RECORD OF INTERVIEW WITH LINZI WILSON-WILDE

Date: 31 August 2023 (1 of 2)

Present: Linzi Wilson-Wilde (**LWW**)

Walter Sofronoff (**WS**)

Hedley Thomas (**HT**)

Julie Dick (**JD**)

David Murray (**DM**)

Cath Scott (**CS**) / Tracey Walters (**TW**)

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LWW Yeah. It was just … I don't know how many reams of paper I went through at home. Cause I'm quite a printer person. But my focus of the remit I was given was very much around contamination. Route cause analysis, you know, the implementation, the original method and the activities that were done to subsequently test it. So I wouldn't have looked at a yield document at the time. They probably wouldn't have requested it because it wasn't part of the information I was seeking.

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WS What you've happen upon is another instance of gross failure that affected the evidence and the course of justice. Alright. Linzi's task is to examine the effects upon cases for whatever reason. So nothing's limited, including this. Nothing's limited. Anything she finds she's going to look at and decided what should be

retested and what can be done. Right. So in a sense this is not interesting here in this room for us because it's all going to be encompassed in, you know, we call it a review but you know it's actually going back and studying every case to see if it was affected by anything whether it's the yield issue, for this reason, that reason or that reason or anything else.

LWW So what …

DM Well then if you, if you are looking at cases like that don't you, does it help or don't you need to know what the problem is … [*talking together*]

[*Inaudible - everyone talking at once*]

LWW It does. So what we're actually doing is we're going through and cataloguing … during this date and this date these are the issues that have been uncovered so far and we're adding to it as we're find more things.

WS The reason that … sorry to interrupt you but the reason I said what's interesting about it is this … if you look through the historical record, documentary record, I'm sure you'll find other instances of intellectually corrupt practices.

HT Yeah.

WS You'll find a multitude.

HT Yeah. And, and …

WS Very interesting and publish it by all means but she's going to be looking at all of that. Looking into fixing what, to fix it … [*talking together*]

HT So, so what … [*talking together*]

LWW So …[*talking together*]

WS So for us it's sort of not interesting to see another instance brought to light because it's, it's [inaudible] [*talking together*]

LWW So what' we're doing …

WS Am I making sense?

HT Yeah.

LWW So in this case, you know, 2007 to 2008 this method was used, it caused contamination and lower yield. So when we do the case reviews we go back and say okay, if any samples were put through during this period or this period you look for these things. So consider is, if there is a no DNA result and do you need to reanalyse it or do you need to go back and re-extract? And so by doing that you're using this information that was uncovered during the commission of inquiry and anything else we find, because remember we're going into everything … and we're using that to actually help us do the case review so that when we find those cases that aren't solved or, or there's problems with the DNA results we know what we're looking for but also we're considering what the options are. We're not just applying now. You actually have to consider it in terms of during this time and this time there was a lower yield. What, what, how would that affect the retesting that we do now?

WS Yeah.

DM Are you saying you, now that you know this as of right now and as of this being raised with you that you would us this knowledge now to then apply it over potentially cases from 2007 to 2016?

LWW So, we'll start, we'll go back and as long as we keep finding it we'll keep going back. But we'll focus on what we're doing is a legal led case review. So the DPP, Legal Aid will work together to say was DNA probative in this matter? Could DNA assist with this matter? Would DNA change the outcome of this matter? So naturally you're going to consider that if, if someone was convicted not on the basis of DNA but based on the basis of other evidence finding more evidence that supports that conviction isn't going to change the legal outcome. But if a case is unsolved or there's potentially an indication of an additional offender or something like that then we would, once DPP and Legal Aid have come to an agreement they'll send that case to us, then we will review it to say okay, what do we have? What are all the exhibits? We'll work with police in a collaborative case management approach where you have a look and go okay here are all the exhibits. This one and this one are probably the most probative and the police can tell us what are the options, when were they originally analysed, what are the implications of that analysis, what were the rules. So it won't just be the science it will be the policy overlays as well that were applied to those samples at the time.

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LWW I thought the whole thing was rubbish. From the sentence …

HT But you didn't say that in your report.

LWW I did.

HT Not about the catastrophic yield part.

LWW Not specifically in the sense of the yield but I did mention that you can't move anything from a manual, that this wasn't … it wasn't fit for purpose, that it wasn't consistent with good practice. I kind of went through everything. Because I went back to first principles in the sense of …

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CS/TW Were the problems still existing in 2013.

DM Cause I'm worried that that, you know potentially could be just dismissed that oh no that's just another problem [inaudible] …

LWW No there was, there was a multitude of problems.

DM … isn't there a need for a … don't, because you haven't had this raised with you for that long. Wouldn't there need to be a thorough investigation to see well actually it could be the same issue over all that time period. Maybe not to the same 92% or …

LWW Yeah. So what my biology manager, Natasha Mitchell, is working on … so she's an eminent scientist from South Australia … totally independent. She's actually going through and working out, to go through the commission of inquiry, working out between X date and X date here are the issues. X date X date here are the issues.

So there, when we do the case reviews we know exactly what we're looking for and as we find more we're going to add it to that list.

HT Yeah.

DM I'm concerned that this would not be on her list.

LWW It's on her list.

DM At this point …

LWW No it's on her list. There were injection, voltage injection issues at the time. There were some setting issues at the time. There's the, the potential between the maxwell and the DNA IQ issues. So all of those are on the radar, absolutely. [*talking together*]

HT Where do you think this issue … and in terms of the significance of this issue with the other issues, where do you think it is in the hierarchy given the yield that we're talking, or lack of yield?

LWW Yeah the, the lack of yield was particularly problematic.

HT Yeah.

LWW Absolutely.

HT Yep.

LWW You've introduced … I mean that's the whole thing. They introduced a major, major change to the process without the proper scientific controls that should've been in place at the time. There should've been that expectation that that was a full validation and it should not have been implemented before a full validation was conducted.

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