reactivated for attention, a Request/Task is usually sent to the Team Leader. The case may already have been allocated to an existing staff member or can be considered for allocation to a new case manager.

The reactivation may be for a number of reasons including, but not limited to:

- Check into property holdings at FSS;
- Check into any remnants of testing still held at FSS (ie. spin baskets, extracts);
- Check into what volumes of extracts may remain for consideration of profiling at FSS, or at an external facility;
- Seeking advice on potential for external testing (extract volume and reference sample dependent);

- Request for a copy of the casefile as held at FSS (QIS 34248).

If samples were quantified prior to 04 November, 2015, they would not have been processed with Quant-Trio. These samples would benefit from a re-Quant with Quant-Trio so that the indicators of Degradation and Y-Quant are obtained.

If new samples are received for these Cold Cases, these are usually accompanied by a request for 'Quant and Hold' (see QIS 33773 and 34006).

In some instances, it may be possible upon consultation with QPS Homicide Cold Case Investigation Team Forensic Co-Ordinator to pool samples from the same parent item. Consideration of whether to pool prior to profiling, or after profiling can be discussed. DNA profiling of the sample/s may be before, or after a microcon post-extraction step. Pooling samples may hinder the ability to obtain a usable DNA profile if one sample is complex, or has raised a Quality Flag.

14.2 Testing in other laboratories

Consideration of further profiling interstate or overseas can be made:

- Highly sensitive DNA profiling, using Minifiler and LCN technology, may assist degraded or low-level DNA profiles. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) in New Zealand offers this testing.

- Y-STR profiling is performed in most other Australian jurisdictions, and in New Zealand. This technology may be useful if there are male reference DNA profiles, and the DNA profile has a quant value associated to the Y-Quant from Quant-Trio.

- Mitochondrial DNA profiling may be useful if the sample is likely to be single-sourced. This technology is useful for samples that are highly degraded or aged eg. recovered skeletal remains. Currently, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) offer this profiling service. This technology may be useful if there are males or females from the same maternal lineage.

If testing for certain samples has been approved to be conducted in other jurisdictions, the appropriate discussions and authorisations with QPS DNA Management should be retained in the FR.

Approvals and packaging process is outlined in QIS 30917.

If a casework sample is processed in another jurisdiction, it should be reported in a statement by that testing laboratory. Reference sample data (including EPG) may be requested by this reporting jurisdiction, which can be sent via DNA Management Unit.

If a casework sample is processed in QLD and Reference sample data is received from another jurisdiction, this should be reported to DNA Management Unit via Intelligence Report.

15 Records

1. Case file records – the location of paper case files is recorded in the FR, or for pre-FR cases, this is recorded in AUSLAB.

2. Paperless case examination notes - all but the current folder is stored in Block 3 Reporting.
3. Batch paper records - Filing Storage area (room 6112) or the Exhibit Room (room 6106)
4. DAD-Prior to AUSLAB Batch Functionality, all results obtained were loaded into an Excel spreadsheet known as DNAmaster. In 2008 these results were transferred to the DNA Analysis Database (DAD).
5. AUSLAB
6. Electropherogram pdf/jpeg files for samples:
   - Genotyper profiles are located in J:\User3100\Results Finalised\PRE-LIMS and I:\User3100\AAARESULTS FINALISED\POST-LIMS
   - As of the 16th February 2009, results have been analysed using GeneMapper ID-X. GeneMapper ID-X profiles are located in P:\Profile PDFs and only accessible from computers with GeneMapper ID-X installed (contains all DNA profile results from 16th February 2009 until June 2012).
   - As of July 2012, all DNA profile results are located in O:\Profile PDFs (accessible from all network PCs).
7. STRmix™ result files are stored on a network drive - I:\STRmix Results\

16 Associated Documentation

QIS: 17168 – Procedure for Single Source DNA Profile Statistics

QIS: 23968 – Forensic DNA Analysis Communications Procedure

QIS: 25368 – Kinship Software – Genotype Frequency Module

QIS: 25581 – Kinship Software - Paired Kinship and Paternity Trio/Missing Child Modules

QIS 30917 – Forensic DNA Analysis – Procedure for external transfer of samples and subsamples

QIS: 32139 - STRmix™ Report macro

QIS: 33744 – Forensic Register Training Manual

QIS: 33773 – Procedure for Profile Data Analysis using the Forensic Register

QIS: 34006 – Procedure for Release of Results using the Forensic Register

QIS: 34045 - Quantification of Extracted DNA using the Quantifiler® Trio DNA Quantification Kit.

QIS 34307 – Forensic DNA Analysis - Case File Particulars

QIS: 34112 – STR Fragment Analysis of PowerPlex 21 profiles using GeneMapper ID-X software – FR

QIS: 34229 - Explanations of Exhibit Results for FR

QIS: 34245 – Reference Sample Result Management

QIS: 34246 – Uploading and Actioning on NCIDD - FR

QIS: 34248 - Administrative Team - Case File related duties using the Forensic Register

QIS 34308 – Procedure for Intelligence Reports and Interstate/Interpol Requests in the Forensic Register.

QIS 34322 – Technical and Administrative Review of Records Created in the Forensic Register

QIS 35007 – Use of STRmix Software

QIS 35008 – Allele specific stutter threshold worksheet

QIS 35406 – STRmix Stutter Calculator

QIS 36045 – Multi-kit stutter calculator

QIS 36061 – Procedure for Resolving DNA Profile Interpretation Differences of Opinion

17 References

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Adamson, A, James, C, Caunt, E, McNevin, A and Cathie Allen (2021) Verification of STRmix v2.8.0

Brisotto P, Ryan L, & Scott K. (2020). Observed Reduction in Volume Post-PCR May 2020.

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McNevin A, Caunt E & Allen C. (2019) Verification of STRmix™ V2.6.2.

Morgan, R., & Caunt E. (2015) Development of Guidelines for Mixed PowerPlex® 21 DNA Profiles within Forensic DNA Analysis_version 2 (Change Management #149).

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Nurthen T., Mathieson M., Scott K. & Allen C. (2012) PowerPlex® 21-Direct Amplification of Reference FTA® samples validation.

Parry R, Caunt, E & Allen C. (2012) Verification of the DNA profile module of STRmix™ using the Promega PowerPlex® 21 system.

Parry R, Caunt, E & Allen C. (2013) Verification of the DNA profile module of STRmix™ for Full Volume Amplifications using the Promega PowerPlex® 21 system.

Parry R, Howes J, & Allen C. (2014) The determination of the threshold number of alleles, above which single source DNA profiles can confidently be ascribed a likelihood ratio in excess of 100 billion.

Parry R, Caunt E, & Lloyd A. (2020) 4p Mixture Discussion Paper

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Current as of 22 September 2014

Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012, Current as of 22 September 2014

18 Amendment History

Revision	Date	Updated By	Amendments
1	11 Nov 1998	V Ientile	
2	28 Mar 2001	V Ientile	
3	11 Jun 2001	V Ientile	
4	18 Jul 2001	V Ientile	
5	08 Jan 2002	V Ientile	9(3) – Completed case codes for FACTS
6	21 Nov 2002	V Ientile	Changes to section 9, completing a case
7	19 Nov 2003	V Ientile L Freney	Refer to AUSLAB. Remove FACTS in many places
8	07 Jun 2005	M Gardam	Included requirements for paperwork in case file ie No loose pages
9	03 Aug 2006	M Gardam	List of reference articles added
10	25 Sep 2006	M Gardam	Off site case file management, compilation of case file, case management.
11	13 Feb 2007	L Weston	Update with processes for AUSLAB
12	Apr 2008	QIS2 Migration Project	Headers and Footers changed to new CaSS format. Amended Business references from QHSS to FSS, QHPSS to CaSS and QHPS to

			Pathology Queensland
Version	**Date**	**Updated by**	**Amendments**
12	10 Apr 2008	J Connell	Transferred section on preparing case file for presumptive EXR/EXH validation to Examination of Items SOP
13	12 Feb 2009	K Lee	Major rewrite; Inserted subheadings and table of contents; changed order of information to reflect current processes; expanded on reworking information and other processes undertaken as part of case management; added information regarding dilutions and requesting processing of samples sub-sampled in analytical; summarised finalisation requirements for samples with extra barcodes; added examples for entering final EXR lines. Hyperlinked associated documents.
14	28 Oct 2009	K Lee	Updated with reference to GeneMapper *ID-X* software; changed "Pre/Post LIMS" references to "Pre/Post AUSLAB Batch Functionality"; removed unnecessary flow charts; updated hyperlinks and associated documents; introduced paperless case management; re-arranged for better flow and grammatical correctness; Introduced more definitions; included instruction on locating profiles for printing.
15	27 Jan 2012	K Pippia	Introduced new worklists; added section on reworking evidence samples; added VOLUND process; addressed changes in processes since last update; removed references to re-Genescanning and introduced references to re-reads; updated hyperlinks; addressed comments raised against last revision; updated FBNLR process
16	12 Nov 2012	Alicia Quartermain, Emma Caunt, Justin Howes	Updated all processes to include implementation of PowerPlex®21 and STRmix™
17	Jan 2015	Thomas Nurthen	Incorporation of updated workflows, major rewrite , New template
18	August 2015	Thomas Nurthen	Fixed typos, referenced new document for number of contributors, additional steps for FBNLR process, added NCIDD removal process, updated STRmix versions, NCIDD load requirements

