



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

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August 07, 2017

The Honourable
Bridgid Annisette-George
Speaker of the House
Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
Level 2, Tower D
The Port of Spain, International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

Dear Honourable Speaker

Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on an Inquiry into the Operations of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the Issue of DNA Sampling in Trinidad and Tobago

Your letter Ref: Parl:14/3/43 Vol. IV dated June 07, 2017 on the caption subject, refers.

Please find enclosed, the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs' response to the recommendations/comments contained in the Committee's Report.

Yours sincerely

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

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MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

**RESPONSE TO THE THIRD REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AN
INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FORENSIC
SCIENCE CENTRE AND THE ISSUE OF DNA SAMPLING IN TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO**

Second Session (2016/2017) of the 11th Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs takes the opportunity to commend the work of the Joint Select Committee on An Inquiry into the Operations of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the issue of DNA Sampling in Trinidad and Tobago (“the JSC Report”). This is a topic of tremendous importance to the Criminal Justice System as it is anticipated to be an indispensable part of the crime fighting arsenal of Trinidad and Tobago.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Recommendation 5:

That the Office of the Attorney General expedite the drafting and presentation to Parliament of regulations required under Section 34 of the Act.

Response:

Representatives from the Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre, Chief Parliamentary Counsel’s Department, Office of the Attorney General as well as the DNA Custodian have formulated and finalized

the DNA Regulations pursuant to Section 34 of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, Chap. 5:34. Building upon the foundation laid in the Act, the Regulations will ensure that the entire DNA legislative framework is workable and that effective implementation of the new DNA regime is realised.

The Regulations are currently being presented to the Law Review Committee and pending approval from the Committee, it will be put before Cabinet for its consideration with a view towards having same debated in Parliament during the next session.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS