The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (documents 23 & 24) and heard from the drivers and team representatives, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver 55 - Carlos Sainz
Competitor Scuderia Ferrari
Time 12:52
Session Practice 3
Fact Alleged unnecessary impeding of Car 23 by Car 55 in turn 13.
Infringment Alleged breach of Article 37.5 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.
Decision No further action
Reason The Stewards heard from the driver of Car 55 (Carlos Sainz), the driver of Car 23 (Alexander Albon), team representatives and reviewed positioning/marshalling system data, video, team radio and in-car video evidence.

The weather conditions resulted in significant visibility problems for the drivers especially on the straight between Turns 12 and 13. The team had previously been warned by Race Control about a similar incident the prior lap at the same location and we noted that communications between the team and driver were satisfactory.

The driver of Car 55 stated he knew of the approach of Car 23 but had to back off significantly because of the presence in front of him, of Car 1.

The wording of Article 35.7 includes the words “unnecessarily impedes another driver”. In this case both parties and the Stewards believe that this was not a case of unnecessarily impeding and that the driver of Car 55 acted in the manner he did in order to, in his view, avoid the car in front and the approaching car from behind.

Both drivers raised with the Stewards the issue of cars backing up at Turn 13. They strongly suggested that it would be better, in the wet, for any backing up to occur at Turn 10 where they believe there was better visibility. Drivers are reminded of their responsibilities under Article 33.4 of the Sporting Regulations.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.
Decisions of the Stewards are taken independently of the FIA and are based solely on the relevant regulations, guidelines and evidence presented.

Garry Connelly
Enrique Bernoldi

Mathieu Remmerie
Marcel Demers

The Stewards