19	07 April 2017	Justin Howes	Changed example on p41 to [9, NR]; added information to 5.4 regarding strmix instructions; added eg Profiler Plus to PP21 to 9.3; section 6.3.6 – added info on Profiler Plus and microcon instructions; changed LOD Quant from 0.00214ng/uL to 0.001ng/uL; added information to 6.5.3 re incorrects; added first line to Table 6;added information to 6.2.5 on no further work process; added Appendix 3 – Intuitive Exclusion Guide and details to 6.4.1.2; changed 19977 to 33407; fixed title of 24126 and hyperlinking throughout; edited amendment history versions/revisions to align with QIS.
20	24 December 2018	Justin Howes	Major revision due to implementation of FR and other new SOPs (for the FR).
21	17 February 2021	Justin Howes	Updated definition list; changed EXH to result; changed statswg to statsPWG; added 35406 and 35008 to associated docs and details to 6.3; updated title of no. contributors guidelines document; added details to 6.3.1; 6.3.4 edited to remove the requirement for reamps;added authorisations to 6.3.6; removed App 17.2 (intuitive exclusion guide); replaced 're-run' with re-CE'; added 35007 and 30917 to assoc docs, removed 31523; removed details on no. iterations for STRmix in 6.4.1.2; edited the title of mixed profiles to include four-person mixtures; added Sections on remote, cold cases and off-site; added info on broad peaks to 6.3.3; 6.5.2 added info on further processing; added information on increasing iterations; removed 17038 and replaced with 34307; added reference to Intel Report template for amended results in 6.5; updated formatting, added information to section 4.4 and removed numbers; edited 11.1 to remove AUSLAB references; removed checklist (was App 19.1); added contributors workflow to appendix; added reworking strategies to appendix; add

			information to 6.3.6 and 6.1.1, updated reference list, updated workding in 6.4.1.2; added section 6.5.7, edited wording in section 12 (remote working),6.1.1 and 6.5.3.
22	20~~19~~ ~~August~~ October 2022	Justin Howes/Helen Gregg	New template, updated as per comments on v21, added new information regarding discretion for microconcentration volume for DIFP to 6.3.6 ~~per DG memo~~, removed App1, updated section 10, add ref to strmix v2.8, added guidelines to App2, added App 3 workflow, edited 6.5.2 for clarification as per observation from NATA, edited 6.2 and 6.5 based on comments.

19 Appendices

1 Considerations in assessing samples for reworks
2 Guidelines for Single Source DNA profile interpretation
3 Processing Workflow for Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples

19.1 Considerations in assessing samples for reworks

Reworks are required for case work samples for several reasons including optimisation of profiles, confirming information and assessing the impact of quality issues.

Any process that is likely to exhaust all the DNA extract 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.

Below is a brief set of options to consider when deciding to rework a sample and choosing an appropriate rework strategy. This set of options will not cover every scenario and each sample should be considered on its own merit and within its own case. Samples may exhibit more than one issue that might warrant a rework. In this case select the one that will overcome the majority of issues in one go for maximum efficiency.

Problem/Profile Type	Rework Strategy/Considerations
Quality Issue noted in Batch Notes - Reduced Volume Post PCR - Other batch issue affecting the sample	Refer to the Report on Observed Reduction in Volume Post-PCR (Brisotto et al 2020). The wells commonly affected are A01, A012, H01 and H012. A reduced remaining volume may impact on the rework able to be ordered. If a suboptimal amplification (amp) is obtained due to reduced amp volumes, consider a re-quantification (quant) or re-amp as an appropriate strategy. Only rework if necessary in order to confirm a profile after a quality issue has been found to impact the sample. The best rework strategy will be dependent on the issue affecting the batch and the possible implications of the batch issue itself. Consider that re-extracting the spin basket may be best option. If the profile is considered unsuitable for interpretation, a rework or re-extraction may not assist. Consult a Senior Scientist if in doubt.
Quantification - Quant issue	If the profile seems inconsistent with the quant value or if the quant value is unexpected given other results or testing (such as numerous spermatozoa present), consider a re-quant as the best option. A profile with an inaccurate quant might be able to be identified in a sample with a strong quant with low degradation however with a poor quality or low level profile. Check the quant batch to assess the IPCCt value. A particularly low value (< 27) can be a contributing factor as this does not flag (as it does if it is a high IPCCt). If IPCCt value is low and degradation high, a

	re-quant should be ordered. If the IPCCt value appears to be low, a Nucleospin clean-up is still an available option for reworking. Note that Quantification of samples is only an estimation of the amount of DNA present within a sample and the true value can vary. A re-quant will use less extract and is more likely to obtain an accurate profile. Microconning a sample with an incorrect quant value can consume the entire extract and potentially obtain an uninformative profile that is unsuitable for interpretation.
- Low quant	A profile displaying limited information due to the low level of DNA present might benefit from a re-amp at maximum volume. If the sample has already been amplified at the maximum volume, consider concentrating the sample via microcon to 35ul (a microcon to full can be a helpful option for low level single source profiles). As of 19 August 2022, if performing a microcon to full, this will need prior approval from QPS as this process will exhaust the DNA extract. When considering a microcon, bear in mind that the optimal amplification DNA input is approximately 500pg or 0.033ng/ul quant value. A sample with a quant value less than 0.03 is more likely to benefit from a microcon. The presence of multiple peaks at loci in a low quant profile does not in itself mean that the microconned profile will be complex, it could lead to a clean mixed profile that might be interpreted. This should be considered within the case context.
CE issues	
- Poor Baseline and/or Pull Up	A profile with an unclean baseline can create difficulty in interpretation particularly if pull-up is interfering with true alleles and causing uncertainty as to the number of contributors to the profile. A re-CE is the best first option. A re-amp might be useful if the re-CE doesn't fix the issue.
- Artefacts such as ULPs or VARs etc.	It is no longer policy within DNA Analysis to confirm unlabelled peaks or variant alleles unless there are questions raised as to their accuracy. A re-CE can confirm whether they are truly present however a re-amp will confirm the allele designations.
- Broad Peaks	Broad peaks are peaks considered to be wider than

	standard. Broad peaks can interfere with STRmix™ deconvolutions of mixed profiles. A mixed DNA profile with labelled broad peaks will require a re-CE before being processed through STRmix™. A re-CE is preferable due to reduced costs and faster turn arounds however a re-amp is a second alternative. If the profile is considered complex or unsuitable for interpretation, a rework is not necessary. Note that a single source profile displaying broad peaks that also requires STRmix™ deconvolution does not necessarily require a rework. This is because STRmix™ will assign the broad peaks correctly to the one contributor without much penalty. If the sample has broad peaks and is not being reworked, add a sample note on the PDA page that broad peaks have been observed however are not affecting the overall interpretation.
Degradation	Degradation of a sample can vary from nil to extreme. The greater the degradation, the less the certainty of the interpretation or number of contributors to the profile. Degradation can be identified by taking the quant value into account along with the severity of the slopes of peaks from left to right of the profile. Provided inhibition has not been detected (low/high IPCCt value), re-amplifying using above optimal volume input (but below what might saturate the amplification) may assist. If the Degradation Index is significant, consider if the IPCCt value is appearing satisfactory. A re-quant may be necessary.
Amplification Issues - Preferential Amplification	Preferential amplification is noted by the ski slope effect from left to right across the profile in conjunction with an indication of degradation as per the Degradation Index. Whilst this is relatively rare within casework samples, it can be negated by re-amplifying at slightly lower volumes than previous.
- Poor Amplification	Poor amplifications might occur for a number of reasons including bad injections or pipetting issues. They can generally be identified after a good quality profile followed by a poor quality profile after a re-amp. First consider a re-CE or else re-amp at the same volume. A poor amp can be used for information but may not be particularly useful as part

	of a STRmix™ deconvolution.
Determination of Number of Contributors	
- Single Source Profiles	Consider that single source profiles only require 12 alleles and preferably as many P+ alleles as possible to be loaded to NCIDD. Therefore a partial single source may not require reworking depending on the sample and case. If the profile is low level and falls within the stochastic range, a re-amp might be beneficial to confirm any high stutters or potentially interfering sub threshold information.
- Two Contributor Profiles	Refer to the Number of Contributor Guidelines (Morgan R and Caunt E, 2015 – Change Management #149) for reworking to determine the number of contributors to a profile. In general terms, re-amps are the most appropriate rework for reproducibility. However if both contributors are clearly present across all loci, there may be no need to rework unless the profile is within stochastic range or STRmix™ might have a better chance at deconvolution with extra runs.
- Three Contributor Profiles	Refer to the Number of Contributor Guidelines for reworking to determine the number of contributors to a profile. In general terms, re-amps are the most appropriate rework for reproducibility. If a profile is assessed as 3 contributors, a re-amp might help to assess if drop out has occurred.
- Four Contributor Profiles	Refer to the Number of Contributor Guidelines for reworking to determine the number of contributors to a profile. In general terms, re-amps are the most appropriate rework for reproducibility
- Uncertain Contributor Profiles	Refer to the Number of Contributor Guidelines for reworking to determine the number of contributors to a profile. In general terms, re-amps are the most appropriate rework for reproducibility. Two additional re-amps (if necessary) are considered appropriate.
- Complex profiles	Complex profiles should not be reworked unless it is considered that the profile is complex due to other amplification or quantification issues.
- General Mixed profiles	There is NO NEED to rework a profile unless there is good reason to do so. Consider the risks of doing so. Does the number of contributors assessed correlate with the appearance of the profile, rather than just counting the number of peaks? If not, consider a

	rework to see if an extra contributor might be involved or to allow STRmix™ more certainty. Remember that the assumption of the number of contributors to a mixed profile is the minimum number of contributors to reasonably explain the DNA profile. Note that the Number of Contributor Guidelines are GUIDELINES ONLY and interpretation can occur without added reworks.

19.2 Guidelines on Single source DNA profile interpretation

Recommendations

(see G:\ForBiol\AAA Forensic Reporting & Intel\AAA Reporting guidelines\Proposed SS guidelines\SS High stutter guidelines_Final)

• Samples with a single peak in stutter position above threshold (labelled or unlabelled) can be

interpreted as single source profiles.

