# COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO FORENSIC DNA TESTING IN QUEENSLAND

Brisbane Magistrates Court Level 1/363 George Street, Brisbane

On Friday, 21 October 2022 at 9.30am

Before: The Hon Walter Sofronoff KC, Commissioner

Counsel Assisting: Mr Michael Hodge KC

Ms Laura Reece Mr Joshua Jones Ms Susan Hedge

1	<pre><paula [9.40am]<="" brisotto,="" former="" michelle="" oath:="" on="" pre=""></paula></pre>
2 3	<examination by="" hodge:<="" mr="" th=""></examination>
4 5 6	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge.
7 8	MR HODGE: Thank you, Commissioner.
9 0 1 2	Q. Ms Brisotto, overnight I think one of the things you were going to do was to go back and look at version 1 of the report.  A. Yes.
3 4 5 6	Q. Did you have a chance to do that? A. Yes.
7 8 9 20 21 22	Q. I had understood what you wanted to do was to have the opportunity to look at that to see the extent to which it dealt with NCIDD uploads as compared to successful comparison to reference samples. Did you have the chance to do that?  A. Yes, I did.
24 25 26 27 28	Q. What view did you form about that?  A. That in that particular version, there was reference to NCIDD uploads in one of the experimental designs. In the conclusion and recommendation, it doesn't focus on the NCIDD uploads.
29 30 31 32	Q. Why don't we bring that up and then you can explain to you what you mean by that. That's [FSS.0001.0001.0914]. I think this is the report you looked at?  A. Yes.
34 35 36 37 38	Q. Perhaps if I just take you to some pages and you can explain that to us. So if we go to page .0920, do you see "Experimental Design" at the bottom of the page? A. Yes.
10 11 12 13	Q. That first experiment is the division of samples into success or fail?  A. Yes.
14 15 16	Q. And success or fail division is, in effect - it's a success if you obtain a profile, a full profile, and anything else is a fail; is that right?  A. Success - my understanding is - is something that's

1	suit	able for comparison, not necessarily a full profile.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. also A.	I see, so that division into success and fail, that's something that appears in the Options Paper? Yes, I believe so.
		And then experiment 2 is, if we go over the page to .0921, "Assessment of all DNA profile results from acts that have had a concentration step"? Yes.
		If we go over the page, I think that goes through, and vantly at the end of that, do you see in about the le of the page it says:
15 16 17 18 19		The percentage of samples that were in this Quantification range and led to an NCIDD upload was determined.
20 21	Α.	Yes.
22 23	Q.	Then it said:
24 25		This data could be filtered further into the outcome from the NCIDD load.
26 27	Α.	Yes.
28 29 30 31 32		Then if we look at experiment 3, so we can take that , Mr Operator, it is determining the difference between and post-microcon quantification values? Yes.
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41	are ther Samp	And then if we go over the page to page .0923, this is e we see those experiments then be brought into what the results, and we can see there's the pie chart e, which is "'Success'/'Fail' of 'Auto-Microcon' les". That's the same pie chart that appears in the ons Paper?  Yes.
41 42 43 44 45 46		And then if we go over the page, there's another pie t there, which is "Samples reworked after o-Microcon'"? Yes.
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Q.

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I think that might not appear in the Options Paper; is

that right, or you're not sure?

A. I'm not sure.

Q. Then if you go over the page again, Mr Operator, to page .0925, we then see this bar graph that illustrates NCIDD upload, and it categorises NCIDD upload into the three kinds of outcomes - an NCIDD cold link, an NCIDD unlinked, which as I understand it means the profile is uploaded to NCIDD and therefore potentially provides useful intelligence for a future upload; is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. And then NCIDD warm link, which means there's a link made, but it's to somebody who's already known to the case? A. Yes.

- Q. The measurement of success, which is said to be 1.45 per cent, is basically NCIDD cold link added to NCIDD unlinked?
- A. Yes.

- Q. I then just want to understand, if we then go to the conclusions and recommendations, which is page .0931, I just want to understand, is this the part where you're pointing out that there's not a reference to NCIDD upload here; there's a reference to whether or not there's a meaningful result or not?
- A. That's how I read it when I read through it last night.

Q. I'm just trying to understand, does that make some difference to whether or not the appropriate recommendation is to cease auto-microcon for priority 2 samples in the low-quant range?

A. I think the focus on the conclusion in this was in relation to whether a sample was suitable or not suitable and the recommendations from that. It doesn't focus on the 1.45. That seems to be the focus of the Options Paper.

Q. I see. I think you might agree with this, then: assuming your assessment is right, that you feel like the original version doesn't focus as much on success measured by NCIDD uplink, that, on any view, that's a better way to consider this issue in relation to priority 2 samples than focusing on success by NCIDD uplink?

A. Yes, I agree.

Your view is --1 Q. 2 Ms Brisotto, the other aspect is 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. 4 that the project, when it was a project, considered samples that were within the range 0.001 to 0.0088 that underwent 5 6 microcon --7 Α. Yes. 8 -- all of them underwent microcon, so that was the 9 auto-microcon group, but it also considered the results 10 that were obtained from samples that were not within that 11 group that underwent concentration? 12 Yes. Α. 13 14 15 So that we see on the page that you're looking at, in the second paragraph, that all samples that underwent the 16 microcon step resulted in a failure in 78.5 per cent of 17 cases. Do you see that? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 So what that showed was that if you applied the same 21 logic and ceased microconning samples within the range one 22 23 to eight-eight because they didn't generate a result more than 10 per cent of the time, you'd cease microconning 24 25 altogether, because you only get a result 10 per cent of the time, anyway? 26 27 Ten per cent of the time if you're considering all of 28 the ranges in the second paragraph? 29 30 Yes, yes, it would show the same logic - it's not Q. 31 worth doing because you're only getting 10 per cent applies to all microcons, so the lab would just cease all 32 microcons, wouldn't it? 33 34 Not necessarily. Α. 35 36 Q. Does that logic follow or not? With this, and how I've read it, the success does 37 increase the higher the quantitation value. 38 I believe 39 that's in the discussion, and some of the results --40 But you still only get 10 per cent according to this Q. paragraph - 11.5 per cent? 42 43 "78.5 per cent did not yield meaningful results".

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MR HODGE: 21.5 per cent.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Q. I'm sorry, 21.5 per cent, I'm

- sorry. So 21 per cent is valuable, but 10 per cent is not; is that the logic?
  - A. I would have to have a look at the range. I don't think the range for the microcon goes above still a low-level range. It's up in the discussion section. I don't know whether it went to 0.012 or 3, I'm not sure, sorry, so it still wasn't a large microcon value, or a quant value, sorry. I think looking at the graphs, it still talks about the success rates the higher the quant range, so the more DNA present in the sample, and potentially sample type, the more chance you may have of success.

- Q. And that graph shows that when you get to about 0.0088, you get a result about 50 per cent of the time, doesn't it?
- A. I would have to scroll back to see.

- Q. Never mind. Don't worry. Don't worry.
- A. Sorry.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge.

- MR HODGE: Q. I suppose I then wonder why, in your view and doing the best you can for us, given your opinion now that in even evaluating this question you wouldn't focus upon NCIDD upload, why you would have stood by whilst an Options Paper was presented to the police that focused and put the focus squarely on NCIDD upload?
- A. I don't know. I guess at the time, I can't recall reading the Options Paper, and I certainly didn't provide feedback on it that I can find, and if I like, I may have read it, but it might not have been an in-depth read, if I had just assumed that it was basically taking content from the project that I read.

- Q. I'll come in a moment to whether you read it or not. Can I ask something else. Having now reviewed this version 1 of the project report overnight, are you able to explain to us why, in any event, you were happy to recommend to cease auto-microcon for priority 2 samples in the low-quant range?
- A. With the understanding that if they were samples that could be it was I guess a hold step, not a ceasing completely. It was a hold, and one of the I think recommendations down below were samples that were chosen or selected by the Queensland Police Service could be further

It's on the screen.

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processed.

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It wasn't a hold step. You're underplaying it. can see what recommendation 1 is. This is what you were happy with, which is:

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Cease "auto-microcon" processing with the following exceptions: ...

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And those exceptions aren't about Queensland Police input. The default position was going to be that you would cease auto-microcon for priority 2 samples in the low-quant range?

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With the information provided back that it could be Α. restarted at any time. That's the understanding.

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Could we just scroll down. I just want to understand Q. what you're - is this item number 5; is that what you're referring to? Α. Yes.

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I'm still struggling, though, to understand why, in your view, was it appropriate to recommend that as a default position you wouldn't test these samples? As a workflow step, the whole process of submitting Α. certain samples is a triage step, selecting the samples that will likely obtain a DNA profile that's useable for the case in the first instance, for a lot of samples that are submitted to us. So the workflow suggested in this is looking at the range where it appears anecdotal feedback from reporters, based on what is written in here, indicates that they were unsuitable, so it is concentrating on those

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You mentioned the word "triage". What do you mean by "triage"?

- Triage is looking, I guess, from an assessment point as what samples should be submitted. So, for example, a lot of the samples that we get for I think volume crime, they might submit two samples, only one trace, because sometimes they are complex - I think that was something that was implemented a couple of years ago by the QPS.
- I mean, what do you mean by the word "triage"? Q. you define "triage" for me as you use it?
- In this particular instance, triage is, I guess from my perspective, an ability to assess the case, or for the

that might be suitable.

QPS or forensic scientist staff assessing the samples within the case and determining what rework strategies or what samples were critical to the case and may likely yield a DNA profile.

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Q. "Triage" is normally applied, as I understand it, to mean choosing to which cases limited resources can be applied, knowing that the resources are insufficient to apply to all cases. Is that your understanding of it?

A. I think it could apply, yes, in this.

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- Q. And if that's the meaning, then that implies that there was a belief in the lab that the resources were not there to process all samples submitted in major crime cases?
- A. It would have enabled, I guess, those that were a higher chance of obtaining a DNA profile to process through.

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Well, if you've got the resources to - this is major crime we're talking about. It might be a case in which the only sample is a low-quant sample in a child sex offence case where the child can't give evidence about what happened because the child is too young, say two years old, with the consequence that much will depend, maybe everything will depend, upon that sample, and it's said that the default position is, "We're not even going to test that sample", so the justification, as I understand it, is found in the word "triage", and "triage" implies that the resources are insufficient to spread across all the work that has to be done, so you have to select most important So is that how you understand the word "triage"? Not in this - I guess within this context, that would Α. be a critical sample that we would expect to be either selected by the scientist to microcon or selected by the Queensland Police to further process.

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Q. How does the scientist who's doing the microcon select it? What does the scientist who does the microcon know?

A. The case-managing scientist that would assess that case.

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- Q. The case-managing scientist?
  - A. Yes, sorry the reporting scientist.

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Q. But the case-managing scientist is never going to see it because it's been shunted off into the DIFP list?

Α.	And	then	it \	would	be	revi	ewed	and	go	back	to	the	
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unde	rstar	nding	was	they	wer	e ass	sessi	ing t	he	resu	lts	based	on
the ·	infor	rmatio	n pi	rovide	ed t	o the	em.						

- Q. But why not test it in the first place? Are the resources insufficient in the lab to test it? I don't see that in the Options Paper or in the project report, and nobody that I have I haven't seen a single document to suggest that the resources of the lab were inadequate to test all these samples. Have you?
- A. They were the ability to test all of the samples through the analytical processing was there. It was I guess more so the ability to interpret them and maintain a turnaround time for the police.

Q. And do we see that in the Options Paper or in the project papers, that "We can't maintain turnaround time if we have to do this"? Is there any analysis of turnaround time in any of these documents?

A. No, there's not.

- Q. Have you seen any analysis of turnaround time in relation to this?
- A. In relation to this, no.

- Q. You obviously didn't do any yourself?
- A. No. We are in the process of trying to get turnaround time data programmed into the forensic-register.

 ${\tt Q.}~{\tt So,}$  as far as you knew, you were able to do this work without any effect on turnaround time?

A. The --

- Q. Any prejudicial effect on turnaround time. You had been doing it, and there's no analysis to suggest you're going to get any substantial benefit, is there?
- A. The feedback that I understand at the time was that turnaround times were increasing, from the reporting perspective of getting results out, so --

- Q. Where did you get that understanding from? I haven't seen anything at the moment. Can you help me where I could find that?
- A. I'd have to again look through emails because the turnaround time data for cases is generally provided from the police to Cathie Allen.

1 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge. 3 4 MR HODGE: I want to just pick up on an answer you Q. gave before, which is when I was asking you why you thought 5 6 these were good recommendations to make, you said the report refers to anecdotal feedback, and I just want to go 7 to that. Can we go to the page .0918. You see there's 8 a heading, "Introduction"? 9 Yes. Α. 10 11 If we just look at the fourth paragraph under 12 "Introduction", could we blow that up, it says: 13 14 15 Anecdotally, the suitability to provide the Queensland Police Service ... with DNA 16 profile intelligence from extracts that 17 have been concentrated has been noted to be 18 limited. Furthermore, extracts that are of 19 low quant value that have been 20 automatically concentrated have been 21 observed to rarely yield DNA information 22 23 for QPS. 24 25 Α. Yes. 26 That's one reference to anecdotal information in the 27 28 report, and the only other reference that I can find is if we go to the page which is .0930, and this is about the 29 fold difference based on concentration, which is 30 effectively when you concentrate, you expect there to be 31 a concentration of the amount of DNA, but the fold isn't 32 perfect, and that's what it's illustrating? 33 34 Yes, essentially, yes. 35 36 Then if we blow up the paragraph just below the figure 10, it identifies what the fold level is or what the 37 scatter is around the fold level increase and that the 38 39 results are variable, and then I see it says: 40 Anecdotally, variability in success rates 41 is found at profile management stage when 42 43 assessing results of samples that have had this concentration step. 44

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Tell me if you agree: that particular reference to what's anecdotal information, that could not have any bearing

1	whatsoever on the question of whether or not the
2	recommendations made were appropriate?
3	A. Not that particular one.
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5	Q. So the only one that seems to be relevant is if we go
6	back to the page .0918 and blow up that fourth paragraph,
7	where the author has said that:
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9	Anecdotally, the suitability to provide
10	the QPS with DNA profile intelligence
11	from extracts that have been concentrated
12	has been noted to be limited.
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14	A. Yes.
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16	Q. And there's no more information than that?
17	A. No.
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19	Q. You don't seriously say, do you, that you thought it
20	would be appropriate to recommend ceasing auto-microcon on
21	the basis of that?
22	A. Not on the basis of that. That is my understanding,
23	I guess, why the project was implemented or initiated in
24	the first place.
25	O V that is them had been amadetal facilities.
26	Q. Yes, that is, there had been some anecdotal feedback,
27	and that was, as you understood it, the reason for
28	instituting the project?
29	A. Mmm.
30	Q. So that anecdotal feedback wasn't the reason why you
31 32	thought the recommendations were appropriate?
33	A. The recommendations and the theory that, as I said,
34	appears that with 10 per cent of the time, the profiles
35	were suitable, and if that is assessed further by the
36	police or internally by scientists to process further, that
37	at that time appeared to be a possible workflow.
38	at that time appeared to be a possible working.
39	Q. It's not that it appeared to be a possible workflow.
10	You were happy to recommend it?
11	A. Yes.
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13	Q. So to come back to the question, why were you happy to
14	recommend it?
15	A. Because the police assessing it was a risk mitigation
16	step enabling those samples to be captured.
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- Q. You understand, don't you, that as a matter of logic it can't be that the mere fact that there is a mitigation step is a reason to recommend it, because if you follow that to its logical conclusion, you would say we should recommend doing no testing except where police specifically ask us to test the samples, and of course the police submit the samples to you in the first place, and that's why you are testing them?
- A. With the range there, because it's a low-level range with a percentage success rate of I guess the 10 per cent in here, it was a workflow that could have been implemented, and I was happy at the time with the theory and the recommendations.
- Q. You keep saying that. I need you to do the best you can for us. Why were you happy with the idea that if in 10 per cent of cases for serious crimes, sexual assaults and murders, you obtained a DNA profile, that you would just stop testing?
- A. It was an assessment because there might not have there might have been other samples in the case --
- Q. But that's not a limitation. You know that. That is you know that it's not the case that you would not test them where there were other samples in the case that had yielded a profile?
- A. That is part of the assessment step.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But why? What were you gaining out of it? There's no assessment in any of the documents of a gain in turnaround time. We don't even see what proportion of your work is constituted by this range of cases. We don't see how many cases of this kind are submitted. We get the percentage, but we don't know - we don't see any basic research that you get X number of samples submitted per year, Y number of them are within this quant, and if you don't do the work, then you'll save this much time and resource, and therefore the turnaround time will be increased by that per cent - we don't see any of that.

Is this the kind of science you do? A. No.

Q. You make decisions based upon, anecdotally, the suitability to provide: we only get 10 per cent in the range from one to eight-eight and therefore we just won't

bother doing them unless asked by police, who are not given any information except "DNA insufficient for further processing". They're not told the quant. If the quant is up near eight-eight, it might make a difference. They're not told that.

Is this the kind of - is this the standard that you do in the lab that you're satisfied with, Ms Brisotto, as a professional scientist?

 A. No, I concede that this could have been done a lot better.

Q. Or perhaps it shouldn't have been done at all, do you think?

A. An assessment is still worthwhile doing --

Q. No, no, I don't mean the assessment. The assessment - you can do it, for what it tells you, which, as I'm looking at it at the moment, doesn't tell you anything. But you then propose to recommend this to the police in the project report, and then you go ahead and present this as something that would be worthwhile because of the benefits that are put into the Options Paper. Is that - sitting there now, are you satisfied that that's the kind of standard of scientific work that you wish to be judged by?

A. No, I'm not satisfied.

MR HODGE: Q. So why were you satisfied at the time? A. I don't know why I was satisfied at the time.

Q. I want to move, then, to January, and I need to show you some documents in order to try to understand what you say about your involvement in the Options Paper. You will recall, when you gave evidence a few weeks ago, we looked at the email Mr Howse had sent you on 12 January asking you to send him a copy of the report so he could convert it into an Options Paper?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall that you met with Cathie Allen that day? A. No.

Q. I'll show you a document. Can we bring up [FSS.0001 --

THE COMMISSIONER: Just a moment, Mr Hodge.

Do you want a break, Ms Brisotto?

2 No, it's okay. Α. 3 Could we bring up [FSS.0001.0066.4614]. 4 MR HODGE: Q. 5 I don't believe this is your handwriting? 6 Α. No. 7 8 Q. Do you recognise this as Ms Allen's handwriting? Α. Yes. 9 10 11 Do you see in the middle of the page there's a diary note, which seems to be a diary note of a meeting between 12 you and her on 12 January 2018? 13 Α. Yes. 14 15 Q. Just take a moment to read that. 16 Have you looked at this recently? 17 Α. No. 18 19 20 Q. Okay. 21 Yes. Α. 22 23 Reading that, does that bring back for you a recollection of speaking to Ms Allen? 24 25 No, it doesn't, I'm sorry. Α. 26 27 Do you agree with me it indicates that on 12 January, 28 you and Ms Allen were meeting separately to discuss the issue of insufficient DNA for processing? 29 30 For volume, yes. 31 32 Q. And do you remember that there was an issue which was there had been insufficient DNA for further processing for 33 volume crime, but there was some issue about not having 34 35 reconfirmed it when you switched back to Profiler Plus? 36 Α. No, I don't recall that, I'm sorry. 37 You don't remember what that's about? 38 Q. 39 The middle line "When reverted to P+", is that what you're referring to? 40 41 42 Q. Yes. It says: 43 When reverted to P+, still continued with 44 No DNA detected but not insufficient for 45 [volume]. 46 47

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Q.

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24 25	Q.	And th	en the	last	part o	f that	t note	says	:		
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39 40	MR HO	ODGE :	I ten	der th	at doc	ument,	, Comm	issio	ner.		
41 42	THE (	COMMISS	SIONER:	Exh	ibit 1	16.					
43 44 45			6 CATH I 12 JA								14]

MR HODGE:

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Q.

Then over the next week and a half or so,

you were sent several versions of the Options Paper?

1	Α.	Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	you a Paper	I'll just show you two emails. Could we bring up .0001.0011.2124]. This is an email from Mr Howse to and Ms Allen, which attaches a version of the Options r? Yes.
9	Q.	He says:
11 12 13		Hi, I have finished the options report and had it reviewed by Luke.
14 15	Α.	Yes.
16 17 18	Q. A.	That must be a reference to Luke Ryan? Yes.
19 20 21	Q. A.	Did Luke Ryan report to you or to Mr Howse? To me.
22 23 24 25	Q. prov <sup>.</sup> A.	And do you remember now why it was that it was being ided only to Mr Ryan? No.
26 27	MR HO	ODGE: I tender that document, Commissioner.
28 29 30		COMMISSIONER: The email of 19 January 2018 from owse to Ms Allen and Ms Brisotto is exhibit 117.
31 32 33 34	TO CA	BIT #117 EMAIL OF 19 JANUARY 2018 FROM JUSTIN HOWSE ATHIE ALLEN AND PAULA BRISOTTO, BARCODED .0001.0011.2124]
35 36 37 38 39 40	[FSS Mr Ho Optio	ODGE: Q. And then if we bring up .0001.0011.2125], do you see this is another email from owse to you and Ms Allen with an updated version of the ons Paper? Yes.
41 42 43 44		To, in Mr Howse' words, "make the option clear at the and removed 'Experiments '"? Yes.
44 45 46 47	Q. A. that	Do you say it's possible you didn't read this version? I don't remember reading it, and I have no evidence I provided feedback.

 Q. Is it likely that you would have received multiple versions of the Options Paper but not read any of them? A. Well, with the first one, that was received on the 19th. I wasn't there at work, so I wouldn't have had an opportunity to read it. This one was received after I'd already left for the day, so I may not have read it, because during that period of time I was doing shorter hours.

Q. What I'm trying to understand is this issue of the Options Paper is one that has now been brought in from the whole senior management group to just a very tight group - you, Mr Howse, Ms Allen, Mr Ryan. Can you offer an explanation for why it is that it was brought in to that tight group?

A. No.

Q. Can you offer an explanation for why, if you were sending a version of the report to Mr Howse on 12 January and meeting with Mr Howse - I'm sorry, meeting with Ms Allen on 12 January, you would not have then read any versions of the Options Paper after that?

A. If I understood it to be just converting over, I might not have, or I might not have also had the time.

- Q. But you know it wasn't just converting it over. You know that there were changes being made, because you know that Luke Ryan provided feedback, you know that Justin Howes has told you he's updated the options at the end and removed experiments?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You knew it was changing?
- A. It was updating. To what extent, I might not have read it in detail, if I read it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Ms Brisotto, one of the things I've learned in this inquiry is about how the scientific process involves peer review, so from the analysis of results that are then reviewed by somebody, and perhaps reviewed again by somebody, and also when papers are submitted to learned journals, they're peer reviewed before they're published, and usually anonymised -- A. Yes.

Q. -- and then in the case of project reports, there's

- a long and elaborate process of circulating the document among the senior staff, who sign it, sign an approval. What I will need to understand is the significance, in this case, of the approvals that are signed on project reports finally. I know that when a proposal is put up, then managers in each area are asked about risks to them of this going ahead.
  - A. Yes.

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- Q. So that's clear. But in the end, as we discussed yesterday, the SOP provides for a quorum of managers in certain degrees to approve a project report.
- 13 A. Yes.

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- Q. Can you tell me, if you were to sign a project report, hypothetically, what does that signify? What does that mean, that you've signed it? What do you mean by your signature being attached to that document?
- A. On a project report?

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- Q. Yes.
- A. That I endorse the recommendations.

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- Q. And that must mean that you have read the document and you're satisfied with the soundness of the science in it and you approve of the recommendations, so you take responsibility for it as a manager and as a group you take responsibility?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. So it's a significant thing, isn't it, if somebody refuses to sign it?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. So this is different because there's no protocol, I gather, for that kind of signed approval of the Options Paper; but instead, Mr Howse prepared it and circulated it, had Mr Ryan review it I don't know what "review" means in that context --
- A. No, I don't, either.

40 41 42

43

44 45

46 47 Q. -- but it's sent to you and to Ms Allen. Can you help me with this, then: what was the significance of sending it to you? Did it bear any similarity to the kind of approval that we've discussed in relation to the formal signature of a project report? What was the purpose of it? What did it mean that you had been given it by Mr Howse?

A. To provide suggestions or - I'm not sure, because my signature wouldn't - or my name wouldn't have appeared on it at all.

