

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

David Mery
dmery@acm.org

Freedom of Information Officer
Northern Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Old Perth Road
INVERNESS
IV2 3SY

Telephone: (01463) 720519
Facsimile: (01463) 720853

Your Ref. **Our Ref 461/08**

Date: 1st December 2008

Dear Mr Mery,

Thank you for your e-mail of 28th November 2008 in which you ask for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

You have asked for information in respect of:

The detailed process that is followed to remove the DNA records of an individual whose DNA was sampled by your force (either because the lawful retention period expired or the chief of your police force decided to delete the DNA records for any other reason). I expect the process to describe the several steps required to ensure that the DNA samples are physically destroyed and the DNA profile deleted from the database(s) to which it has been uploaded: which actions are performed by which roles in which department, how is this verified, how is this communicated, etc.

The Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA <http://www.spsa.police.uk>) is responsible for the removal of DNA records from the database for Scotland. On their website you can find links to Forensic Services within SPSA <http://www.spsa-forensics.police.uk/services/dna>. Scottish forces hold statistical information about the number of records removed but the process is undertaken by SPSA. Therefore under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I must inform you that the information you have requested is not held. You may wish to approach SPSA for this information, which they will be able to give you in respect of all Scottish forces. There is a section on the SPSA website which tells you how to make requests of them under Freedom of Information.

If you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. However if you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of the decision made by the Force. Should you wish to request such review, please write to me within 40 days of receiving this letter. I will arrange for a senior officer, who has not been involved in my decision making process, to conduct a review as required by the Act. If, after having been informed of the review panel's decision, you are still not satisfied, you are then entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details for Mr Dunion, the Scottish Information Commissioner are Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464 610.

Yours sincerely

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Pam Sherriff
Freedom of Information Officer

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED