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Friday, 05 December 2008

Dear Mr Mery,

**FOI Reference No: FOI-2008127/378**

I write in connection with your request dated 17 Nov 2008 concerning the following:

1/ For each calendar year since 2002, how many DNA profiles were contributed by your force to the NDNAD.

2/ For each calendar year since 2002, how many DNA profiles were contributed to the NDNAD of individuals that were arrested by your force.

If this is different from the number of times officers from your force took DNA samples from arrested individuals, please provide this number as well and explain the reason for the difference.)

3/ For each calendar year since 2002, how many DNA profiles were contributed to the NDNAD of individuals that volunteered their DNA samples to your force.

If this is different from the number of times officers from your force took DNA samples from volunteers, please provide this number as well and explain the reason for the difference.)

4/ For each calendar year since 2002, how many requests for DNA records removals has your force received.

How many individuals who had their DNA taken when arrested sent these requests, and how many individuals who volunteered their DNA sent these requests.

5/ For each calendar year since 2002, how many requests for DNA records removals has your force agreed to (i.e., where the Chief Officer decided "Yes - Action the removal of PNC, fingerprint and DNA records" as described in the step down model flowchart).

How many were agreed for individuals who had their DNA taken when arrested; and how many were agreed for individuals who volunteered their DNA.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED

I intended to mean DNA profiles of individuals (both suspects and volunteers).

However, I would also find interesting, separately to find out the number of DNA profiles from crime stains.

In respect of question 3, by volunteers, are you referring to suspects who volunteered their DNA or persons who are not suspects (Volunteers)? Persons who are not suspect.

I would expect, for each calendar year, figures for questions 2) and 3) to add up to figures for question 1). If not I would expect explanation to the bracketed questions to help me understand why this is not the case.

I can confirm that we do hold this information but unfortunately it is not in an easily retrievable format. To obtain the information you seek would entail a manual check of each custody and crime record held since 2002. It has been estimated that the cost of providing you with this information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, which currently stands at £450 worth of work.

Our ACPO guidance states that we do not issue fees notices and therefore in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

If you would like to discuss this with me further do not hesitate to contact me.

## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

*Claire Vickers-Pearson*  
*Freedom of Information Project Officer*

pp Steven Harding  
Head of Information Management

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