RECORD OF INTERVIEW WITH LINZI WILSON-WILDE

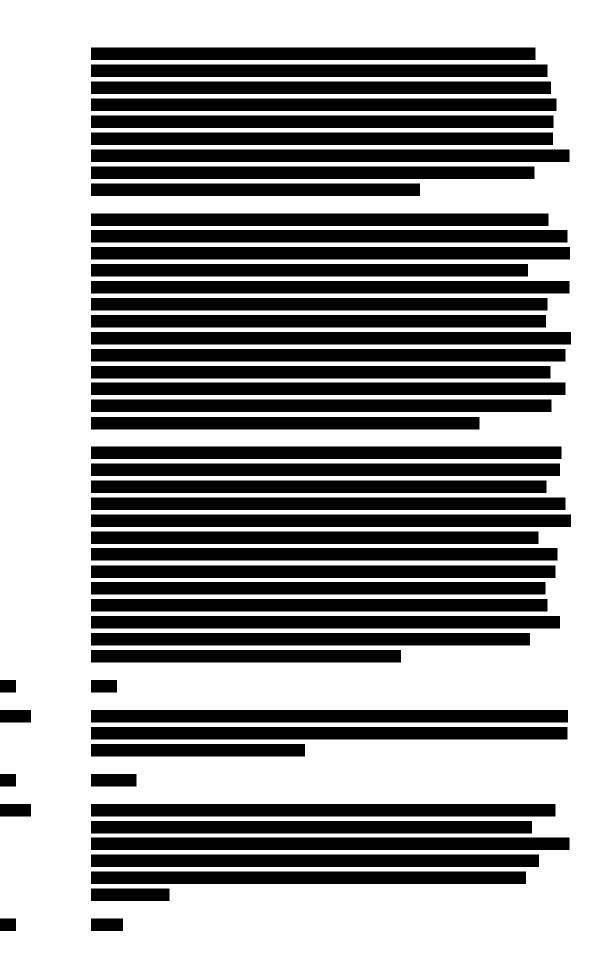
Date: 8 September 2023 (Recordings 10 and 11)

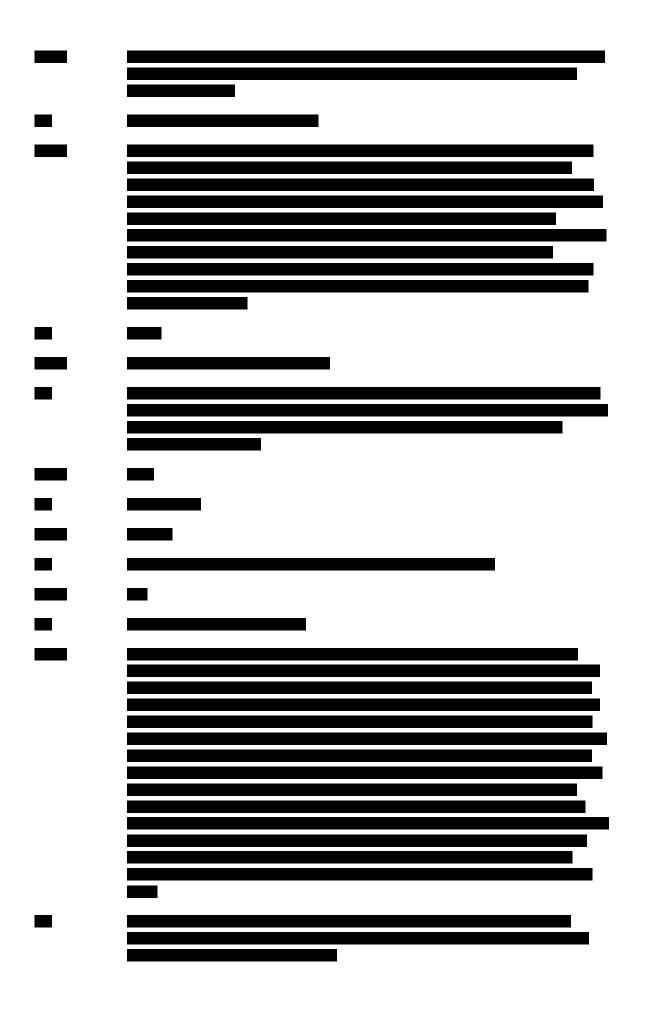
Present: Linzi Wilson-Wilde (LWW)