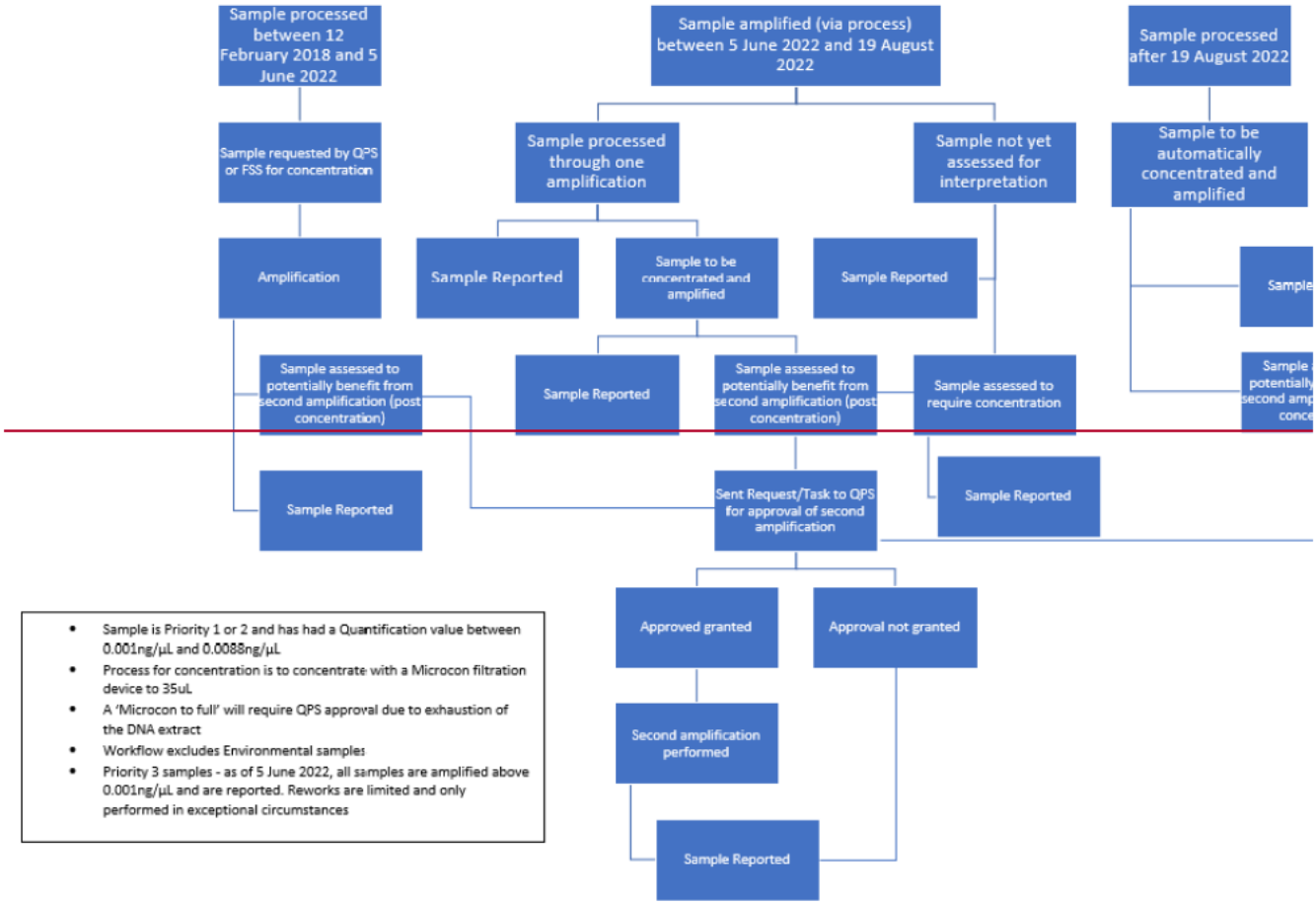
• For the purposes of determining whether a peak in stutter position can be considered as high stutter, we recommend the use of the STRmix™ maximum allowable thresholds which are 30% for -1 rpt stutter and 10% for +1 rpt stutter. This means that a peak in stutter position can be considered to be high stutter up to 30% of the parent allele height for -1 rpt stutter and up to 10% of the parent allele height for +1 rpt stutter.

• Samples with multiple high stutters can be interpreted as single source, however if either of the high stutters are above the STRmix maximum allowable thresholds we recommend that theses samples are interpreted as mixed samples.

• High -2 rpt stutter is to be left labelled. STRmix™ is not modelling -2 rpt stutter but will model these peaks as drop in if they are below 250 RFU.

• These recommendations are for the determination of single source verses two contributor mixtures only. They are not intended for use for mixtures with greater than two contributors.

~~r Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples~~



Date 5.10.2022

Topic

Meeting Objectives GPS meeting re pause.

Attendees Aaron
Duncan
stephan Forever
Kirsten
Lara
Matt
Lincoln Smallwood

Notes

- GPS – FSS pipeline
- rework on blanket

Lincoln: sample management retesting

Testing go ahead: P1 * high priority

~~re~~harvst - one go.

(1) 35 – OK ✓ YAY.

(2) Restart testing – default to PSD task. DNA liasion & Maya, FLO ↩ crime.

Action Items

- clarification comms in writing
- still request to get approval to ~~re~~harvst.

From: Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
Sent: Thursday 6 October 2022 12:44:33 PM
To: Matt Ford
Cc: Lara Keller;Aaron Suthers;Helen Gregg;Kirsten Scott;Lindon Smallwood;McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
Subject: QHFSS REQUEST TO QPS FOR APPROVAL TO RESTART TESTING

Good afternoon Matt,

As discussed yesterday, I have attached some information on the process for QHFSS requesting QPS approval to restart testing.

The request is to be sent via the forensic register as a 'request/task'.

Allocate to 'Action Unit' - FLU.

In the comments please add the proforma as follows:

> Brief outline explaining the request, including any request from DPP etc.
>
> Additional information to assist: (example responses given below)
> - Quant value: …… ng/uL
> - Undergone concentration (Microcon): es/No
> - Current Volume Remaining: ~…..uL
> - Further Processing Requested eg. Additional amplification of 15uL
> - Will further processing exhaust the sample: Yes (~5uL of extract will remain)
> - Description of DNA profile obtained to date:
> - Scientific Opinion on the likelihood that further internal testing may provide additional probative information:
> - Recommendation as to whether the sample may be better tested by an external service provider:

The following is an example of a task/request that contains the information we requested, the response was sent by a return task to the scientist.

[redacted]

[redacted] *05.09.2022*

Hello, a DNA profile has been obtained from the linked crime scene sample. I am seeking approval for additional work to be undertaken on the sample, in an attempt to obtain a suitable DNA profile for interpretation. Please be advised if this additional work is approved, the DNA extract will be consumed. This means there will be no opportunity for further processing in this laboratory, or elsewhere if alternative technologies are under

consideration. We understand that consultation with the Investigating Officer may be necessary and will await the outcome of those discussions. Once finalised, please advise via return Request/Task if the additional work is approved. If approval is not provided, the DNA profile obtained will be reported.

Additional information to assist:
- Quant value: 0.002
- Undergone concentration (Microcon): Yes
- Current Volume Remaining: 20uL
- Further Processing Requested eg. additional amplification
- Will further processing exhaust the sample: Yes
- Description of DNA profile obtained to date: eg. Low level DNA profile difficult to interpret,
- Scientific Opinion on the likelihood that further internal testing may provide additional probative information: further work may assist in the confirmation of information currently obtained. Further work may also confirm that the profile is too complex to interpret.
- Recommendation as to whether the sample may be better tested by an external service provider: If this item is critical to the outcomes of the case then a discussion is requested to explore all possible options.
Thanks
Emma

Details checked ARM 05/09/2022

09/09/2022 - FLU - JS; Case review of investigation completed. This sample would be considered further probative evidence. Authorisation is given to QHFSS to continue testing in this matter. Acknowledgment is made that extract will be consumed and no opportunity for further processing in this laboratory, or elsewhere if alternative technologies are under consideration. Please proceed with proposed testing. Thanks [redacted]

Stephan Foxover
Senior Sergeant
Officer in Charge
DNA Management Section
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Mobile [redacted]
Ph: 07 [redacted]
Fax: 07 [redacted]
GPO Box 1440, Brisbane QLD 4001,
Australia
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 11 October 2022 03:23:49 PM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Cc: Lara Keller;Aaron Suthers;Kirsten Scott;Foxover.StephanP[OSC];Matt Ford;McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC];Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Apologies David.

I will advise when the list is ready

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 3:07 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
We need to give more thought internally to the inclusion of the tick box for the reasons outlined below.
Thanks
David

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 14:58
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Thanks David,

We have requested BDNA to make changes to FR to create the list. Once these are in place I will advise and we will request formal advise to lift the pause.

Would you like QPS to request the tickbox from BDNA?

Regards
Helen

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 2:25 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
<[redacted]
Subject: FW: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
I have been forwarded your email by Duncan to respond to. The QPS supports the interim proposal as a solution to lift the pause. For clarity we support:

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
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    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
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    d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
    e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

In terms of the suggested improvements including the tick box, we might need to give this some more thought as this will be dependent on a number of factors that are outside of the knowledge of the QPS (e.g. quant, deg and Y values).

Thank you for coming up with the solution in such a timely manner. It is much appreciated.

Regards

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

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:11:02 AM
To: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: Interim proposal for current pause

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FSS believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

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Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see Q127

We would appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and suggest that we have another meeting at a date and time of your choosing to discuss and progress – please advise when this would be suitable.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or Matt (note Matt will be on leave from Friday 14 October to Sunday 23 October).

We look forward to continuing to work with QPS to resolve this matter as soon as practicable.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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This footnote also confirms that this email message has been checked for the presence of computer viruses.
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From: Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
Sent: Thursday 13 October 2022 08:56:31 AM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC];Helen Gregg;McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
Cc: Lara Keller;Aaron Suthers;Kirsten Scott;Matt Ford;Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Good morning all,

Please find an example below of the interim text the DNA Management Section are using to advise QHFSS that sample exhaustion is authorised.

09/09/2022 - FLU - JS; Case review of investigation completed by FLU. Authorisation is given to QHFSS to continue testing in this matter. Acknowledgment is made that extract will be consumed and no opportunity for further processing in this laboratory, or elsewhere if alternative technologies are under consideration. Please proceed with further processing of sample. Thanks [redacted]

I do not support the DNA Management Section (DMS) going further than the scope of the response above and providing additional permission to Proceed to half/35 microcon. I believe any decision on the method of analysing a sample should rest with the appropriately qualified staff at QHFSS, advice from DMS via a tick box or text should be limited only to approval to consume.