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No, so I just wonder, when we're so rigorous, as scientists, to ensure that a scientist or a group of scientists working on a project or an experiment or on any piece of work do not put forward the results of their work without having the sanction of certain colleagues, where this fits in to that kind of a system. It appears from what you're saying today that, for reasons you've explained and that I understand, you may not have paid a great deal of attention to this document, yet it's sent to you. I wonder what - you can do these things informally, I understand that you may have rigorous standards for an SOP, but you can do it another way if it's sound, but what's the process here, as you understand it? What was being done? Who was approving things? Who was not? Ms Allen perhaps be in the same position as you, that if she was too busy or wasn't at work on a particular day and didn't read it, that we would assume that her imprimatur, her sanction, her approval, did not go with the document, that it was just Mr Howse' work then? And he puts it forward for review, obviously, or for your reading and for her reading - what's he expecting? What are we dealing with here? What is the status of this document as a sound piece of work coming from a Queensland Government laboratory?

A. Within this, I guess Justin would have expected feedback. Based on the email, some feedback was received between the first version and the second version. I assumed it was from Cathie, but I don't have any emails in response. I don't know of any other feedback.

33 34 35

 ${\tt Q.}~{\tt But}$  no feedback means approval. Does that follow or not?

A. No.

37 38 39

40

36

Q. It might not - I mean, you tell me?A. No, if you haven't fed back, I don't think that is approval.

41 42 43

Q. I see. So this is then a process that's outside the normal scientific practice of peer review?

A. Yes.

45 46 47

44

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge.

1	
2	MR HODGE: Q. I want to show you another document, then.
3	This is after the Options Paper. Can we bring up
4	[FSS.0001.0011.2119].
5	Commissioner I'm not ours I tandered these last two
6 7	Commissioner, I'm not sure I tendered those last two
8	emails, so I should just tender them. So, Commissioner, I tender the email from Justin Howes of 22 January 2018 and
9	also the email from Justin Howes of 19 January 2018.
10	aroo the charr from castin newes of 10 candary 2010.
11	THE COMMISSIONER: The email of 22 January from Mr Howse
12	to Ms Brisotto and Ms Allen is exhibit 118.
13	
14	EXHIBIT #118 EMAIL OF 22 JANUARY FROM JUSTIN HOWSE TO
15	PAULA BRISOTTO AND CATHIE ALLEN, BARCODED
16	[FSS.0001.0011.2125]
17	
18	THE COMMISSIONER: The email from Mr Howse of 19 January
19	is exhibit 119.
20	
21	[This marking was later varied as the email was already
22	marked as exhibit 117.]
23 24	MR HODGE: Q. So this is the email that was sent by
25	Ms Allen to the senior management on 5 February 2018?
26	A. Yes.
27	71. 100.
28	Q. Do you see it says:
29	
30	On Friday, Paul Csoban and I met with the
31	Superintendent of Forensic Services Group,
32	Dale Freiburg and other QPS officers that
33	the Supt requested to attend. We discussed
34	the Options Paper attached, which I had
35	provided to the Supt earlier in the week.
36	The Supt has indicated verbally and by
37	email that the QPS' preferred option is
38	Option 2 - no automatic concentration of
39 40	Priority 1 or Priority 2 samples.
41	A. Yes.
42	71. 100.
43	Q. I'm interested in that. Option 2 wasn't to cease
44	auto-microconning priority 1 samples, was it?
45	A. No.
46	

Q.

47

Did you discuss with Ms Allen how it was that the

1 superintendent had somehow modified option 2 to include 2 priority 1 samples? Not that I can remember at the time. 3 4 At any time? 5 Q. In relation to the email that was shown yesterday, it 6 appears that would be my knowledge where, during the 7 meeting, which I wasn't at, Superintendent Freiburg talked 8 about priority 1 and priority 2 samples. That's what 9 Cathie had advised. 10 11 When you say that's what Cathie had advised, do you 12 say that Ms Allen said that to you? 13 I don't know if she said that to me, I can't recall. 14 I did look up, because one of the pieces of work I had to 15 do last night was to look up the minor change register, and 16 there was an entry on 12 February which referred to all 17 priorities - priorities 1 to 3 - being ceased 18 19 auto-microcon. 20 21 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. So let me understand this. change register for about that date in February 2018 --22 23 Α. Yes. 24 25 -- recorded that the micro-concentration of samples within the relevant quant range for all samples --26 27 Α. Yes. 28 -- priorities 1, 2 and 3 would cease? 29 Q. 30 Α. Yes. 31 THE COMMISSIONER: 32 Thanks. 33 MR HODGE: And could you see who had made that entry? 34 Q. 35 Α. Justin. 36 Q. Mr Howse? 37 Yes 38 Α. 39 To come back to what I'm interested in understanding, 40 can you recall ever having had a discussion with Ms Allen 41 about how it was that the instruction was supposedly given 42 43 by QPS to cease processing priority 1 samples in the 44 low-quant range? I can't recall other than the email on the 5th. 45 Α.

This email?

Q.

1 2	Α.	Yes, I can't recall.
3 4 5 6 7	A. super	You don't remember being curious about it? If Cathie had advised that that's what the rintendent had asked, I don't understand why I would y that.
8 9 10 11 12 13	then email [FSS. the r	Can we put that email up on one side of the screen and can we bring up on the other side of the screen the lyou got three days earlier from Ms Allen, .0001.0011.2115]. You see the last email in time on right-hand side is an email Ms Allen is sending to you dr Howse saying:
15 16 17 18 19 20		The QPS have agreed with Option 2, so we can proceed with that option. I will send out further information to management team but will not be sending the below email. This is just for your information only at this stage.
21 22 23	Α.	Yes.
24 25 26 27 28 29	was h also	When she emailed you on the Friday afternoon, which nours after the meeting, she didn't say to you, "They orally agreed with me that we would cease microconning priority 1 samples"? No.
30 31 32 33	and i	And she forwarded you the email that had come from rintendent Freiburg, which had come 22 minutes earlier, if we just scroll down to that, operator, this is the where Superintendent Freiburg says:
34 35 36		As discussed, I am in agreement that
37 38	Α.	Yes.
39 40 41 42 43	to se	Presumably, this being an email that Ms Allen was ng to you she was only sending to you and wasn't going end to the rest of the management team, you would have the email that Superintendent Freiburg had sent? Yes.

4445 Q. And you would have seen that Super

Q. And you would have seen that Superintendent Freiburg had said:

1		As discussed, I am in agreement that
2		N.
3	Α.	Yes.
5		And I want to suggest to you that wouldn't have
6	•	rised you, or that didn't surprise you at all at the
7		, because you well understood that Cathie Allen was
8	_ ,	g to this meeting seeking to have the police agree with
9	-	oposal that she was pushing to cease auto-microconning?
10	A.	I don't know whether I was surprised or not. I knew
11	I L Wa	as an outcome that was from the superintendent.
12 13	Q.	But why would you think - why would Superintendent
14		ourg be agreeing with anyone, if supposedly the lab was
15		lly neutral and not recommending it?
16	tota	Try heatrar and not recommending it:
17	THF (	COMMISSIONER: I think we went through that last time,
18	Mr Ho	•
19		54g01
20	MR HO	DDGE: I think we did.
21		
22	THE (	COMMISSIONER: So it's not necessary to do it again.
23		· ·
24	MR HO	DDGE: I think, to be fair to Ms Brisotto, given she
25	has p	out in a further statement where she has traversed
26	these	e issues again, she should have any opportunity she
27	wants	S
28		
29	THE (	COMMISSIONER: If you like, but don't spend
30	MD II	DDCF. I would arend your land
31	ווא חנ	DDGE: I won't spend very long.
32 33	THE (	COMMISSIONER: Very well, thank you.
34	1111	Commissioner. Very Werr, Chank you.
35	THE V	WITNESS: I don't - as I said last time, I don't think
36		pinion has changed.
37	y O	Thron had changea.
38	MR HO	DDGE: Q. Do you see in the second point it says:
39		ar journal promise out on the contract of the
10		Option 2. "Cease the 'auto-microcon'
11		process for Priority 2 casework
12		
13	Α.	Yes.
14		
15	Q.	It doesn't refer to priority 1 casework?
16	Α.	No, it doesn't.
17		

1 THE COMMISSIONER: If you look at the email on the Q. 2 left, Ms Allen says: 3 The Supt has indicated verbally and by 4 email ... no automatic concentration of [P1 5 6 and P21 ... 7 And then we see the email in which the superintendent 8 signifies the preference, and it's only, as was put in the 9 Options Paper, to deal with P2 samples, not P1. 10 Α. Yes. 11 12 Q. Can you offer any explanation for how that could have 13 come about? I know it's not your email. It seems to be, 14 on one view, a misleading of the troops. 15 Yes. I can't explain other than the further email. 16 I mean, that was November, I think, in 2018 - I could be 17 wrong there - where Cathie in her email suggested that the 18 19 priority 1 was a verbal, oral conversation. 20 THE COMMISSIONER: 21 All right, thanks. 22 23 MR HODGE: I'll tender - Commissioner, we've tendered that email of 19 January 2018 twice, so apparently it's both 24 25 exhibit 117 and also 119. So we might now make the email of 5 February 2018 exhibit 119, because the other one has 26 27 already been tendered. 28 Exhibit 120. THE COMMISSIONER: 29 30 31 MR HODGE: No, sorry, this one will be 119. 32 THE COMMISSIONER: 33 Exhibit 119 was 19 January, Mr Howse' email of 19 January. 34 35 36 MR HODGE: I'm told 117 is also the email of 19 January. 37 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, that's right. 38 That's right. 39 that the same email? Okay. So what do you want to do? 40 MR HODGE: We'll just make 119 this email of 5 February 41 2018. 42 43 44 THE COMMISSIONER: Very well, then the email of 5 February 45 from Ms Allen to the management team is exhibit 119. 46 47

EXHIBIT #119 EMAIL OF 5 FEBRUARY 2018 FROM CATHIE ALLEN TO THE MANAGEMENT TEAM, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0011.2119]

MR HODGE: Thank you, and I apologise for less than seamless (indistinct).

- Q. Ms Brisotto, I want to show you another email, which is [FSS.0001.0011.2149]. This is an email the day after that 5 February email. Do you see Ms Allen's email is the first email in time, and then Mr Ryan has forwarded that email to Mr Howse, copied to you?
- A. Mmm-hmm.

Q. And says:

I'm putting in the VSTS request to change quant transition. Is auto-mic ceasing for P1 and P2 as per Cathie below, or just P2 as per Options Paper?

A. Yes.

Q. So I want to suggest to you it can't be that this issue of P1 or P2 samples just passed you by at the time, because you were copied in to the email from Mr Ryan, who reported to you, who had picked up on the obvious point, which is option 2 didn't include P1, and Cathie was saying both that the QPS had accepted option 2, and also that there would be no auto-concentration of priority 1 or priority 2?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you explain it to us?

 A. That a response was provided from Justin. I looked for that email. I found that email last night. I'm not cc'd in any reply, so I don't know what further discussions may have been done after that to clarify. The things I could find after that was Luke submitting the VSTS request and the minor change entry by Justin for all priorities.

 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well, you would have assumed, I take it, that - if you'd seen it at the time, that if Ms Allen was saying that they had agreed to P1 and P2, they'd agreed to P1 and P2?

A. Yes, I wouldn't have had another opinion.

- You wouldn't think she was lying to you, so you would 1 2 have accepted it? Mmm-hmm. 3 Α. 4 I understand you've adopted that MR HODGE: 5 Q. suggestion from the Commissioner, but let me just test this 6 7 You knew that the Options Paper only put forward 8 ceasing auto-microcon for priority 2 samples, not priority 1 samples? 9 Α. Yes. 10 11 You had received the email from Superintendent 12 Freiburg saying she agreed with the proposal and 13 specifically quoting the part of option 2 that referred to 14 ceasing auto-microcon for priority 2 samples? 15 Α. Yes. 16 17 You saw the email from Ms Allen to the senior Q. 18 19 management saying "QPS have adopted or chosen option 2" and then described it as ceasing auto-microcon for P1 and P2 20 21 samples? Α. Yes. 22 23 And then you saw an email from Luke Ryan raising the 24 25 obvious question, which was: how could, on the one hand, the police have adopted option 2, which doesn't refer to P1 26 27 samples, and on the other hand, having decided to not 28 process priority 1 samples? Yes. 29 Α. 30 But you say you were totally oblivious to it? 31 Q. Given that Cathie said priority 1 and priority 2, it 32 was followed up by Luke. A response was provided, 33 obviously, because the VSTS request was put in for all 34 35 priorities. 36 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What is VSTS? 37 VSTS is the program that we can put - was at the time, 38 39 sorry, put enhancements into the forensic-register. request to change the programming in the forensic-register 40 to accommodate the change in process for all priorities. 41 42 43
  - Q. So a quant within the range for P1 and P2 samples would automatically then, subject to review, be given a DIFP designation?
  - A. Yes.

46 47

1	HE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I understand. Thanks.
2	R HODGE: I tender that email, Commissioner.
4	R HODGE. I Cender Chat email, Commitssioner.
5	HE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 120.
6	WITDIT WASS ENATE ON S FEDRUARY SOAS FROM LUKE BYAN TO
7	XHIBIT #120 EMAIL ON 6 FEBRUARY 2018 FROM LUKE RYAN TO
8	USTIN HOWES, CC'D TO PAULA BRISOTTO, BARCODED
9	FSS.0001.0011.2149]
10 11	R HODGE: Q. Did Mr Ryan email you further about the -
12	. Further from this email?
13	. Turther from this email:
14	. Yes.
15	. No. Not that I could find.
16	
17	. Did he discuss the change with you at all?
18	. The change? Only prior to that, should he request th
19	STS request, yes.
20	
21	. I'll just show you that email. Can we bring up
22	FSS.0001.0011.2150]. Is that the email you're referring
23	0?
24	. Yes.
25	Co he was empiliar you to pok you whather there was
26	. So he was emailing you to ask you whether there was
27 28	oing to be an enhancement made, which presumably was an nhancement made to the forensic-register, was it?
20 29	. Yes.
30	. 163.
31	. And he's asking you whether or not he should do it?
32	. Yes.
33	
34	. And you're engaging with him about that?
35	. Yes.
36	
37	. Again, I just want to test that. You say you didn't
38	urn your mind to the question, have any doubt about how i
39	as that P1 samples were somehow now not going to be
40	uto-microconned?
41	. Not if that advice was being provided.
42 42	D HODCE: I tenden that amail Commissions
43 4.4	R HODGE: I tender that email, Commissioner.
44 45	HE COMMISSIONER: The email of 6 February from
45 46	s Brisotto to Mr Ryan is exhibit 121.
47	5 DI 130CCO CO III NYAII 13 GAIIIDIC 121.

1 2 3		BIT #121 EMAIL OF 6 FEBRUARY FROM PAULA BRISOTTO TO RYAN, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0011.2150]
4 5 6 7 8 9	ask opti auto same it?	No. it doesn't appear I did
10 11	Α.	No, it doesn't appear I did.
12 13	Q. A.	It doesn't appear that you did? No, there was no email.
4  5  6  7	Q. A.	You don't remember having done it? There's no email record of that.
18 19 20 21	Α.	You say you just can't remember? I can't remember a discussion about it. All I've got emails.
22 23 24	Q. A.	Does it seem out of character for you? To not ask?
25 26 27	Q. A. advi	Yes. If that advice was provided, I don't know what verbal ce might have been provided. No.
28 29 30	Q . A .	Are you reluctant to challenge Cathie Allen? I'll ask for clarification.
31 32 33 34 35 36	samp prob A.	But in this case, where, if you're going to stop as atter of course processing the most important - the oles from the most important crimes, you say you eably didn't even seek clarification?  I might have - I don't know what conversations bened at the time.
38 39 40 41 42	it w	All right. I want to move forward to this year. By beginning of this year, or some time early this year, was apparent to you that a very serious issue had arisen relation to this DIFP process?  Yes, there was discussion.
14 15	Q.	It was much more than that, wasn't it?

Yes.

Α.

45

It was a serious issue? 1 Q. 2 Α. 3 4 And the serious issue was that the police were pursuing you, pursuing the lab vigorously to try to 5 understand what had happened and why it seemed like they 6 were getting results when they asked for samples to be 7 retested? 8 There was, yes, some emails. 9 Α. 10 11 And at a certain point in time the police were simply requiring every DIFP sample to be reworked? 12 They were - I don't know if they were requiring every 13 DIFP sample. They were requesting a lot, yes. 14 15 Q. Do you remember that a paper began being worked upon 16 by you and Mr Howse? 17 Α. A paper? 18 19 20 Q. Yes. 21 Α. By me? 22 23 I'll put it a different way. Do you remember that by March of this year, Mr Howse and you and Ms Allen were 24 25 preparing an update paper in relation to the Options Paper? Yes, Justin started drafting one, yes. 26 27 28 And again, like the Options Paper from 2018, that 29 wasn't being done as a project? 30 The request from both myself and Justin was to create 31 it as a project. 32 Tell me if this is what happened: 33 Q. I understand. and - Mr Howse, anyway, suggested on more than one occasion 34 35 by email that it should be done as a project? 36 Α. I believe I offered it. 37 By email? 38 Q. 39 Α. (Nodded). 40 Q. And Ms Allen rejected that? 41 Yes. 42 Α. 43 Q. And why did she tell you that she was rejecting that? 44

Α.

one.

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She said, "Hold off", I believe, in an email, at least

I can't remember what was in the other one.

I'll come to that in a moment. Did you discuss it 1 2 with her? 3 Α. No. 4 You never discussed it with her? 5 Q. I don't think so. 6 Α. 7 8 Q. This is this year? Α. Yes. 9 10 11 This is in a context where a very serious issue has arisen in relation to the lab not having tested samples for 12 the most serious crimes in the state. You and Mr Howse 13 were asking for it to be done as a project in accordance 14 with orthodox processes that you had within the lab, and 15 Ms Allen was saying no, and you didn't discuss it with her? 16 The first draft, I believe, was at the end of March. 17 Not long after that, Cathie advised us that Lara had asked 18 19 her to hold. 20 Q. That is, Lara Keller? 21 22 Α. Yes. Sorry. 23 Did she tell you why? 24 Q. 25 Α. I believe - it wasn't in the email, but I believe it was the DNA review had been announced by then. 26 27 28 When you say "the DNA review", do you mean this Q. Commission of Inquiry or the other review? 29 The earlier one. 30 31 Q. I see. 32 And in the email from Cathie - and I might be stating 33 34 this wrong - Lara Keller had advised the superintendent of this. 35 36 Q. Lara Keller had what? 37 Had advised the Superintendent, Bruce McNab, of that. 38 Α. 39 I'm sorry --40 Q. Α. That it was on hold. 41 42 43 You'll need to - I'll show you an email. Can we bring up [FSS.0001.0051.4969]. This is a chain of emails from 44 45 June?

Α.

46

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Yes.

If we perhaps go to the second page, which is 4970, we 1 see on 10 June Mr Howse is emailing you and Ms Allen 2 3 saying: 4 Please find attached [version] 2 of 5 a report for review. 6 7 8 Α. Yes. 9 Q. And: 10 11 Allen has been through the corrections 12 I made to the data and graphs ... 13 14 Yes. 15 Α. 16 Q. That's Allan McNevin? 17 Α. Yes. 18 19 20 Q. Then you respond on 10 June and say: 21 As this is the report, and a tech review 22 has been undertaken, should a project be 23 created for it? 24 25 Α. Yes. 26 27 28 Then if we go up to the first page, also on 10 June 29 Justin Howes agrees and says: 30 31 Yes I think we should have a Project #. 32 Α. Yes. 33 34 35 Q. And says: 36 Should I also add in Mgt Team review table 37 for signature. 38 39 Yes. 40 Α. 41 42 This wasn't the first time, was it, though, that Mr Howse had raised that there should be a project? 43 44 Α. Yes. 45 He'd raised it earlier? 46 Q. 47 Α. Yes.

2 3	Q. A.	Do you think you'd raised it earlier as well? I thought I did or I - yes.
4 5 6	Q. page	Then Ms Allen responds and says at the top of the
7 8 9		Hi Justin & Paula
10		Let's just hold off on creating anything
11		for the moment. I'm still awaiting
12		feedback from Lara and Legal.
13	٨	Voo
14 15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Is this the email that you were referring to?
17	Ã.	No, there was something previous, at the start of
18	Apri	e i
19		
20	Q.	I see, all right.
21	MD II	10005
22	MK H	IODGE: I tender that email, Commissioner.
23 24	THE	COMMISSIONER: The email of 10 June from - when I say
2 <del>4</del> 25		exhibit number is the top email, I mean the whole
26		ment, of course.
27		<b>,</b>
28	MR H	IODGE: Yes.
29		
30		COMMISSIONER: The email of 10 June from Ms Allen to
31	Mr H	lowse and Ms Brisotto is exhibit 122.
32 33	FYHT	BIT #122 EMAIL OF 10 JUNE FROM CATHIE ALLEN TO
34		IN HOWSE AND PAULA BRISOTTO, BARCODED
35		5.0001.0051.4969]
36	-	-
37	MR H	IODGE: Q. I just want to understand, when you're
38		ring about April, do you mean that you have
39		ecollection that in April Ms Allen said to you by email
40	tnat A.	Lara Keller didn't want it turned into a project?
41 42	Α.	No, that we were to hold.
42 43	O	Oh, I see. She didn't, in April, tell you why; she
44		said to hold or something to that effect?
45	_	In the email, yes. I understood it - I'm not sure
46		- to be because of the DNA review being announced, and
47	this	particular one here refers to "legal", and I'm not
21	/10/20	122 (Day 16) 1055 D M PDICOTTO (Mr. Hadaa)

sure what legal advice that was. 1 2 3 I'll show you that earlier email. Can we bring up 4 [FSS.0001.0051.4964]. This is a chain of emails. begin with the first in time, which, Mr Operator, is on the 5 last page, .4967. You'll see it's an email from Ms Allen 6 7 to you and Mr Howse titled "Exec Briefing" and says: 8 Can you please review and track changes on 9 the attached? I've kept it really short to 10 be succinct. 11 12 Yes. Α. 13 14 15 By this stage - we'll come back to this in a moment but by this stage, there was already a draft of a document 16 that had been prepared by Mr Howse and that you had made 17 comments on? 18 19 Α. I believe so. 20 In any event, if we then go to the page which 21 is .4965, can we blow up that email in the middle of the 22 23 page from Mr Howse to Ms Allen and you. Do you see Mr Howse says in the second line: 24 25 I should raise as a Project #. 26 27 28 Α. Yes. 29 30 And then if we go to the first page, we see Ms Allen's 31 response, which is: 32 Please don't raise it as a project just 33 yet, but yes, we should have the data tech 34 35 reviewed. 36 Yes. 37 Α. 38 39 Q. And that's the email you're referring to? 40 Α. 41 Q. Oh, there's another email? 42 43 Α. There is. 44 45 Q. A later email, where you think --Slightly, I think it was only a couple of days later, 46 where Cathie advised us that Lara had advised not to

progress, and she'd informed the - Superintendent McNab of 1 2 that. 3 4 Q. Had advised not to progress the review? 5 Α. To progress any work on them, on these documents. 6 7 Oh, I see. So at some stage in April of this year, Ms Allen told you that Ms Keller had said not to progress 8 it any further? 9 Α. Yes. 10 11 Q. Did you challenge that? 12 13 Α. No. 14 15 Q. Why not? Because it was - it didn't seem like it needed to be Α. 16 It was from Lara. Lara had already informed 17 challenged. the superintendent. 18 19 20 Did you ask for any explanation for why you weren't 21 progressing it? I don't believe so. I think the response from Justin 22 23 was something along the lines of, "Yeah, sure." 24 25 Did it occur to you that this was, to put it rather Q. bluntly, a bizarre and unsatisfactory situation? 26 27 If my understanding is correct and it was being put on 28 hold for the DNA review, and because at that stage the DNA 29 review had been announced, if the review showed that something different needed to progress or to ensure that 30 any data analysis or project was capturing the 31 recommendations from the review, that was what it was 32 33 waiting for. 34 35 This work that you were undertaking in March of 2022, 36 was it for the benefit of more senior people in Queensland Health or for police or both? 37 Both, I believe. 38 Α. 39 How was it decided to undertake? 40 Q. The specific decision point? 41 Α. 42 43 Yes. Who came to you and said, "We need to do some work" and for whom? 44 45 I don't have records of that. As I said in my

46 47 statement, I believe, the first emails that I have in

relation to this are Justin providing the parameters for

the information grab, for lack of a better word, from the forensic-register, which was mid-February.

- Q. Do you remember a conversation or a meeting that you and Ms Allen and Mr Howse had to talk about it?
- A. Not specifically. It might have come out of a meeting, but I don't remember specifically, because that wasn't a task for me.

- Q. Sorry, what wasn't a task for you?
- A. The parameters for the forensic-register grab.