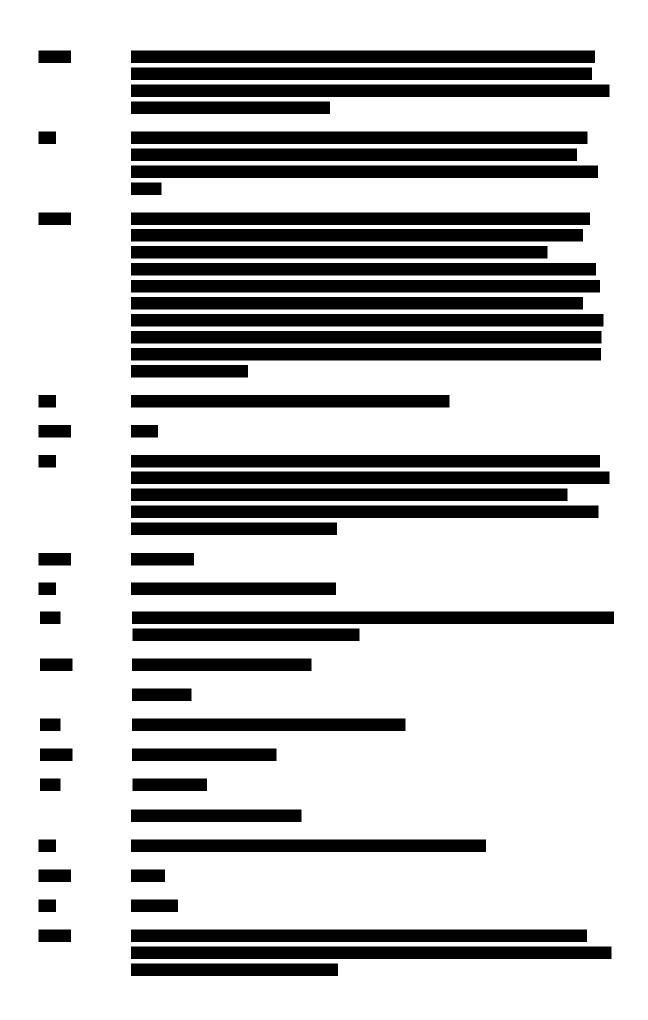
Hedley Thomas (**HT**)

Tracey Walters (TW)