Regards

Steve

Stephan Foxover
Senior Sergeant
Officer in Charge
DNA Management Section
Forensic Services Group
Operations Support Command
Mobile [redacted]
Ph: 07 [redacted]
Fax: 07 [redacted]
GPO Box 1440, Brisbane QLD 4001,
Australia
[redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 07:00
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
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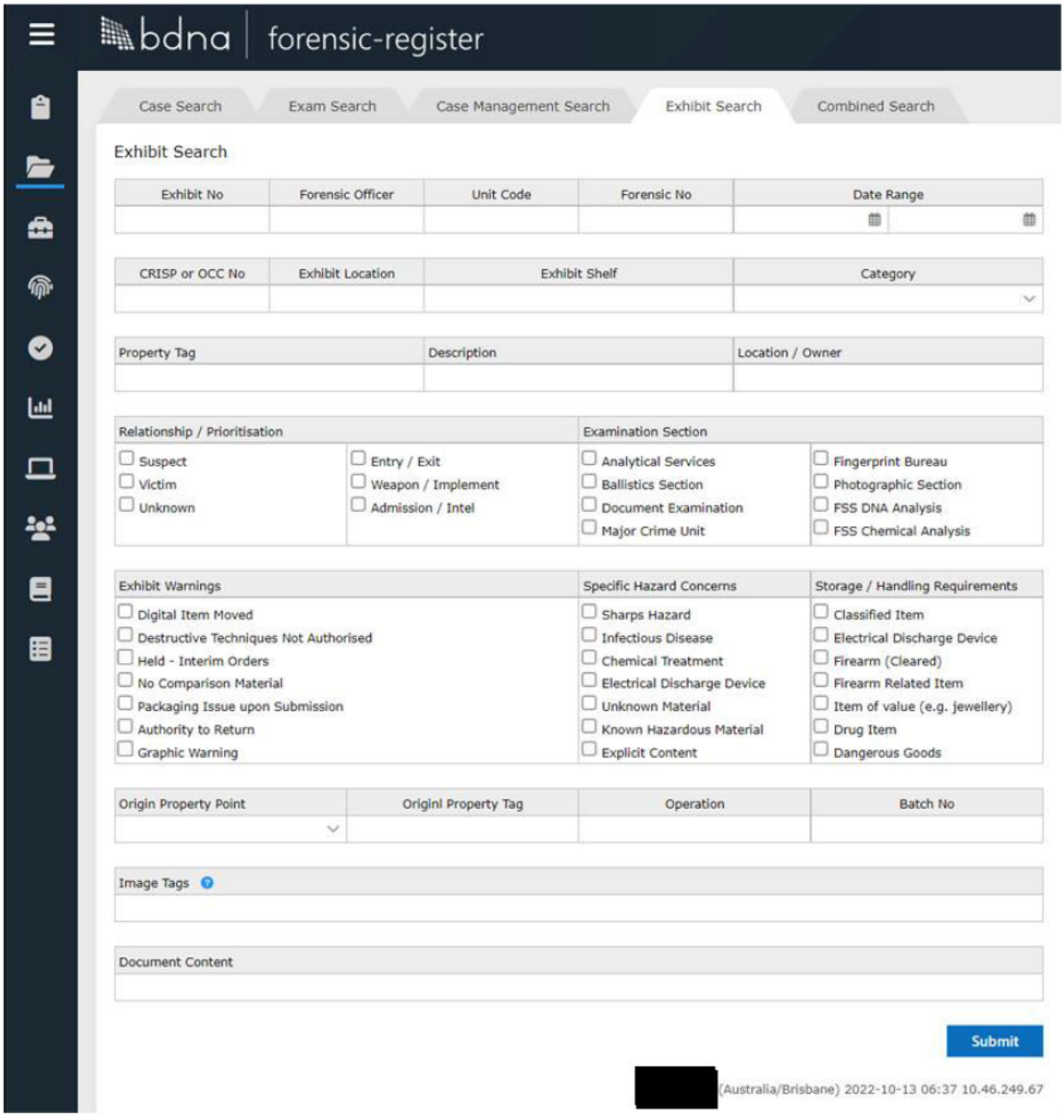

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Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 04:12
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]>
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
There are a few aspects to this that we need to give some consideration to. The QPS understands that DNA testing is a destructive process and that exhaustion of the sample will occur when very low amounts are present. Also, attempts to preserve a sample when the amount present is low can prevent a profile from being obtained. It has never been that case that QPS would prefer to preserve sample over obtaining a profile.

In the overwhelming majority of cases the QPS would prefer testing to be undertaken if there is a reasonable chance of obtaining useful information, even if the testing consumes the sample. However from time to time we may have a case where a particular DNA sample is pivotal and we may need to seek the services from another provider that offers alternative testing options.

The decision to exhaust a sample is something that is best made by a scientist based on the data present and their experience. It should include an assessment of the likelihood of obtaining useful information using QHFSS methodology vs the likelihood of obtaining useful information using alternative methodology. It should also be informed by the existence of other DNA evidence within the case or lack thereof. The QPS is not positioned to make these assessments.

The QPS can assist by identifying exhibits that are critical to a case where such an assessment needs by undertaken in a more careful manner. Such exhibits could be recorded as critical by use of a check box on the Forensic Register. If an exhibit is recorded as critical, the scientist should liaise with the QPS prior to making a decision to exhaust the sample. This would remove the overly onerous interim system in place and hopefully streamline the process.

In terms of your question about QPS approving microcon to 35uL, we are not really equipped to make those decisions. It would appear that the microcon volume is something that should be based on the quantity of DNA in the sample. If the quantity is low and QPS approves microcon to 35uL, we may have effectively wasted DNA in a sample that is already very low in DNA. What we are really seeking is a recommendation from QHFSS as to whether critical samples might be better tested elsewhere when they have very low concentrations of DNA. We would assume that this would be very rare.

David Neville
Inspector, FSG
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:58:15 PM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

HI David, Duncan and Stephan,

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e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There is the possibility in this scenario where we have requested microcon to full, that QPS FLU will approve microcon to 35 and one amp. So the point should read:
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I would appreciate your thoughts on this

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p 07 [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
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Regards

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Inspector
Biometrics
Forensic Services Group
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<[redacted]
Cc: Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara
Keller <[redacted]
Subject: Interim proposal for current pause

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FSS believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

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In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or Matt (note Matt will be on leave from Friday 14 October to Sunday 23 October).

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Regards
Helen

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Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 09:58:25 AM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC];Aaron Suthers;Lara Keller
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Thanks David – we are working towards that outcome now. I will advise when testing has restarted

Regards
Helen

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 9:57 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
Thanks for the reply. For clarity, the QPS is happy for testing to recommence as advised on 11 Oct. We would be happy for scientists to exercise their own discretion when it comes to exhausting samples except those marked as "Destructive test not authorised". I think this would be very rare. I am told they keep the spin baskets which can be reextracted in any case.

Regards

David Neville

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 07:58
To: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

HI All,

We are moving forward with the proposed interim process.
David – apologies for not replying to your email earlier. I had a personal emergency to deal with

Regards
Helen

From: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 12:42 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Good afternoon Lara,

Following on from David's email from yesterday, I am keen to provide feedback or other input to move ahead with the interim process proposed. I had a meeting with BDNA today on other matters, however I raised the potential changes to the FR that may be needed for this proposal. I stated I supported the work should it need priority attention in terms of our QPS arrangements, however they were unaware of any related requests.

Could you confirm please that you are still happy with the proposed interim process and let me know if further discussion is needed on any matters that may have arisen.

Kind regards,

Duncan

Duncan McCarthy
Acting Superintendent, Forensic Services Group, Queensland Police Service.
Adjunct Fellow of the University of Queensland.
Level 4, PHQ 200 Roma Street Brisbane, QLD 4000
[redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 07:00
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted]
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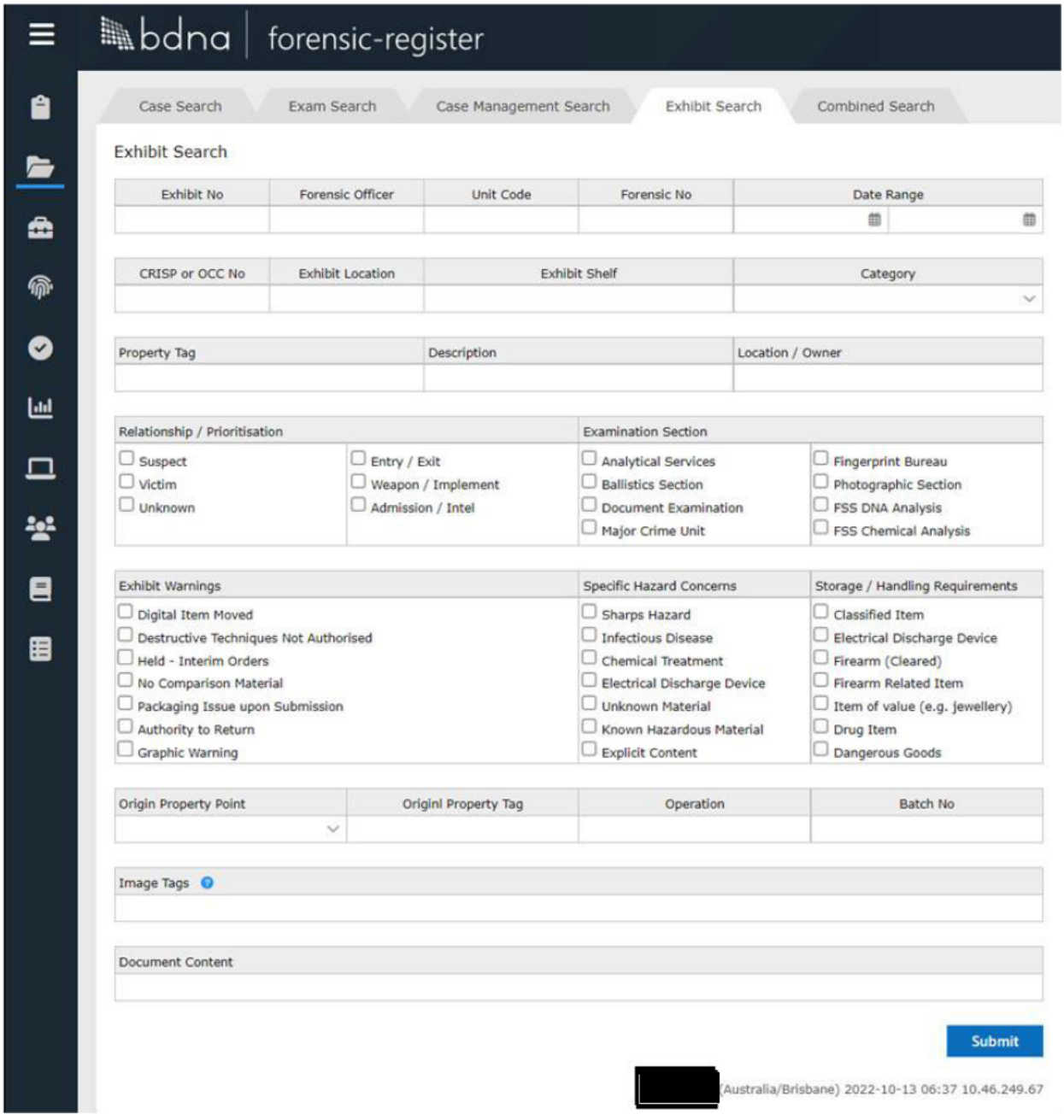