- Q. I understand. Why, though just do the best you can for us. Why was it that the three of you were sitting atop this problem and not including the rest of the senior management and not raising a project and not urgently reviewing the processes in the lab and not being seemingly catastrophically concerned about what it is that had happened for the last four years?
- A. I don't I don't know. I honestly don't. The data assessment, I know with the emails that we were provided or included with later said a data assessment was going to be provided to the QPS within I think at the end of February or the start of March, Cathie had advised the QPS that it was about two weeks for that, and so that's the information that I had.

- Q. So did you understand part of the reason you were dealing with this issue was because the QPS had raised a concern?
- A. Based on those emails, yes, that was the given the time frame was given.

MR HODGE: Commissioner, I'll tender that email chain.

THE COMMISSIONER: The email of 30 March 2022 from Ms Allen to Mr Howse and Ms Brisotto is exhibit 123.

EXHIBIT #123 EMAIL OF 30 MARCH 2022 FROM CATHIE ALLEN TO JUSTIN HOWSE AND PAULA BRISOTTO, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0051.4964]

- MR HODGE: Q. Then can we bring up [FSS.0001.0067.9288]. You can see this is an email that you send to Mr Howse and copied to Ms Allen, with your tracked changes on a version of the review report?
- 47 A. Yes.

1			
2	Q.	And if we move that to one side and then on the other	
3	side	of the screen bring up [FSS.0001.0067.9289]. This is	
4		attachment to that email, so this is the document where	
5		ve gone through and put comments in?	
6	Α.	Yes.	
7	,		
8	Q.	I can show you an example. If we go to	
9	-	.9289_0004, we can see you've gone through this	
10	. •	document and you've added - we can see the first comment	
11		e, you've made a comment, and your comment is:	
12	2	o, you to made a commente, and your commente to.	
13		The project assessed the results as	
14		suitable or unsuitable, and provided	
15		options to QPS. This reads as if	
16		a recommendation was put forward, which QPS	
17		accepted.	
18		accopica.	
19	Α.	Yes.	
20	,		
21	Q.	Now, I'm interested in that. Project #184 was never	
22		leted?	
23	Α.	Yes.	
24	,		
25	Q.	You knew that?	
26	Ä.	Yes.	
27	,		
28	Q.	And you knew that Project #184, as it had been	
29		intended to be before it was aborted, was not simply	
30		assessing the results as suitable or unsuitable?	
31	Α.	Yes.	
32	,		
33	Q.	It was intended to make recommendations to QPS?	
34	Ä.	Yes, at that stage, yes.	
35	,	roo, at that otago, your	
36	Q.	And it wasn't doing results simply as suitable or	
37		itable; it was identifying different ways of analysing	
38		rmation in relation to priority 2 samples?	
39	Α.	Yes.	
10	,		
11	Q.	So why did you put as a comment:	
12	Ψ.	or my are you put as a commence.	
13		The project assessed the results as	
14		suitable or unsuitable, and provided	
15		options to QPS.	
16			
17 17	Α.	In reading that one, that was I guess my recall at the	
		and the court are a gases my result at the	

1 time, without going back to the projects, because I didn't 2 go back to 184 or the Options Paper, I don't believe. 3 4 So you made a comment about what Project #184 was without going back to the project? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 Q. And did you go back to the Options Paper? 8 No, I don't believe I did. 9 Α. 10 11 So you didn't go back to any of the documents at the time, but you were confident in saying, "This is what the 12 project did", "and provided options to QPS", and made that 13 specific point: 14 15 This reads as if a recommendation was put 16 forward, which QPS accepted. 17 18 19 Α. Yes, that was my understanding. 20 The thing you were focused on was trying to make sure 21 that this document didn't suggest that there had been 22 23 a recommendation made to the QPS? There's I think more feedback in the document, but 24 25 that particular point, yes, because that was my understanding. 26 27 28 But you didn't go back to look at the project, you didn't go back to look at the Options Paper; you just 29 wanted to add this comment to make sure that this new 30 document didn't suggest that a recommendation had been made 31 32 to QPS? Yes. 33 Α. 34 35 Q. Why? 36 Α. Because that's - it didn't read like that. 37 What didn't read like that? 38 Q. 39 The comment that was put in there, because it doesn't even talk about an Options Paper, I guess, in that 40 particular point. 41 42 43 But why were you even making that comment? You can't remember anything, seemingly, from now four and 44 45 a half years ago. Why were you so fixated on making that point, that there was no recommendation made?

46 47

Because that was my understanding.

1				
2	Q. But you didn't go back to look at any of the			
3	documents?			
4	A. No.			
5				
6	Q. You just had that understanding, so you just wanted to			
7	make that point?			
8	A. Yes, I imagine so.			
9	7. 100, I magrie ou.			
10	Q. I beg your pardon?			
11	A. Yes, I believe so.			
12	A. 165, I Delleve SU.			
	THE COMMISSIONED. O But why were you concerned shout			
13	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But why were you concerned about			
14	the appearance?			
15	A. I don't know.			
16				
17	MR HODGE: Q. You do know, don't you? This evidence			
18	that you're giving - I have to put this to you - it's not			
19	true. By March of this year, you had recognised that what			
20	had happened back in 2018 was a very serious problem?			
21	A. I think I had realised by that time that there was			
22	a concern that needed to be reassessed, yes.			
23				
24	Q. Are you agreeing with me? I just want to understand,			
25	do you really say in March of this year, even then, you			
26	didn't understand that there was a really serious problem			
27	that had arisen from what had been done in 2018?			
28	A. Yes.			
29				
30	Q. You understood that then, didn't you?			
31	A. Yes.			
32	Α. 163.			
	Q. And what you were trying to do was to shift the			
33	, , ,			
34	responsibility for that problem to the QPS?			
35	A. I don't believe that is what that was alluding to.			
36				
37	Q. Why didn't you go back, once you'd recognised that			
38	there was a serious problem, to look at your own internal			
39	documents to say, "What did we" - "What were we going to			
40	recommend? Why were we going to recommend this? What did			
41	we say to the QPS?"			
42	A. I don't know.			
43				
44	Q. But you do know, don't you? You know that it wasn't			
45	about what had actually happened; it was about taking			
46	a position to shift the blame to the QPS?			
47				

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Come, come, Ms Brisotto. The
whole sequence of events in making it an Options Paper and
having them decide, so to speak, and putting the Options
Paper to the management team without explaining the process
that had undergone and the content of the interview,
putting to the management team and to the scientists that
henceforth P1 samples would also not be auto-microconned
automatically if they fell within that range, and you're
concerned that nothing that's now written should appear as
though a recommendation was ever made - that was all to do
with ensuring that if any blame fell for anything that had
happened, which was now in the newspapers and had attracted
ministerial attention, that any responsibility would lie
with QPS, not FSS. That's what it's all about; it's
obvious, isn't it?

A. I think it's a shared responsibility as well. I think the Options Paper at the time, and as I've stated before, didn't provide suitable information.

MR HODGE: I tender those documents, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: The email of 25 March attaching a draft of the review document is exhibit 124.

EXHIBIT #124 EMAIL OF 25 MARCH, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0067.9288], TOGETHER WITH ATTACHMENT, BEING A DRAFT OF THE REVIEW DOCUMENT, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0067.9289]

MR HODGE: Thank you, Commissioner.

 Q. And then I think we've identified the document that you were referring to before, Ms Brisotto. Can we bring up [WIT.0016.0047.0001]. This seems to be a further email in the chain that we looked at earlier, if we just blow up the email at the bottom of the page. Ms Allen said to you and Mr Howse:

Hi Paula & Justin

Lara Keller ... verbally confirmed that she spoke with Supt McNab and advised that we wouldn't be issuing the document yet. Supt McNab confirmed that he understood this. Lara advised me that she will advise when this can be issued.

That doesn't seem to say that it shouldn't be raised as

- 1 a project.
  - A. No, but I believe some emails, based on feedback, if feedback was provided, Cathie indicated that "Hold that until we get the go-ahead." So no further work, no feedback incorporated beyond that email, I don't believe.

- Q. And you said you thought that this was because the review had been called?
- A. I believe so, and I'm not sure where that information has come from if I've read it in another email.

MR HODGE: I tender that chain of emails.

THE COMMISSIONER: The email chain beginning with the email from Ms Allen to Mr Howse and Ms Brisotto of 5 April 2022 is exhibit 124.

EXHIBIT #124 EMAIL CHAIN BEGINNING WITH THE EMAIL FROM CATHIE ALLEN TO JUSTIN HOWSE AND PAULA BRISOTTO, DATED 5 APRIL 2022, BARCODED [WIT.0016.0047.0001]

MR HODGE: Q. Do you say you didn't, at the time, have an understanding of why exactly it was that Ms Allen was trying to restrict who knew about this work?

 A. I don't know - no, I can't say with any certainty, no.

Q. You didn't ask her about it?

 Α.

No.

Q. You didn't think: this serious issue has arisen; we're not even raising a project; that is bad scientific practice?

A. At that point in time, I mean, we asked, both Justin and I, about a tech review which is part of a project and creating a project. If Cathie has advised us to hold, and Lara has advised us to - well, Lara advised through Cathie to hold it, then there would be other reasons that we might not be privy to. I don't know.

Q. Let's come back and think about Project #184. The whole point of it in the first place was to attempt to scientifically evaluate whether it was a good or bad idea or whether there were good reasons not to test all of these samples. That was the point of the project four and a half years earlier?

A. Mmm-hmm.

1 2 3 4 5	Q. And four and a half years later, serious concerns, serious issues, had arisen about the decision that had been made back in 2018; do you agree?  A. Yes.
6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. Why, as a matter of just basic good scientific practice within the lab, would you not have a project to evaluate this serious challenge to the scientific legitimacy of the lab?  A. I don't know. It was obviously Justin and my preference to do that.
12 13 14	Q. But did you ask Ms Allen about it? A. Not further, no. I don't believe so.
15 16 17 18	Q. Did you ask Ms Allen to confirm that Lara Keller was saying, "Don't have a project"?  A. No. She didn't say - Lara didn't say, "Don't have a project"; she said, "Don't progress".
20 21 22 23	Q. So it wasn't coming from Lara Keller not to have a project? A. No, I don't believe so.
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	Q. It was coming from Cathie Allen? A. Yes.
27 28 29	Q. And did you ask why? A. I don't think we did.
30 31 32 33 34 35	Q. Now, in June of this year, do you remember that you did some work at Ms Allen's request to check what the process had been in the lab before the February 2018 decision?  A. Yes.
36 37 38 39 40 41	Q. Did Ms Allen ask you to undertake that work?  A. I think - so this is just the email where I provided her with screenshots of information, I believe, is what you're referring to?
42 43 44 45 46 47	Q. I've seen the email, but you must have a recollection of it. This is now four months ago.  A. I think - and my recollection is she called to ask, "Do you remember?", and I said, no, because I think the changeover for P+ to PP21 - oh, sorry, the reverse, PP21 to P+ for Profiler Plus occurred when I was on maternity

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P+ for Profiler Plus occurred when I was on maternity

leave, so I actually had to go searching for it, and I said, "I'll search for you", so I did.

- Q. Did she tell you why she wanted to know?
- A. Not specifically, no, because a lot of information was being discussed at that time, too.

- Q. Sorry, discussed at what time?
- A. About creating because I was creating a timeline of all changes that had occurred since quite early on, 2008, so I was going through all of that and creating it into a register, I guess, and she might have called me just to ask if I knew. I don't remember specifically the reasons why.

Q. Can we bring up [WIT.0014.0044.0001]. This is the email that Luke Ryan sent out to his team, copied to you? A. Yes.

Q. He said:

The Premier has requested we test (amp) all samples in the current DNA Insufficient Range ...

A. Yes.

Q. The consequence of that was that the samples in that low-quant range would now be tested, but they wouldn't be concentrated before being tested?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you explain to us who gave him the instructions to send that email?

A. I don't specifically recall.

Q. He reported to you.

 A. Yes. So whether I was advised because I believe the announcement happened about 1pm - honestly there has been so many phone calls and directions and change in process since that point in time, I can't remember specifically what phone calls were made. I might have called him shortly before that to say there's this change, because he would have received all the emails, the news alerts, which

- is what we receive from our library, would have advised that change was already announced, and because he is the
- supervisor of that team, his next thought will always be,

what processes need to change?

2 3 Q. So when you saw this email, were you surprised? Α. Probably not at that stage. 4 5 6 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. At some stage were you surprised? 7 By that particular email, no, because I believe the announcement or the --8 9 No, no, by the idea that samples within the range 10 would not be micro-concentrated before amplification. 11 I don't recall being surprised or not surprised. 12 I think at that point in time, the announcement happened at 13 the same time as the Commission of Inquiry was announced, 14 15 so that might have been more a focus. 16 MR HODGE: 17 Q. You say the Commission of Inquiry might have been more of a focus? 18 Because I don't think any of us knew what it was --19 20 Q. Going to be like? 21 Yes. 22 Α. 23 But I'm interested in understanding this: 24 Q. 25 surprised at any stage to discover that for samples in the low-quant range, they would be proceeding straight to 26 amplification without micro-concentration first? 27 28 I don't think so, no, because it was an option. 29 understanding was that options were put forward. 30 31 So I just want to understand this. Do you say you understood that somebody had put forward options to 32 somebody else, and a decision had been made by somebody 33 more senior not to do micro-concentration? 34 That is my understanding, yes. 35 Α. 36 Q. Who gave you that understanding? 37 Cathie, I believe. 38 Α. 39 So Cathie Allen at some stage told you somebody else 40 Q. has made this decision? 41 Yes. 42 Α. 43 Who did she say had made the decision? 44 Q. 45 I think she said - she may have referred to Cabinet, but I don't particularly know what that means, whether it 46 was the Premier or the Health Minister or someone. 47

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. Who did she say had put forward information to her relating to this decision?  A. At a point in time, and I'm not remembering - I don't know where it falls within the timeline, but she's advised she had.
7 8 9 10 11	Q. She told you at some stage that she had provided information? A. Yes.
12 13 14 15	Q. And was it the case that the reason that she came to you a few days earlier than this email was to get information that she could provide to that decision?  A. It might have been.
17 18 19	Q. You say you didn't discuss it with her? A. No.
20	MR HODGE: I'll tender that email, Commissioner.
21 22 23 24 25	THE COMMISSIONER: The email from Mr Ryan to his team, copied to Ms Brisotto and Ms Allen dated 6 June 2022 is exhibit 125.
26 27 28	EXHIBIT #125 EMAIL FROM LUKE RYAN TO HIS TEAM, COPIED TO PAULA BRISOTTO AND CATHIE ALLEN, DATED 6 JUNE 2022, BARCODED [WIT.0014.0044.0001]
29 30 31 32 33	MR HODGE: Q. Can we then bring up [WIT.0014.0046.0001]. This is a chain of emails, but it's a chain you've looked at recently, I think, haven't you?  A. Yes.
34 35 36 37	Q. So I don't need to take you through it? A. No.
38 39 40 41	Q. And it's a chain of emails where you're telling Ms Allen about what you found about what the process was immediately before the February 2018 decision?  A. No, this - this is back to 2012, I think.
42 43 44 45	Q. I see. A. I think it's all of the process - sorry?
46 47	Q. You were going back to check all of the processes before February 2018; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

- Q. Just out of curiosity, I had thought, but I might be wrong about this, that the version of the SOP immediately before the February 2018 decision was version 19.
- A. You could be right.

- Q. Okay. I'm just interested in, do you know why you were providing Ms Allen with information about the version 16 and version 17 SOPs?
- A. As I said before, I think it was more about the question of when things changed and the whole process about, you know, what the samples went through and what ranges they went through and when it changed, because there has been a lot of changes.

- Q. In this last email in time, on 2 June, you extract what was to happen from the version 17 SOP, so at that stage, the bottom end to the limit of detection that was being used was higher than 0.001; it was at that stage 0.00214?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And you had identified that, just relevantly, for P1 and P2 samples in a range of 0.00214 to 0.0088, they were being auto-microconned?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And you knew, didn't you, in early June 2022 that immediately before the February 2018 decision, P1 and P2 samples in that low-quant range were being auto-microconned?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And so as you understood it on 6 June 2022, somebody very senior, apparently, had made the specific decision not to return to the pre-February 2018 workflow but to, instead, modify it and process all samples but not microcon them?
- 40 A. Yes, that appeared to be the case.

- Q. Tell me if I'm right about this: you must have regarded that as fundamentally bad science?
  - A. I don't not necessarily, no.

- 46 Q. But you auto-microcon for a reason, don't you?
- 47 A. To concentrate, yes.

1	
2	Q. No, you auto-microcon to concentrate
3	A. Yes.
4	
5	Q because it improves across the whole lot of samples
6	in a general way the results that you obtain?
7	A. Yes.
8	
9	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. It improves the concentration?
10	A. Yes.
11	
12	MR HODGE: Q. And therefore improves your prospect of
13	obtaining a profile?
14	A. Yes.
15	Λ. 163.
16	Q. The reason that you had been auto-microconning
17	pre-February 2018 was because you'd undertaken a project
18	and identified that there was this benefit of
19	auto-microconning; is that right?
	A. Yes.
20 21	A. 165.
	O And you know that in lune of this year?
22	Q. And you knew that in June of this year?
23	A. Yes.
24	O Co way much have thought thought a managing title
25	Q. So you must have thought, there is no scientific
26	reason for us to not be auto-microconning these low-quant
27	samples?
28	A. It was - from my perspective I guess, it was - you
29	know, we were told this is what was happening.
30	
31	Q. And the consequence would be, wouldn't it, that you
32	would expect that these samples in this low-quant range
33	would be tested, but they would be far less likely to
34	obtain a profile than if the auto-microcon process was
35	used?
36	A. I guess that's an evaluation that hadn't been done
37	since the project.
38	
39	Q. That's right. The last evaluation that you knew of
40	gave you the knowledge that, barring some change, which
41	no-one had identified, it would be far less likely that
42	a profile would be obtained from these samples in the
43	low-quant range that would now be tested as compared to if
44	auto-microcon was happening?
45	A. A suitable profile. Yes, it could improve some of the
46	profiles. It might not have much of an effect on others,

either.

1				
2	Q. I understand, but I think you're agreeing with me you			
3	knew on 6 June this year that the consequence of the			
4	decision that had apparently been made was that all of			
5	these samples would be tested, but they were far less			
6	likely to obtain a suitable profile than if			
7	auto-microconning was used?			
8	A. Based on the validation, yes.			
9				
10	Q. And did you discuss that with Ms Allen?			
11	A. No.			
12				
13	Q. Never?			
14	A. No.			
15				
16	Q. Did you discuss it with Mr Howse?			
17	A. No, I don't think so.			
18				
19	Q. You didn't discuss it with anyone?			
20	A. I think I've discussed it with someone about, you			
21	know, the decision not being ours to make. It was much			
22	higher than us. And it is an opportunity for us to do some			
23	data-gathering as well. There are benefits to both,			
24	I think is what I said.			
25				
26	Q. To whom?			
27	A. There was an email to Kylie Rika at the stage - at one			
28	point in time, but I don't remember talking to others			
29	because I think there was differing opinions.			
30				
31	Q. Ms Rika raised a concern about it?			
32	A. She raised something in an email to me later. I don't			
33	know whether that was in later June or July, though.			
34				
35	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But did you have conversations			
36	with your colleagues about the fact that somebody not in			
37	the lab, you know, it said the Premier, so somebody in			
38	government, had made this decision and you're being told to			
39	do this and that it appeared an odd thing to do? You must			
40	have			
41	A. I think there was - I could be wrong - there might			
42	have been a meeting post that where it was discussed, but			
43	I think the takeaway was the decision was announced.			
44 45	MR HODGE: O So your takeaway?			
(I h	MR HILLIEF: II SO VOUR TAKAAWAV/			

My takeaway, sorry.

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- Again, you tell me what you think about this Q. proposition: what it looks like is that in February 2018, you and Mr Howse and Ms Allen kept things away from the management team so that you could procure a result from the QPS, and then in March through to June of this year you kept - whether at Ms Allen's direction or by your agreement, but you kept the re-evaluation of what had happened away from the rest of the management team, and then in June of this year Ms Allen asked you for information about what the process had been beforehand, and instead of it reverting to the process as it was immediately before February 2018, an entirely different process, which you must have regarded as scientifically invalid, was adopted, but the one advantage that it would have was that for those responsible for bringing about the decision in the first place, this reversion would make it look like the change had been less significant, because you would get fewer useable profiles with what everyone was on the surface thinking was a reversion from the February 2018 You know that, don't you? decision.
  - A. No. No, I don't agree with that.
- 22 23 Q. Why not?

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- A. Because I don't think the outcome of the change was to make it look like the samples weren't suitable. They still had an opportunity to be microconned. And also, there may be results within that range that didn't require concentration.
- THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Are you saying that from a scientific point of view, the approach that was attributed to the Premier could be justified?

  A. I think there are, as I said, pros and cons to it because it was --
- Q. What are the pros?
- A. The pros are that you could evaluate, I guess, those samples to see if they were getting suitable profiles without a concentration step, because a concentration step can also lose DNA as I think it's been attested to and a lot of them might not even need to be microconned, because if they're unsuitable because of their complex nature or there's no DNA profile obtained, so it gives an ability to have a look at the actual DNA profile obtained from the amplification to determine, I guess, the next best step.

Now, you knew from the Options Paper and the project 1 2 work that had been done that samples within that range are 3 expected to return a useable result only 10 per cent of the 4 time? 5 Α. That was after microcon and potentially --6 7 Yes, that's right, so without microcon, it will be even less? 8 It might be, but --9 Α. 10 11 Might be? That was why microcon was introduced, according to the project report, wasn't it? 12 There was some, I guess, communication at a point in 13 time where some of the reporting scientists were also 14 sending straight to amplification without microcon 15 something that was close to the upper limit of the range. 16 17 But that was by the application of scientific 18 19 judgment. 20 Α. Mmm. 21 This is an arbitrary rule which would result in it 22 23 being certain, I suggest to you, that you would get less than 10 per cent useable results; isn't that so? 24 25 Yes, based on the data at the time. Α. 26 27 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge. 28 29 MR HODGE: Q. Now, by July of this year, the police had 30 realised what you were doing? 31 Α. Yes, I guess, yes. 32 Can we bring up [WIT.0014.0045.0001], and if we go 33 to - this is a chain of emails, but I just need to start, 34 35 Mr Operator, with an earlier email in the chain. If we go 36 to the page which is .0002, do you see at the very bottom of that page there's an email from Acting Superintendent 37 Pobar to Helen Gregg dated 20 July 2022? 38 39 Α. Yes. 40 If we go over the page, you'll see Acting 41 Superintendent Pobar says: 42

43 44

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46 47 Further to the below query, I am seeking further clarification of the current testing process by QHFSS announced by the Minister. With the 0.0088ng/µL threshold

1 2 3 4 5		removed, are some samples now being processed without any microconcentration step in place. Ie those between .001 and .0088 which would potentially benefit from concentration.
6 7	Α.	Yes.
8 9 10 11		Then the next email in the chain is, if we go back to page, we see Ms Gregg forwards the email to Cathien and says:
2  3  4		Could you please advise me asap?
15 16 17		I understood that we were concentrating everything now. Is that correct?
18 19 20 21 22 23	Ms A we ju going	e then go to the first page, we see an email from llen to Ms Gregg, and I just want to note something, if ust scroll up a little bit further, Mr Operator, keep g, you see then Cathie Allen later that day forwards email chain to you and Mr Howse?
24 25 26	Q. A.	And says "FYI"? Yes.
27 28 29 30	Q. time A.	Was this something you were discussing with her at the? I don't believe so.
31 32 33	Q. A.	Did you read the email chain? I think I did.
34 35 36 37 38 39	had s	So you were aware that the police were asking whether were concentrating, and you were aware that Ms Gregg said, "I assumed you were concentrating"?  I don't think I read all the way down to the bottom use I didn't realise it was from Inspector Pobar.
11 12	Q. para	Then you see what Ms Allen says in the third graph:
13 14 15 16 17		Prior to the announcement of the commission of inquiry, the [director-general] requested options for processing that did not include the "DNA insufficient" process.

1 Options were provided and the Premier announced that Cabinet had decided that the 2 DNA insufficient process was no longer 3 being used, and all samples were being 4 processed. From this, we take it that the 5 Premier and Cabinet did not appear to 6 7 choose the option that included concentration of samples within 8 a particular range, given potential 9 workplace health and safety issues. 10

11 12

Yes. Α.

13 14

Q. Then you see in the last paragraph, it says:

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

25 26 27

Α. Yes.

28 29

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Now, that's the proposition you advanced a moment ago, isn't it? Α. Yes.

