



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

8 May 2023

Dr Isabel Brouwer
Statewide Clinical Director
c/o Anne Catanuto
NSW Health Pathology – Forensic Medicine Sydney
1A Main Avenue
LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Brouwer

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: Biological samples for Paul Rath

I refer to the above Inquiry and to the file produced by NSW Health Pathology – Forensic Medicine (“Forensic Medicine”) on 30 August 2022 in relation to the death of Paul Rath.

Request for further information

Mr Rath’s file includes a report by Robert John Goetz, Forensic Biologist, dated 21 June 1977 (**enclosed**). In this report, Mr Goetz examined four biological samples received from NSW Police on 16 June 1977, namely:

1. One anal swab;
2. One anal smear;
3. One penile swab; and
4. One penile smear.

Mr Goetz detected semen on the penile swab and smear (items 3 and 4), but no semen on the anal swab and smear (items 1 and 2).

The status of the biological samples following Mr Goetz’s examination is unknown.

It would assist the Inquiry if Forensic Medicine could provide the Inquiry with a formal written response regarding the status of the four biological samples, including their current location and whether they are available for further testing.

If the samples have been destroyed or are unable to be located, I would be most grateful if this could be set out in a written response.

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Timeframe for response

I would be grateful if the above information could be provided to the Inquiry as soon as possible and by no later than **Monday, 15 May 2023**. Please let me know if you anticipate any difficulties with this timeframe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at caitlin.healey-nash@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Caitlin Healey-Nash
Senior Solicitor
For Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry

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