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[redacted]

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p 07 [redacted] **m** [redacted]
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        - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
        - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see Q127

We would appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and suggest that we have another meeting at a date and time of your choosing to discuss and progress – please advise when this would be suitable.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or Matt (note Matt will be on leave from Friday 14 October to Sunday 23 October).

We look forward to continuing to work with QPS to resolve this matter as soon as practicable.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 11:09:23 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC];Aaron Suthers;Lara Keller
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
We agree with below. I hope the need to case conference will be very rare. If it becomes more frequent and onerous, we can adjust.
David Neville

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:50
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Thanks David. The process as approved is as below. Please confirm.

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (being implemented)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full
4. The reporting scientist review the 'exhibit search' tab 'exhibit warning' section to determine if 'destructive techniques not authorised' has been ticked

    a. If not ticked – proceed with microcon (full or 35)
    b. If ticked – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR for case review.

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:45 AM

To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]> Aaron Suthers <[redacted]> Lara Keller <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
If ticked, we would need to case conference. I think this will be very rare, I hope. For clarity, you should NOT automatically microcon to 35uL if ticked as this could be detrimental to obtaining a profile.
Dave

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:30
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]>
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]> Aaron Suthers <[redacted]> Lara Keller <[redacted]> Helen Gregg <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi David,

So there is no confusion, I have rewritten the proposal. Could you please confirm that interim proposal is supported – particularly I need clarification about 4b – do you want a case conference or do you want microcon to 35 and one amp?

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (being implemented)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full
4. The reporting scientist review the 'exhibit search' tab 'exhibit warning' section to determine if 'destructive techniques not authorised' has been ticked

    a. If not ticked – proceed with microcon (full or 35)
    b. If ticked – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR for case review. This may lead to further testing (e.g. micron to 35 and one amp) or storage of sample

I believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

We still checking if we can see the checkbox.

Regards
Helen

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 9:57 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
Thanks for the reply. For clarity, the QPS is happy for testing to recommence as advised on 11 Oct. We would be happy for scientists to exercise their own discretion when it comes to exhausting samples except those marked as "Destructive test not authorised". I think this would be very rare. I am told they keep the spin baskets which can be reextracted in any case.

Regards

David Neville

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 07:58
To: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

HI All,

We are moving forward with the proposed interim process.
David – apologies for not replying to your email earlier. I had a personal emergency to deal with

Regards
Helen

From: McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 12:42 PM
To: Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted] Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted] Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Good afternoon Lara,

Following on from David's email from yesterday, I am keen to provide feedback or other input to move ahead with the interim process proposed. I had a meeting with BDNA today on other matters, however I raised the potential changes to the FR that may be needed for this proposal. I stated I supported the work should it need priority attention in terms of our QPS arrangements, however they were unaware of any related requests.

Could you confirm please that you are still happy with the proposed interim process and let me know if further discussion is needed on any matters that may have arisen.

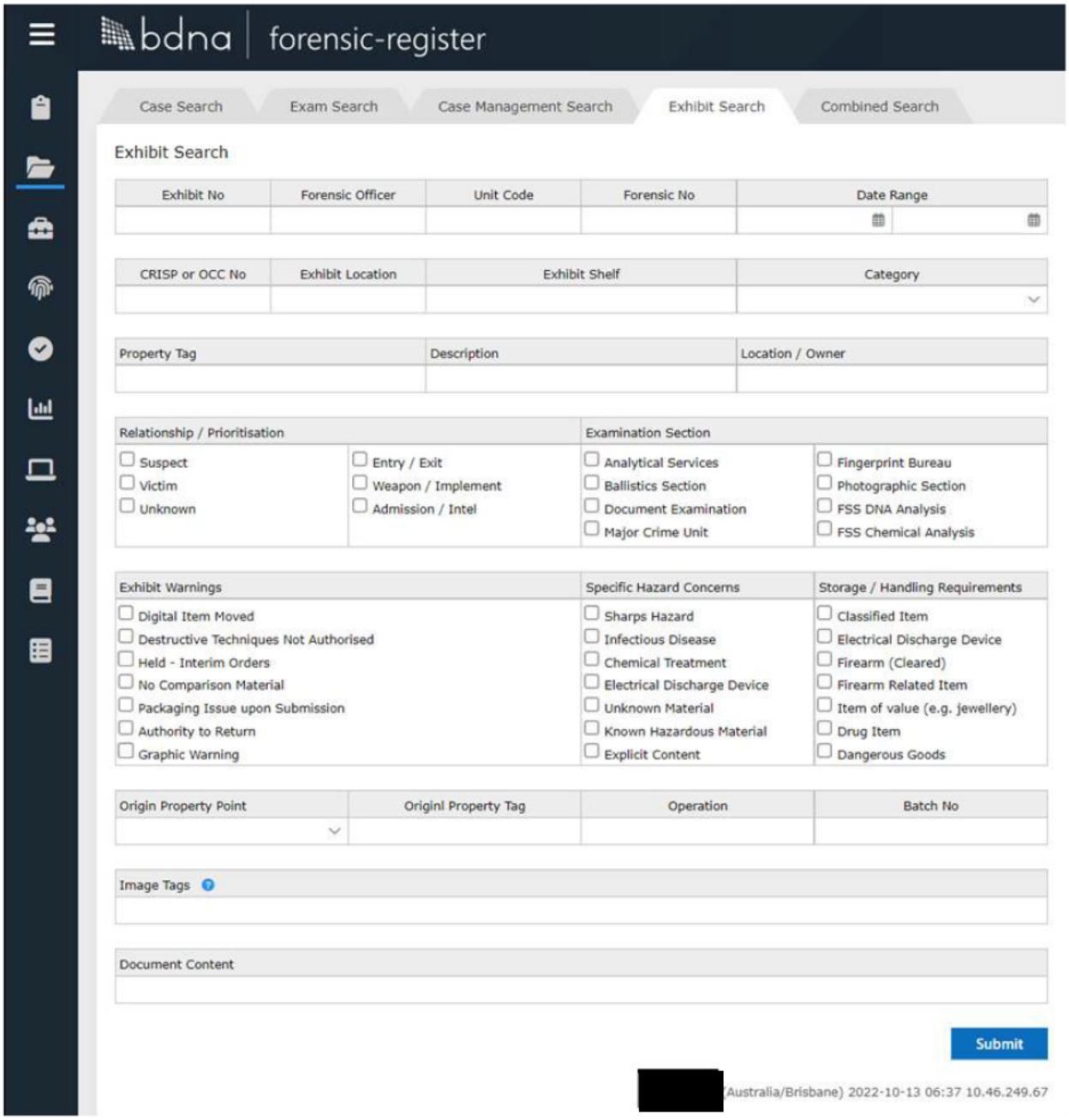
Kind regards,

Duncan

Duncan McCarthy
Acting Superintendent, Forensic Services Group, Queensland Police Service.
Adjunct Fellow of the University of Queensland.
Level 4, PHQ 200 Roma Street Brisbane, QLD 4000
[redacted]

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 07:00
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC] <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
Further to the below, I just observed that the new version of the FR already has a tick box that indicates "destructive techniques not authorised". See below. Perhaps we use this to indicate when a scientist needs to consult with QPS over the decision to exhaust. What do you think? No FR change is then required.
It is important to read this in conjunction with the below to give context to the decision making process.
Dave



bdna | forensic-register

Case Search | Exam Search | Case Management Search | Exhibit Search | Combined Search

Exhibit Search

Exhibit No	Forensic Officer	Unit Code	Forensic No	Date Range

CRISP or OCC No	Exhibit Location	Exhibit Shelf	Category

Property Tag	Description	Location / Owner

Relationship / Prioritisation		Examination Section	
☐ Suspect	☐ Entry / Exit	☐ Analytical Services	☐ Fingerprint Bureau
☐ Victim	☐ Weapon / Implement	☐ Ballistics Section	☐ Photographic Section
☐ Unknown	☐ Admission / Intel	☐ Document Examination	☐ FSS DNA Analysis
		☐ Major Crime Unit	☐ FSS Chemical Analysis

Exhibit Warnings	Specific Hazard Concerns	Storage / Handling Requirements
☐ Digital Item Moved	☐ Sharps Hazard	☐ Classified Item
☐ Destructive Techniques Not Authorised	☐ Infectious Disease	☐ Electrical Discharge Device
☐ Held - Interim Orders	☐ Chemical Treatment	☐ Firearm (Cleared)
☐ No Comparison Material	☐ Electrical Discharge Device	☐ Firearm Related Item
☐ Packaging Issue upon Submission	☐ Unknown Material	☐ Item of value (e.g. jewellery)
☐ Authority to Return	☐ Known Hazardous Material	☐ Drug Item
☐ Graphic Warning	☐ Explicit Content	☐ Dangerous Goods

Origin Property Point	Origini Property Tag	Operation	Batch No

Image Tags

Document Content

Submit

[redacted] (Australia/Brisbane) 2022-10-13 06:37 10.46.249.67

From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 04:12
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]>
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
There are a few aspects to this that we need to give some consideration to. The QPS understands that DNA testing is a destructive process and that exhaustion of the sample will occur when very low amounts are present. Also, attempts to preserve a sample when the amount present is low can prevent a profile from being obtained. It has never been that case that QPS would prefer to preserve sample over obtaining a profile.

