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First Session First Parliament Republic of Trinidad  
and Tobago

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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Act No. 29 of 1977**

[L.S.]

AN ACT to amend the Indictable Offences (Preliminary  
Inquiry) Ordinance, Ch. 4. No. 1.

*[Assented to 1st June, 1977]*

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment  
follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Indictable Offences Short title  
(Preliminary Inquiry) (Amendment) Act, 1977.

Ordinance  
amended.  
Ch. 4. No. 1

2. The Indictable Offences (Preliminary Inquiry) Ordinance is amended by inserting immediately after section 24 thereof the following new section 24A:—

"Where  
deposition  
lost or  
destroyed

24A. (1) Where, after the preliminary inquiry into the complaint has been concluded, the deposition of any witness is lost or destroyed, the preliminary inquiry may be re-opened or a fresh preliminary inquiry may be held into the complaint for the purpose of taking the deposition of such witness.

(2) Where the original of the complaint, any deposition of a witness, any documentary exhibit thereto the statement if any, of the accused person, the warrant of committal for the trial or any recognizance entered into is lost or destroyed, then in all proceedings at the trial (whether summary or on indictment) or at a re-opened preliminary enquiry or a fresh preliminary enquiry or an enquiry under section 23(6), secondary evidence of the contents of such document may, in the discretion of the Court or Magistrate be admitted in every case in which the original document would be admissible.

(3) Without prejudice to any other method by which such fact may be proved—

(a) the fact that any document was lost or destroyed may be proved by the testimony of the officer in whose charge the document was last entrusted; and

(b) the fact that a document is a copy may be authenticated—

(i) where the document is a private document, by any evidence with which secondary evidence as to private documents may be authenticated; and

(ii) where the document is a public document, by a certified copy thereof issued by the officer to whose custody the original was entrusted.”

Passed in the House of Representatives this 6th day of May, 1977.

J. E. CARTER  
*Clerk of the House*

Passed in the Senate this 17th day of May, 1977.

R. L. GRIFFITH  
*Clerk of the Senate*