

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: FREE STATE GOVERNMENT**  
**REPORT ON A MEDICO-LEGAL POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION**

**BDR/393/2022**

To the Magistrate of Bloemfontein:

**AFFIDAVIT IN TERMS OF SECTION 212(4), ACT 51 OF 1977 (SAP 378)**

I, **Dr Jacobus Hendrik Fouche** MBChB (UFS).

State under oath and in English:

1. I am in the service of the Province of the Free State as a Registrar in Forensic Pathology.
2. On 04/05/2022 commencing at 08:30, I examined the body of an African adult male that was pointed out to me by Forensic Pathology Officer TS. Mthimkulu of the Bloemfontein Medico-Legal Laboratory and who identified the body as being that of BDR/393/2022 whose reputed age was 33 years, and that the body was certified as dead, as informed, on 03/05/2022 at 03h00.
3. I conducted a post-mortem examination on the said body and recorded my findings which facts I ascertained by means of an examination requiring skill in anatomy and pathology.
4. The **chief post-mortem findings** made by me on this body were:
  - a) **The charred body of an adult male with blunt force trauma to his head including;**
    - a) **A skull fracture and associated intra cranial haemorrhage, complicated by pressure effects on the brain.**
    - b) **Extensive, post-mortem burn wounds and charring of the whole body. There were signs consistent with the use of an accelerant.**
    - c) **No soot or inhalation burn wounds in the airways.**
5. That, as a result of my observations, a schedule of which follows, I concluded that the cause of death was:

**UNNATURAL: BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA TO THE HEAD**

JHF.

**SCHEDULE OF OBSERVATIONS**

**GENERAL**

1. Length: 1.45m (taken by mortuary staff members)  
Mass: 50.2kg (taken by mortuary staff members)  
Physique: Unable to assess due to severe burn wounds and charring.  
Nutrition: Unable to assess due to severe burn wounds and charring.
2. **Special identifying features:**
  - i. The body is that of an adult male, approximately 33 years old.
  - ii. The hair on the scalp is completely charred away.
  - iii. Unable to assess due to extensive charring of the body.
  - iv. An identity tag bearing the number BDR/393/2022 is attached to the body.
3. **Secondary post-mortem changes:** The body has been refrigerated. Unable to assess for hypostasis or rigor mortis due to extensive charring of the body. Internal examination of the organs reveals signs of decomposition with partial liquification of the brain and spleen.
4. **External appearance of body and condition of limbs:**
  - 4.1. **Clothing:** The clothing on the body is completely charred away. No remnants of charred clothing noted.
  - 4.2. **External examination and injuries:**
    - 4.2.1. **General Examination:** The body of an adult male. There is complete charring of the body with skin splitting noted on the anterior chest wall, anterior abdominal wall, upper and lower limbs. Both hands are severely charred distally with loss of tissue and bone. Partial sparing of the skin is present on the surface of the back and buttocks.
    - 4.2.2. **Fresh wounds:**
      - No wound defects noted on external examination.
    - 4.2.3. **Signs of medical intervention:**
      - None

## HEAD AND NECK

5. **Cranium:** The scalp is severely charred. Contusion of the scalp was noted on the right frontal aspects, with associated sub scalp haematoma of  $\pm 100 \times 100$ mm. A horizontally aligned hairline fracture is present on the right temporal region of the skull, measuring  $\pm 100$ mm.
6. **Intracranial Contents:** A large extra dural haematoma of  $\pm 120$ ml was noted on the right frontal aspect of the brain, underlying the fracture described in paragraph 5. The haematoma was associated with local pressure effects on the brain. There is no obvious subdural or subarachnoid haemorrhage present. The cranial vessels show no malformations or dilatations. The brain, cerebellum and brainstem are soft, friable and partially liquified in keeping with signs of decomposition. There is no obvious herniation of the brain.  
Brain mass:  $\pm 1500$ grams (1043-1521 grams)
7. **Orbital, nasal and aural cavities:** Extensive charring present of the orbital, nasal and aural cavities.
8. **Mouth, tongue and pharynx:** Extensive charring of the lips with sparing of the mouth tongue and pharynx. No evidence of inhalational burn wounds in the pharynx.
9. **Neck structures:** The skin of the neck is extensively charred. There is no haemorrhage in the soft tissues of the neck. The thyroid gland and lymph nodes are unremarkable. The thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone are intact. No evidence of inhalational burn wounds noted.

