



April 5, 2021

Dr. Jenifer Smith, Director
D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences
401 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Delivered via email to: jenifer.smith@dc.gov

Dear Director Smith,

This will respond to your April 2, 2021 letter in which you request further information concerning ANAB's notice of the suspension of the accreditation of the D.C. Department of Forensic Sciences ("DFS") and seek clarification of the scope of the suspension. As you note, in suspending DFS, ANAB relied upon the findings of the "Final Report of Review and Audit of the DFS Firearms Examination Unit, dated March 18, 2021" ("Final Audit Report"). The Final Audit Report was prepared by an independent audit team commissioned by the United States Attorney's Office and the Washington D.C. Office of the Attorney General.

It is noteworthy that the Final Audit Report was issued in the context of reports that DFS "is under criminal investigation amid allegations that managers at the independent lab pressured analysts to change their conclusions, and then potentially misrepresented findings to its accrediting body, all in an attempt to essentially paper-over a years-old error that mistakenly linked two killings to the same gun" ([WTOP News](#)), and "erroneously concluded bullet casings found at the scenes of two fatal shootings were fired from the same gun, then sought to minimize the mistake, according to a panel of independent forensic experts commissioned by the D.C. attorney general." ([Washington Post](#)).

Your letter asks for "a complete copy of the source materials" relied on in the Final Audit Report. While ANAB has been given an opportunity to review the source material underlying the Final Audit Report in order to verify the audit findings as they relate to ANAB's accreditation of DFS, ANAB is not at liberty to provide the source material to you in light of the ongoing criminal investigation of DFS. Nevertheless, the Final Audit Report's detailed summaries amply outline information that DFS misrepresented to and concealed from the ANAB assessment team, demonstrates the basis for the suspension of DFS's accreditation and demonstrates the basis for ANAB's decision to initiate the withdrawal of accreditation. Because DFS is in possession of all of its own records and has access to its personnel, it is in possession of all of the information it might rely on to refute the auditors' findings.

Pursuant to the ANAB Terms and Conditions for Accreditation (AG 1008), the DFS committed to, among other things, "conform to the requirements for accreditation as defined by ANAB," "continually fulfil ANAB Requirements," and "maintain impartiality and integrity for all services provided under its accreditation granted by ANAB." (AG 1008 effective 09/12/2018 at ¶¶ 1.1, 2.3 & 2.6). The AG 1008 at ¶ 3.5 further states:

If ANAB comes across evidence of fraudulent behavior or the customer intentionally provides false information, conceals information, or deliberately violates Requirements, ANAB will reject or withdraw the application, terminate the assessment, or initiate withdrawal of accreditation, as applicable.

See also [AG 1008](#) (effective 2021/02/08) at ¶ 3.6.

We believe that the Final Audit Report provides ample support for ANAB's determination that DFS has failed to fulfil the requirements for accreditation, has failed to maintain impartiality and integrity in the provision of services provided under its ANAB accreditation, and misrepresented and concealed information from the ANAB assessors; in sum, the Final Audit Report provides sufficient support for a suspension and withdrawal under AG 1008.

You also request clarification on the scope of the suspension. The suspension is applicable to the entire scope of accreditation for DFS accreditation certificate # FT-0213. In addition, DFS customers/stakeholders must be notified as stated in the suspension notification letter dated April 2, 2021. As stated in ANAB's April 3, 2021 email to Quality Manager Watkins, during the period of suspension, the DFS must immediately cease issuing reports that contain the ANAB accreditation symbol or reference to ANAB accreditation. The ANAB Directory of Accredited Organizations has been updated to reflect the DFS suspension status.

I trust this answers your questions. Please ensure that all future communications between DFS and ANAB are in writing and copied to our counsel, Gail Matthews.



Pamela L. Sale
Vice President, Forensics

cc: Melissa Kennedy, Director of Accreditation – Forensics, ANAB
Christopher Geldart, Acting Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
Abdel Maliky, Senior Deputy Director, DFS
Wayne Arendse, Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, DFS
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