
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 2022-00132-11-12
Attachments: 2022-00132-11-12 - amended BDNA data.xlsx

Dear Jess,

Please see the message below from Queensland Health regarding the updated BDNA data:

Further to previous emails, I confirm that we are continuing to work with FSS and BDNA with regard to resolving the issues impacting the data provided in response to Notice 132 Items 11 and 12.

The data for 132-11 and 132-12 have been re-run by BDNA. BDNA have been in discussions with FSS (Paula Brisotto and Kirsten Scott) as to the search terms and review of the data produced. There has been some discussion particularly regarding the searches for data relating to saliva samples. The re-run of the data now includes subsample checks for profiles and BDNA have provided amended data (copy attached) which is explained as follows:

- The responses are for the following data extracts:
 - Notice 132 Item 11 – NDNAD, with subsample checks for Profiles
 - Notice 132 Item 12 – DIFP, with subsample checks for Profiles
- For both NDNAD and DIFP, the attached spreadsheets contain two tabs:
 - “ExhibitCounts” which is the summary data required for the notice response, and
 - “ExhibitList” which is the full data that is used to collate the summary data.
- Compared to the previous data extract, this amended data extract is also structured slightly different with a row per sample category as requested.
- In relation to saliva testing, for exhibits in the data extract marked as “saliva”: Samples with a category type ‘swab – saliva’, and anything with the description containing ‘saliva’, ‘sucking’, ‘bite’ and ‘spit’.
 - the search is looking for “spit” within the description, so “spitting” will be included
 - the search is looking for “sucking” within the description, so “sucking” will be included, but not “suck” by itself

Our instructions from FSS are that:

- The data provided is accurate as it stands but may not capture every sample submitted for saliva if the description differs from the search terms used, as this is a free text field the QPS enter information into. The data mining uses broad term searches, and the descriptors are added by a large number of QPS staff that may have different language use and may describe items variably. The quality of the data that can be obtained is dependent on the quality/structure of how the data was entered.
- For example "saliva" could be used as descriptor in a drink container by a QPS person as that is a possible source of DNA. However in this instance Forensic DNA does not test for the presence of saliva on a drink vessel as it is an expected outcome. The DNA on a drink vessel can be the result of saliva or DNA from touching i.e. A sample

submitted with the word "saliva" may or may not have been in contact with a mouth – due to the way data is entered.

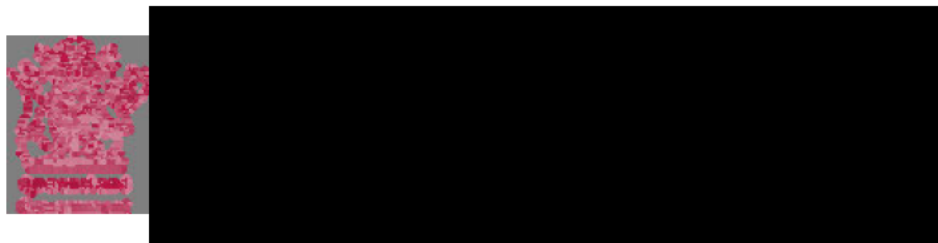
- If the Commission want the data to include results from saliva testing where Forensic DNA Analysis conducted presumptive testing for the presence of saliva (phadebas testing), then more searching would be required.
- For the data to be scientifically accurate each line would need to be reviewed and assessed scientifically - this would be many weeks of work.

Could the Commission please advise whether they are assisted by this data and explanation or whether they require further data mining to be undertaken.

Finally, we understand from BDNA that, in further clarifying these search terms for data relating to saliva samples in relation to Notice 132-Items 11 and 12, it may mean that (although we have already provided the 'amended' data to the Commission), if the Commission requires further data mining to be undertaken for the reasons outlined above with respect to Notice 132, Item 11 and 12 above, the data for Notice 132-15 also needs to be re-run and reviewed and this may take 2-3 days.

We will continue to use our best endeavours to resolve this issue and provide updated data as soon as we are able.

Regards,



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