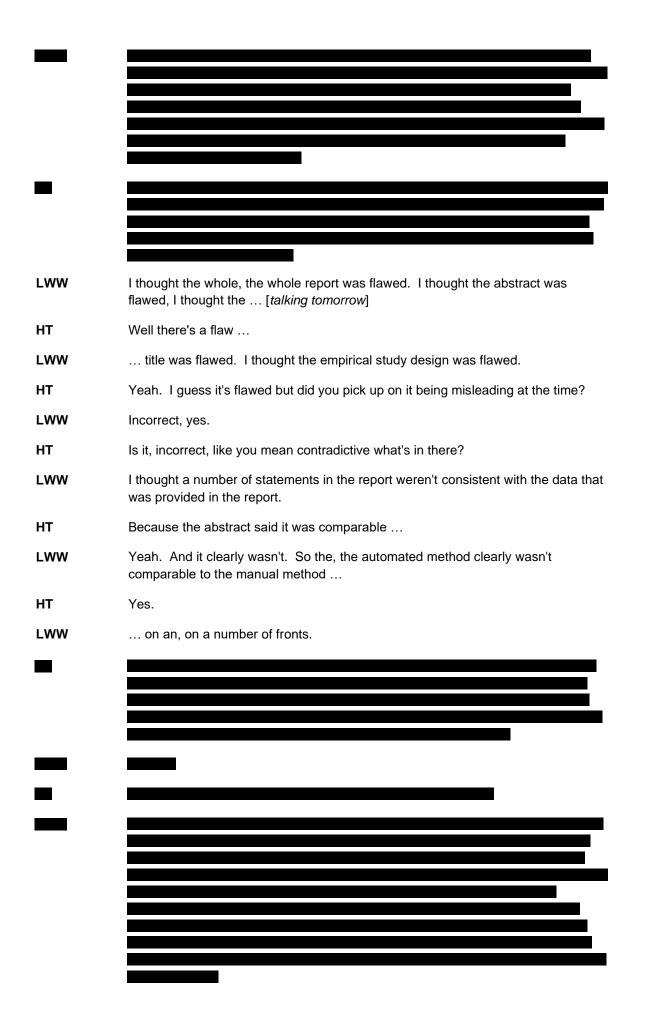


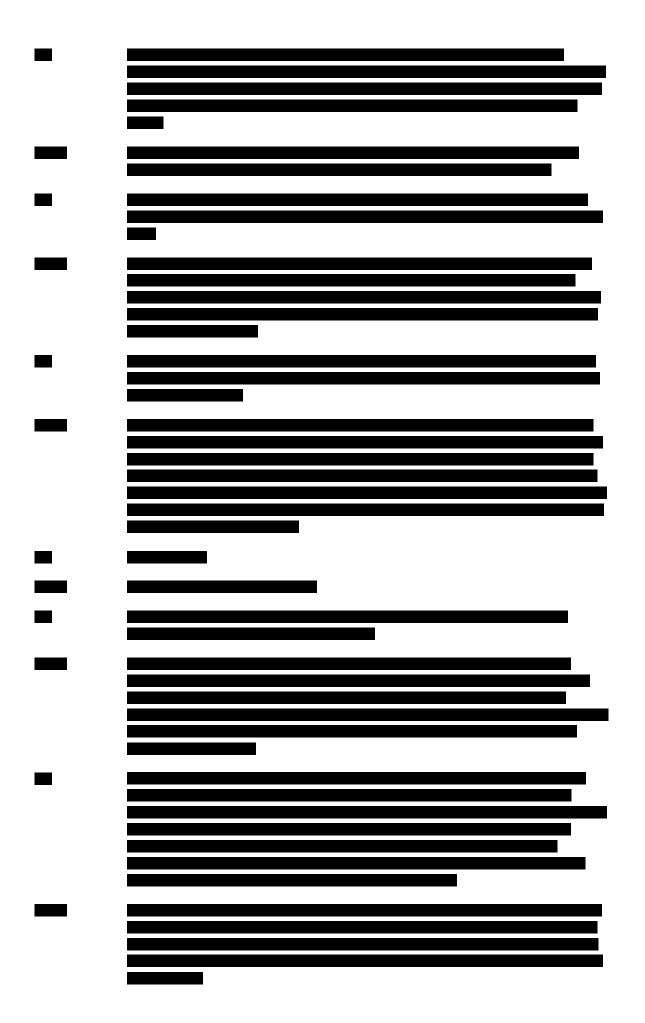


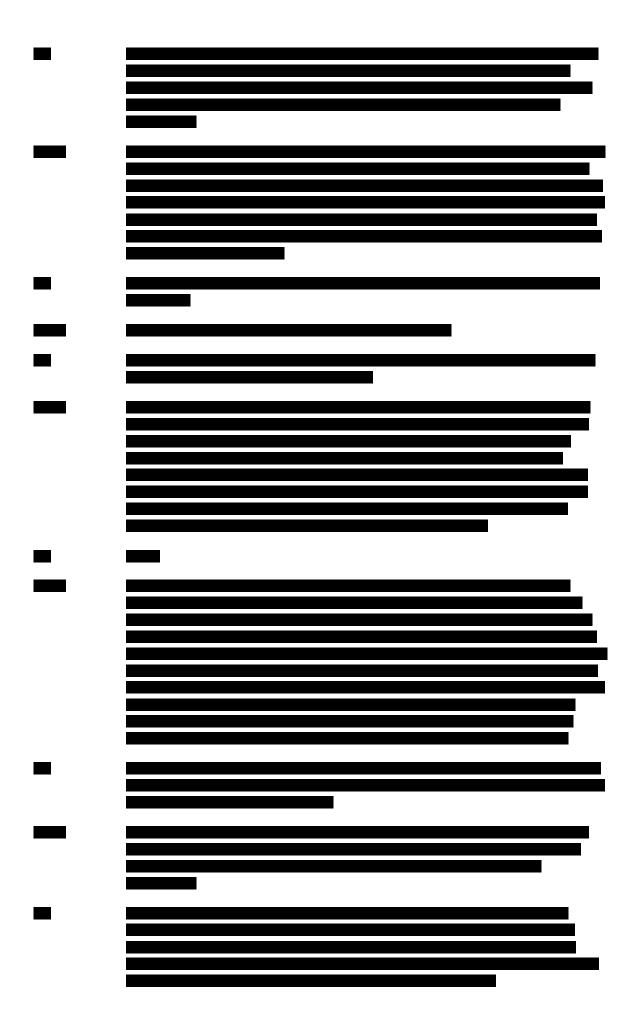


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LWW	And what we were trying to do was flawed.
нт	Yes. The, the your when you looked at that document you saw evidence of a highly flawed method that should never have been put forward.
LWW	Exactly.
нт	Yeah.
LWW	Because it when you're trying to automate that first part of the, the step in the extraction process when you're trying to automate the lysis step of DNA extraction it is extremely difficult to get that right on a robotics platform. So to move from a manual method to a fully automated method requires an extensive study. You should be conducting a development study where you're trying to optimise the process first before you ever do a validation and verification. And so what they tried to do is combine a development optimisation study and a verification study all in one which is just not good scientific practice at all.
нт	Yeah.
LWW	Not even close.
нт	Were you under a fair bit of pressure at the same time with the amount of material you were reviewing?
LWW	Oh absolutely. I had, I think I had approximately a week with hundreds of pages, hundreds and hundreds of pages of documentation with a very clear remit to focus on the contamination component and identify a possible cause of the contamination and review the response to the contamination events. And remembering I had a full time job running a laboratory myself during the day.

LWW	So this is something I did in out of hours time over the course of one week and so I didn't have time to go into route cause analysis of different chills of DNA yields. I just noted okay there was a different reason. I'm going to, in my experience, fully manual and fully automated methods I would expect a quite a significant difference and I wouldn't and when I've gone back and looked at my notes I can see I've underlined on deck lysis versus off deck lysis and I can see, you know, my concerns around