



**State
Police**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

KEVIN P. BRUEN
Acting Superintendent

March 31, 2021

Mr. Brian Reilly, CFE, CGFM
Audit Director
Office of the New York State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12236

Re: Audit 2019-S-44 – 180-day Update

Dear Mr. Reilly:

On behalf of the Division of State Police (“Division”) and in accordance with Executive Law § 170, the following is an update on the Division’s efforts to implement the recommendation detailed in the Office of the State Comptroller’s Audit Report (2019-S-44) concerning the Processing of Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kits (SOECKs) by the Division’s Forensic Investigation Center (“FIC”).

The Audit Report contained the following recommendation:

Recommendation:

Review the FIC’s ability to process kits within the statutory time frames and determine what process changes and resources are needed to meet Executive Law requirements.

NYSP 180-day response:

The Division has complied with this recommendation and will continue to evaluate its processes for this project. As reflected in the Comptroller’s Audit Report, the Division implemented several processes/initiatives prior to the commencement of the audit to address the processing of SOECKs. Those initiatives have been instrumental in making a positive impact on the FICs ability to meet Executive Law requirements. Further, the FIC continually reviews its workflow process to identify ways to improve efficiency and increase output of analyzed SOECKs. Since the Audit Report was issued, the FIC devoted additional resources to processing SOECKs by increasing the number of forensic scientists assigned to work primarily on SOECKs, including DNA analysts and serologists. The

FIC has also increased the number of forensic scientists cross trained in both disciplines, who can process a SOECK from start to finish, which provides more flexibility in terms of assigning and completing SOECK submissions.

In addition to increasing staff assigned to work on kits, the FIC is procuring a tracking software that will greatly improve the tracking and assignment of SOECK submissions to help ensure SOECKs are analyzed within the required statutory timeframes. The software will also enhance the FIC's ability to generate statistical and detailed reports with respect to SOECK submissions.

Although the current global pandemic presented unique and unforeseen challenges, the FIC's current monthly output of completed SOECKs exceeds pre-pandemic levels. The FIC anticipates being able to maintain, if not exceed, such output given the additional personnel assigned to the process and the impending acquisition of a tracking software.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information concerning the above.

Very truly yours,



Kevin P. Bruen
Acting Superintendent

cc: Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli, Comptroller
Hon. Kathy C. Hochul, Senate President
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate President Pro Tem and Majority Leader
Hon. Robert G. Ort, Senate Minority Leader
Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Majority Leader
Hon. William A. Barclay, Assembly Minority Leader
Hon. Liz Krueger, Senate Finance Committee, Chair
Hon. Thomas O'Mara, Senate Finance Committee, Ranking Member
Hon. Helene E. Weinstein, Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Chair
Hon. Edward P. Ra, Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Ranking Member