



## 2017 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

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<b>From</b>	The FIA Stewards of the Meeting	<b>Document</b>	35
<b>To</b>	The Team Manager, Williams Martini Racing	<b>Date</b>	26 March 2017
		<b>Time</b>	13:37

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The Stewards, having received a report from the Technical Delegate (document 27), summoned (document 28) and heard the team representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**No / Driver** 18 - Lance Stroll

**Competitor** Williams Martini Racing

**Time** 21:19

**Session** Qualifying

**Fact** The team failed to inform the FIA Technical Delegate of a change of gearbox.

**Offence** Breach of Article 23.5 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.

**Decision** The Competitor (Williams Martini Racing) is fined €25,000 which is suspended during the 2017 FIA Formula One Championship.

**Reason** The Stewards heard from the team representative. It was agreed that the team did not affirmatively inform the FIA Technical Delegate of the change of gearbox that occurred between FP3 and qualifying on car 18. It was also understood by the Stewards that the wording of Art 23.5.c of the Sporting Regulations which references "consultation" is different from other articles which require "written notification" or other types of notification. Indeed the procedure after a gearbox change is a verbal notification of the Technical Delegate or one of his representatives, but this procedure is well known by all competitors, and in the view of the Stewards is vital to satisfy the consultation required in the regulation.

The Stewards reviewed video from the team of the gearbox change procedure; the team's own press release indicating the gearbox change and expected penalty; and reviewed the timing of the change and were completely satisfied that (a) there was no intent by the team not to inform the FIA and (b) there was no long term benefit to the team and that the omission was entirely due to the pressure of getting the car ready for Q1. Nevertheless, a number of the regulations rely on the teams communicating with the FIA, whether in writing or not, and this failed to happen in this case. Therefore the Stewards determined that a breach of Art 23.5 did occur.

The Stewards determined that this type of communication is vital to the operation of the events, and therefore viewed the breach as serious. However, in view of the administrative nature of the offence and clearly demonstrated lack of intent, the Stewards determined that a €25,000 (twenty five thousand Euro) fine is appropriate. This penalty shall be suspended for the 2017 season, pending compliance by the team with all required reporting under the Sporting Regulations, and shall be cancelled thereafter assuming compliance.

**Tim Mayer**

**Dennis Dean**

**Derek Warwick**

**Steve Chopping**

**The FIA Stewards of the Meeting**