31 32 33

34 35

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- Let's examine that. We know that more than 90 per cent of samples will not return a useable result, don't we?
- Yes, that was based on all of the instruments and equipment we had at the time, too.

37 38 39

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- And so we know that in 90 per cent of cases, a concentration step will have to be taken after the first processing of the sample?
- Α. Yes.

- And by that stage you spoke about waste. 44 stage, 15 microlitres of the sample will have been used up; 45 46 yes?
- 47 Α. Yes.

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So you spoke about the potential for waste, because you might get a profile, so if we adopt the microcon process automatically for these samples, we might waste some part of the sample in the microcon process, but that would pertain to less than 10 per cent of the samples; but if we progress without microconning, we know for certain that we'll have wasted the amount of DNA contained in the 15 microlitres in over 90 per cent of the samples. waste argument doesn't work, does it; would you agree? Yes, I would agree from that perspective.

Q. So why are you trying to defend the indefensible, Ms Brisotto?

- I think with the new instruments I mean, with the decision that was I guess placed on us from our - well, my understanding at the time, looking at it as an opportunity to gather data and see what we can assess from that as well is something that, you know, we can take away from it as Whether it's microconned or whether it's straight to amplification, I felt the choice wasn't ours, it was made This email here was the, I guess, first information in writing to me that discussed what was actually done in the process. I didn't know options were provided to the DG before this. So in --
- No, I'm asking you why are you attempting to defend the indefensible now, in the witness box? I still think there's - there is opportunity to gather The microcon process is a process that can be better refined, I think, still. We had new instruments at the time that we haven't reassessed post implementation --
- Are you saying you thought this would be a good time Q. to experiment?
- No, I don't say that. Α.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge.

So when you had this email forwarded from MR HODGE: Q. Ms Allen, you said this was the first time that you discovered that options had been provided to the director-general?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge, perhaps we might take a break.

1 MR HODGE: Yes, thank you. 2 We will break until 10 to 12. 3 THE COMMISSIONER: 4 SHORT ADJOURNMENT 5 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge. 8 MR HODGE: Q. Thank you, Commissioner. 9 10 Ms Brisotto, just before we broke, we were looking at 11 this email from Ms Allen on 20 July 2022. 12 Α. Yes. 13 14 15 I might have misunderstood something that you said. Did you say this was the first time that you became aware 16 that options had been presented to somebody? 17 No. No. The detail within this. It was I think 18 19 advised to us previous - it was post the decision, I believe, that options had been provided for a decision, 20 but this email provides information about the process more 21 so, because I didn't realise the DG was involved at that 22 23 point. 24 25 Q. You didn't realise the director-general was involved? 26 Α. No. 27 28 But you must have known back on 2 or 3 June I see. 29 that there were options that were being prepared? 30 Α. No. 31 32 Surely you realised the reason you were undertaking Q. this work to go back and look at what the previous SOPs 33 were was for the purposes of options? 34 35 Α. No. 36 You spoke to Ms Allen about why you were undertaking 37 Q. the work? 38 39 She asked a question. I don't think she needed me to find out. She said, "Do you remember?", and I said, "No, 40 I'll have a look." "Oh, don't worry about it", and I did 41 42 find the information. 43 44 Let's go back to the email chain. If we go to 45 [WIT.0014.0046.0001], I think looking at this first page will be sufficient. Do you see halfway down that 46

47

page there's the first email you send on 2 June 2022 at

```
1
        5.34pm?
2
        Α.
              Yes.
3
4
        Q.
              You were saying:
5
6
              Hi Cathie
7
              I found this in the ... [version] 16
8
              SOP ...
9
10
11
        Α.
              Yes.
12
        Q.
              Then you set out what it is that you found?
13
        Α.
14
              Yes.
15
        Q.
              Then if we go to the email at the top of the page, do
16
        you see you then say further to Ms Allen - you sent her
17
        another email at 6.12pm and you say "Yay!"
18
19
        Α.
              Yes.
20
              Just ell us what you say was going on. Why were you
21
         saying, for example, "Yay"?
22
23
              Because this information was, I believe, in relation
        to changes that had occurred in 2013 after the reversion
24
25
        back to Profiler Plus, basically, what were the processes,
        what was the range and what the process - occurred during
26
27
        the analytical steps. So it was basically post
28
         implementation of PP21, what were the steps.
29
30
              But you sent Ms Allen an initial email with what you
        Q.
        found?
31
              Yes.
32
        Α.
33
              And presumably you sent that email because she had had
34
35
        a discussion with you and asked you to find information?
36
              She asked me a question.
                                         I believe it was, "What was
        the process after", or something along those lines.
37
38
39
              Then you send her another email 40 minutes later. Did
        you speak in between?
40
              No.
41
        Α.
42
43
        Q.
              You said "Yay" because you had found the version 17
        SOP?
44
45
              I'd found that specific information that seemed to
        relate to February 2013 processes.
46
47
```

What was the information that she wanted to find? 1 Q. 2 I believe it was just about when, maybe, auto-microcon started. I don't remember specifically. It was a phone 3 4 call. 5 Why? 6 Q. 7 I would have assumed because she wanted the information for something. I don't know what. 8 9 But you say she didn't tell you? 10 Q. She didn't tell me, no. 11 Α. 12 She just said, "Can you find" --Q. 13 Α. Yes. 14 15 -- "information about the auto-microcon" --Q. 16 I think she said something along the lines of "Do you 17 remember" or "Do you know". I wouldn't have known at that 18 19 time without going and looking for SOPs. 20 21 So after hours on 2 June, you were searching out this Q. information? 22 23 Α. I would have been working from home at that stage. 24 25 Q. Yes, but that is at 6.12pm? Α. Yes. 26 27 28 Q. You're searching out this information? 29 Α. Yes, not because she asked me to. 30 31 Q. She didn't tell you it was urgent? 32 Α. 33 She didn't tell you why she wanted it? 34 Q. 35 Α. 36 Q. You were just searching it out? 37 Yes. 38 Α. 39 And then you say some time later you found out that 40 Q. there were options that had been presented to somebody? 41 I believe she advised the management team that options 42 43 were provided. 44 45 And then to come back to that email, which is

when she said:

46 47 [WIT.0014.0045.0001] and blowing up that third paragraph,

1		
2 3 4 5		From this, we take it that the Premier and Cabinet did not appear to choose the option that included concentration of samples
6 7 8	Who A.	was the "we" as you understood it? Cathie and above.
9 10 11 12 13 14	emai the insu thou	So you thought you were being told, or by reading this I you were understanding, that all that had come from Premier and Cabinet was that they didn't want the DNA fficient process to be used, and therefore it was ght that Premier and Cabinet had chosen not to do o-concentration?  That's what we thought, yes.
16 17 18 19 20	A. that	When you say "we thought", did you think it as well? Yes, I did think that they - Cabinet, whoever made announcement or decision - chose the direct to ification.
21 22 23 24 25 26	you	I want to understand that. Do you say you - who told that Premier and Cabinet had chosen direct ification? Cathie.
27 28 29	Q. A.	Cathie told you? I believe so, yes.
30 31 32 33 34 35	Ms A been when info	And tell me if you agree with this: even if on 2 June his year you had been oblivious as to why it was that llen was asking you what the auto-microcon process had a few years ago, you must have realised on 6 June, the announcement was made, why she'd been seeking that rmation?
36 37	Α.	Yes, I might have put it together. I
38 39 40 41		Did you put it together? There was a lot of questions around that, to the point e we actually created a timeline, because it was - s getting questions like that all the time.
42 43 44 45	Q . A .	From whom? A variety of different people.
46	Q.	In June?

Α.

47

Not in June. I think in - later than that, we put

It might

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1	a timeline together because we had been asked those
2	questions a number of times - well, I had been.

 Q. And who were the people asking you those questions?

A. I think - well, in relation to some of the notices as well, it was trying to figure out when things fit in in the timeline, so we created a timeline for the no DNA detected and DNA insufficient processes.

- Q. When did you first realise that somebody had been misled, up in government, about what the process had been before February 2018?
- A. I'm not sure when I became aware of that. I have been after the next decision. I'm not sure.

Q. Before the next decision, which was in August of this year --

Α.

Yes.

- Q. -- you were already fielding queries as to what the process had been before February 2018?
- A. And back to 2012 and 2013 as well. It was all the way through.

Q. You were already fielding queries, before the decision in August 2019, about what the process had been before DIFP was introduced?

A. Yes, for a variety of reasons.

Q. What do you mean, "for a variety of reasons"? What are the variety of reasons?

A. When the DNA insufficient line came back in to be used, when it stopped being used, what were the different limit of detection thresholds - so all of those sort of questions were being asked in provision of information for the Commission but also - yes, basically the Commission.

Q. When did you become aware that Cathie Allen had told somebody superior to her that the process before February 2018 had been to go straight to concentration for samples in the DIFP range - sorry, straight to amplification for samples in the DIFP range?

A. I don't remember specifically. I don't know whether it was on or after or around the next decision, because I am aware through a number of different, I guess, mechanisms now that she said she made a mistake.

1	Q. Have you seen the communication that she sent or that
2	was sent as to what the process had been immediately before
3	the February 2018 decision?
4	A. I don't recall if I have, no.
5	
6	Q. You know, don't you, that it must have been sent after
7	you had told her on 2 June what the process had been?
8	A. I imagine it would be.
9	
10	Q. Did you speak to her on 2 or 3 June about what the
11	process had been as you had found it from looking through
12	the SOPs?
13	A. No, not after sending the emails.
14	
15	Q. Have you spoken to her since then about how it is that
16	she could have told somebody that the process was to go
17	straight to amplification, given your emails to her about
18	what the process had been?
19	A. No, I haven't.
20	
21	Q. Have you spoken or discussed that with anyone else?
22	A. No.
23	
24	Q. Can we bring up [WIT.0014.0052.0001].
25	
26	THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge
27	
28	MR HODGE: We don't need to tender that one, Commissioner,
29	because it's part of Ms Brisotto's witness statement.
30	Sorry, I may have been jumping the gun on the answer.
31	
32	THE COMMISSIONER: No, the email from Ms Brisotto to
33	Ms Allen of 2 June about her findings about the SOP hasn't
34	been tendered.
35	
36	MR HODGE: No, but it's part of Ms Brisotto's witness
37	statement.
38	
39	THE COMMISSIONER: I see. All right, thank you.
10	
11	MR HODGE: Q. This is an email that you sent on
12	16 August 2022 to Helen Gregg?
13	A. Yes.
14	
<del>1</del> 5	Q. Where you say:
16	
17	Hi Helen.

1 2 3	I provided this info below to Cathie some time ago, which may be useful to you
4 5	A. Yes, yes.
6 7 8 9	Q. So by this time, by 16 August 2022, Ms Gregg must have spoken to you?  A. She was asking me about the process in place, too.
10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. Why? A. Because she was in the executive - acting executive role and she was asking me about some of the standard operating procedures in relation to basically the timelines.
17 18 19 20 21	Q. I just want to understand it. Do you say that that is the limit of what she explained to you as to why she was asking about it?  A. Yes, I believe so.
22 23 24 25 26	Q. So nobody told you at this time that there had been information provided up in Queensland Health that had been incorrect about what the process had been before February 2018?  A. I don't believe so.
27 28 29 30 31	Q. And so you say it was after the second decision that was made that you became aware that incorrect information had been provided?  A. It might have been the day of or after.
32 33 34 35 36	Q. And how did you become aware? A. I don't know whether it was Cathie who advised, but I don't remember the specific date.
37 38 39	Q. This is now two months ago. A. Yes.
40 41 42 43	Q. You don't remember? A. There has been a lot of changes, whether it was on the day or after, no, I don't.
44 45 46 47	Q. This surely must be, in your professional career, one of the most significant things that you have experienced?  A. It is, and it's also one of the busiest times and the most stressful times I've experienced.

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And so you just can't remember, you can't help us? There is - not specific days, not specific times. There's been phone calls, conversations - there's been a lot. So in order of where that would have fit in the timeline, I can't pinpoint it with any certainty.

6 7 8

Were you upset? Q.

Upset?

Yes.

Α.

9 10

Α.

To discover what had happened?

12 13

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I don't think I was upset. It was a decision that was - it was a decision that was reverted back, and we got the DG direction to microcon everything and then retrospectively do that. So it was just then the next step of, how do we do that, how do we achieve that?

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Just looking at what you say on the face of it, on 2 June of this year you're having a discussion with Ms Allen about what the historical process had been about micro-concentration before the February 2018 decision, and you'd gone back and you'd investigated it and you'd sent her an email - yes?

23 24

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- And then on 6 June, a decision was announced which did not accord with what you knew was the process immediately before the February 2018 decision?
- I don't think I no. It was a decision made, and the way it was presented was straight to amplification.

30 31 32

33

And it was a decision that did not accord with what Q. you understood to be good science?

I think at this 34 It was a decision that was made. 35 point in time we were - I felt like we were being directed 36 to change to that.

37 38

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- And then at some point you were told by Cathie Allen Q. that options had been presented to somebody and they'd apparently chosen an option which you regarded as bad science?
- I didn't say it was bad science. It was an option that was chosen. I can't decide what their reasons were.

- Q. But you thought it was bad science?
- I thought there was, as I said micro-concentration 46 47 was one option, but also another option is the direct to

amplification, which is still a process of progressing
through DNA testing.

- Q. Yes, but to come back to my question, it's bad science based on the information that you had?
- A. It wasn't the process pre-2018, no.

- Q. The process pre-2018 was based on a scientific evaluation?
- 10 A. Yes.

- Q. So it was bad science?
  - A. It was still a decision we were directed, is my belief; is what I was told, sorry.

- Q. By Cathie Allen?
- 17 A. Yes.

- Q. And then in July 2018 sorry, July 2022, suddenly the police are expressing concern because they've just realised that you're not doing auto micro-concentration, and you knew that?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And then you saw an email from Cathie Allen where she said something that you must have regarded as ambiguous, or strange, which was that some unknown people had taken it that the Premier and Cabinet had chosen the option of not concentrating?
- 30 A. Yes.

- Q. And so you apparently understood, in July 2022, that unknown people, Cathie Allen and above, had thought that the Premier and Cabinet had chosen an option that you regarded as bad science?
- A. And they still well, my belief or my understanding is still that was a decision we were directed to do, so we implemented.

- Q. I'm not asking you about that. I think you know that. I'm asking you about your understanding of what was in this email. Your understanding was that Cathie Allen was now saying that she and unknown people above her had understood that the Premier and Cabinet had chosen the option that you regarded as bad science?
- A. Without knowing what exactly the details that were in the options put forward, I don't know, I don't know what

the reasons or the rationale was --1 2 3 I'm not asking you about why they made the decision. 4 I'm asking you about what you understood to be what had occurred. You know that, and I need you to answer that 5 question, please. Do you say that in July of this year, 6 7 you understood from this email from Ms Allen that she and 8 people superior to her in Queensland Health had taken it that the Premier and Cabinet had chosen the option that you 9

> regarded as bad science? It was - I wouldn't call it bad science. Possibly not - not the option pre-2018.

- And then at some later point, in about August of this year, you became aware that Ms Allen had provided incorrect information about what the process had been immediately before the February 2018 decision?
- Yes, at some point in time.
- And you say now you can't remember exactly when it was that you discovered that she'd provided incorrect information?
- No, I don't know if it was after the decision was That was discussed above my level.
- Did you draw a connection at all in your own mind between the fact that she must have provided this incorrect information almost immediately after you had provided the correct information to her?
- Α. Yes.
- Q. And did you raise that with anyone?
- Α. No.

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- Q. Why not?
- They're standard operating procedures. Anyone could find this information as well. I don't know what was put in the options or what was provided in the email to the DG.
- And suddenly in mid-August this year, you were receiving urgent inquiries, weren't you, from people superior to you about what exactly it was that the process had been?
- Helen was asking questions, and because I'd already 44 45 prepared that, I provided it.
  - Q. This situation or this discovery of what had

- occurred I just want to understand, as a professional, 1 2 did you regard this as appalling? Appalling? It was something that happened. 3 a mistake - I mean, my perspective now, it was a mistake 4 that was made and it was something that now was being 5 fixed. 6 7 Do you regard it as satisfactory management within the 8 DNA lab of Forensic and Scientific Services? 9 10 MR DIEHM: Could I ask for the question to be clarified as 11 to precisely Mr Hodge is asking about. 12 13 THE COMMISSIONER: 14 Yes, do you regard what as 15 satisfactory? 16 17 MR HODGE: Q. Do you regard the saga from June to August of this year in relation to not processing samples through 18 19 to auto micro-concentration and providing the wrong information to superiors and treating a decision to revert 20 to the pre-2018 decision as not involving going straight to 21 auto micro-concentration - do you regard that as 22 23 satisfactory management within the DNA lab? I think - I mean, that's a difficult question to 24 I don't think - it's not obviously ideal, but it 25 answer. was a mistake that, from my understanding, Cathie owned up 26 27 to and acknowledged. 28 Could you just give me one moment, 29 MR HODGE: I see. Commissioner, I'm going to move to 30 Commissioner? 31 a different topic. 32 THE COMMISSIONER: 33 Yes. 34 MR HODGE: 35 Q. I want to now ask you about a series of 36 different things, Ms Brisotto. The first is, can we bring up [FSS.0001.0051.5008]. You'll see this is a chain of 37 emails where the latest email in time is an email that 38 39 Mr Howse is forwarding to you on 8 March 2019? 40 Α. Yes. 42 Q.
- 41

43

- The subject is "Forward: DNA Insufficient for further processing"?
- 44 Α. Yes.
- Do you see it's forwarding an email from Alicia 46 47 Quartermain?

Yes. 1 Α. 2 3 Have you looked at this document recently? Yes, I have 4 Α. 5 6 You know, then - I don't need to take you through it -Ms Quartermain was raising a concern about reporting DIFP 7 in statements and its potential falsity? 8 Yes. 9 Α. 10 Q. And Mr Howse was then passing on that concern to you? 11 He was, yes, providing it for my information. 12 Α. 13 And did you discuss it with him? Q. 14 No, I don't believe so. 15 Α. 16 Q. 17 Did you do anything about it? No. It was an FYI. 18 Α. 19 It was an FYI? 20 Q. 21 Α. Email, yes. 22 23 Just take a moment to think about this. The FYI that you were being sent was by a person at the same level as 24 25 you informing you that a member of the DNA lab is concerned that the statements being made to courts and to criminal 26 law practitioners are false? 27 28 Α. Yes. 29 30 That was how you understood it? In reading that, yes, but I guess from my perspective, 31 this email was raised to the senior scientist of that team 32 and also included four of the management team members or 33 all of the management team members of the FRIT team, who 34 35 are the team responsible for reporting. 36 Q. Why was he forwarding it to you? 37 For my information. 38 Α. 39 Q. You say he never discussed it with you? 40 I don't believe so. Α. 41 42 43 Q. You never took - you never did anything about it? Α. I don't believe so. 44 45 Q. You thought it was irrelevant to your --46

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Α.

Not irrelevant. It was already being handled from -

I guess reading this email now, for the team leader of the 1 2 reporting team as well as the three senior scientists 3 within that team. 4 But when you say it was "being handled", it's an email 5 that's sent to Ms Rika and copied to Mr Howse and Ms Lloyd 6 and Ms Johnstone, and then if we just scroll up, operator, 7 8 he then forwards this email that he's copied to to you, and you say you never discussed it with him? 9 I don't believe so. I cannot recall. 10 11 Can you think of any reason why he'd forward it to 12 Q. 13 you? Α. Not - no, not specifically, no. 14 15 Was there any discussion of it at management team 16 meetings that you attended? 17 Α. Not that I can recall, no. 18 19 Did anyone provide any information to you that 20 suggested that it had been addressed in some way? 21 I don't believe so. I've looked, and I could not 22 23 find anything further than that. 24 25 So do the best you can for us. What explanation can Q. you offer for why you did nothing about it? 26 27 If it was already raised to the team leader 28 responsible for reporting of results and interpretation of 29 results, then it's not something for me to action. 30 31 Can you see the problem for the credibility of the 32 Queensland lab of the possibility that scientists are signing statements that they believe contain false 33 34 language? 35 Α. Yes. 36 Could you see it at the time? 37 Q. 38 39 THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You didn't see it at the time, obviously, otherwise it would have provoked you to do 40 something, wouldn't it? 41 I would like to think so, yes. 42 Α. 43 So why didn't it provoke you to do something? 44 Q. 45 I don't know whether that - and I guess that's the

46 47 thing, is, you know, what discussions happened within the

group of people there, I don't know. I don't attend the

reporting meetings. 1 2 3 Q. You were the team leader for evidence recovery and 4 quality? Yes. 5 Α. 6 7 Does evidence recovery encompass the quantitation process or not? 8 Α. Yes. 9 10 11 Yes, so what you were being told is that the work you're doing in quantitation, the work that your team was 12 doing for which you're responsible, arriving at quants and 13 in designating them as insufficient for further processing 14 was leading to falsehoods being stated in evidence in 15 court, and you thought it wasn't your business? I think 16 that's how you - the effect of what you said earlier. 17 In relation to the wording in the statements? 18 19 20 In relation to the fact that your work was 21 falsely describing these as insufficient for further processing. You don't see that? 22 23 Yes, I do, but I've also - I guess I've read that email to also allude to the wording in the statements. 24 25 Well, what are they supposed to do when your team 26 27 submits a result as DNA insufficient for further 28 processing, are they supposed to ignore that? Aren't they 29 supposed to adopt that? Isn't that the SOP? 30 The SOP is to adopt it. The wording in the statements is something separate to that, because of - the "DNA 31 insufficient" line and the expanded comment is not 32 reflective in the wording in the statement. 33 34 Then why do so many statements that I've seen contain 35 36 "DNA insufficient for further processing"? I think that's been addressed recently. 37 Α. 38 39 Q. Yes, and why - what's the answer? The further information or clarification needed to be 40 provided in the expanded wording to encompass that it was 41 low level and further reworking may obtain a DNA profile. 42 43 44 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge. 45

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MR HODGE:

the body of it.

Q.

Can we just go down that email, back to

Do you see the first paragraph of what

1 2 3	have	uartermain says is, she is identifying that P1 samples been going straight through to micro-concentration based on their quant values and:
4 5 6 7		A number of them have produced useable profiles
8 9	Α.	Yes.
10 11 12 13 14	this wheth that A.	I'm interested in understanding, was there a reason didn't provoke you to take steps to re-evaluate ner it was a good idea not to be processing samples in low-quant range?  No, I don't think - I don't remember anything further graised from this.
16 17 18 19	Q. You'r A.	But this is information that's provided to you. re a senior manager. Yes.
20 21 22 23 24	Q. re-ev A.	None of this provoked you to think, we need to valuate what we're doing? No, obviously not.
24 25 26 27 28	•	Is it because you just do whatever Cathie Allen tells to do? No, I don't think so.
26 29 30 31 32	anyth	COMMISSIONER: Q. Have you ever opposed her in ning, in the whole of your career? Yes.
33 34	Q. A.	Yes? What? I can't think of anything at the moment.
35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46	THE (	COMMISSIONER: Yes.
	MR HO	DDGE: I tender that email, Commissioner.
		COMMISSIONER: The email from Ms Quartermain of rch 2019 is exhibit 126.
	TO KY	BIT #126 EMAIL OF 7 MARCH 2019 FROM ALICIA QUARTERMAIN YLIE RIKA AND OTHERS, FORWARDED TO PAULA BRISOTTO BY IN HOWES, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0051.5008]
	MR HO	DDGE: Q. I want to then ask you something about the

process by which DIFP and no DNA results are validated. 1 2 3 4 Do you accept these propositions: that items have been reported as no DNA or DIFP which may have come from 5 6 rich sources of DNA, like blood or sperm? 7 Yes, they - if they fell within that quant range, yes, they would have been reported as that. 8 9 10 And also that items were reported as no DNA or DIFP 11 where there was a photograph available which would show that the sample was clearly from blood? 12 It would indicate that there might be staining that 13 could be blood. 14 15 And do you accept that QPS photographs are available 16 17 on the forensic-register? They are available. Sometimes they're not very clear. 18 19 20 For scientists, it would not be laborious for them to 21 check those photographs for samples, or certain classes of samples, before validating no DNA or DIFP? 22 23 It depends on where in the process they were looking, because if they're navigating to different screens of the 24 25 forensic-register, it could take some time. 26 27 Q. Do you accept that it's not part of the process --28 Α. Yes, I accept that. 29 30 -- to check the photographs of samples before 31 validating it as no DNA or DIFP? 32 Α. Yes. 33 34 And do you accept that you, given your role, should 35 have instituted a change to the policy to ensure that there was some form of checking against the photographs? 36 It depends on if checking against the photograph is 37 going to provide any additional information, because 38 39 sometimes the photographs are from information that's not 40 going to be useful. 42 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, how do you know that if you Q. 43

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don't check the photos? That's what you're being asked. Yes, whether there is information there or not, you might not be able to make an assessment of it.