In the overwhelming majority of cases the QPS would prefer testing to be undertaken if there is a reasonable chance of obtaining useful information, even if the testing consumes the sample. However from time to time we may have a case where a particular DNA sample is pivotal and we may need to seek the services from another provider that offers alternative testing options.

The decision to exhaust a sample is something that is best made by a scientist based on the data present and their experience. It should include an assessment of the likelihood of obtaining useful information using QHFSS methodology vs the likelihood of obtaining useful information using alternative methodology. It should also be informed by the existence of other DNA evidence within the case or lack thereof. The QPS is not positioned to make these assessments.

The QPS can assist by identifying exhibits that are critical to a case where such an assessment needs by undertaken in a more careful manner. Such exhibits could be recorded as critical by use of a check box on the Forensic Register. If an exhibit is recorded as critical, the scientist should liaise with the QPS prior to making a decision to exhaust the sample. This would remove the overly onerous interim system in place and hopefully streamline the process.

In terms of your question about QPS approving microcon to 35uL, we are not really equipped to make those decisions. It would appear that the microcon volume is something that should be based on the quantity of DNA in the sample. If the quantity is low and QPS approves microcon to 35uL, we may have effectively wasted DNA in a sample that is already very low in DNA. What we are really seeking is a recommendation from QHFSS as to whether critical samples might be better tested elsewhere when they have very low concentrations of DNA. We would assume that this would be very rare.

David Neville
Inspector, FSG
[redacted]

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:58:15 PM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]

<[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
Hill.MarcusE[OSC] <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Interim proposal for current pause

HI David, Duncan and Stephan,

As discussed, we have a slight change to the workflow to suggest. My previous email stated:

e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

There is the possibility in this scenario where we have requested microcon to full, that QPS FLU will approve microcon to 35 and one amp. So the point should read:
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to half/35 microcon if permission given by QPS or stop and store sample

I would appreciate your thoughts on this

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Quality Manager
Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p 07 [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Road
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Neville.DavidH[OSC] <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 2:25 PM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Cc: Lara Keller <[redacted] Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted]
McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC] <[redacted] Hill.MarcusE[OSC]
<[redacted]
Subject: FW: Interim proposal for current pause

Hi Helen
I have been forwarded your email by Duncan to respond to. The QPS supports the interim proposal as a solution to lift the pause. For clarity we support:

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full

    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full
        c. Brief outline explaining the request. Additional information to QPS to assist
        - Quant value: ..... ng/uL
        - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
        - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

    d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
    e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

In terms of the suggested improvements including the tick box, we might need to give this some more thought as this will be dependent on a number of factors that are outside of the knowledge of the QPS (e.g. quant, deg and Y values).

Thank you for coming up with the solution in such a timely manner. It is much appreciated.

Regards

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

From: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:11:02 AM
To: Aaron Suthers <[redacted] Foxover.StephanP[OSC]
<[redacted] McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
<[redacted]
Cc: Kirsten Scott <[redacted] Matt Ford <[redacted] Lara
Keller <[redacted]
Subject: Interim proposal for current pause

Good morning,

Thank you for the meeting held Wednesday 5th October to discuss the current pause on 'DIFP' samples and determine an interim solution while further validation studies are completed.

The following interim solution was discussed at the meeting and has been has considered by FDNA staff – thank you for your patience while we consulted internally. We are now seeking your input and advice on this interim solution. Please note: **This is not a change yet – samples are still paused as per the QPS direction to Queensland Health, and testing will not resume until QPS advises.**

FSS believe this will comply with our NATA requirements, as a variation to the SOP is allowed if there is consultation with and approval by the client to deviate from the SOP.

> **7.2.1.7** Deviations from methods for all laboratory activities shall occur only if the deviation has been documented, technically justified, authorized, and accepted by the customer.

Interim proposal

1. DIFP Samples go to a 'review' list in FR (to be created)
2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist
3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine (based on their expertise etc) if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full

    a. If microconned to 35 - proceed with analysis
    b. If microconned to full - contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR documenting reasons for request to microcon to full
        c. Brief outline explaining the request. Additional information to QPS to assist
        - Quant value: …… ng/uL
        - Further Processing Requested: (microconcentration to 15uL/full)
        - Further processing (microconcentration to full) will exhaust the sample, and approval from QPS is required

d. QPS FLU give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample. Proceed to full microcon
e. QPS FLU do not give permission via FR to microcon to full and exhaust sample - stop. Store sample.

Interim proposal - improvements

The following enhancements to FR will be requested from BDNA to streamline the proposed workflow above;

- Add tickbox to QP127 for IO to approve exhaustion of sample (default is ticked). This information to be made visible to FDNA staff, as currently do not see Q127

We would appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and suggest that we have another meeting at a date and time of your choosing to discuss and progress – please advise when this would be suitable.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or Matt (note Matt will be on leave from Friday 14 October to Sunday 23 October).

We look forward to continuing to work with QPS to resolve this matter as soon as practicable.

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 03:39:11 PM
To: Foxover.StephanP[OSC];Neville.DavidH[OSC]
Cc: Aaron Suthers;Lara Keller;Brian McEvoy
Subject: Lifting of the pause - Wednesday 19th October?

Hi Stephan and David,

FSS is ready to lift the pause as we are happy with the enhancements to FR and our adjusted workflow. We have proposed to start tomorrow (Wed 19th October)

Could you please advise QPS what the tickbox means; ie. That it is unticked and needs to be ticked by QPS if they do not want FSS to exhaust the sample as part of analysis.

Thanks
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry
Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health
p (07) [redacted] m [redacted]
e [redacted] w www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Helen Gregg

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 10:46 AM
To: Neville.DavidH[OSC]; Foxover.StephanP[OSC]; McCarthy.DuncanJ[OSC]
Cc: Lara Keller; Aaron Suthers
Subject: C-ECTF-22/16776 - DG MEMO - from Shaun Drummond, Director-General, Queensland Health - Repeal of memorandum titled: "Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range" (C-ECTF-22/13557)
Attachments: DG Memo repealing memorandum pdf Attachment 1 C ECTF 2213557 Director-General Memorandum dated 19 August 2022.PDF

Good morning Gentlemen,

Please find attached DG memo re repealing the 19 August memo and 'lifting' of the temporary pause for certain samples.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. It has been a collaborative effort, and your input was greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you in the future

Regards
Helen

Helen Gregg
Scientific Support Manager for Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry

Forensic and Scientific Services, Queensland Health

p (07) [redacted] **m** [redacted]
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/fss

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Department of Health

Queensland Government

MEMORANDUM

To:	Forensic DNA Analysis Staff, Forensic and Scientific Services		
Copies to:	Nick Steele, General Manager, Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services		
From:	Shaun Drummond, Director-General	**Enquiries to:**	Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, DNA Commission of Inquiry Taskforce 07 [redacted]
Subject:	Repeal of memorandum titled: "*Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range*" (File ref: C-ECTF-22/13557)		

I refer to the memorandum dated 19 August 2022 made by Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, titled: "*Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range*" with file reference number: C-ECTF-22/13557 ('**Memorandum**').

In short, that Memorandum provided that all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process. It also provided that if further amplification is considered beneficial, and such process would exhaust the remaining sample volume, then written approval must be obtained from the Queensland Police Service prior to that process being initiated.

The purpose of this memorandum is to repeal the previous Memorandum with immediate effect.

The repeal of the Memorandum will allow for Forensic and Scientific Services to implement a process for testing of samples that can be aligned with recent discussions, and agreement, that has been reached between Forensic and Scientific Services and the Queensland Police Service for the purpose of 'lifting' the Queensland Police Services' temporary pause on testing of particular samples.

If staff have questions regarding the current agreement with QPS regarding testing of the class of samples referred to above, Ms Helen Gregg, Scientific Support Manager for the Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry, can provide staff with further details as necessary.

Forensic and scientific services' staff are encouraged to follow any formal testing processes that are implemented via the Forensic and Scientific Services' management team, as per usual processes.

Should you require further information, the Department of Health's contact is Mr Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, Taskforce Lead for Queensland Health's Response to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland, who can be contacted via email at [redacted] and on telephone number (07) [redacted]

[redacted]

Shaun Drummond
Director-General
19 / 10 / 2022

Helen Gregg

Subject: Lifting of the pause (ie start microcon)
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Tue 18/10/2022 3:00 PM
End: Tue 18/10/2022 3:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Helen Gregg
Required Attendees: Helen Gregg; 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
Optional Attendees: Aaron Suthers; Lara Keller; Peter Culshaw; Brian McEvoy

Importance: High

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for all your feedback on the process for lifting this pause, and restarting microconning. We have made changes to FR, and these are now in PROD. We are ready to lift the pause, so this meeting is to ensure everyone understands the new process. I would like to start processing tomorrow (Wednesday 19 October). I am sure you can understand there is a pressing need to commence this work asap.