## CHEST

10. **Thoracic cage and diaphragm:** There are no rib fractures or soft tissue contusions. There is  $\pm 400$ ml of port wine colored fluid in the right chest cavity and  $\pm 300$ ml port wine colored fluid in the left chest cavity consistent with post-mortem fluid collection.
11. **Mediastinum and oesophagus:** The oesophagus is intact and shows no mucosal abnormalities. The mediastinum is unremarkable.
12. **Trachea and bronchi:** The airways are intact and unobstructed. No soot is present in the airways. No inhalational burn wounds or oedema present in the larynx or trachea. On dissection of the larynx, a strong smell consistent with an accelerant, is noted
13. **Pleura and lungs:** The lungs are intact. Both lungs appear bulky and congested. There are no thrombi present in the pulmonary vessels. On dissection of the lungs, a strong smell consistent with an accelerant, is noted.  
Right lung:  $\pm 560$  grams (217-576 grams)  
Left lung:  $\pm 480$  grams (181-576 grams)

**14. Heart and pericardium:** The pericardial sac is intact. The heart is of normal size and shape. The coronary arteries and ostia are patent with no significant atheromatous plaques present. The valves appear morphologically normal with no fibrosis, vegetations or calcifications present. There is no thrombus present in the heart.

*Heart mass: ±280 grams (212-373grams)*

**15. Large blood vessels:** The carotid arteries, thoracic and abdominal aorta and renal arteries have fatty streaks. The venae cavae are unremarkable.

## ABDOMEN

**16. Peritoneal cavity:** There is no blood or quantifiable free fluid or sign of inflammation.

**17. Stomach and contents:** The stomach contains approximately 50ml of light brown colored liquid. There are no mucosal abnormalities.

**18. Intestines and mesentery:** The intestines are unremarkable.

**19. Liver, gallbladder and biliary passages:** The liver is intact. The external surface of the liver appears smooth. There are no masses or cysts present. The parenchyma of the liver appears intact. The liver appears congested. The gallbladder is unremarkable and contains less than 10ml of bile.

*Liver mass: ± 850grams (833-1758 grams)*

**20. Pancreas:** The pancreas is in an early stage of decomposition. There is no haemorrhage or fibrosis.

**21. Spleen:** The spleen is intact. The spleen is dark and partially liquified on cut sections in keeping with early decomposition.

*Spleen mass: ±70grams (18-174 grams)*

**22. Adrenals:** Both adrenals are of normal size and colour.

**23. Kidneys and ureters:**

The kidneys are intact. They are normal in size and shape. There are no cysts or stones present. The subcapsular surface appear smooth.

*Right kidney: ±120grams (73-155 grams)*

*Left kidney: ±120grams (77-159 grams)*

**24. Urinary bladder and urethra:** The bladder is intact and empty. The bladder mucosa is unremarkable.

**25. Pelvic walls:** There are no visible or palpable fractures of the pelvis.

26. **Genital organs:** Normal male genitalia are present.

**SPINE**

27. **Spinal column:** There are no visible or palpable fractures or dislocations.

28. **Spinal cord:** The spinal cord was not exposed.

**SPECIMENS RETAINED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION**

Specimen	Serial number	Investigation	Disposal
Blood taken from the right atrium of the heart.	Sealed with barcode PMK543368 Re-sealed with barcode PMK543367	Blood alcohol concentration	TS. Mthimkulu
Blood taken from the right atrium of the heart.	Sealed with barcode PMK543370 Re-sealed with barcode PMK543369	Carboxyhaemoglobin levels	TS. Mthimkulu
Blood taken from the right atrium of the heart, bile and stomach content.	TO243601	Toxicology	TS. Mthimkulu

**Note:** No DNA collection kits available at the facility.

**ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS**

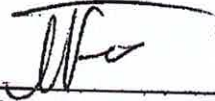
1. History as per SAPS180: It is alleged that the deceased started a fire in his single cell, resulting in him burning to death.
2. X-Ray: A Lodox Xmplar-dr was performed on 04/05/2022 and shows no obvious long bone fractures or projectiles.
3. Prosector: Forensic Pathology Officer TS. Mthimkulu assisted me with the post-mortem examination by undressing the body, positioning it for examination and performing prosection and evisceration of the organ blocks under my direct supervision.
4. Photographs for purposes of identity and evidence were taken in my presence. This report reflects my observations during a post-mortem examination done on the deceased depicted on the photographs marked BDR 393/2022.
5. The following annexures accompany this report:
  - i. Annexure A: Lodox
6. A Department of Home Affairs Notice of Death with serial number DHA 1663-G198798 was completed on the day of autopsy.
7. The organ reference ranges were taken from: Peddle, L. and Kirk, G.M. (2017). Postmortem Organ Weights at a South African Mortuary. *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, Volume 38(4), pp.277-282.