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Q. But there might be?

1 A. There might be, yes.

- Q. So the question to you is, wasn't it part of your job, your responsibility, to see that the process of quantitation involved the relevant scientist looking at the photographs for what information that might be there that might be useful in determining what to do with the sample or not?
- A. Yes, if that was deemed as part of the process that we wanted, we would have, yes, implemented it. It would have required forensic-register changes, but yes.

- MR HODGE: Q. So why didn't you?
- A. It wasn't, at that point in time at this point in time, it's not considered part of the role of the analytical scientist reviewing that. They're assessing the aspects of the quantification process.

Q. But the problem is, as you know, that you have a process in which samples will be - there will be quantitation in relation to the samples, and they will be validated as either no DNA or DIFP, accepting there has been a change recently in relation to DIFP, and then they won't be further tested?

Q. When you say "not at that point", unless somebody specifically asks for them to be further tested --

29 A. Yes.

Α.

Q. -- they won't be further tested?

Not at that point, no.

A. That is correct.

- Q. And there's no reason why they will go over to the reporting team unless they if they've been put as either no DNA or DIFP?
- A. They would if there was other samples within the case that they were assessing.

- Q. I see, they might have gone over if there was some other sample?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And do you say if it had gone over, they then would look at that again?
- A. They could, yes, as a case assessment, yes.

- Q. Why not, why not, given that you were in control of what was going on on that analytical side, why not have some process to actually check what these samples were from?
  - A. It would have I mean, we could have, we could have created a workflow around it and implemented changes within the forensic-register, and that would have been after the implementation in 2017.

- Q. Can we bring up [WIT.0020.0007.0001]. We might come back to that in a moment. Have you read Inspector Neville's statement?
- A. No.

- Q. Do you know that Inspector Neville identifies in his statement some examples of things that were validated as no DNA?
- A. No.

Q. I see. Has anybody brought to your attention, before this Commission commenced, that samples that were from, for example, a pool of blood had been validated as no DNA?

A. Not before the Commission, or not before this recent investigation.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That's because you and your staff don't look at photos; isn't that right?

A. Yes.

MR HODGE: I'll come back to that in a moment.

 Q. So would it have been, or do you think it would have been accepted by Ms Allen if you had raised the possibility of having a workflow process where your scientists were going to start looking at photographs before validating no DNA or DIFP?

THE COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry, what was the question?

MR HODGE: I asked her if she thought it would be accepted by Ms Allen, but that might be slightly unfair.

- Q. I'm wondering, what I want to understand is, is a reason why you never raised it because you didn't think it would be received positively by Ms Allen or somebody else in the lab?
- 47 A. No.

1	0	It just never ecoupsed to you?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 38 39 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40	Q. A.	It just never occurred to you? No, it didn't.
	Q. issu A.	I want to then ask you about the sperm microscopy e. Yes.
		ODGE: I'm told I have the pinpoint that I was looking Operator, can we go to .0010.
	exam	Maybe if we blow up the bottom part. So that's an ple of what Inspector Neville had identified as the ce of the sample that was validated as no DNA. Okay, yes.
	this the DIFP rete A. samp anal	Do you think if - we're interested in understanding . Do you think if scientists were routinely checking photographs before they validated a sample as no DNA or , that that would be more likely to cause them to st something like that or look at it further? Yes, they might, in assessing that sample and other les within the case as well. That wouldn't be the ytical scientists doing that, because they don't do case assessment. That would have to be a shift.
	divi mana A. set it's be,	Do you think part of the problem at the moment is this sion where you don't have somebody who is effectively ging the case from the very beginning when it comes in? That is - and I guess the way the workflow has been up for, you know, sample-by-sample reporting, it is - a contributing factor. It can be something that can I guess, managed within the forensic-register if we do ge some workflows.
	scie what take sali proc	COMMISSIONER: Q. The way this works is that the ntist doing the quant work takes a sample, not knowing it is or what the context is from which the sample was n, and doesn't know whether it's blood or semen or va or anything else, and runs it through the quant ess and gets a quant and then enters that onto the uter?  Yes.
44 45	Q.	So that doesn't require any thinking, does it?

46 47

it's passed all the quality checks, but other than that --

They need to assess the quantification batch to ensure

- 2 That's right, so absolutely no thinking apart from ensuring that the work has been done correctly according to 3 4 scientific standards, and so on through the lab up to the 5 point where the case managers come into play, nobody is 6 required to apply any thought or context to the work 7 they're doing except to get the technical side of it done correctly? 8 9
  - Yes, in the analytical team, yes.

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- And so the model is a production line where each person has a particular practical duty to perform and performs it, and part of that involves not taking the time to ask the question, "What am I dealing with here; let's look at the evidence, the photograph, in order to determine whether the result that I'm getting will make sense". because that would involve time taken to think - is that riaht?
- Α. Part of their role is not to do the case assessment. That's not what they're trained to do, so --

20 21 22

23

24 25

26 27

- Q. No, that's not what they're trained to do and that's because it would take time to do it, and you, as the person responsible for that team, don't want them to take time to do it; you want them to get the results out, whatever they are - good or bad, reliable or not reliable, just get them out?
- 28 Α.

29 30

31

32

33

- Well, explain, then, why your staff aren't required to do something as basic as look at the photos? What's the reason for that?
- The reason it is not built into the Α. forensic-register --

34 35 36

What's the reason for it? Q. I know. The reason it's not something they've done in the Α. It's -past.

38 39 40

37

- So you haven't thought about it, have you? Q.
- Α. No, I haven't.

No --

- 43 MR HODGE: Q. Do you think it's fair to say that the lab in Queensland is really set up as if it is dealing just 44 with volume crime? 45
- I don't know, in comparison to other labs, how they 46 Α. 47 set up. I mean, they - it is an item-based lab. We have

been that way for some time. And that processing does enable samples to be - or results to be released when the sample itself is ready, not the whole case. So there are benefits to that. And, yes, with the case assessment of volume cases, they can be item based like that. There is I guess, more case allocation for major cases within the laboratory.

Q. It's still sample by sample for a priority 2 case that comes in?

11 A. Yes.

- Q. So, for example, that means that no-one is, right from the very beginning, looking at all of the samples for a case, which is a serious case a rape or a sexual assault or a murder and evaluating what are the best samples to test and by what method?
- A. Only the so once it's within the lab, no, because most of the items are received in tube ready for testing.

Q. The consequence is no-one, for example, is even looking at photographs to see, where is this sample from?

A. At the reporting stage when they're doing a statement, they will be, yes.

Q. But not at the analytical stage?A. Not at the analytical stage.

Q. Not at the gateway stage, as to whether something is going to go through for further processing?

A. No, they're not.

Q. And no-one is looking at the samples and, for example, evaluating which samples it would be best to test and in what order and with what methods? For example, no-one is saying there are two samples here; one is a high vaginal swab, one is a low vaginal swab; it would make sense in this case to first test the high vaginal swab, which may mean that it is not necessary to test the low vaginal swab at that time?

A. Sexual assault cases, or SAIK cases, do get an examination strategy by the evidence recovery team.

- Q. Oh, so you do go through and --
- 45 A. For SAIKs, yes.

Q. -- make that sort of evaluation?

1	A. Yes, for SAIKs.
2 3 4	Q. But if you were dealing with a murder, you wouldn't do it?
5 6 7	A. The murders will often come with samples in a tube ready for testing.
7 8 9	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. How do you go about working out a strategy for SAIK cases?
10 11	A. Well, that is not something that I do, so I would refer to the SOP. But the evidence recovery staff would
12 13	have a look at the examination notes provided by the doctor collecting, which will have some history and other details
14 15	within it. That is one of the, I guess, case histories that we get, and they will have a look at that and
16 17 18	basically come up with an examination strategy based on standard operating procedures as well. At this moment, all samples do get submitted for differential lysis, and they
19 20	will then check the microscopy after that.
21 22	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thanks.
23 24	MR HODGE: We can take that photo down, Commissioner.
25 26 27	Q. I just want to then understand one other aspect of the process. Can we go back to a document I showed you yesterday, which is [FSS.0001.0051.4999]. This is the
28 29 30	chain of emails where Cathie Allen is forwarding emails on to you and Justin Howes?  A. Yes.
31 32	Q. The email she's forwarding on, if we look at the
33 34 35 36	bottom of the page, is her email exchange with Acting Inspector Simpfendorfer? A. Yes.
37 38 39	Q. If we go over the page to page .5000 and just blow up the last full paragraph on that page, which begins:
40 41	Whilst the Microcon process
42 43	Do you see it says:
44 45 46	since mid Feb, scientists have reviewed those results and requested a Microcon process if in the context of the case it
46 47	could have been of potential benefit.

1		
2	Α.	Yes.
3		
4	Q.	Is that true?
5	Α.	For the cases that they're assessing.
6	_	
7	Q.	No, I'm sorry, I'll read you the whole sentence. It
8	says	
9		
10		Whilst the Microcon process has not been
11		automatically applied to Major crime
12		samples since mid Feb, scientists have
13		reviewed those results and requested
14		a Microcon process if in the context of the
15		case it could have been of potential
16		benefit.
17	۸	Yes.
18 19	Α.	res.
20	Q.	Is that sentence true?
21	Q. А.	Not for every sample, no.
22	Λ.	Not for every sample, no.
23	Q.	How often, if ever, was it true as at the end of 2018?
24	Α.	I wouldn't be able to comment on that. I would have
25		and search the data.
26	9.	
27	Q.	Would it be in most DIFP cases that they would be
28	asses	ssed by a scientist?
29	Α.	For priority 2s, if they were allocated to
30	a sc	ientist, yes, but possibly not most.
31		
32	Q.	You know it wasn't most, don't you?
33	Α.	Yes, no, it probably wouldn't have been most, because
34	some	of the cases would not have been allocated, no.
35		
36	Q.	It would only be a fraction?
37	Α.	It would be a fraction, yes.
38		
39	Q.	It would only be if they were looking at it because
10		r samples had come through?
<b>11</b>	Α.	Yes.
12	•	
13	Q.	And therefore prompted them to look at other samples?
14	Α.	Yes.
15 10	0	Toursel These what were essent to the first to the
16 17	Q.	I suspect I know what your answer is going to be, but
17	were	you aware that Ms Allen had provided this information

1 2 3 4 5	to the police in November 2018?  A. I received - was I on the receiving end of this email?  I think I was. Again, I might not have read it in any great detail.			
6 7 8 9	Q. Did you have a discussion with Ms Allen at any stage about what information she was providing to police?  A. No, not the detailed information that she was providing.			
11 12 13 14	<ul><li>Q. She forwarded you, though, a number of emails, didn't she?</li><li>A. Yes.</li></ul>			
15 16 17 18	Q. Did she forward you the correspondence she was having with police? A. Yes.			
19 20 21	Q. But you don't remember reading those in any detail? A. It - not in any detail. They were very long emails.			
22 23 24	Q. And you don't remember discussing them with her? A. I - no, I don't recall.			
25 26 27 28	Q. Doing the best you can for us, can you think of a reason why she would have said this to the police?  A. That scientists were assessing?			
29 30	Q. Yes.			
31 32 33 34 35	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That scientists have reviewed those results.  A. And would auto-microcon. Because that was her understanding.			
36 37	Q. Where could she have gotten that from?			
38 39 40	THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, it doesn't matter. You go ahead, Mr Hodge.			
41 42 43	MR HODGE: I'm told that hasn't been tendered. I tender that email.			
44 45	THE COMMISSIONER: What's the date of it?			
46 47	MR HODGE: 15 November 2018.			

1 2 3	THE COMMISSIONER: The email from Ms Allen to Ms Brisotto and Mr Howse of 15 November 2018 is exhibit 127.
5 5 6 7	EXHIBIT #127 EMAIL FROM CATHIE ALLEN TO PAULA BRISOTTO AND JUSTIN HOWSE, DATED 15 NOVEMBER 2018, BARCODED [FSS.0001.0051.4999]
, 8 9 10 11	MR HODGE: Q. I want to move to another topic. In mid-2016, you returned from maternity leave? A. Yes.
12 13	THE COMMISSIONER: What date was that?
14 15	MR HODGE: Mid-2016.
16 17	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
18 19 20 21	MR HODGE: Q. When you returned, at that time there was the sperm microscopy issue that had arisen?  A. Yes.
22 23 24 25 26	Q. Do you remember whether you had any discussions with anyone about the urgency of the issue?  A. No, I can't recall. I think the main topic of discussion on my return was a HR issue.
27 28 29	<ul><li>Q. Did you have any involvement in the implementation of what's described as the workaround?</li><li>A. I possibly did have, as part of the management team.</li></ul>
30 31 32 33 34	Q. But you can't specifically remember now? A. No. I know it was at the start of August that it was implemented.
35 36 37 38	Q. Did you have any involvement in any discussion about whether retrospective testing needed to be carried out?  A. I don't think at that time I did, no.
39 40	<ul><li>Q. Was that not your role?</li><li>A. Retrospective testing?</li></ul>
41 42 43 44 45	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. No. Deciding how to handle samples in the extraction phase. A. For differential lysis?
46 47	Q. For everything that - once it's pointed out to you that something has gone wrong, wasn't it your

1 responsibility to consider what ought to be done? 2 3 4 Whether something might have been missed and, if so, Q. 5 what? 6 Α. So the modified process was in place, and Project #181 7 was already being commenced to investigate that. 8 But that was for the future. 9 What about what might have been missed and how long this has been going on for -10 11 isn't that your bailiwick? It would have, I guess, come out of the initial 12 investigations from 181 - from the Project #181 to 13 determine what the issue was and the potential impact to --14 15 And do you know if Project #181 was concerned with 16 17 examining how many samples might have been missed and when the problem first arose? 18 19 Α. I don't believe at that stage it was. 20 21 So that wasn't going to look after it, and this is completely within your department, namely, extraction of 22 23 DNA, and I gather from what you're saying that you didn't and it didn't occur to you that samples that could have 24 25 been evidentiary might have been missed, and you didn't know for how long the problem that had been identified by 26 27 the scientists who brought their concerns to Ms Reeves -28 for how long that problem had existed? 29 Α. No, I didn't. 30 MR HODGE: 31 Q. Did you take any steps to answer those 32 questions? No. 33 Α. 34 35 Q. Why not? 36 Α. I expect that I was awaiting the outcome of 181. 37 38 Q. How long were you prepared to wait? 39 I don't think anyone anticipated the project to go for as long as it did. 40 42

41

- The project also changed, didn't it? Q.
- 43 It did, as it was - I guess depending on the results, which projects can do. 44

45 46

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So at the end of Project #181 after the four years, Q. the result of that wasn't to say, "We don't need to be

1 2 3	concerned about samples from 2010 to 2016", was it? A. No, it didn't.
3 4 5 6	Q. So does that mean you've never satisfied yourself about whether or not there was an issue for samples between 2010 and 2016?
7 8 9	A. I don't - I think - yes, it needed to, I guess, look for the parameters of what samples could be missed and what we needed to further reassess.
10 11 12	Q. When you say "it" needed to, it's your team, it's your responsibility?
13 14 15 16 17	A. It is the team that actually performs the tasks. I didn't think it was - well, I don't think it would be just an isolated process for evidence recovery and quality. I think it would require case assessment as well.
18 19 20	Q. But even assuming that's true, why is it that even today you've not satisfied yourself as to this question of whether there needs to be retesting for samples for 2010 to
21 22 23	2016? A. I can't answer that.
24 25 26 27	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But, you know, you must have been aware that this spermatozoa issue was being aired in public in this Commission?  A. Yes.
28 29 30 31 32 33	Q. And even then, it didn't strike you that you had better do something about it and find out for how long it had been going on for and what might have been missed?  A. It has been discussed recently about what potentially that we could look for in a review.
34 35 36 37	MR HODGE: Q. How recently? A. Within the last couple of days.
38 39 40	Q. And who has discussed it? A. Helen Gregg.
41 42 43	Q. She has raised the issue with you? A. Yes.
44 45	Q. That's after the Commission called an expert - after Clint Cochrane gave evidence?

Α.

Yes.

46

1 2	Q. I want to then ask about something else. There was some evidence that was given by Ms Caunt which was about
3	having raised a concern about PP21 at half volume?
4	A. Yes.
5	
6	Q. I think you're familiar with that evidence, because
7	you've been directed to what it is that Ms Caunt said and
8	you've responded to it in your statement?
9	A. Yes.
10	
11	Q. I just want to understand that a little bit. Do you
12	recall Ms Caunt raising an issue with you or a concern
13	about doing it at half volume?
14	A. No, I can't remember an issue being raised directly to
15	me.
16	
17	Q. But is it possible that she raised it directly with
18	you?
19	A. She might have. I can't recall. That was
20	
21	Q. It was certainly the case, wasn't it, that it has been
22	known or it was known within the lab some years ago that
23	there was an issue with half volume?
24	A. It was certainly something that was highlighted post
25	implementation.
26	
27	Q. Yes, I understand. So after it was implemented, it
28	was apparent that there was an issue with doing it at half
29	volume?
30	A. Yes, it became apparent.
31	
32	Q. Do you remember whether an issue or concern had been
33	raised beforehand?
34	A. No, I can't.
35	
36	Q. Is it possible that it was?
37	A. It might have been, but I can't remember.
38	
39	Q. Is it the case that doing PP21 at half volume is
10	a cost saving compared to doing it at full volume?
11	A. It is a cost saving, yes.
12	
13	Q. Do you remember whose idea it was to do it at half
1 /	Volumo?

and full --

45

46 47 It was part of the validation to assess at both half

- 1 Q. Yes, but who suggested it?
- A. I think it was common practice for a lot of laboratories to look at half and full volume at that time.

4 5

Q. You know that Ms Caunt says that you said to her that Cathie said that it was to be done at half volume or something to that effect?

6 7

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A. Yes, I believe that's what she said.

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Q. And do you say you wouldn't have said that or didn't say that to Ms Caunt, or you're not sure?

A. I really can't remember the conversation, so I can't say what I said. And I guess in thinking about that, half and full volume were both validated as being fit for purpose in the validation report, and half volume was the one recommended to implement.

16 17

Q. I'm just interested, though, just focusing on the idea that it was necessary to implement at half volume, because what Ms Caunt suggests is that you said to her that you had to implement at half volume because Cathie had said so?

A. I certainly think that was a management team decision which Cathie was part of, to implement at half volume.

23 24

25

26

- Q. Does that mean your understanding is Ms Allen wanted to implement at half volume?
- A. Yes, if it was fit for purpose, yes.

272829

Q. Because it was a cost saving?

It was --

30 31 32

Q. Is that right, that's what you understood? A. Yes, yes.

33

34 35

36

37

- Q. She wanted to do it at half volume because it was a cost saving?
- A. Yes, but that was after assessment that it was suitable to implement.

38 39

- Q. I want to then ask about another validation, which is in relation to QuantStudio 5. Can we bring up [FSS.0001.0005.0767]. This is the project report for QuantStudio 5.
- 44 A. Yes.

Α.

- 46 Q. You're not an author of this report?
- 47 A. No.

1 2 3 4 5	Q. But you would have, if we go over to I think the second or the third page A. I would have been an endorser.
6 7 8 9	Q. Yes, it looks like that's not signed. In any event, you would have endorsed it? A. Yes.
10 11 12 13 14	Q. In relation to the limit of detection, you're aware of an issue that has been raised in this Commission about problems with the limit of detection? A. In relation to - sorry?
15 16 17 18 19	Q. Are you aware of evidence that was given about an issue with the limit of detection being 0.001 ng/µL not having been properly validated?  A. Not in detail in this Commission, no.
20 21 22 23 24	Q. Do you agree with the proposition that in order to validate the limit of detection, you would need to test samples that went below A. Yes.
25 26 27	Q what was the limit of detection? A. Sorry. Yes, I do. I do recall that being raised.
28 29 30 31 32 33	Q. In accepting a limit of detection validation, would you have reviewed the data that was used?  A. I would have reviewed what information was in the experimental design and the final report. I wouldn't have gone to the raw data.
34 35 36 37 38 39 40	Q. I'm just trying to understand, was there a reason that you didn't realise that the limit of detection hadn't been properly validated?  A. No. Basically, reading this report, I would have assessed it as being suitable. I wouldn't have signed it, otherwise.
41 42 43 44	Q. Then I want to move to a different topic, which is in relation to the cleaning method for bones.  A. Yes.
45 46	Q. You're aware that an issue has arisen in the Commission

1 2	THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge, it's just after 1 o'clock. How long are you going to be?
3 4 5	MR HODGE: If I tell you that, then you'll double it. I think I'll be less than 15 minutes.
6 7 8	THE COMMISSIONER: All right, then we will adjourn now until - Ms Brisotto, would you prefer 2.15 or 2.30?
9 10 11	THE WITNESS: I don't mind.
12 13	THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Is there anybody else giving evidence today?
14 15 16	MR HODGE: No. No-one wants to ask Linzi Wilson-Wilde any questions about her report.
17 18 19	THE COMMISSIONER: So we'll just tender that?
20 21	MR HODGE: Yes, and there will be perhaps just a very short summary from Ms Hedge about it.
22 23 24	THE COMMISSIONER: All right. We will make it 2.30, then.
25 26	MR HODGE: Thank you.
27 28	LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT
29 30	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Hodge.
31 32	MR HODGE: Thank you, Commissioner.
33 34 35	${\tt Q.}$ ${\tt Ms}$ Brisotto, I want to now ask you about the change to the protocol for cleaning bones. A. Yes.
36 37 38 39 40 41	Q. I can take you to some documents, but you're aware that there's evidence has been given to the Commission about the change that Mr McNevin made in relation to the cleaning of bones?  A. Yes.
42 43 44 45	Q. That was a change that was made in consultation with you? A. Yes.
46 47	Q. Perhaps I will bring up the first email. Can we bring

up [FSS.0001.0056.8817], and could we go to the second 1 2 page of that email. We see at the bottom of the chain there's an email that Mr McNevin sent to you saying: 3 4 5 Given some issues with using/disposing of Tergazyme as outlined by Michael below, 6 should we implement the alternative 7 protocol using the dishwasher as outlined 8 in Proposal #148 - Cleaning bone processing 9 equipment? 10 11 Yes. 12 Α. 13 Q. Then you respond, if we go up to the middle, and say: 14 15 Anything that removes a [workplace health 16 and safety] risk is worthwhile, and from 17 memory the use of the dishwasher was the 18 19 preferred method - so a yes from me. 20 21 Α. Yes. 22 23 So it looks like you agreed to the proposal to make a change to the cleaning method without even going back to 24 25 read the project report; is that right? Α. Yes. 26 27 28 Is that something that, in terms of your view about proper management within the lab, do you think that was an 29 30 appropriate thing to do? 31 My memory was that the dishwasher was the preferred 32 option, so it would have been based on that memory. 33 Then if we go up to the next page, you see Mr McNevin 34 35 sends an email saying: 36 I'll do all the right comms as soon as 37 practical. 38 39 40 Α. Yes. 41 Then subsequently he sends you a draft set of 42 43 communications. Can we bring up [FSS.0001.0056.8823]. you look at bottom of the first page, you see you send an 44

email back to Mr McNevin saying:

Couple of typos in red.

