

POLICE, DNA SAMPLES, DELAYS IN ANALYSING

2719. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Attorney General

I refer the Attorney General to the answer to question on notice No. 2343 of 2003, to the Minister for Police, and ask -

- (a) given the backlog of DNA samples, supplied by the Police, at the PathCentre, is the Attorney General satisfied that innocent people are not still the subject of Police investigation and/or detention as a result of this delay; and
- (b) is the Attorney General satisfied that Court proceedings are not being jeopardised or unduly delayed due to the backlog at the PathCentre?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a) I refer the Member to Parliamentary Question 2343, where my colleague, the Minister for Police, advised that the Police Service consider there were no delays in DNA testing of prisoners. As the member would know, DNA testing is only one of a number of avenues of investigation by the Police Service when investigating all alleged criminal activities.

The determination of a person's guilt or otherwise is dependent on a number of factors, of which DNA testing may only be one of them.
- (b) I have been advised by the Department of Justice that Court proceedings are not being jeopardised or unduly delayed as a result of DNA samples supplied to the PathCentre.