1. I know and understand the contents of this declaration.
2. I have no objections to taking the prescribed oath.
3. I consider the prescribed oath to be binding on my conscience.

Signed at **Bloemfontein**

On this **04<sup>th</sup>** day of **May 2022**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



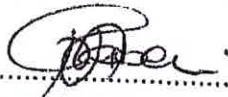
**Dr Jacobus Hendrik Fouche**  
MBChB (UFS), Designation: Registrar

**Address:**  
**Physical**

Forensic Morgue  
22 James Dick Street  
Wilgehof, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9322

Email: **jannafouche@gmail.com**

I certify that the deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this declaration, that he has no objection to taking the prescribed oath and considers it to be binding on his conscience, and that this declaration was sworn to before me, and the deponent's signature was placed thereon in my presence.



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**Commissioner of Oaths**

**Ex Officio: Republic of South Africa**

Full Name: **MARY TSOKOLO CHABELI**

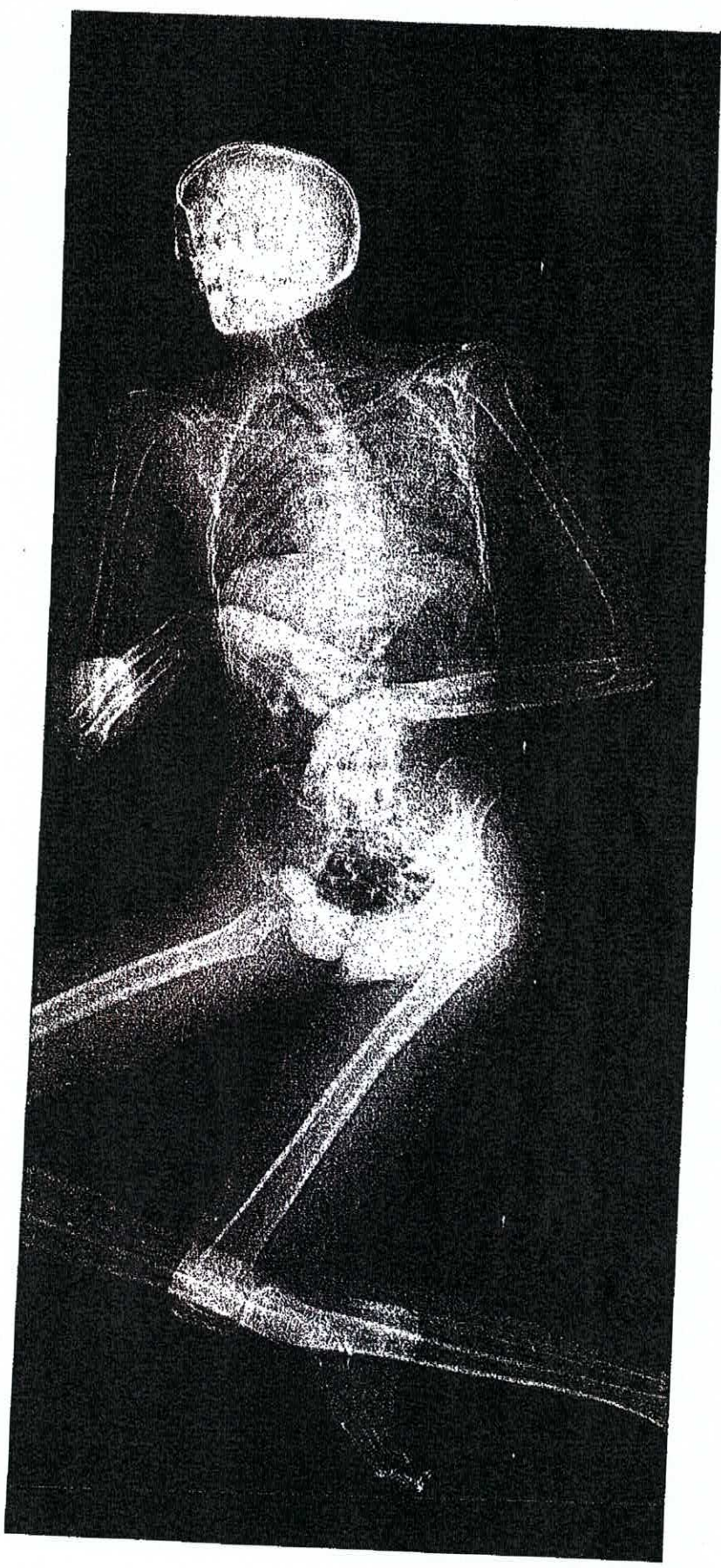
Designation (Rank): **Administration Clerk**

Business Address: **Forensic Morgue  
22 James Dick Street  
Wilgehof, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9322**

BDR 393/22      Annex A.