45

1 2	Α.	Yes.		
3	,			
4 5	Q.	You also asked him:		
6 7		can you recall a reason Tergazyme was used above other methods?		
8 9	Α.	Yes.		
10	•			
1  2  3	Terg	existing method without knowing why it was that gazyme had been chosen to be used in the first place?		
14	Α.	Yes, based on the email.		
15	•			
16		Well, do you remember now?		
17	A.	J ,		
18 19		nuse I asked him if he could recall. I mean, I would		
20		e - if he couldn't recall, I would have gone back elf, too.		
21	шузе	;;; too.		
22	Q.	But you were approving a communication out to the		
23	scie	entists making a change to the cleaning process without		
24		knowing why the existing process had been chosen in the		
25		st place?		
26 27		For a wording - for wording to go out for voting,		
28	1 56	erreve.		
29	Q.	Oh, I see. Then if we go over the page, this is the		
30		ling that you've proposed?		
31	Α.	That I reviewed.		
32				
33	Q.	I'm sorry, you're quite right, that you reviewed. And		
34	you	see it refers to "Proposal #148", which we've talked		
35	abou	it already, but then it refers to Proposal #153"?		
36	Α.	Yes.		
37				
38	Q.	Did you go back and review the report for 153?		
39	Α.	I don't believe so.		
10	•			
<del>1</del> 1	Q.	Have you gone back since then and reviewed the report?		
12 13	Α.	I have - I've looked at it, yes.		
14	Q.	Recently?		
<b>1</b> 5	Α.	Yes, I think so, yes.		
16				
17	Q.	We'll come back to that in a moment. You see then		

what Mr McNevin has put is: 1 2 3 Therefore I am proposing that we eliminate the use of Tergazyme from the laboratory 4 and implement the following ... 5 6 7 And then he says: 8 - implement the cleaning of the bone 9 crushing equipment using the dishwasher as 10 11 per Proposal #138 [a typo]. 12 - use bleach and/or TriGene followed by 70% 13 ethanol to clean the remaining equipment in 14 line with other Evidence Recovery and 15 Analytical laboratory equipment. 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 19 20 I'm interested in understanding, did you regard this approach as an appropriate way to make the decision as to 21 how to clean all of the equipment in relation to bones? 22 23 If it was - well, certainly for Project #148, that was within the validation or verification that the dishwasher 24 was the preferred method. In relation to bleach or 25 TriGene, in proposal 153, the bleach and ethanol is 26 actually a regularly used cleaning process for all 27 28 laboratory equipment and has been for a very long time. 29 Bleach and ethanol? 30 Q. 31 Α. Yes. 32 But you surely didn't want bleach being used on steel 33 equipment in the bone room or in relation to cleaning the 34 35 bone equipment? 36 Bleach and ethanol have been used regularly on other metal equipment within laboratory areas for a long time. 37 38 39 Q. Have you gone back and read Project #148's report? 148? 40 Α. 41 Recently? 42 Q. Yes.

Α.

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bring up [WIT.0003.0456.0001]. This is Project #148 on the

It's talking about the bone crushing components.

if we put that email on one side of the screen, can we

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I'm just interested in understanding, are you - maybe

right-hand side of the screen?A. Yes.

- Q. And then if you just go to, I think, Mr Operator, it's the second page actually, it might be the third page. Keep going. Keep going. Keep going. Stop there. Then can you blow up the second-last paragraph on that page. So you knew in relation to bone equipment and stainless steel that you needed to make sure that any suitable cleaning protocol wouldn't cause rusting or pitting of the stainless steel components?
- A. But those were components that went into the dishwasher, I believe.

Q. Did you think there were no other steel or stainless steel components that were used in relation to bone?

A. I would assume the chisels and other equipment that are used as well.

 Q. So it may be the answer is you never went back to Project #148, so you weren't reminded of the need to be careful with stainless steel components, but do you remember thinking or turning your mind to that?

A. I guess it wouldn't have been different than my understanding of the bleach and ethanol that they use within the laboratory area to clean the forceps and scissors and other equipment that they use for normal sampling.

Q. Can we bring up Project #153, which is [FSS.0205.0001.0001]. This is Project #153? A. Yes.

Q. Could you just go in about four or five pages to that, Mr Operator. Keep going. Thank you, just stop there. I'm sorry, no, keep going. Just give me one moment. When we've looked at this version, I'll bring up the relevant section in a moment. Do you recall that it refers specifically to the issue of bleach causing pitting?

A. Not specifically, sorry.

- Q. I apologise, Ms Brisotto. Are you aware of issues with bleach causing pitting?
- A. Not specifically. If the bleach remained on a piece of equipment, yes, it would oxidise that eventually, but the protocol is generally to use ethanol after to remove the bleach.

1 2 3 4 5	conce a pla	Do you agree with me that Project #153 is a project rned with evaluating the cleaning of blood off stic Petri dish? Yes. Is that experiment 2?
7 8 9 10 11	gone A.	Perhaps if I start at a more general level. Have you back and reread Not specifically 153. I think I looked at one of the s that were presented.
12 13 14		Sorry, did you say you've looked at one of the graphs? One of the graphs that was highlighted.
15 16 17 18 19 20	appro is bl disag	If I suggest to you that Project #153 is about an priate cleaning substance where the test that's used ood on a Petri dish, a plastic Petri dish, do you ree with that? No, I won't disagree with that.
21 22 23 24	in re	Do you agree with me that the substance being cleaned lation to bone is not blood? Yes, I would agree.
25 26 27		Do you agree it's not a liquid? No, it's not a liquid.
28 29 30		Do you agree that it's not plastic? It's not plastic.
31 32 33 34 35	littl subst	So do you agree that Project #153 could tell you e, if anything, about what an appropriate cleaning ance was to use in relation to the bone equipment? Yes.
36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	appro witho to be equip A. follo every	And so can you explain, then, why you would have eved this potential change to the cleaning method out having any validation in relation to the cleaning used for the type of substance or the type of ment which you were making the change for?  I think in the end what was implemented was bleach eved by ethanol for the remaining equipment, as per SOP, every general SOP that we have for evidence
44	recov	erv and analytical lab areas.

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Q. Yes, I understand. My question is, given that Project #153 is not a verification of cleaning either the

- substance or the type of material on which the substance is found for which the change is being made, why did you approve it?
  - A. I'm not sure why I approved 153 to be added to it. Definitely 148 was appropriate.
  - Q. Yes, but 148 was only going to be used in relation to the vials?
    - A. Yes.

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  11 Q. So all of the other equipment was going to be cleaned,
  12 under this proposal, using the method from 153?
- A. If it went to TriGene, but it didn't end up going to TriGene.
- Q. Are you saying it just went to bleach?

  A. What was actually implemented and what is against the SOP in the comment is bleach and ethanol.
- Q. Sorry, did you say against the SOP?
  A. Yes.
  - Q. What do you mean by that?

    A. So post this request for change in 2019 a comment was added against the standard operating procedure to use bleach and ethanol for cleaning of standard laboratory equipment in relation to bone as per other processes within the lab.
  - Q. Who added that?A. From memory, I think it was Abigail Ryan.
- Q. When you say "from memory", you must have gone back and reviewed it?
  - A. Yes, I think yes, there was a number of names against it and I had to go through each one.
  - Q. So you went through each one -A. So against the SOP in QIS, there is a number of comments that can be against it and there are a number of names against it, and I basically tabbed through each one, so I believe it was Abigail Ryan.
- Q. And what is her role?
   A. Her role is an evidence recovery scientist. She's
   also a competent bone examiner.

- Q. And when did you say she changed the process to just use bleach?
  - A. Some time in 2019, I think it was against the SOP that preceded that would have been current at the time of this change, so it would have been what was updated into the next revision.
  - Q. And I'm slightly confused, but did you approve the change to just use bleach?
  - A. Anyone that was on I'm guessing the voting did, and anyone that was on the review of the SOP would have approved that change.
  - Q. Have you gone back to look at who approved it? A. No. I haven't.
  - Q. Was there any validation that supported it?

    A. No validation specifically, but that's also been something that's been used in the laboratory for cleaning metal instruments for sampling since I commenced, really.
  - Q. Sorry, bleach has been used for cleaning metal instruments in the laboratory routinely?

    A. Followed by ethanol, yes.
  - Q. Mr Operator, if we go to what is I think you might remember our confusion yesterday. There's multiple page 1s of this document. So if we can go to what I think is the second page 1 that's it. Then can you blow up the paragraph just under heading 2. Do you see it says:

Forensic DNA analysis has previously been using TriGene II ... for routine decontamination as an alternative to 0.5% v/v bleach, which can cause pitting and corrosion of metallic apparatus and work surfaces.

A. Yes.

- Q. And this is a validation of using TriGene Advance?
  A. Yes.
- Q. I think this is where I'm quite confused. Is it routine in the laboratory to now use TriGene Advance for cleaning?
- 47 A. TriGene Advance is usually used on, my understanding

1 is, the large pieces of equipment where we cannot use 2 bleach.

3 4

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- So bleach is being routinely used on metallic Q. apparatus?
- On small pieces of equipment, yes.

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- Q. And is that validated?
- Α. I would have to go back and have a look. That has been in place since I commenced.

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What I'm interested in, then, is from your perspective as a manager within the lab, do you think it's appropriate to be using a cleaning substance that hasn't been validated in relation to the particular thing that you're cleaning? I can't confirm that it hasn't been validated. would have, I'm assuming, validated bleach followed by ethanol since - at a point in time. It's used for environmental cleaning for all surfaces within the laboratory area as well.

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- Q. Do you agree you hadn't validated it in relation to the bone equipment?
- Not at this I can't confirm if it has been done prior to this, but in relation to this particular experiment, no.

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You can take that down document, Mr Operator. Mr McNevin is proposing this wording to you for a change that's going to be made to the cleaning substance that's going to be used in the laboratory from what is already being used to something else, did you have a validation to support that change that he's putting forward, other than Project #148 for the vials?

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So I'd have to go back and have a look what was proposed and what was in place for cleaning the chisels prior to Tergazyme, because we've been doing, my understanding, bone sampling for many years prior to that experiment.

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- You've obviously gone back and reviewed the change in relation to the cleaning products that were used for bone equipment? The 148, yes, I've glanced at it, yes.
- 44
- But more than that, some time in the last few weeks, you've gone back, you've become aware of the issue and

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Α.

- you've looked at the emails in relation to the change?
  A. These particular emails, yes.

- Q. So sitting here now and given your experience and reflecting on it, do you think there is any problem with the process that was used for changing the cleaning substance in relation to bone equipment?
- A. I don't believe there's any issue with moving towards the dishwasher, given Project #148, and what has obviously been accepted by all of management team was that bleach and ethanol, which was what ended up being put into place, was an accepted method of cleaning.

Q. Yes, do you, sitting here now, in your experience as a manager, think that there was any problem with the change in process in relation to cleaning the bone equipment?

A. I don't - no, I don't believe so. If we had gone to TriGene, yes, but we didn't move to TriGene. We moved to an accepted method for cleaning.

Q. Sorry, why would it have been a problem to go to TriGene, but it wasn't a problem to go to bleach?

A. Bleach and ethanol, as I've said, has been an accepted method of cleaning small pieces of equipment for a very long time. TriGene, on the other hand, would have required further validation to ensure it was as effective.

- Q. Are you aware of concerns that have been raised about the change to the cleaning equipment and, in particular, issues raised by Angelina Keller?
- A. I'm aware that there was an OQI raised that is still under investigation.

- Q. I see. And you haven't, as a result of that OQI, reversed the change?
- A. It's still under investigation, so the finding of that hasn't actually been established.

Q. I see. Could I ask you just about a few other things that have been raised in the Commission over the last few weeks. Are you aware of an issue that's been raised in relation to Model Maker?

- Q. Are you aware of whether any work has been done within the lab in relation to that issue?
- A. I believe that there has been some I haven't read in

I believe so, yes.

Α.

detail some of the emails for the last couple of days.
However, I believe over the weekend, work was done and something was implemented at the start of the week.

- Q. I see. In relation to the limit of detection, are you aware of whether any work has been done over the last month in relation to the limit of detection?
- A. Is this in relation to the --

Q. Yes.

A. Okay. I believe there was a meeting organised either earlier this week or late last week - I could not recall specifically when the email was sent - where Helen Gregg was following up with Luke Ryan in relation to what that could mean.

- Q. Have you been involved in that?
- A. I haven't been at work.

Q. Has there been any work done, to your knowledge, in relation to the issue of elution volumes and why it is that in the Queensland lab there's elution to 90 or 100 microlitres?

A. I don't believe there's any work on that yet.

 Q. Now, I need to just put a few final things to you, I think in fairness. The first proposition is, I want to suggest to you, in giving evidence to this Commission you have adopted a strategy in your evidence of claiming not to remember things when you think that it might lead to criticism of you if you were frank about what you could remember.

A. I don't believe that's the case, no.

It's true, I can't recall.

- Q. And I want to suggest to you that when it has come to the Options Paper, the things that you have been willing to accept and acknowledge in relation to the Options Paper and its presentation are really limited only to things that are recorded in documents.

A. Yes, I can't recall.

- Q. And you've otherwise insisted that you can't recall anything of any substance other than what is recorded in documents.
- Q. I want to suggest to you your evidence about not

Α.

remembering why Project #184 was stopped and the switch was 1 2 made to an Options Paper is untrue. No, I don't believe so. 3 4 And your evidence about not remembering whether you 5 were aware of concerns or criticisms from other scientists 6 7 of the recommendations in the Project #184 draft reports is

9 10

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untrue?

No.

Α.

- And your evidence about not thinking that Cathie Allen had recommended option 2 to the police is untrue.
- I wasn't there. I can't claim that. No.

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MR HODGE: I don't have any further questions.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr Hunter?

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#### <EXAMINATION BY MR HUNTER:</pre>

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Q. Ms Brisotto, do you agree with this MR HUNTER: proposition, that as far as you knew, as at early 2018 there was no-one in the Queensland Police Service who had the level of technical expertise concerning what I'll call DNA analysis that the staff at your laboratory collectively had?

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Α. No. I agree.

28 29

Q. You agree? Yes.

Α.

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You agree with me that given the longstanding relationship between the Queensland Police Service and your laboratory that the Queensland Police Service had come to depend upon the scientists at your laboratory for advice? Α. Yes.

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And so when, for example, something like the Options Paper was presented to the service, there was no-one within the service with the scientific expertise to critically analyse a document like that? Α. Yes.

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You also understood that police officers were required 44 45 to exercise discretion or discrimination when they were submitting items to the laboratory for analysis? 46

47 Α. Yes.

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              There were strict limits as to the number of swabs
        that they could submit in some cases?
              Yes, that was a decision by QPS, yes.
4
5
              But it was done with a view to not overwhelming the
6
        laboratory with work, and so you understood that when
7
        a sample was submitted to the laboratory for analysis by
8
        a police officer, that police officer had determined that
9
        the sample was potentially very important?
10
              Yes, yes, we also still do get requests, then and now,
11
        once it's submitted for testing to cease.
12
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              Yes, but in the overwhelming majority of cases you
14
        understand that when a sample is submitted, it's being
15
         submitted by a police officer who is of the view that it's
16
        likely to be important?
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              Yes.
        Α.
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19
              And you understand that that police officer is
20
        trusting your lab to use its best endeavours to see whether
21
        or not the sample reveals important evidence?
22
              Yes.
23
        Α.
24
25
              You also understand, don't you, that the samples that
        are submitted, whilst they might be swabs in a tube,
26
        they're not abstract concepts, are they?
27
28
        Α.
              No.
29
30
              They relate to real people?
        Q.
31
        Α.
              Yes.
32
        Q.
              Real victims?
33
34
        Α.
              Yes.
35
              Real crimes?
36
        Q.
37
        Α.
              Yes.
38
39
        Q.
              Real defendants?
40
        Α.
              Yes.
41
              So whilst they might be analysed in the sterile
42
43
        confines of your laboratory, they relate to events that are
        likely to be of great significance to a variety of people?
44
45
              Yes.
        Α.
46
47
        Q.
              And to the community?
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1 A. Yes.

Α.

Α.

Yes.

Yes.

- Q. Did you, over the course of this DIFP process I'm asking about you personally did you lose sight of the true importance of your work?
- A. I don't think so. I think it was and I guess the understanding that we had was police officers, scientific officers would collect any number of samples and would submit the first ones, evaluate the results, and then there would potentially be others that they wished to submit.

Q. Do you accept that a consequence of what I'll call the DIFP process --

Q. -- is that when it comes to samples that were quanted between February 2018 and August of this year, it's highly likely, if not inevitable, that sitting out at Coopers Plains at the moment there are untested samples that, when they finally do get tested, will reveal forensically relevant information?

- Q. And so do you accept that the DIFP process has been a disaster?
- A. I don't think it was a disaster. I think it was a workflow idea that execution could have been better.

 ${\tt Q.}~{\tt Well,}$  it's been a disaster for the laboratory, hasn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. We're yet to see the impact on the criminal justice system, but you understand that already trials are being adjourned as a result of the revelations from this inquiry?

A. I wasn't aware, but I am now.

Q. And you understand that the community has an interest in seeing the system of criminal justice properly administered?

A. Yes, of course.

- Q. What I want to suggest to you is, consistently with some questions that you've already been asked by Mr Hodge, that you well and truly understood the significance of the Options Paper?
- 47 A. The Options Paper was implemented with the

1 2 3	understanding, I believe, that the officer on the other end would understand how to request a further rework.
4 5 6 7	Q. But you understood, you have always understood, that the effect of that Options Paper was to present the Queensland Police Service, in reality, with a single choice?
8 9 10	A. That's not my understanding. It's come out that that is how it's swayed, but at the time
11 12 13 14	Q. Surely you don't, sitting here today, suggest to the Commissioner that the Options Paper is not heavily slanted in favour of option 2?  A. No, I agree that that Options Paper is.
16 17 18 19	Q. Heavily slanted in favour of option 2; you accept that? A. (Nodded).
20 21 22 23 24	Q. All right. Are you saying that you did not, in late 2017 or early 2018, when it was in the process of coming into existence, see it in that light?  A. I don't believe I did.
25 26 27	Q. See, your work area - you sat, didn't you, at the - you were one below Cathie Allen? A. Yes.
28 29 30 31	Q. Your position was as - you were the team leader of evidence recovery and quality? A. Yes.
32 33 34 35 36	Q. The micro-concentration process was something that was undertaken in your area? A. Yes.
37 38 39	Q. Done in the analytical section? A. Yes.
40 41 42 43 44 45	Q. I think you've already agreed that the implementation of option 2 would have had the effect of reducing the workload of the analytical section?  A. It would have reduced it. They were already doing it, though, so continuing it wouldn't have had an impact.

Q.

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reducing the workload; correct?

But by not doing it, it would have had an impact of

Yes. 1 Α. 2 3 You had undertaken an options paper process in respect of an earlier body of work, hadn't you? 4 5 Yes. Α. 6 7 Q. That was in connection with the shift of bulk crime, 8 or P3 --Α. Yes. 9 10 -- from Profiler Plus to PP21? 11 Α. 12 Yes. 13 That options paper that was generated was generated in 14 accordance with well-established procedures at the 15 laboratory? 16 I think that was - the options paper or options for 17 volume crime processing was based off a previous paper that 18 19 had been drafted and was created into an options paper for volume processing. 20 21 But it was promulgated amongst staff, wasn't it? 22 Q. 23 Α. I believe so, yes. There was a number of reviews. 24 25 And the laboratory has a particular place on its Q. computer server where change management, such as the one 26 contemplated by that options paper, is conventionally 27 28 stored: correct? Yes, I --29 Α. 30 31 Q. It's on the I-drive? 32 Α. One of the drives, yes, I-drive, yes. 33 In a subdirectory called "Change Management"? 34 Q. 35 Α. Yes. 36 Q. Typically what happens is an Excel spreadsheet is 37 created? 38 39 Α. Yes, of projects, yes. 40 And that Excel spreadsheet is used so that various 41 Q. staff members can provide feedback; correct? 42 43 Α. The project manager can record the feedback. 44 45 So do you say that it's not the case that individual staff members would make their own entries in the Excel 46

spreadsheet?

1	Α.	No.
2		
3	Q.	How is the feedback communicated to the project
4	mana	
5		They send out a report for review, and the reviewers
6		provide that back and they will record either the
7		1, they'll have the email, and they'll copy either the
8	esse	nce of it or the whole text into the spreadsheet.
9	0	Was that Even approaches tured in connection with the
10 11	Q.	Was that Excel spreadsheet used in connection with the ge from Profiler Plus to PP21?
12	A.	No.
13	۸.	NO.
14	Q.	There was no Excel spreadsheet for that one?
15	Α.	No.
16	711	
17	Q.	Did you not use that method with Emma Caunt in 2012?
18	Α.	For recording the - I'm sorry, in 2012?
19		<b>3</b>
20	Q.	Sorry, I beg your pardon, I've confused you. This was
21	when	you were collaborating on the "no DNA" wording in
22	2012	
23	Α.	Yes, that was for all the expanded result lines, and
24	that	's - a spreadsheet, I guess, is an easy form of
25	reco	rding them.
26	_	
27	Q.	Obviously we know there's a spreadsheet with respect
28		roject #184?
29	Α.	Yes.
30	0	Missississississississississississississ
31	_	Which records you providing feedback?
32 33	Α.	It has got - yes.
34	Q.	It records you saying, on 9 January 2018, "Doesn't
35		y to P3 with PP21, best to be options paper as QPS
36		ld make the decision on this"?
37	A.	That has been what has been entered against my name,
38	yes.	That had book what had book offered against my hamo,
39	, 551	
40	Q.	Well, do you suggest that it's at all likely that
41	Α.	Um
42		
43	Q.	Just let me finish.
44	Α.	Sorry.
45		
	_	

46 47 Q. Do you accept that it's at all likely that someone has wrongly attributed that feedback to you?

1 2 3	A. I'm not sure. Potentially. They are not my words, because I didn't enter them.
4 5 6 7 8	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But did you communicate something to that effect to Mr Howse?  A. I may have communicated something to that effect, I'm not sure.
9 10 11 12	MR HUNTER: Q. Well, whose responsibility would it have been to populate the Excel spreadsheet with the feedback? A. For 184?
13 14 15	Q. Yes. A. Justin Howes.
16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. So do you think it likely that Mr Howse would have attributed to you the feedback that's set out there, when in fact you didn't say anything of the sort?  A. I don't know if I didn't say anything of the sort.  But what I said, if it was orally, I wasn't able to peer review or confirm the wording.
22 23 24 25 26	Q. Was it your idea that the Project #184 become an Options Paper? A. I don't believe so.
27 28 29 30 31	Q. Could it have been your idea that it became an Options Paper? A. I may have suggested that the decision wasn't ours to make.
32 33 34 35 36 37	Q. You've already agreed with me that the change contemplated by the Options Paper was likely to have an immediate - a direct impact upon your area of responsibility?  A. It would have, yes.
38 39 40 41	Q. And this was something that you had been having in mind, can I suggest, for quite some time, some months?  A. I'm not sure if it was contemplated like that.
42 43 44	Q. Could we please have [FSS.0001.0010.7059]. If we could just scroll down, please, this is an email that went out from you and Mr Howse; correct?

44 out from y 45 A. Yes.

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Q. It's got your signature block at the bottom, so

although it's said to come from him, it seems that it was 1 sent from your email address? 2 Yes. 3 Α. 4 5 Q. Do we see at the top of that second page: 6 7 - Microcon project proposal is progressing, 8 which aims to re-evaluate the number of samples proceeding to auto-microcon. 9 10 Yes. 11 Α. 12 That email, of course, was after you had signed off on 13 Q. the Project #184 project plan? 14 Α. Yes. 15 16 We can go to the documents if you need to, but I'm 17 suggesting you signed that off on 3 August 2017; does that 18 19 sound right? Α. Yes. 20 21 And that you then signed the project proposal 22 23 endorsing it on 31 August 2017 - yes? Yes. 24 Α. 25 Q. You were then shown the first draft of the project 26 27 report? 28 Α. Yes. 29 Can I suggest to you that you sent an email on 30 19 December 2018 [sic], where you said, "I'm happy with the 31 theory and recommendations"? 32 Yes. 33 Α. 34 35 THE COMMISSIONER: 2017, do you mean? 36 37 MR HUNTER: 2017, I'm sorry, thank you. 38 39 You wouldn't have sent an email saying that you were happy with the theory and recommendations if you had not 40 41 properly looked at the report; do you agree? 42 Α. Yes. 43 Are you telling us that you were, though, essentially 44 45 a disinterested bystander when it came to Project #184 and 46 the Options Paper?

47

Α.

