

# Hon Kris Faafoi

## Minister of Justice



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PĀNUI PĀPĀHO  
MEDIA STATEMENT

## Government to consider recommendations on DNA use in criminal investigations

The Minister of Justice has received the Law Commission's recommending changes to the law governing the way DNA is used in criminal investigations.

The report, called *The Use of DNA in Criminal Investigations – Te Whahamahi I te Ira Tangata I ngā Mātai Taihara*, recommends new legislation to address how DNA in criminal investigations is collected, used and stored, while also respecting tikanga Māori and te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Minister of Justice, Kris Faafoi, thanked the Law Commission and all involved for their work on the report and acknowledged the fundamental questions it has raised about the use of DNA in the criminal justice system. The Minister noted that the report would shortly be tabled in Parliament, in keeping with the requirement under the Law Commission Act 1985.

"I take note of the Law Commission's point that it is 25 years since the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act came into force in New Zealand. Developments in technology and scientific advancement over that time have increased considerably the potential ways DNA can be used, which couldn't have been contemplated when legislation was first passed in 1995," Kris Faafoi said.

"The Government will now consider the report's 193 recommendations and I look forward to studying them in more detail."

Among its recommendations, the Law Commission says the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act should be replaced with new legislation, and the Commission advises setting up a DNA Oversight Committee to monitor operation of any new DNA regime. Part of the Committee's role would be to monitor the impact on Māori.

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