Patient Name: BEESTER, THABO  
PatientID(MRN): 421(BDR393,22)  
Procedure: Full Body AP  
Institution Name: Lodox SA  
Exposure (uGy.m2): 109.20

Study Date: 2022-05-0  
Study Time: 08:46:0



Operator Name: UserNormal  
Exposure Time (ms): 22.00  
X Ray Tube Current (mA): 150.00  
kVP (kV): 110.00  
Detector Binning: 4  
Scan Velocity (mm/s): 140.00  
Spatial Resolution (lp/mm): 2.08

JHF      *[Handwritten signature]*



BDR 393122

Station: .....	Dr JH Fouche
CAS: .....	Date of autopsy: 04/05/2002
	Time: 08:30

African/ W/C/Asian M/F  
 Adult/ Infant/Toddler/Adolescent/ Elderly 33 Years

FPO: S. Mkhulu  
 Date of death: 03/05/2002 at 03:00

History: FPS 100/FPS 002/FPS 006  
 Deceased started fire in cell resulting in fatal Burns.

Investigating officer: .....  
 Manner of death: .....

→ Carboxyhaemoglobin  
 → Look for other injuries  
 → Lodox.  
 → BAC

Chief PM findings:

1. Body of a charred Adult Male
2. No cherry red internal organs or soot in airways
3. Smell of An excellent in trachea (Paraffin)
4. Large Extracardiac Haemorrhage @ frontal aspect of the head with a hairline fracture of the skull ± 11cm Blood.
5. ....
6. ....

COD: Natural/Unnatural Unnatural - Blunt force head injury

Lodox Findings: No Projectiles  
 NO wounds apart from Burns



Schedule of Observations

GENERAL

1.	Length	1450	m	Physique	Lean
	Mass	50.2	kg	Nutrition	Under to assess.

2. Special identifying features:

General	Male adult-	Hair	Charred away.
Clothing	Charred away.	Tattoos	None Note Charred Body.

3. Secondary PM changes:

Refrigerated	yes	Rigor	Charred
Hypostasis	Charred	Putrefactive change: Green abd/marbling	Charred

4. External appearance of body and condition of limbs:

Injuries
<p>100% Burn wounds with charring of the whole body.                  Skin splitting of Anterior chest wall - @ Abdom. @ Anterior thigh and leg.                  Sparring of the back no charring.                  Skin splitting on back of both legs.                  No facial features noted.                  Charred away of hands and feet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">400ml Red fluid in @ chest cavity                  300ml in @ chest cavity.</p>
Medical Interventions
None.

D/R

Bylas  
Annexura

Skin shiny  
- yellow red  
Pale appearance.