Not a disinterested bystander, I don't believe I would

1	use those words.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. But is it your evidence that you really didn't have any involvement in it?  A. No. I didn't say that I didn't have involvement.  I fed back on version 1. I have no records of feeding back on the other versions.
	Q. We've got your email of 19 December, and then there's the feedback entry, however that got there, from 9 January 2018?  A. Yes.
	Q. Three days later - Mr Woolridge, if we could have [FSS.0001.0066.4614]
	THE COMMISSIONER: Is this email on the screen in evidence, Mr Hunter?
19 20 21	MR HUNTER: I believe it is, Commissioner, yes.
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	Q. If we could just highlight the central portion, please. This is a conversation that I understand you accept you had with Ms Allen?  A. Yes.
	Q. In which you discussed the very subject matter of both the project and what ultimately became the Options Paper? A. Yes.
	Q. The same day, we know that Mr Howse asked you to send him version 2 of what he called the "mic report" to convert to an Options Paper?  A. Yes.
	Q. Where was version 2 of the report kept? A. The original version would have been kept in the project folder, but from my email records I sent it from the one that was sent.
	Q. The one that was distributed around to the staff? A. Yes.
44 45 46 47	Q. All right, okay. So we've got feedback attributed to you on 9 January in which it's said that it should become an Options Paper. Three days later, you're speaking with Cathie Allen about the "need to request QPS if they still

1 agree to the above and want to extend to major"? 2 Α. 3 4 Then the very same day, Mr Howse is asking you to send him version 2 of the report in order that he can convert it 5 to an Options Paper, as the feedback attributed to you 6 suggested? 7 8 Α. Yes. 9 There were then these two further emails where 10 versions of the Options Paper were sent to you by Mr Howse. 11 We know from evidence you gave earlier today that that was 12 on 19 January and 22 January. 13 Α. Yes. 14 15 Q. And it was sent to you by Mr Howse, but only to you 16 and Ms Allen? 17 Yes. Α. 18 19 I don't recall hearing you explain this morning why it 20 21 might have been that Mr Howse would be sending the Options Paper to you and Ms Allen but to nobody else. Can you 22 23 explain why he would have done that? Because he wanted both Cathie and I to review it. 24 25 Given that he wanted you to review it, can we take it 26 Q. 27 that you did? 28 I have not provided feedback. I wouldn't have reviewed the 19th, because I wasn't there at that point in 29 time, and I don't have records of reviewing the one 30 received on the 22nd. 31 32 Regardless of the presence or otherwise of records, do 33 you recall critically considering --34 35 Α. No --36 Just let me finish the question - critically 37 considering the version of the Options Paper that was sent 38 39 on 22 January 2018? No, I don't recall that. 40 Α. Do you agree with me that if you had critically 42 43

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- considered the Options Paper, it would have been abundantly clear to you that it was weighted heavily in favour of the acceptance of option 2?
- It may have at the time. It was different than the 46 47 project report.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. We know that the meeting with Queensland Police was on 2 February. Three days after that decision, we have your email in which you describe what occurred - that is, the decision by the QPS - you say, "The decision is theirs (so to speak)"?  A. Yes.
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. What do you say to the proposition that that was you cynically observing that although technically the police had made the decision, everyone knew - that is, everyone who was involved in that email chain - everyone knew that the police had, in reality, only been presented with one viable option?  A. I don't believe I'm cynical in my emails. I believe I used "(so to speak)" incorrectly.
17 18 19 20 21	Q. What on earth were you trying to convey when you said, "The decision is theirs (so to speak)"?  A. That the decision was theirs.
22 23 24 25	Q. But the use of the words "so to speak" are used as a qualifier, aren't they?  A. And that's what I mean, I don't think I used them in the right context. I mean
26 27 28 29 30	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What meaning do you think - what did you intend to convey by those words? Mistaken though it might be, what was it?  A. That it was QPS's decision, in other words.
31 32 33 34 35	MR HUNTER: Q. But you could have conveyed that simply by saying "The decision is theirs", couldn't you?  A. I know. Yes, I agree.
36 37 38 39	Q. Well, did you mean that "The decision" in inverted commas, was theirs? A. I don't believe I did.
40 41 42 43	Q. Well, I'm suggesting to you that you were, in that email, cynically acknowledging that, well, it was their decision, but it was one that was effectively foisted on them?
44 45 46	<ul><li>A. I don't agree with that.</li><li>Q. Now, we know that Ms Allen sent around an email the</li></ul>
-	,

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same day - that is, 5 February 2018 - asserting that the

1 police had confirmed both verbally and in writing that 2 there was to be no auto-microcon for P1 and P2 samples; 3 right? 4 Α. Yes. 5 6 Later that day, Luke Ryan sends an email to you asking you whether it's P1 and P2 or just P2; do you recall the 7 I mean, I can show it to you if you need to see it. 8 No, I remember that was sent to Justin with a cc me. 9 10 Do you know if there was any response to that email? 11 Q. Α. If there was, I wasn't a recipient of it. 12 13 Did it strike you as odd that the police would have 14 agreed to not automatically microcon priority 1 samples? 15 Not if that was the discussion that occurred. 16 17 Why on earth do you think the police might think it Q. 18 19 was a good idea to not automatically microcon P1 samples? I don't know. 20 Α. 21 So to be guite clear about this, you can't think of 22 23 a sensible reason why the Police Service would agree to that workflow? 24 25 Α. No, I can't. 26 Okay, so we know, then, what ultimately occurred, 27 putting aside the whole P1 versus P2 issue that I've just 28 asked you about - we know that you were discussing this 29 project to potentially reduce the number of samples that 30 were proceeding to auto-microcon from the second half of 31 2017? 32 33 Α. That it was in place, yes. 34 35 Q. You'd actually approved a project plan in that 36 respect? Yes. 37 Α. 38 39 Q. It would concern work done by your work unit? Part of the work, yes. 40 Α. 42 Well, the micro-concentration part was definitely done Q. 43

41

44

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by your work unit?

Yes, that was. Α.

45 46 Q. And it's a manual process?

Α. Yes.

Q. Fiddly? A. It can be, yes.  Q. Not exactly beloved by the staff that have to A. I'd have to ask them.  Q. Has no-one ever suggested to you that they dore doing microcon? A. They had been doing it for five years, so I they was part of their daily tasks.  Q. Have you ever heard anyone complain about doing microcon? A. It's part of their tasks  THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You're not being asked that know it's part of their work. You're being asked they you're aware that any staff found it tedious or sor that they dislike doing? A. I'm not aware of any direct complaints in related that. It could be other pipetting and RSI issues, there is a number of pipetting steps in other process that they dislike doing?  MR HUNTER: Q. All right. You say there's no dryou're not aware of any direct complaints. Have you some indirect complaints?  A. RSI issues being raised through the workplace and safety software.  Q. So you knew that people didn't like doing it?  A. Pipetting.	n't like nink it ng at. We whether mething ation to but
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31 32 Q. So you knew that people didn't like doing it? 33 A. Pipetting.	
32 Q. So you knew that people didn't like doing it? 33 A. Pipetting.	
33 A. Pipetting.	
, e	
· ·	
Q. Well, pipetting is part of micro-concentrating	a. isn't
36 it?	j,
37 A. And a number of other tasks.	
38	
Q. Well, removing the micro-concentration step wo	ould
40 remove or reduce the amount of pipetting that had	
41 done?	<del>_</del>
	vears
,	•
46 21,000 samples that weren't tested?	5
47 A. Is that both DNA insufficient and no DNA detec	
Q. We know, I think, that in the four and a half that the DIFP process was under way, there's someth	•
· ·	

1	just
2 3 4	Q. I might stand corrected, but it's certainly in the thousands.
5 6 7	THE COMMISSIONER: I thought it was 7,000 that weren't tested, Mr Hunter, out of 21,000.
8 9	MR HUNTER: I see.
10 11 12 13	Q. Well, 7,000, so it's a not-insubstantial amount of work; do you agree? A. No, it's not.
4  5  6  7  8	Q. So we know it relates to work that's done by your unit. There's a feedback form that shows some feedback by you, and it's entered in what appears to be the conventional manner?  A. Yes.
20 21 22 23	Q. Three days later, Mr Howse asks you to email him version 2? A. Yes.
24 25 26 27	Q. And the same day, you talk to Ms Allen about exactly the same subject matter? A. The priority 3s, yes.
28 29 30 31	Q. And trying to get the police to agree to the same approach with major crime? A. Yes.
32 33 34 35	Q. You're part of a group of three people who has vision of the Options Paper on the 19th and the 22nd of January? A. Yes, I would agree.
36 37 38 39	Q. And then after the police agreed, it was you who emailed your staff to tell them what the new process was?  A. With - sorry, after the Options Paper?
10 11 12 13	Q. Yes. A. I'm not sure.
14 15 16	Q. Just bear with me a moment. I may have to come back to that point.
. 0 1 7	Now can I ask you please about the events from

1 2	earlier this year? A. Yes.
3	
4	Q. In particular, the decision to directly amplify
5	samples that were in the DIFP range?
6	A. Yes.
7	
8	Q. Can I suggest to you that when you heard that that was
9	what was being proposed, it must surely have struck you as
10	bizarre?
11	A. It was - I mean, the questions were - "bizarre",
12	different, yes, but again it was, from my perspective,
13	a direction.
14	
15	Q. Yes, but a direction that was devoid of any scientific
16	merit, surely?
17	A. Straight to amplification is still a standard process
18	irrespective of level.
19	
20	Q. But it was a process that had been identified, back in
21	2017 or 2018, as one likely to result in marked stochastic
22	effects?
23	A. Below that, yes, at that time.
24	
25	Q. So surely you would agree that directly amping those
26	low-quant samples was an idea that was devoid of scientific
27	merit?
28	A. I don't think it was devoid. I think it was a process
29	that hadn't been adopted for a long period of time.
30	
31	Q. For perfectly intelligible scientific reasons?
32	A. I don't know if any other jurisdiction actually
33	microcons all samples within the low range. I believe they
34	will do direct amplification as well.
35	O M
36	Q. My question was that the direct amplification of those
37	samples had been abandoned years earlier because of
38	perfectly sensible scientific reasons?
39	A. The PP21 validation, yes.
40	O Voulve almosty cannot with me that there had been re-
41	Q. You've already agreed with me that there had been no
42	validation of the direct amplification of those low-quant
43	samples, had there?
44	A. The validation was in PP21. That was when they were
45	validated.

You, though, had done some work on the likelihood of

46

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Q.

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success, if I can call it that - and we'll come to what
1
         I mean by "success" in a moment - in March of this year,
2
        hadn't you, when it came to looking at, well, what happens
3
4
        when these low-quant samples are microconned on request?
              Yes, the work drafted by Justin.
5
6
              Well, you actually emailed Cathie, didn't you, on --
7
        Q.
        Α.
             With the feedback?
8
9
             Yes.
10
        Q.
        Α.
              Yes.
11
12
              You referred to some work that Justin had done
13
        previously? Perhaps if the witness could see
14
         [FSS.0001.0051.5032], please. Can we scroll to page 2,
15
        please, and if we could just enlarge the centre section
16
        commencing, "Hi Cathie" and ending, "Thanks, Paula", which
17
        will obviate the need to redact. Thank you.
18
19
20
              So this is an email you sent to Ms Allen on 28 March
21
        2022?
        Α.
             Yes.
22
23
              In which you looked at the rate of success of
24
25
        micro-concentration when it was requested in relation to
        low-quant samples?
26
              Yes.
27
        Α.
28
29
              The success for priority 2 samples when they were
        micro-concentrated was 26.8 per cent?
30
31
        Α.
             Yes.
32
              You understood "success" to mean, well, there was
33
        a forensically useful profile generated?
34
35
              Yes, that was based on the success or fail, I guess,
36
        allocated by Justin in the data.
37
              And for priority 3 samples, it was 15.7 per cent?
38
        Q.
39
        Α.
              Yes.
40
              So when, less than three months later, you heard that
41
         a decision had been made to --
42
43
44
        THE COMMISSIONER:
                             What date is this, Mr Hunter?
45
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MR HUNTER:

tendered, so I'll tender it.

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This is 28 March 2022. It has not been

1 2 3 4	THE COMMISSIONER: Could I see the header, please. The email from Ms Brisotto to Ms Allen of 29 March 2022 is exhibit 128.
5 6 7 8	EXHIBIT #128 EMAIL FROM PAULA BRISOTTO TO CATHIE ALLEN OF 29 MARCH 2022 BARCODED [FSS.0001.0051.5032]
9 10 11	MR HUNTER: Commissioner, just so I'm clear, the email about which I just asked the witness was on page 2 of that.
12 13	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
14 15	MR HUNTER: It's actually dated 28 March.
16 17	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. I'm identifying the bundle.
18 19	MR HUNTER: I apologise.
20 21 22 23	<ul><li>Q. So my question to you, then, is so that's 28 March, so</li><li>6 June is two and a bit months later.</li><li>A. Yes.</li></ul>
24 25 26	Q. You hear that what's going to happen is that these low-quant samples are going to be directly amplified? A. Yes.
27 28 29 30 31 32 33	Q. In circumstances where, maybe nine weeks earlier, you had identified that when some discrimination was used in terms of micro-concentrating them, there were quite significant rates of success?  A. Yes.
34 35 36 37 38 39	Q. So again my question to you is, it must surely have struck you as just utterly bewildering that anyone could possibly think that directly amplifying these low-quant samples was a good idea?  A. I think I've conceded to that before.
40 41 42 43	Q. Bearing in mind what you knew, did you think, well, hang on, maybe I should raise this with somebody?  A. My impression was that it wasn't a decision that we could really overturn.
44 45 46	Q. Well, did you attempt to overturn it? A. No. No.

- Q. Did you go and see Ms Allen and say, "Look, I'm not quite sure who's responsible for this, but they need to be told that this is a mistake"?
- A. No, I didn't.

4 5 6

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Q. You've already agreed that you understood that the police trusted your lab to use its best endeavours to obtain evidence from these samples.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You know. Ms Brisotto, you have Ms Rika and Ms Reeves giving feedback in relation to the project report, which they had taken the trouble to generate by referring to Mr Parry and asking him for his advice about some statistical aspects; you have Ms Quartermain writing a long email explaining the difficulties of some of the problems arising because the process seems to be missing important evidence in the way that she explained, potentially rendering some of the evidence given by FSS scientists in court false; and you're being asked, you must have known that if the politicians had made this decision, as you'd been told they had, then it was a wrong decision, and of course you're right that it was their decision, on your understanding, and it wasn't for you to override it, but having regard to the example set by two other scientists, wasn't it your role, as a scientist of integrity, who, unlike those two, was in a more senior position, having the ear of Mr Howse and Ms Allen, to say to them, "I'm concerned about this. seem to have made the wrong decision. Has anybody told them what the ramifications are?"

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37

38

You seemed to have no sense of professional obligation to give advice to government through the chain of command, of course, but nevertheless you seemed to feel no obligation to do anything but your simple job of making sure that samples moved through the process, which is a process that involves no thought by anybody. Would that be a fair description?

A. No.

39 40 41

42 43

44 45

- Q. Or would you like to reject it in some way? Tell me if you do.
- A. Different feedback that I've had is also that staff don't want to automatically microcon as well. I've had feedback from some of the people that you mentioned that they would want to assess it for amplification instead of straight to microcon.

1			
2	Q. Yes.		
3	A. So as I said, there is benefit to some samples going		
4	direct to amplification but also some samples being		
5	microconned.		
6			
7	Q. Yes, and that's, as I understand it, the Tasmanian		
8	method. But here, the person who would be in a position	t۸	
9	make that decision, having the quant in her hand, in orde		
10	to exercise discretion would need to know the nature of t		
11	sample - is it blood or is it a trace sample; what is the		
12	significance of it in terms of the number of samples in t		
13	case that might have much higher quants and might be of	10	
14	a much more rich source of DNA; and what is the		
15	, ,		
16	significance to the case from the point of view of police of this particular sample. Those are things that that		
17	person exercising discretion would want to know?		
18	A. Yes.		
19	A. 165.		
20	Q. And you don't have any process for doing that, do yo	2	
21	A. No.	J:	
22	A. NO.		
23	Q. So there's no point talking about "some people would		
24	like to think that you shouldn't amplify all samples", is		
25	there?		
26	A. No.		
27	A. NO.		
28	Q. Then don't waste my time with empty answers, please.		
29	a. Then don't waste my time with empty anowers, prodes.		
30	MR HUNTER: Q. Now, you agreed with me that you		
31	understood that the police were trusting your lab to use		
32	its best endeavours to identify evidence from the samples		
33	that were submitted; correct?		
34	A. Yes.		
35			
36	Q. You had had it pointed out to you by two other		
37	scientists that evidence could well be missed as a result		
38	of this process?		
39	A. In the feedback?		
40	A. In the reduction.		
41	Q. Yes.		
42	A. Yes.		
43			
44	Q. You yourself had identified, only a little while		
45	earlier, that when you did microcon these samples, or som	е	
46	of them, you got results - yes?		
	• • • •		

Yes.

Α.

1 2 3 4 5	Q. Did it occur to you that, "Hang on, we might be missing critical pieces of evidence"?  A. The ability to still microcon was still there.
6 7 8 9	Q. Well, can I ask [zoom screen froze for 11 seconds] get a profile that's unsuitable for interpretation; correct? A. Yes.
10 11 12 13 14	Q. If that's reported to the police, all the police will see is something like "Complex mixture, unsuitable for further interpretation"; correct?  A. Yes.
15 16 17	Q. At least with the DIFP process, they got told, "If you want this to be retested, let us know"; correct? A. Yes.
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. But when something is directly amped and produces a rubbish profile, the police would see a result line that would lead them to think, well, that's it?  A. If it was a suitable profile to microcon because it indicated that there was potentially a single source or a larger contributor, that would be microconned then.
26 27 28 29 30 31	Q. But a lot of the time, the result that you would get would be just rubbish, wouldn't it, uninterpretable?  A. It could be, but I guess looking at that DNA profile that was amplified gives you an assessment of the quality of the DNA profile.
32 33 34 35	Q. But, see, the police wouldn't know that they had any option, because they'd simply get told, wouldn't they, "This is the result. We've tested it. Here's what we got. It's useless"?
36 37 38 39	A. And the case scientist would make an assessment, based on the DNA profile, if there was something additional to do to that
40 41 42 43	<ul><li>Q. And that's if the profile presented as possibly benefiting from micro-concentration; correct?</li><li>A. Yes.</li></ul>
44	Q. But you're not suggesting, are you, that in all cases

45

46

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Α.

It will give an indication, I believe.

to be micro-concentrated or not?

a direct amplification will reveal whether something ought

1	
2	Q. But you might have just been unlucky, mightn't you, in
3	a low-quant sample: when you selected the 15 microlitres
4	of sample for testing, you might have just got a portion of
5	it that didn't have very much DNA in it?
6	A. The process is about ensuring that that sample is
7	mixed before you add the 15 microlitres.
8	mixed before you and the to miteroffices.
9	Q. But my point is that it's not necessarily the case
10	that directly amping something will tell you whether it's
11	worth micro-concentrating or not?
	A. Not all the time, no.
12 13	A. NOT ATT THE TIME, NO.
14	O You've already agreed with me that most of the time
15	Q. You've already agreed with me that most of the time,
16	the results you're going to get are going to be unsuitable for further interpretation; correct?
17	A. Yes.
18	A. 165.
19	Q. And if that's the result line that gets generated, the
20	police would have no inkling that there might be the
21	possibility of micro-concentrating what's left?
22	·
	,
23	assume that that assessment would be made by the reviewing
24	scientist or the case managing scientist.
25	O Why would an accessing accepting make that decision
26	Q. Why would an assessing scientist make that decision,
27	when you have a complex mixture that's unsuitable for
28	further interpretation?
29	A. A complex mixture might not result at anything further
30	useful after microcon. It might just become complex with
31	slightly larger peak heights.
32	All of that woolly compact to highlight the homefite of
33	Q. All of that really serves to highlight the benefits of
34	micro-concentrating them in the first place; do you agree?
35	A. Yes.
36	O Con I calculate about the formation model to
37	Q. Can I ask you, please, about the forensic-register.
38	You have agreed that scientists in the analytical section
39	don't, as a matter of routine, look at the
40	forensic-register to see the photographs of the substrate
41	from which the sample's been taken?
42	A. No, they don't.
43	O Can I auggest to you that doing that is a palatively
44	Q. Can I suggest to you that doing that is a relatively

a number of additional steps to do that, but they could.

```
2
              The forensic-register itself is relatively simple to
3
        use, isn't it?
              It is simple to use. It is navigating around the
4
        different screens when you've got 70 samples that that can
5
6
        take longer.
7
              But it's possible, isn't it, to filter the output so
8
        that you get a list of results that are DIFP, for example?
9
              I'm not sure if it's filterable on that particular
10
        quant transition page.
11
12
              Even if it were not, it's possible, if you see
13
         a result that is DIFP, and you're only looking at a maximum
14
        of is it 70 samples that go through in each batch?
15
              I think it's 70, yes, about that.
16
17
              So it's possible, though, to look at a result that is
18
19
        DIFP, and it's a matter of a couple of clicks of the mouse
        before you're looking at a photograph of the substrate?
20
              It could be that, yes.
21
22
23
        MR HUNTER:
                      Commissioner, we've arranged to be transmitted
        to the Commission a PDF that shows a printout of the
24
25
        forensic-register by way of example.
26
        THE COMMISSIONER:
27
                             Yes.
28
29
        MR HUNTER:
                      We understand it's - we hope it has been sent
30
        to Mr Woolridge. He's looking blankly at me, which is not
31
        encouraging.
32
        THE COMMISSIONER:
                             Perhaps one of Mr Hodge's team can go
33
        outside and make a phone call to get that confirmed.
34
        you proceed with something else?
35
36
        MR HUNTER:
                      It's really the last topic.
37
38
39
        THE COMMISSIONER:
                             Is it?
40
        MR HUNTER:
                      Yes.
41
42
43
        THE COMMISSIONER:
                             You can come back to it, if you like.
        See what Mr Rice has.
                                Nothing?
44
45
46
        MR RICE:
                    No, thank you.
47
```

THE COMMISSIONER: Nothing. Anybody else? Mr Diehm, you 1 2 have some questions? 3 4 MR DIEHM: Yes. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: 6 You might as well proceed. Are you 7 happy to proceed? 8 MR DIEHM: 9 I am. 10 11 THE COMMISSIONER: And you can have another go. 12 13 MR DIEHM: If necessary. 14 15 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, if you need to, yes. 16 17 MR DIEHM: Thank you, Commissioner. 18 19 <EXAMINATION BY MR DIEHM:</pre> 20 21 Commissioner, could I ask through you for MR DIEHM: Mr Woolridge to bring up on the screen 22 23 [FSS.0205.0001.0001]. It should be what is exhibit 93, Project #153 report. Yes, it is. 24 25 You've seen that, Ms Brisotto, the cover page? 26 Q. 27 Α. Yes. 28 29 Q. Could I ask Mr Woolridge to scroll through to the 12th page of the document, trusting that I've got that right. 30 Page 12 of the document in the bottom right-hand corner. 31 Yes, thank you. Ms Brisotto, I'm bringing this up not for 32 the particular content of the document but, rather, for the 33 process with respect to project reports as they were when 34 35 this project report was generated in 2015 and, indeed, when 36 project 184 was being worked upon in late 2017 into the beginning of 2018. 37 38 39 We've seen, the Commission has plenty of evidence before it to see, that there's a project proposal that's 40 signed off by the management committee? 41 Α. Yes. 42 43 It tasks certain members of staff, some of whom may be 44 45 on the management committee, and others not, with the

committee; is that right?

46 47 generation of a report for the consideration of the

1	Α.	Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7		to be clear about it, the audience for a project report raft is the management committee?
8 9 10	•	And a project report, whether in draft or in a final rt, would ordinarily conclude with recommendations? Yes.
11 12 13 14 15		And those, would it be the case in the ordinary course hings, are recommendations being made by the project ors, the report authors, to the management committee? Yes.
17 18 19 20	acce	For the committee to then consider and to choose to pt or reject? Yes.
21 22 23 24		Of course, if in turn they accept the recommendations, it falls to others to implement them? Yes.
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	head resp say,	And so what we can see, for instance, under the ing of "Conclusions and Recommendations" there with ect to Project #153 is an example of that - that is to there are some conclusions expressed but ultimately recommendations made as to what is to occur? Yes.
32 33 34 35 36 37	Mr H proj	Now, if that can be taken down off the screen, k you, Mr Woolridge. With respect to Project #184, as odge suggested to you yesterday and you agreed, the ect proposal included ultimately for there to be the ration of recommendations to be made to the QPS? Yes.
38 39 40 41 42 43 44	[FSS	Could I ask if the first draft of the Project #184 rt can be put on the screen. It's .0001.0001.0914]. You can see that, November 2017, the t draft therefore of the Project #184 report? Yes.
45	Q.	Can I ask if we can scroll through to the

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recommendations part of the report -  $\check{\mathbf{I}}$  don't have the page

number, I'm sorry, Mr Woolridge, but a little further in.

Back one page, thank you. If we can concentrate, then, on 1 2 the numbered paragraphs 1 through to 5 - thank you. 3 Now. Mr Hodge looked at these with you yesterday, but 4 5 we can see there that the recommendations as they are expressed, 1 through to 4, propose specific actions. 6 you see that? 7 8 Α. Yes. 9 And is it right to see those as being actions to be 10 taken by laboratory staff? 11 Yes. 12 Α. 13 Then the fifth and final recommendation that is being 14 made is that that change in process reflected by 1 through 15 to 4 be communicated to the QPS and other information 16 relevant to that change in process be provided? 17 Α. Yes. 18 19 So, insofar as the first draft of the report for 20 Project #184 was concerned, is it right that you see that 21 as being the usual kind of structure for recommendations in 22 23 project reports, as you described before, being recommendations made to the audience of the management 24 25 committee that it might accept and, if it does, then they are to be implemented? 26 27 Α. Yes. 28 29 Do you see them as being recommendations directed towards the QPS, ie, recommendations to be made to the QPS 30 31 or recommendations to be made to the management committee? 32 The 1 to 4, recommendations for the management team. 33 34 Yes, but then the action in 5 is also a recommendation 35 for action by the laboratory itself, isn't it? 36 Α. Yes. 37 In other words, to tell the QPS about what's been 38 39 done? Yes. 40 Α. 41 So in that respect, even though you didn't note it in 42 43 your feedback that you provided to the first draft, do you consider that the recommendations as drafted at that point 44 45 in time were not consistent with the project proposal, in

No.

