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Addendum to the Report
Department Operations Manual 15
Closeout Report of Complaint/Inquiry Review
Team Regarding January 17, 2020 Erroneous
NIBIN Confirmation Complaint

On March 5, 2021, the District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) issued a report titled, *Department Operations Manual 15 Closeout Report of Complaint/Inquiry Review Team Regarding January 17, 2020 Erroneous NIBIN Confirmation Complaint*¹. The report outlines the history of the NIBIN confirmation complaint, actions taken by DFS to investigate the complaint, quality actions taken by DFS in response to the complaint, and interactions between DFS and the United States Attorney's Office, Science Advisory Board, and ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) regarding the complaint. The report concludes with the Complaint/Inquiry Review Team recommending no further action on the complaint.

On April 2, 2021, the DFS Director received a letter from ANAB informing her of immediate suspension of the DFS' ANAB accreditation². The letter states, "ANAB has received credible evidence that the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences, Forensic Science Laboratory Division, has deliberately concealed information from the ANAB assessment team, violated accreditation requirements, engaged in misrepresentations of fraudulent behavior, and engaged in conduct that brings ANAB into disrepute". Following the letter, ANAB accreditation of the DFS Forensic Science Laboratory was fully withdrawn and DFS stopped all casework in the Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, Latent Fingerprint, Digital Evidence, and Firearm Examination Units.

In response to the withdrawal of ANAB accreditation, DFS hired two external consultants. First, SNA, International was hired to perform a full-scale assessment of DFS' 'operations to identify issues and recommend steps to put DFS on a path to regain and sustain accreditation'³. During the assessment, SNA, International identified 33

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² chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://wtop.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/dfs_anab_letter.pdf

³ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://wtop.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/dfs_anab_letter.pdf



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nonconformances and 47 recommendations. Second, DFS hired Forensic Analysis, Consulting, and Training (FACT) to assist with correcting the nonconformances and implementing the recommendations identified by SNA, International.

In addition to taking actions to address all nonconformances and recommendations, DFS leadership was fully replaced, and a Quality Assurance Unit was created. Quality Assurance Specialists were imbedded in each division of DFS. The new DFS leadership made quality and transparency core values of the agency and worked to operationalize these values through cultural shift.

On December 22, 2023, DFS regained ANAB accreditation of the Forensic Biology and Forensic Chemistry Units⁴. During the assessment, ANAB found zero nonconformities. Currently, DFS is working to expand the scope of accreditation to other Units within the Forensic Science Laboratory as well as the Crime Science Sciences Division.

DFS continues to strive to sustain accreditation and to meet its mission to provide high-quality, timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science services using best practices and best available technology, focusing on unbiased science and transparency, to enhance public safety and health.

⁴ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://search.anab.org/public/organization_files/District-of-Columbia-Department-of-Forensic-Sciences-Forensic-Science-Laboratory-Cert-and-Scope-File-12-26-2023_1703610564.pdf