Attached is the workflow that I have written up to keep it simple. **Please review this prior to the meeting.**

Regards
Helen

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: [redacted]
Passcode: [redacted]
[redacted]

Join with a video conferencing device

[redacted]
Video Conference ID: [redacted]

Or call in (audio only)

[redacted] Australia, Brisbane
Phone Conference ID: [redacted]

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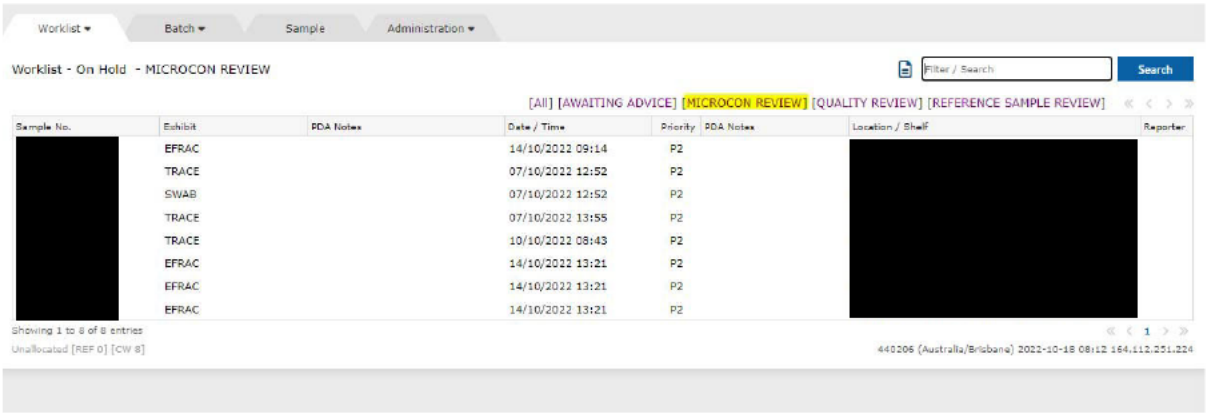
Forensic and Scientific Services

Process for microcon (lifting the pause)

1. DIFP Samples automatically go to the 'microcon review' list in FR



2. Each day, the samples on this review list are reviewed by a reporting scientist (roster to be drawn up by Peter Culshaw). On the microcon review page, the allocated PDA analyst can be seen under the 'Reporter' column at the end. Each reporting scientist should routinely check the list for their samples rather than the rostered scientist sending them. The rostered reporting scientist should only determine microcons on samples that are unallocated.

3. The reporting scientist will review the list and determine if they would like the sample to be microconned to 35ul or full.

4. Reporting scientist document decision making reasons on PDA page in sample notes

5. Reporting scientist allocates sample to themselves (so they do the interpretation)

6. The reporting scientist review the 'exhibit search' tab 'exhibit warning' section to determine if 'destructive techniques not authorised' has been ticked
   a) If not ticked – proceed with microcon (full or 35)
   b) If ticked – contact QPS FSG via 'request task' to FLU (type 'review) in FR for case review.

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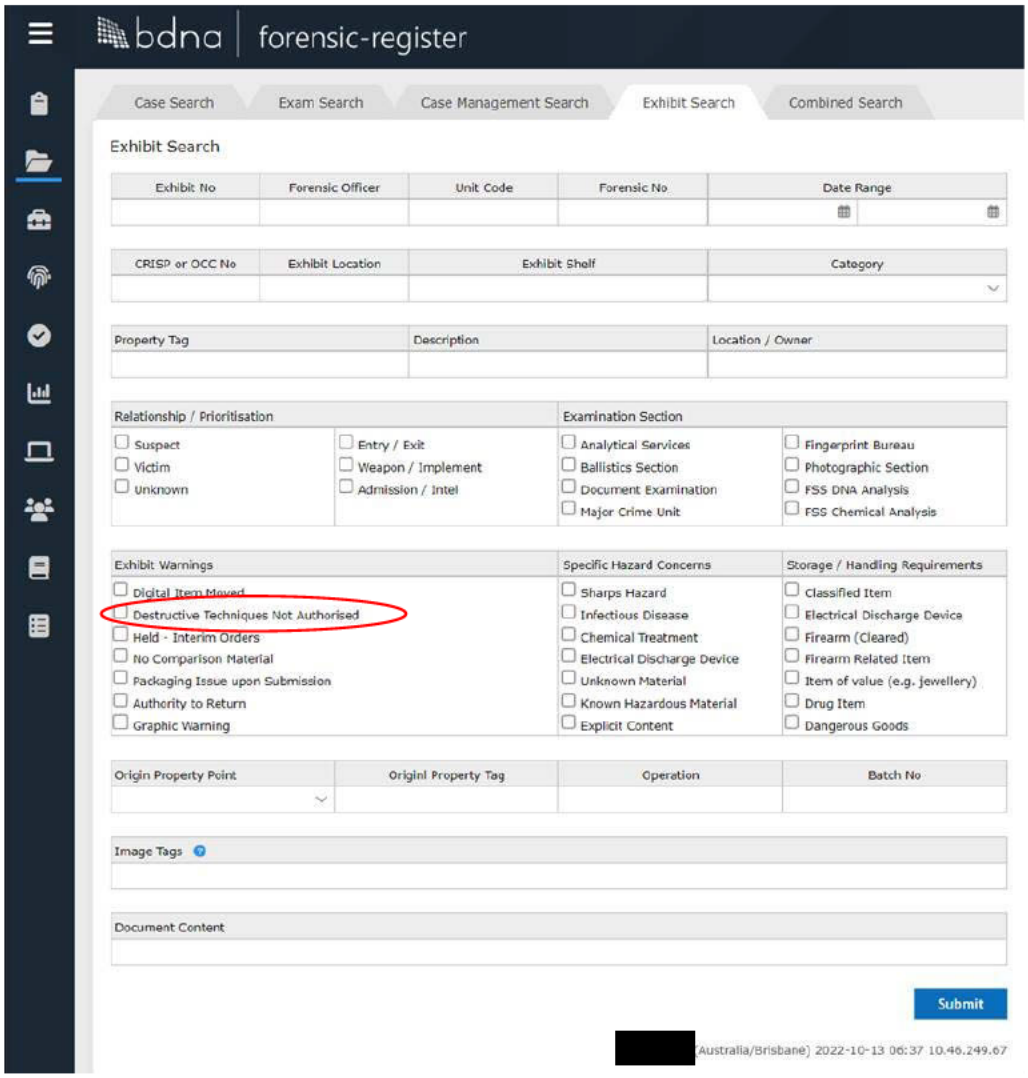
bdna | forensic-register
Case Search
Exam Search
Case Management Search
Exhibit Search
Combined Search
Exhibit Search
Exhibit No
Forensic Officer
Unit Code
Forensic No
Date Range
CRISP or OCC No
Exhibit Location
Exhibit Shelf
Category
Property Tag
Description
Location / Owner
Relationship / Prioritisation
Suspect
Victim
Unknown
Entry / Exit
Weapon / Implement
Admission / Intel
Examination Section
Analytical Services
Ballistics Section
Document Examination
Major Crime Unit
Fingerprint Bureau
Photographic Section
FSS DNA Analysis
FSS Chemical Analysis
Exhibit Warnings
Digital Item Moved
Destructive Techniques Not Authorised
Held - Interim Orders
No Comparison Material
Packaging Issue upon Submission
Authority to Return
Graphic Warning
Specific Hazard Concerns
Sharps Hazard
Infectious Disease
Chemical Treatment
Electrical Discharge Device
Unknown Material
Known Hazardous Material
Explicit Content
Storage / Handling Requirements
Classified Item
Electrical Discharge Device
Firearm (Cleared)
Firearm Related Item
Item of value (e.g. jewellery)
Drug Item
Dangerous Goods
Origin Property Point
Original Property Tag
Operation
Batch No
Image Tags
Document Content
Submit
[redacted] (Australia/Brisbane) 2022-10-13 06:37 10.46.249.67

From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 03:28:45 PM
To: Kerry-Anne Lancaster;Sharon Johnstone;Kylie Rika;Peter Culshaw;Matt Ford;Allison Lloyd;Chelsea Savage
Subject: FW: Microcon Lift of Pause

FYI

From: Luke Ryan <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 3:27 PM
To: Adam Kaity <[redacted] Alanna Darmanin <[redacted] Amy Cheng <[redacted] Belinda Andersen <[redacted] Biljana Micic <[redacted] Generosa Lundie <[redacted] Lai-Wan Le <[redacted] Lisa Farrelly <[redacted] Maria Aguilera <[redacted] Melissa Cipollone <[redacted] Nicole Roselt <[redacted] Pierre Acedo <[redacted] Sharelle Nydam <[redacted] Tara Prowse <[redacted]
Cc: Helen Gregg <[redacted]
Subject: Microcon Lift of Pause

Hi All
A meeting was just held whereby an agreement was reached on lifting the Microcon pause. This will come into effect from start of business tomorrow Wednesday 18/10/2022.

The workflow will be as follows:

- At quant transition, samples in the 0.001 – 0.088 ng/µL range will transition to the "On Hold Microcon Review" worklist (see screen shot below). This is active and in FR production.
- Reporting scientists will assess samples on the Microcon on Hold List and order a Microcon using normal processes (either to 35 µL as standard or to full with an Analytical Note)
- Analytical will use the Microcon WL as we did previously – i.e. any samples on that worklist are approved for Microcon processing and we can create batches from these samples as necessary.

Any question please come and see me.

