

## Fwd: Testing pause timeline

**From:** Jasmina Joldic <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Shaun Drummond <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Matthew Rigby <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, 31 Oct 2022 15:50:35 +1100  
**Attachments:** FW: DRAFT - DG brief - QPS request to pause testing (4.53 MB); QPS emails to Helen Gregg 26 September 2022.pdf (1.44 MB); RE: QPS request (303.1 kB); Fwd: FSS SOP draft memo (329.22 kB)

Shaun, Matt

Happy to discuss.

Jasmina

Jasmina Joldić  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Aaron Suthers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2022 3:42:03 PM  
**To:** Jasmina Joldic <[REDACTED]ld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Testing pause timeline

Hi Jasmina,

Tamara's timeline regarding the pause on testing issue attached and below.

I have also attached Cath's email raising a concern that the Taskforce may have known about the issue.

Inspector Neville sent two emails requesting a pause. The initial email was sent at 8:56 am (which Cath received and passed to the Taskforce and is attached). In that email, Lara responded by requesting that Inspector Neville confirm whether it was a formal request from QPS before implementing given the gravity of the decision. Inspector Neville replies to Lara at 9:55 am confirming that it is a formal request to pause but we do not seem to have received a copy of that confirmation email.

Kind regards,



Aaron Suthers  
 Executive Director  
 Queensland Health Taskforce Lead  
 Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA  
 Testing in Queensland

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**From:** Aaron Suthers  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 October 2022 5:33 PM  
**To:** Megan Fairweather <Megan.Fairweather@health.qld.gov.au> Catherine Scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Tamara Schameck <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: Testing pause timeline

Hi Megan and Cath,

Tamara has helpfully provided the below timeline from her search of our records regarding the pause on testing being both requested and implemented.

The only detail I would add to the below is that on 29 September 2022, I formally implemented the pause (before the DG memo on 30 September 2022) by sending my email to Lara and Helen stating that a written instrument/direction would be coming from the DG in due course – but that they were free to use my email as evidence for implementing the pause immediately.

Kind regards,



**Aaron Suthers**  
**Executive Director**  
**Queensland Health Taskforce Lead**  
 Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA  
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**From:** Tamara Schameck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 October 2022 5:33 PM  
**To:** Aaron Suthers <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Testing pause timeline

Aaron

As discussed, testimony this morning has been suggested to have alluded to Taskforce responsibilities for the testing pause between 20/09 to 30/09. I have pulled together a timeline for your information below as I understand it. We will need to review the transcript as I did not hear these comments myself (due to being on the IDCC). You may also wish to seek advice from QH Legal about the significance of these comments as they relate to the record of the Commission.

**Interaction between FSS and QPS (not involving Taskforce members (refer to attached):**

1. 14/09: D. Neville, QPS emailed L.Keller, and H.Gregg seeking confirmation that the newly adopted process of concentrating all samples to 35uL is the same process that was in place prior to February 2018; and advice as to whether concerns raised by scientists in the lab had merit.
2. 15/09: LK emails DN and copies HG and Duncan McCarthy seeking for the Police to provide advice for entire sample to be consumed.
3. 16/09: DDN emails LK and DM stating it would be hard for QPS to give a blanket decision and any potential QPS decision would need to be based on a recommendation from the scientist working the sample. Email also seeks a timeframe for review of the microconcentration policy.
4. 16/06: HG emails DN and copies LK and DM stating LK had sent the above email on to her for response. Email gives an indicative timeframe for response of 'the end of next week'. DN responds to all thanking HG for her response.
5. 20/07: DN emails LK and HG with a copy to A/Supt Miller requesting a temporary pause testing of P1 and P2 case samples contingent on QPS receiving data analysis.
6. 20/07: LK responds to all seeking clarification of whether this was a formal request of QPS and states DG memo is in place and DG clearance would be required.
7. 20/07: DN responds to all stating that it was a formal request of QPS to pause testing and that A/Supt Miller was consulted.
8. 21/07: LK responds to DN and a/Supt Miller that she has 'briefed up'.
9. 24/09 DN emails HG, LK and A/Supt Miller seeking an update on the feedback requested on 16/09 in light of the pause.
10. 26/09: HG replies to all stating that robust analysis was required and that she envisaged months, not days or weeks would be required to evaluate properly. On the same day DN responds to all seeking confirmation that testing had been pause and seeking earlier advice stating QPS could not wait months to test samples.

**Taskforce involvement (that I am privy too – refer to attached):**

11. On 27/09: the Taskforce became aware that DN would likely provide testimonial evidence before the Commission indicating that he had formally requested a pause on testing. On that basis, Lindon Smallwood emailed LK, Aaron Suthers, Nick Stelle and myself; and copied HG, Matt Ford, and Alison Slade seeking urgent advice about whether testing had been paused. On the same day, LK forwarded the email to HG.
12. 27/09: Lara responded to the effect that requests should be channelled through FSS. On the same day, I responded to all providing Lara with an e-introduction to Lindon (being a new member of the Taskforce) (9.27pm). In response to all Lindon attempted to provide some context to his request (11:07pm at this point in time).
13. On 28/09: LK responded to all again requesting DN be referred back to her for these types of inquiries.
14. 28/09: Numerous emails between QH Legal and Taskforce seeking advice on the pause for the purposes of provision to our Barristers. I provided advice that Lindon had unsuccessfully attempted to seek advice on this matter the day prior when it came to our attention (I also provided emails which has been provided to me by Lindon showing QPS had been seeking this advice from FSS as summarised above (I have re-attached this document for ease of reference).
15. 28/09: at 2:20pm LK and Megan Fairweather provided me with a copy of a briefing (which was also provided to AS at the same time). The BA had been prepared by Helen Gregg, cleared by LK and progressed to Nick Steele for approval. The BA recommends continuation of processing '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.' The Taskforce was not consulted in the preparation of this brief.
16. 30/09: Pause on testing was approved by the Director-General and implemented by a memorandum of the same date. The Taskforce also met with representatives of QPS about these matters.
17. 5/10: Taskforce convened a discussion between FSS and QPS on the pause on samples in the range 0.001ng/μL to 0.0088ng/μL to determine an interim solution while further validation studies are undertaken. As a result of this meeting agreement was reached between the parties on an interim process/workflow allowing the pause on testing to be listed.
18. 19/10: New process in place and previous D-G Memo repealed to allow new process to be implemented.

Let me know if you need anything else from me.

Regards

Tam

**Tamara Scharneck**



A/Director  
Commission Engagement  
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