having the automated lysis step in that process and then I can see when I've looked at the 2009 method and statements I can see they've tracked when the off deck lysis was implemented and that's what I and you can see in my report that's actually what I've documented. When they made those changes because for me as a scientist who's experienced in this area that was the, that was the significant part of the, of the steps that they made and changes to the method.
	And so from my perspective, oh great they've gone back to an off deck lysis that is a good move because it's a manual process. Which when you look at it project 13 demonstrated that manual process. They still had a half robotic process so there's still possibility that there's issues with that robotic process that they had. That half robotic process. So that's why I'm not saying that the DNA yield was entirely fixed. I'm saying that they would've partially fixed it. This is what I've considered at the time. But not I don't know whether they completely fixed it because I didn't have access to that information at the time.
HT	And the reason why I thought with all of the other documents you were reviewing and these other pressures and so on that you might have overlooked the yield issue because you don't comment on the yield in your actual report. It's all contamination. Well not all but it's not yield, that I can see.
LWW	My focus was definitely on contamination and the contamination issues. It was the remit in, and part of all the discussions of what I was asked to look at. So that's why my report focusses on, on contamination as a primary issue. Whilst also recognising that the entire project was flawed and should never have been implemented.
нт	Yeah. Yeah. I mean do you think though the inquiry would've expected you to say hey there's also this massive yield problem. You might want to start looking at that because it looks pretty serious?
LWW	I wasn't asked to look at a yield issue at all.







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