# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 4147**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 50)**

**Dr W G James (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) With regard to the forensic chemistry laboratories in (a) Cape Town, (b) Pretoria, (c) Johannesburg and (d) Durban, (i) what amount of (aa) postmortem and (bb) premortem drunk driving blood alcohol samples were unprocessed as at 31 December 2014 and (ii) how many of the specified samples have since been processed;

(2) (a) how many new samples were received in 2015 in each of the specified forensic chemistry laboratories and (b) how many of the specified new samples have been processed to date?

###### NW5020E

**REPLY:**

1. (a) **Cape Town**

(aa) The unprocessed post-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 13280.

(bb) The unprocessed ante-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 1169.

All the post-mortem and ante- mortem blood alcohol samples that were received as at 31 December 2014 have been processed.

(b) **Pretoria**

(aa) The unprocessed post-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 3730.

(bb) The unprocessed ante-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 19683.

All the post-mortem blood alcohol samples that were received as at 31 December 2014 have been processed. Of the 19683 ante- mortem samples that were received as at 31 December 2014, 17080 (87%) samples have been processed.

(c) **Johannesburg**

(aa) The unprocessed post-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 3031.

(bb) The unprocessed ante-mortem blood alcohol samples at 31 December 2014 were 27767.

All the post-mortem blood alcohol samples that were received as at 31 December 2014 have been processed. Of the 27767 ante-mortem samples that were received as at 31 December 2014, 11401 samples have been processed. However, it should be noted that, in Johannesburg, in addition to the 11401 samples processed, all the backlog samples of 2011, 2012 and 2013 have all been completed.

(d) **Durban**

The question does not apply to Durban since the laboratory was not yet opened during this period in question.

1. **Cape Town**
2. The new blood alcohol samples received in 2015 are 19447;
3. The number of new blood alcohol samples that were received in 2015 which has been processed are 17866(92%)

**Pretoria**

1. The new blood alcohol samples received in 2015 are 14255;
2. The number of new blood alcohol samples that were received in 2015 which have been processed are 3835. The total number of samples, including the backlog, which has been processed in 2015, are 24645. Therefore, there were 10390 more samples processed in 2015 than the number specimens received in 2015.

**Johannesburg**

1. The new blood alcohol samples received in 2015 are 27860;
2. The number of new blood alcohol samples that were received in 2015 that have been processed are 5487. However, the total number of samples processed in 2015, including the backlog, is 19919(71%). However, it should be noted that, in Johannesburg, all the backlog samples of 2011, 2012 and 2013 have all been completed.

**Durban**

1. The new blood alcohol samples received in 2015 are 13184;
2. The number of new blood alcohol samples that were received in 2015 that have been processed are 12507(95%).

END.