Well	SampleID	T.SA (Qty)	Priority / Analytical Note	µL	Technique
A1	[redacted]	50.000000			
A2		0.005000			
A3		1.343763	P2		STR Amp
A4		0.377250	P2		STR Amp
A5		0.030986	P2		STR Amp
A6		0.042357	P2		STR Amp
A7		0.011556	P2		STR Amp
A8		0.014719	P2		STR Amp
A9		0.000000	P2		No DNA
A10		1.042104	P2		STR Amp
A11		2.688290	P2		STR Amp
A12		0.645807	P2		STR Amp
B1		50.000000			
B2		0.005000			
B3		0.000000	P2		STR Amp
B4		0.311984	P2		STR Amp
B5		0.006441	P2		On Hold
B6		0.345384	P2		STR Amp
B7		0.063878	P2		STR Amp
B8		0.000000	P2		No DNA
B9		0.000742	P2		No DNA
B10		0.705641	P2		STR Amp
B11		0.026128	P2		STR Amp
B12		0.262344	P2		STR Amp
C1		5.000000			
C2		0.000000			
C3		0.010362	P2		STR Amp
C4		0.281199	P2		STR Amp
C5		0.025371	P2		STR Amp
C6		0.000000	P2		STR Amp
C7		0.073756	P2		STR Amp
C8		0.000530	P2		No DNA
C9		0.000000	P2		No DNA
C10		0.702437	P2		STR Amp
C11		0.018075	P2		STR Amp
C12		0.804797	P2		STR Amp
D1		5.000000			
D2		8.234132	P2 DILN DILN PP21 or VFP: 2|33 ...		Post-extr

Thanks
Luke

Luke Ryan
Senior Scientist – Analytical Team
Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic and Scientific Services
Prevention Division, Queensland Health
p 07 [redacted] **m** [redacted]
a 39 Kessels Rd, Coopers Plains, QLD 4108
e [redacted] **w** www.health.qld.gov.au/healthsupport/businesses/forensic-and-scientific-services

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From: Helen Gregg
Sent: Tuesday 18 October 2022 02:58:09 PM
To: Aaron Suthers;Lara Keller
Cc: Brian McEvoy
Subject: RE: Memo to support lifting of QPS pause on testing

Hi Aaron – this is fine by me

Regards
Helen

From: Aaron Suthers <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 11:43 AM
To: Helen Gregg <[redacted] Lara Keller <[redacted]
Cc: Brian McEvoy <[redacted]
Subject: Memo to support lifting of QPS pause on testing
Importance: High

Hi Lara & Helen,

To support FSS's proposed processes that will permit lifting of the QPS's 'pause' on testing of particular samples, I have drafted the attached memo that **I intend to progress for signing by the DG today/tonight.**

Can you please ensure that the memo seems ok from FSS management's perspective?

We figure the memo is needed because the current DG memo in effect requires blanket concentration to 35ul for DIFP range samples. However, the recent process agreed with the QPS would allow for discretion to be exercised to concentrate down to 15ul – hence we need to repeal the previous memo's direction re concentration levels.

Can I confirm that referring within the memo to testing processes being decided by FSS management going forward is an appropriate reference to make?

Kind regards,

Queensland Government

Aaron Suthers
Executive Director
Queensland Health Taskforce Lead
Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland

P [redacted]
E [redacted]
health.qld.gov.a
W u
A Level 11, 33 Charlotte Street

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Helen Gregg

From: Lara Keller
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 10:29 AM
To: Helen Gregg
Subject: FW: C-ECTF-22/16776 - DG MEMO - from Shaun Drummond, Director-General, Queensland Health - Repeal of memorandum titled: "Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range" (C-ECTF-22/13557)
Attachments: DG Memo - repealing memorandum.pdf; Attachment 1 -C-ECTF-2213557 - Director-General Memorandum dated 19 August 2022.PDF

From: DG correspondence <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2022 9:38 AM
To: Abigail Ryan <[redacted]> Adam Kaity <[redacted]> Adrian Pippia <[redacted]> Alanna Darmanin <[redacted]> Alicia Quartermain <[redacted]> Allan McNevin <[redacted]> Allison Lloyd <[redacted]> Amy Cheng <[redacted]> Amy Morgan <[redacted]> Angela Adamson <[redacted]> Angelina Keller <[redacted]> Anne Finch <[redacted]> Belinda Andersen <[redacted]> Biljana Micic <[redacted]> Cassandra James <[redacted]> Cathie Allen <[redacted]> Cecilia Flanagan <[redacted]> Chantal Angus <[redacted]> Chelsea Savage <[redacted]> Cindy Chang <[redacted]> Claire Gallagher <[redacted]> Dasuni Harmer <[redacted]> Deborah Nicoletti <[redacted]> Emma Caunt <[redacted]> Lara Keller <[redacted]> Generosa Lundie <[redacted]> Helen Williams <[redacted]> Ingrid Moeller <[redacted]> Jacqui Wilson <[redacted]> Janine Seymour-Murray <[redacted]> Josie Entwistle <[redacted]> Julie Brooks <[redacted]> Justin Howes <[redacted]> Kerry-Anne Lancaster <[redacted]> Kevin Avdic <[redacted]> Kim Estreich <[redacted]> Kirsten Scott <[redacted]> Kristina Morton <[redacted]> Kylie Rika <[redacted]> Lai-Wan Le <[redacted]> Lisa Farrelly <[redacted]> Luke Ryan <[redacted]> Madison GULLIVER <[redacted]> Maria Aguilera <[redacted]> Matt Ford <[redacted]> Matthew Hunt <[redacted]> Melissa Cipollone <[redacted]> Michael Goodrich <[redacted]> Michelle Margetts <[redacted]> Michael Hart <[redacted]> Naomi French <[redacted]> Nicole Roselt <[redacted]> Paula Brisotto <[redacted]> Penelope Taylor <[redacted]> Peter Culshaw <[redacted]> Phillip McIndoe <[redacted]> Pierre Acedo <[redacted]> Rhys Parry <[redacted]> Ryu Eba <[redacted]> Sandra McKean <[redacted]> Sharelle Nydam <[redacted]> Sharon Johnstone <[redacted]> Stephanie Waiariki <[redacted]> Suzanne Sanderson <[redacted]> Tara Prowse <[redacted]> Tegan Dwyer <[redacted]> Thomas Nurthen <[redacted]> Valerie Caldwell <[redacted]> Vicki Pendlebury-Jones <[redacted]> Wendy Harmer <[redacted]> Yvonne Connolly <[redacted]>
Cc: Nick Steele <[redacted]>
Subject: C-ECTF-22/16776 - DG MEMO - from Shaun Drummond, Director-General, Queensland Health - Repeal of memorandum titled: "Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range" (C-ECTF-22/13557)

1

Good Morning

Please see attached the Memorandum from Shaun Drummond, Director-General, Queensland Health, for your attention.

Should you have any questions in relation to this advice, please contact Mr Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, Taskforce Lead for Queensland Health's Response to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland, who can be contacted via email at [redacted] and on telephone number (07) [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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Department of Health

Queensland Government

MEMORANDUM

To:	Helen Gregg, A/Executive Director, Forensic and Scientific Services		
Copies to:	Professor Keith McNeil, Acting Deputy Director-General, Chief Medical Officer Chief Clinical Information Officer, Prevention Division		
From:	Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General	**Enquiries to:**	Professor Keith McNeil 07 [redacted]
Subject:	*Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range*		
		File Ref:	C-ECTF-22/13557

Following the announcement of the DNA Commission of Inquiry, on 6 June 2022, advice was sought on the workflow relating to samples reported as '*DNA insufficient for further processing'*. This related to Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result of between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL.

Consideration has included an option for testing that would allow a discretion for FSS Forensic DNA Analysis scientists, including in conjunction with investigating officers at QPS, to decide the merits of undertaking a concentration process for Priority 2 samples within this quantitation range, having regard to other available case information.

I have reflected about options for the concentration process and for certainty, pending the outcome of the DNA Commission of Inquiry, I request the workflow to revert to the concentration process for Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples stipulated in Standard Operating Procedure 17117V19 (diagram section 19.4 attached).

For clarity, **all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL, should 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.

I ask that a review of the laboratory information system be 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.

Consultation has been undertaken with the QPS on this advice.

I request that you ensure this memorandum is shared with the Forensic DNA Analysis Unit staff and ensure clarity with the approach outlined above.

Should you require further information, the Department of Health's contact is Professor Keith McNeil, Acting Deputy Director-General on telephone 07 [redacted]

[redacted]

Dr David Rosengren
Acting Director-General
19/08/2022

Department of Health

Queensland Government

MEMORANDUM

To:	Forensic DNA Analysis Staff, Forensic and Scientific Services		
Copies to:	Nick Steele, General Manager, Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services		
From:	Shaun Drummond, Director-General	**Enquiries to:**	Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, DNA Commission of Inquiry Taskforce 07 [redacted]
Subject:	Repeal of memorandum titled: "*Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range*" (File ref: C-ECTF-22/13557)		

I refer to the memorandum dated 19 August 2022 made by Dr David Rosengren, Acting Director-General, titled: "*Reversion to concentration of all Priority 2 samples in range*" with file reference number: C-ECTF-22/13557 ('**Memorandum**').

In short, that Memorandum provided that all Priority 1 and Priority 2 samples with a quantitation result between 0.001ng/uL (LOD) and 0.0088ng/uL should be concentrated down to a volume of 35uL and undergo one amplification process. It also provided that if further amplification is considered beneficial, and such process would exhaust the remaining sample volume, then written approval must be obtained from the Queensland Police Service prior to that process being initiated.

The purpose of this memorandum is to repeal the previous Memorandum with immediate effect.

The repeal of the Memorandum will allow for Forensic and Scientific Services to implement a process for testing of samples that can be aligned with recent discussions, and agreement, that has been reached between Forensic and Scientific Services and the Queensland Police Service for the purpose of 'lifting' the Queensland Police Services' temporary pause on testing of particular samples.

If staff have questions regarding the current agreement with QPS regarding testing of the class of samples referred to above, Ms Helen Gregg, Scientific Support Manager for the Forensic DNA Analysis Commission of Inquiry, can provide staff with further details as necessary.

Forensic and scientific services' staff are encouraged to follow any formal testing processes that are implemented via the Forensic and Scientific Services' management team, as per usual processes.

Should you require further information, the Department of Health's contact is Mr Aaron Suthers, Executive Director, Taskforce Lead for Queensland Health's Response to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland, who can be contacted via email at [redacted] and on telephone number (07) [redacted]

[redacted]

Shaun Drummond
Director-General
19 / 10 / 2022