R

L

R



L

R

R. Hada(a)

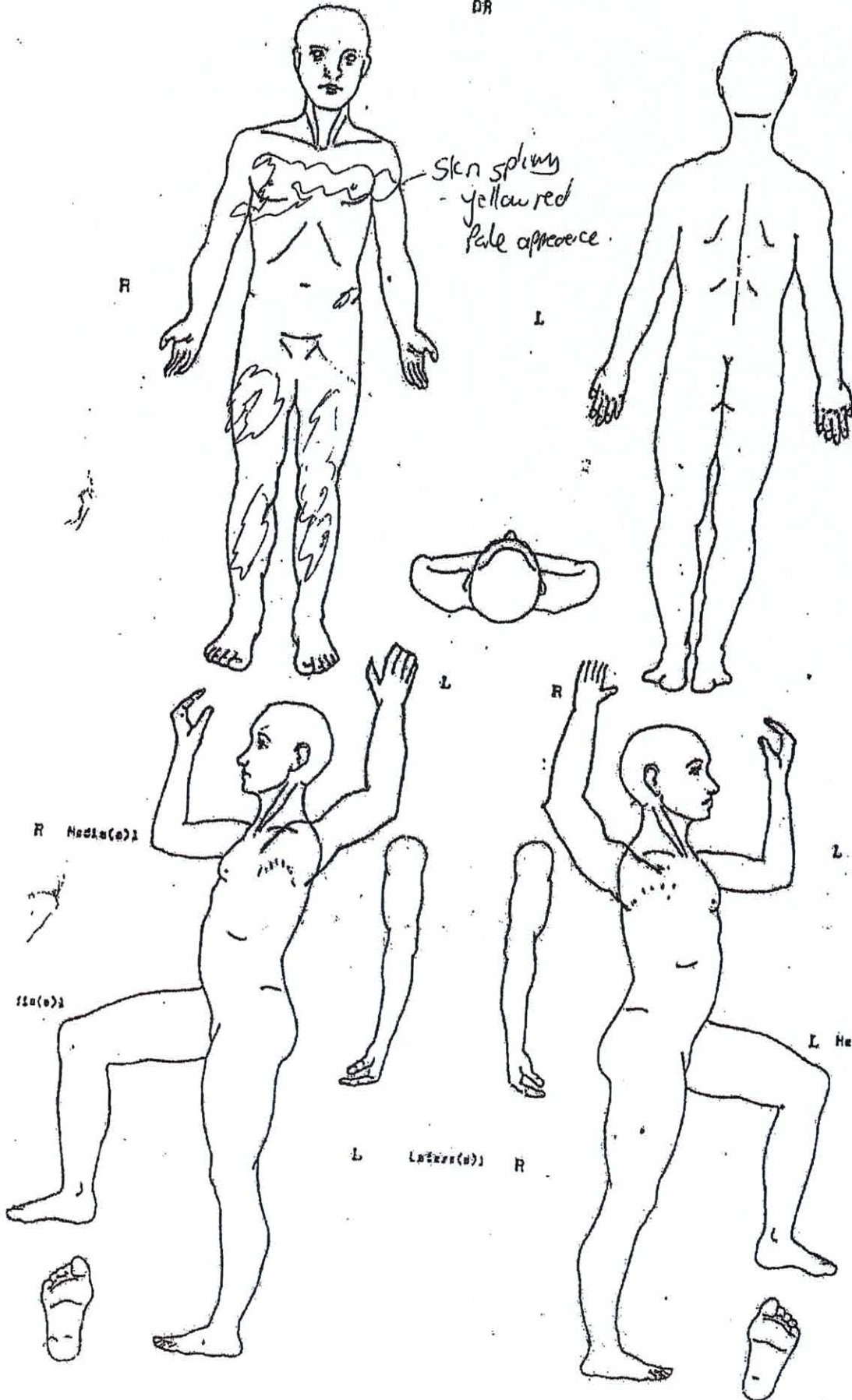
L. Hada(a)

R. Hada(a)

L. Hada(a)

L. Hada(a)

R



BDR	CAS number:	SAPS:	JHF	Page 1 of 3
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Cranium		Intestines and mesentery	
Intracranial contents (brain)	Hairline fracture of the skull (R) temporal + Deep scalp Haemorrhage. Large space occupying Extracerebral Haemorrhage ± 110ml Brain soft - Liquefied friable.	Liver	Gallbladder and biliary passages: • Bile: Soft friable.
		850	
		Pancreas	NA
Mouth, tongue and pharynx	No Soot noted	Spleen	Partially Soft Liquefied
		± 70	
Mediastinum and oesophagus	No soot.	R kidney	NA
		1120	Adrenals ✓
Trachea and bronchi	No soot. Strong smell of excrement (paraffin).	L kidney	NA
		± 120	Ureters ✓
L lung and pleura	Heavy Bilky congested ± 300ml Red port wine colored fluid.	Bladder	Urine: empty.
R lung and pleura	11 400ml.	Pelvic walls	Intact.
Heart and pericardium	NA.	Genital organs	Male Genitalia
Large blood vessels	NA.	Spine and spinal column	Intact.
Stomach	• Stomach contents: ± 50ml orange fluid	Other:	NA.

SPECIMEN	SEAL NUMBER	INVESTIGATION	DISPOSAL
Femoral blood	BAC		
	Toxicology		
	Carbonyl		

Investigating officer: WO/Cst/Sgt.....

Force number: .....

Contact cell number: .....

Hospital number: .....  
 DHA-1663 G 198 798  
 Photographer WO/Cst/Sgt.....