Α.

46 47 that they weren't providing recommendations to the QPS?

Thank you, that can be taken down, please,

.21/10/2022 (Day.16)

second draft, which is - I can give you this number; it's no doubt got others - [QPS.0013.0650.0001]. You can see therefore, Ms Brisotto, January 2018, this is the second draft of the Project #184 report?

A. Yes.

Q. If I can ask if we can scroll, Mr Woolridge, through

Mr Woolridge, and if we can now have up on the screen the

Q. If I can ask if we can scroll, Mr Woolridge, through again to the recommendations at the end of the document, second-last page, I think it should be. If we can go back up there - bear with me, please, Commissioner. Mr Woolridge, this might be a different version of the document. I'm looking for version 2. Perhaps, Mr Woolridge, I'll apologise and give you a different document number, [WIT.0014.0149.0001].

So again the same cover sheet, but if we can go through to what is section 8 on page 19 of the document and if we can zoom in on the 1 through to 4 at the bottom of the page. Thank you. With respect to version 2 of the Project #184 report, if you can just refamiliarise yourself with the content of those four recommendations there?

A. Yes.

- Q. That, Ms Brisotto, on the wording that is used there, is similar in style and content to that from version 1, that is to say that there are in 1, 2 and 3 actions, if the recommendations are adopted, to be enacted by the laboratory, followed by a communication of that change in process to the QPS?

  A. Yes.
- Q. Again, in terms of the structure of the report, those are recommendations being made not to the QPS but to the management committee?

  A. Yes.
- Q. We know from the evidence before the Commissioner that events occurred that saw the generation of an Options Paper that was finally the subject of a meeting between QPS and staff on behalf of the laboratory on 2 February 2018?

  A. Yes.
- Q. I won't traverse that ground, but before that meeting on 2 February, there was a meeting on 1 February of the

1 management committee of the laboratory; do you recall that? 2

3 4

5 6

7

8

If, Commissioner, I can ask, please, for document [WIT.0014.0019.0001] to be put on the screen. up there at the moment is the first page of minutes for the management team of Forensic DNA Analysis for 1 February 2018; you can see that?

Yes. Α.

9 10 11

And from it, we can also see obviously who was in attendance at the meeting?

Yes. 13 Α.

14 15

16 17

12

Is that the usual format for minutes of the meeting, at least at that first page that you can see there? Α. Yes.

18 19 20

21

22 23

24 25

26

If I can ask, please, if we can scroll to the second page, we can see there that there is a list of project updates and there are three columns, obviously, with reference to an item number, the item itself and the Now, would it be fair to say, Ms Brisotto, that the minutes in that section at least, section 5, of the report aren't purporting to be some sort of transcript of the discussion that went on between the participants? Α. Yes.

27 28 29

- The item number in the left-hand column, what's that Q. referable to, do you know?
- Α. That is just the numbering system for the report.

31 32 33

30

For the item on the agenda? Q. Yes, essentially, yes.

34 35 36

37

38 39 Α.

Q. Where project updates are being provided to the management committee - sorry, I pause to say, is it right that you don't have a particular recollection of relevant discussions in this management committee meeting?

No, I don't. Α.

40 41 42

43

44 45

- So in terms of the usual process that would go on at Q. a management committee meeting, was it usual for there to be project updates provided?
  - Yes, it would generally be going down the list and the project managers would discuss the update.

So it would turn to each project manager to provide 1 2 that update? Yes. 3 Α. 4 In the case of Project #184, that was Justin Howes? 5 Q. 6 Α. 7 8 And we saw from the first page of the meeting that, on that particular day, he was the chair of the meeting? 9 10 Yes. 11 In terms of the recording of a summary of what was 12 provided in the minutes as we see for the item 5.7 there 13 with respect to Project #184, would there usually be some 14 sort of narrative about where things were at and that's 15 then reflected in the summary? 16 Yes. 17 Α. 18 19 We can see from those minutes that there was reference to there being an Options Paper being drafted for 20 priority 2 samples to be provided to the QPS for decision? 21 Α. Yes. 22 23 As far as the column, then, on the right-hand side is 24 Q. 25 concerned, we have "Action", what's the "Action" column meant to represent? 26 27 Α. What the current action is. 28 29 If there's something someone in the management committee wanted to raise about a particular project and 30 ask for something to be done, if that was to be done, where 31 32 would that be recorded? That would generally be recorded, I guess, in the body 33 of the page there, so in the "Project Updates", if there 34 35 was discussion. 36 The action column with respect to Project #184 repeats 37 There it says an Options Paper has been 38 that information. 39 drafted for QPS consideration? Yes. 40 Α. 41 Which we know from evidence before the Commission is 42 Q. 43 true, that is to say, it had been drafted. The evidence

Yes.

Α.

44 45

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was not yet the subject of a final meeting?

before the Commission would show that it had been sent but

Q. Thank you, Commissioner, if that can be taken down. If I can ask then for document [WIT.0014.0020.0001] to be brought up on to the screen. I want to ask you about the email in the centre of that page, if that can be highlighted, please. This is your email on 5 February 2018?

A. Yes.

Q. To Ms Allen and Mr Howse, which you will recall was responding to Ms Allen's email -- A. Yes.

Q. -- asking as to whether there was any difficulty with respect to her proposal to email the management team letting them know that the Options Paper had been presented, the QPS had elected for option 2 and that she would attach the Options Paper to that email?

A. Yes.

Q. We can see that, as has been established, you respond saying, no, you don't have any issues with that. Appreciating your evidence that you don't recall what was in your mind with respect to these things as you were sending the email, I just want to ask you about the first thing that follows the, "No, I don't, where it says:

... as the information in the Options Paper was taken from the report that they had already read.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, doing the best you can to recall what you knew at around about that time, was it true, as far as you were concerned, that the information that was in the Options Paper was taken from the draft report that had been circulated to the management committee?

A. Yes, that is the belief I had.

 Q. And given that we know that both versions 1 and 2 of the 184 paper had been sent to the management committee, the very same committee that was, if your answer was acted upon, about to receive a copy of the Options Paper, would you have had any reason to think that if that turned out not to be true, that that wouldn't be discovered?

A. No. no. they would have - I would assume they would

 A. No, no, they would have - I would assume they would pick it up straightaway.

1		
2	Q.	The next sentence in the email says that you also
3	thou	ght at that point in time that:
4		
5		the Options Paper shows the information
6		that was presented to the QPS did not offer
7		opinions or recommendations, only options
8		for them to consider.
9		V
10	Α.	Yes.
11	0	Coins book to the special special in late 2017
12	Q.	Going back to the project proposal in late 2017
13	Α.	Yes.
14	0	that proposal then was so Mr. Hadas but to you
15	Q.	that proposal then was, as Mr Hodge put to you
16	-	erday, that there be recommendations made to the QPS;
17	•	ou recall? Yes.
18 19	Α.	165.
20	Q.	On 1 February, the management committee was told by
21		in Howes that what was being prepared to be given to
22		QPS was an Options Paper?
23	A.	Yes.
<u>2</u> 4	۸۱.	103.
25	Q.	So again, appreciating that you don't have
26	-	rticular recollection of what was in your mind at that
27	•	t in time, if it could be accepted that you knew those
28		things, then would that statement you've made there
29		been, in your belief at the time, true?
30	Α.	Yes, I believe it would have.
31		
32	Q.	One final question on a different topic, Ms Brisotto.
33		answered some questions from Mr Hodge earlier
34	conce	erning the cleaning of bone tools.
35	Α.	Yes.
36		
37	Q.	And leaving aside the bone crushing equipment itself?
38	Α.	Yes.
39		
10	Q.	The chisels and other objects that you identified?
11	Α.	Yes.
12		
13	Q.	You spoke about the use of bleach followed by
14	•	er cent ethanol as a cleaning protocol?
15	Α.	Yes.
16		
17	Q.	As something that had been employed for metal tools

1 that included forceps? 2 Yes, forceps, scissors. 3 4 Yes, all right - tweezers, was that one of the ones 5 vou mentioned? 6 Forceps, tweezers - same. 7 8 Same sort of thing, all right. And that had been in use at the laboratory, in your experience, from the time 9 vou had been there? 10 Α. 11 Yes. 12 If not longer? Q. 13 Α. I'm sure it was before. 14 15 If it is to be assumed that, whatever other issues 16 there might be about using bleach, that bleach is effective 17 for removing remnant DNA as part of a cleaning process --18 19 Yes, that is why we use it for environmental cleaning. 20 21 You say that the experience of the laboratory from that many years is consistent with it being effective for 22 23 that purpose? Yes. 24 Α. 25 Certainly no signs of problems across all of those 26 Q. 27 vears? 28 Α. No. 29 From a scientific point of view, if the bleach was 30 removed as part of the cleaning process, promptly, by the 31 use of mechanical action involving ethanol 70 per cent --32 Yes. 33 Α. 34 35 -- then in your experience, has there been any damage 36 caused to those steel or metal implements? No. We do ensure that staff identify if they need 37 replacing, because implements wear out after a while, but, 38 39 no. 40 If ethanol was something that - I'm sorry, if bleach, 41 as something that is effective for removing DNA, is not 42 43 cleaned off tools that are then applied to extracting DNA, as a scientist, in your expectation, what would that result 44 45 in in terms of trying to sample new DNA using those tools?

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You would potentially expose your sample to bleach.

1 2 3 4 5	Q. So there seem to be two good reasons, in that sense, from a practical point of view to the cleaning off of the bleach with the mechanical cleaning using ethanol?  A. Yes.
6 7	MR DIEHM: Thank you, Commissioner.
8 9 10	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Diehm. Ms Hedge, has that document been sorted out for Mr Hunter?
11 12	MR HUNTER: Yes. If it might be displayed.
13 14	<examination by="" hunter:<="" mr="" td=""></examination>
15 16 17 18 19	MR HUNTER: Q. What I'm suggesting to you is that what we can see here is a screenshot, if you like, of at least one of the pages that one can see when using the forensic-register?  A. Yes, that is one of the pages.
20 21 22 23 24 25	Q. And it's described at the top of the page as being an "Analytical Worklist"?  A. Yes, this is the received worklist for the evidence recovery staff.
26 27 28 29 30	Q. What does it mean when it is a received worklist? What is it showing? A. This is showing that that many SAIKs have been received within the laboratory for evidence recovery examination.
31 32 33 34 35	Q. And it nominates the date and time at which those samples were received? A. Yes.
36 37 38 39 40	Q. At the bottom of the page there's one that has been highlighted in orange. What I'm suggesting to you is that the reason those numbers are blue is because they're hyperlinked?  A. Yes.
41 42 43 44 45	Q. And what I'm suggesting to you is that if you clicked on the number that is highlighted in orange, you would then see what is shown on the next page, if we could go to that, please, Mr Woolridge?

Α.

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Yes.

So that's the "Exhibit Analytical Detail" page? 1 Q. 2 Α. 3 4 Q. Which gives you a barcode number? 5 Α. 6 7 Q. It tells you there what the sample consisted of? 8 Α. 9 10 Q. It was, what, a tape-lift from a steering wheel? 11 Α. 12 It's possible, although the barcode number is in 13 Q. orange, that's actually normally a hyperlink; do you agree? 14 15 Α. To get to that page, yes. 16 If one clicked on that barcode number, you'd then go 17 Q. to what we can see on the next page? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 We can see the exhibit record? 21 Q. 22 Α. Yes. 23 24 Which shows, obviously, that exhibit number, again Q. 25 some more information about what it was and where it came 26 from? 27 Α. Yes. 28 If we could scroll down the page, please - not quite 29 30 that far - we can see the presumptive screening test, if that had been done? 31 Yes. 32 Α. 33 Because this is a trace DNA test, there would be no 34 35 presumptive testing done; do you agree? 36 Α. Yes. 37 But if there was presumptive testing, we can see there 38 39 the first three are different types of presumptive tests for blood? 40 41 Α. Yes. 42 43 Q. Then we have acid phosphatase and P30, which are tests for semen? 44 45 Α. Yes.

46 47

Q.

Then the last one is a forensic light source?

Yes. Α. 1 2 Then if we go to the next screen, please, we see the 3 4 photographs of the place from which the sample was taken, at the bottom? 5 Α. 6 Yes. 7 You agree with me that that demonstrates how 8 relatively straightforward it is for someone to look at 9 a photograph that shows what it was that a particular 10 sample was taken from on the forensic-register? 11 Yes, that's what the evidence recovery team would look 12 at. 13 14 There's no reason, do you agree, with perhaps a bit of 15 a modification to the workflow, why someone in the 16 analytical team couldn't do the same exercise? 17 They could do the same exercise with some 18 19 modification. It would require, I guess, as I said before, 20 a change of workflow and also training. 21 But it wouldn't require a change to the 22 Q. 23 forensic-register? They could - I guess if there was - and I'd have to go 24 25 to the quant transition page or the workflow that they actually use to go through and see if that would hyperlink 26 27 to those pages as well, but --28 It would, wouldn't it? 29 Q. If the worklist for - like, this is a worklist for the 30 received list. It would depend on the worklist that 31 32 analytical staff accessed to do that task. 33 But once the quant had been done and, for example, the 34 35 result line, let's say, "DNA insufficient for further 36 processing" had been allocated --Yes. 37 Α. 38 39 -- it would be a matter of someone scrolling through that list of results from that batch, clicking on the 40 various DIFP examples --41 Yes. 42 Α. 43 -- and then looking at the photographs? 44 Q.

Α. Yes.

45 46 47

MR HUNTER: Commissioner, I tender those.

1 2 3	THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 128.
4 5	EXHIBIT #128 REDACTED ANALYTICAL WORKLIST FROM FORENSIC-REGISTER
6 7 8	MR HUNTER: That's all I have.
9	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr Diehm?
11 12	MR DIEHM: Nothing arising.
13 14	THE COMMISSIONER: No. Anybody else? Sorry, Mr Hodge?
15 16	MR HODGE: I just had a few questions.
17 18	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
19 20	<examination by="" hodge:<="" mr="" td=""></examination>
21 22	MR HODGE: Q. Most of these, in fact I think all of these, are just in relation to some questions Mr Diehm
23 24 25 26	asked you. At one point, Mr Diehm said to you Justin Howes had told the management committee at the meeting on 1 February 2018 that what was being prepared to be given to police was an Options Paper?
27 28	A. That's what the minutes state.
29 30 31 32	Q. Yes, but tell me if you agree with this: you don't remember that management committee meeting? A. No.
33 34 35 36	Q. When you say, "That's what the minutes state" - we can bring them up - do you say the minutes identify Justin Howes as saying that?  A. The minutes will generally record the update from the
37 38	project manager.
39 40 41	Q. I see. The minutes - I'll ask a different question, actually. That agenda in the minutes, is that prepared in advance?
42 43 44	A. The agenda is, and the date that that information is provided, if it's pre the meeting, will be recorded in there.
45 46 47	Q. Can we bring up [WIT.0014.0019.0001]. These are

1 2		hat first page, so taking for example item 1.2, where ays, "Conflicts of interest" and it has:
3 4 5 6 7		- Nil. Agenda sent out prior to meeting. If any conflicts exist, these are to be discussed with chair prior to meeting.
8 9	Α.	Yes.
10 11 12	Q. A.	Presumably that's just pre-populated? That one is, yes.
13 14 15 16 17		Then if we go over the page, we can see a series of e item 5 agenda items, where it has "Project" and then number and then some information next to it?  Yes.
18 19 20 21	Q. wher A.	We can see in some of the items, there's an update e it has a date and then some information next to it? Yes.
22 23 24	Q. page	In Project #184, which is 5.7 in the middle of the , it says:
25 26		Evaluation of the efficacy of microcons
27 28	and	then there's the date, and the dash says:
29 30 31 32		Options paper drafted for Priority 2 samples - to be provided to QPS for decision.
33 34	Α.	Yes.
35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	prac meet pres	I just wanted to understand, are you saying you read -don't remember, but in accordance with the ordinary tice of the meeting, that would mean that at that ing on 1 February 2018, somebody said to the people ent at the meeting, "The Options Paper has been drafted it is to be provided to QPS for decision"?  I imagine, yes, that would be the case.
43 44 45	Q. A. abou	And you are saying that would have been Justin Howes? It would generally be the project manager talking t their project, yes.
46 47	THE	COMMISSIONER: What was the date of this meeting?

1	
2	MR HODGE: This was 1 February 2018.
3 4 5 6 7	Q. So I just want to understand, if that's true - that is, if what you say is true, then that means that the management committee were lied to?  A. In what way, sorry?
8 9 10 11	Q. Because the paper had already been provided to the QPS, hadn't it?
12 13 14 15	THE COMMISSIONER: And the next entry relates to something that is said to have happened on 5 February, which was days away.
16 17	MR HODGE: Yes. I will come to that in a moment. Sorry, Commissioner.
18 19 20	THE COMMISSIONER: No, go ahead.
21 22 23	MR HODGE: Q. I think it's probably just important that I - particularly for Mr Howse, who's going to give evidence next week. Are you saying that your belief based on your
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	years of experience in accordance with the ordinary practice of the meeting and the creation of the minutes is that if the date says 1 February 2018, what follows is
27 28 29 30 31	information that was provided by the project manager, who would have been Mr Howse, to the meeting at that time?  A. If that - that was his understanding. I'm not sure if we were aware of when the Options Paper was actually provided to the QPS.
32 33 34 35	Q. Cathie Allen knew, and she was at the meeting. In any event, that's your evidence, that your understanding of the
36 37	ordinary practice of the meeting is that if it's recorded in that way - and could you just blow that up again for us, operator - if it's recorded in that way, then that must been the way it was explained at the meeting?
38 39 40	have been the way it was explained at the meeting?  A. That would be my understanding, yes.
41 42 43	Q. Then to go back to the Commissioner's question, this document is not actually minutes of what occurs at the meeting; it's more like a record of issues that are to be
44 45 46	discussed as part of a particular management committee meeting and follow-up to those issues?  A. It can be. It does also incorporate the discussion

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that is had at the time.

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Q. So that entry, "5 February 2018", that presumably is something that somebody must have added afterwards?

A. It must be.

- Q. And that is also not unusual?
- A. It is unusual for the practices now, because that would not normally happen.

Q. You wouldn't normally add further information later?

A. No. If it wasn't minuted at the meeting or provided in the agenda, it would not be able to be accepted.

- Q. I see. You say you just can't remember now whether you knew by 1 February whether or not the Options Paper had already been provided?
- A. No, I don't I don't know I think we knew potentially from the emails knew that the meeting was happening the following day, but I'm not sure if we knew when the Options Paper was actually provided to the QPS, because that didn't include us in the email.

- Q. Is it likely, if you had known that the Options Paper had already been provided to QPS, that you would have sat by in the meeting whilst Justin Howes told the meeting that the Options Paper was to be provided to QPS?
- A. If if I had've known, he would have known as well.

Q. I'm just trying to understand, if he had said this thing to the meeting, on its face, if what you say is right, then what he said to the meeting or what somebody said to the meeting was false - it doesn't mean they knew it was false, but it was false; do you agree with that?

A. At that time, yes, it had been emailed to the superintendent.

 Q. I'm just interested as to whether you think it's likely that you would have sat by in the meeting and said nothing if something false was said to the meeting?

A. I think I would have corrected it.

 Q. I see. Then there's another question that Mr Diehm asked you, which I might have misheard, but do you remember he was asking you about that first sentence of your email on 5 February, and he said to you you understood the Options Paper reflected version 2 of the Project #184 report?

1 2 3 4	A. I don't think he said - he said version 1 and version 2 followed the same format with the recommendations, I believe.
5 6 7 8 9	Q. That's what I just wanted to understand. Your view isn't that the Options Paper records or reflects the recommendations that were contained in version 1 or version 2 of the report?  A. My view isn't that, sorry?
10 11 12 13 14	Q. Yes. A. Based on that email, my view was that it was based on the experimental - sorry, the reports at the time.
15 16 17 18	Q. It contained similar content to what was in the drafts of the reports? A. Yes.
19 20 21 22	Q. But I think, based on your evidence, you say you don't even know whether you ever read version 2 of the report?  A. I don't have - no.
23 24 25 26	Q. And so this is a view you formed later, that version 2 of the report's content is reflected in the Options Paper?  A. Based - yes, based on reflection.
27 28 29 30	Q. Then I just want to ask you about one other topic, which is in relation to this issue of the bone equipment. A. Yes.
31 32 33 34	Q. I had understood you to say in answer to a question Mr Diehm asked you that you weren't aware of any issues in relation to the equipment arising from the cleaning method?
35 36 37 38	MR DIEHM: That wasn't the question. The question was about whether the witness knew of any issues with respect to the cleaning of metal equipment using bleach and ethanol 70 per cent.
39 40	THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge?
41 42 43	MR HODGE: Thank you, that's fine.

44

As I understood it, your answer was, no, you weren't aware of any issues?

45 46

Α. Not - no.

1 Q. Not those particular issues? 2 Α. 3 4 Are you aware of issues with rusting or pitting on any 5 of the chisels? I have - I don't know if it's an issue. I think 6 7 they're replaced when something is observed or 8 semi-regularly, but so are other equipment, too. 9 And are you aware that in May of this year, Allison 10 Lloyd purchased new chisels for the bone and teeth samples? 11 I think that I'd heard about that very recently. 12 Α. 13 Q. You weren't aware of that at the time? 14 15 Α. No. 16 Q. She's the current manager of evidence recovery? 17 Α. Yes. 18 19 20 Q. Does she report to you? 21 Α. 22 23 Q. Were you aware of why she replaced them? 24 Α. 25 26 Q. 0kav. And are you aware of where she replaced them from? 27 28 Α. No. 29 Is it likely to have been from a hardware store? 30 Q. I'm not sure where she purchased them from. 31 Α. 32 Is it the case that some of the other steel equipment 33 Q. that you've referred to being cleaned, things like scalpels 34 35 and tweezers - is that, to your knowledge, a different 36 grade of steel from the kinds of chisels used in relation 37 to bone and teeth sampling? 38 39 MR DIEHM: Forceps rather than scalpels. 40 41 THE COMMISSIONER: I thought you said - anyway, it doesn't 42 matter, whatever it was that Ms Brisotto was referring to. 43 44 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure. I would have to check. 45 sure there are different grades among them.

I understand.

I'm interested, though, in

46 47

MR HODGE:

Q.

1 2 3 4 5	understanding, is that something you've turned your mind to before, whether the grades of metal being used in relation to the bone sampling equipment is different from the kind of small items that you've referred to in the rest of the laboratory?
6 7 8	A. No, because I thought initially we had purchased bone chisels specifically for bone, but I would have to check.
9 10 11 12 13	Q. In relation to scalpels, am I right in thinking, when you're using a scalpel, each time you're using it you're using a replaceable blade?  A. Yes.
14 15 16 17	Q. So the piece of metal that's coming into contact with the material that you're taking a sample from is being replaced each time?  A. Yes, for scalpels.
19 20 21 22	Q. Yes, whereas if it comes to, say, a chisel that's being used in relation to bone, you're not replacing that on each occasion?  A. No, but I thought I'd referred to forceps and
23 24 25	scissors.  MR HODGE: Thank you, Commissioner.
26 27 28 29	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Anything arising out of that, Mr Diehm?
30 31	MR DIEHM: No, thank you.
32 33 34	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Ms Brisotto. You are free to go.
35 36	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much, Commissioner.
37 38	<the td="" withdrew<="" witness=""></the>
39 40 41	THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hodge, we'll adjourn now, but what's the plan for Monday?
42	MR HODGE: I'm told that it's going to be 9.30 on Monday.

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MR HODGE: The first witness on Monday, and the only witness I expect on Monday, is Lara Keller.

And who are our witnesses?

THE COMMISSIONER:

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2	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
3	THE COMMISCIONER TOOT
	MR HODGE: We'll probably also have a short opening,
4	
5	closing from Ms Hedge in relation to the issue of the DNAIQ
6	machine and the report that has come from Professor Linzi
7	Wilson-Wilde, but we won't call her.
8	
9	THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right. All right, does
10	anybody else have anything to raise? No. We will adjourn
11	until 9.30 on Monday, then.
12	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
13	AT 4.35PM THE COMMISSION WAS ADJOURNED TO
14	MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2022 AT 9.30AM
15	HUNDAI, 24 OCTOBER 2022 AT 9.30AH
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