

9 March 2016

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Mr R Kershaw
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Dear Commissioner

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Amendment to Police Administration Act (Infectious Diseases)

Thank you for your letter and the opportunity to comment on the development of legislative amendments for mandatory testing for infectious decisions. The Society supports evidence based reforms that balance the rights of individuals and the administration of justice.

The Society acknowledges the concerns of police officers who, every day face considerable risks in their challenging work environment. Unfortunately this proposal does not in any way reduce those risks and could potentially increase them. The Society has had the opportunity to discuss and review the submission of the Information Commissioner and we support those submissions.

In summary the proposal demonstrates deficient understanding about transfer of disease and the value of transfer testing. If introduced it potentially exposes innocent individuals to greater harm not only in the forced collection but also where assumptions are made based on transfer testing before evidence of actual infection can be established.

The Society agrees that detailed guidelines and educational materials would go some way to alleviating stress of those who may come into contact with bodily fluids on a regular basis. This includes information about transmission of disease via bodily fluids. The proposed forced collection is:

- disproportionate to the risks based on available medical evidence;
- creates additional risks of other workers being exposed;
- lacks evidentiary basis; and
- creates opportunity for illegal discrimination.

We would be happy to be consulted on a draft of the Bill.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Lawton", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

MEGAN LAWTON
Chief Executive Officer
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