



CROWN OFFICE  
25 CHAMBERS STREET  
EDINBURGH EH1 1LA

Telephone: 0300 020 3000

Margaret Mitchell, MSP  
Convener of the Justice Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By Email: [justicecommittee@parliament.scot](mailto:justicecommittee@parliament.scot)

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Convener,

### **Forensic toxicology delays**

You will be aware from my answer to Miles Briggs' question in Parliament last week (S50-042750) that Glasgow University anticipated with the various measures that have been taken, all 2019 toxicology analyses were expected to be reported by the end of May this year, subject to any impact of the Covid-19 situation.

Regrettably I was advised on 24 March that Glasgow University has, as a result of the public health guidance directed to slowing the spread of COVID-19, decided to close the Joseph Black Building, in which the Toxicology Lab is located, and this will undoubtedly have an impact on the completion of toxicological analysis. This impact is regrettable, but I know that you will understand the position, in the context of the current public health emergency. The current University position, shared with COPFS today, is set out in the undernote.

Senior COPFS officials are in regular communication with senior university staff, and are also making arrangements to let families know of this development and the potential for further delays. I will endeavour to keep you updated on the situation as matters progress.

Yours sincerely

**RT HON W JAMES WOLFFE QC  
LORD ADVOCATE**