



12th April 2023

Jacqueline Krynda
Senior Solicitor
Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

FASS Ref: FS23/2449

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Krynda,

Re: NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes
Testing of exhibits - death of Crispin Dye

Reference is made to your letter dated 3rd April 2023.

I have considered the proposed testing of the brown mark on the white card, as suggested by the New South Wales Police Force.

For the first level of testing in point 1, I don't agree that a tape-lift would have minimal impact on the card, due to the fragile nature of the paper-based card. This opinion was formed when the card was first examined. In order to recover any cells sitting on the card, a very small unstained area, immediately next to the brown staining, was tape-lifted. The tape-lift bound very strongly to the paper-based card and testing was immediately halted to prevent physical damage to the card.

I am unsure if the first level of fingerprint treatment described in point 2 would preserve 'any DNA that might be present' as stated in the letter. As the staining on the exhibit is about 30 years old and the paper is a delicate porous substrate, this should be factored in when assessing the expected recovery of DNA after fingerprinting.

In light of the above considerations, in order to optimise the chance of recovering DNA, the removal of a very small section of the brown stain for testing is recommended before it undergoes any fingerprint testing. If we find that the DNA is consistent with another DNA profile already recovered in this case, then it would not be crucial to extensively test the stain and the remainder could be subjected to fingerprinting. If, however, the indications from the initial DNA testing of a very small section suggest a different individual, an additional section of the brown stain could be removed for DNA testing, but this would impact the ability to carry out fingerprinting on the stained area.

NSW Police are best placed to decide whether a DNA result or a fingerprint result is most likely to assist the investigation, if attempting to obtain both will compromise the chance of obtaining either one.

Yours faithfully,



Michele Franco
Group Manager, Evidence Recovery Unit
Forensic Biology/DNA