

Our Ref: 165-08-601

Your Ref:

Mr David Mery
By e mail
dmery@acm.org



Information Access Team
Surrey Police H.Q
01483 630007

16th December 2008

Dear Mr Mery

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 165-08-601

I write in connection with your request for information received on 17th November 2008. I have repeated your questions below for ease of reference.

Q1. For each calendar year since 2002, how many DNA profiles were contributed by your force to the NDNAD.

Q2. 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.

Q3. 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.

Q4. 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.

Q5. 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.

A1-5. We are unable to provide you with a response as we do not hold this information in an easily retrievable format. The time and cost involved to go through each individual DNA profile to provide the information requested 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.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

Surrey Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. How to do this is set out in the attached Appeals Notice. Having followed the full procedure, if you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give your case consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Surrey Police. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact us on 01483 - 630007 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Mullen
Information Access Co-ordinator

From: "!Freedom of Information" <FOI@surrey.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: 165-08-601 Response to request for information
Date: 12 January 2009 15:15:59 GMT
To: "David Mery" <dmery@acm.org>
Cc: "!Freedom of Information" <FOI@surrey.pnn.police.uk>
Return-Receipt-To: "!Freedom of Information" <FOI@surrey.pnn.police.uk>

Dear Mr Mery

I have contacted the relevant department regarding your further e mail.

We are unable to find accurate information without examining every individual case.

The information regarding requests for removals we record is not recorded in a way that is specific just to DNA and it is usual that a request for removal involves both Fingerprints and DNA .

We have been able to locate that during 2008 there were 25 requests for removals of which 10 were agreed and the remainder are either ongoing , were rejected , or were asked for further information which as yet has not been forthcoming. However, because this information is not stored in an easily retrievable format we cannot guarantee these were the only requests for removals made in 2008 but if there are any missing we would think that it would be a small number(tens rather than hundreds).

Many thanks

Carolyn Mullen
Information Access Co-ordinator
Information Access Team
Strategic Support Directorate
Surrey Police

Tel: 01483 630728
Fax: 01483 634911
Email: <mailto:mullen10201@surrey.pnn.police.uk>
Not Protectively Marked

From: David Mery [mailto:dmery@acm.org]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 12:05
To: !Freedom of Information
Subject: Re: 165-08-601 Response to request for information

Dear Ms Mullen,

Thank you for this surprising and disappointing email. As you point out that no data is available, it would still be useful if from the discussions you had with the staff responsible to handle requests for removal, while attempting to respond, you can indicate the order of magnitude of the number of requests for removals received and granted in the last few years (i.e., none, a handful, tens, hundreds).

br -d

On 5 Jan 2009, at 20:11, !Freedom of Information wrote:

Dear Mr Mery

I have been in contact with the relevant department and passed on your request for the information on a smaller scale. Unfortunately as we do not collate this data, regardless of whether the information requested is on a smaller scale, it will still take over 18 hours to obtain.

I would like to reiterate that we cannot provide you with this information as it is not held in an easily retrievable format.

I regret that we cannot be of any further assistance.

Many thanks

Carolyn Mullen
Information Access Co-ordinator
Information Access Team
Strategic Support Directorate
Surrey Police

Tel: 01483 630728
Fax: 01483 634911
Email: <mailto:mullen10201@surrey.pnn.police.uk>
Not Protectively Marked

From: David Mery [<mailto:dmary@acm.org>]
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 12:37
To: !Freedom of Information
Subject: Re: 165-08-601 Response to request for information

Dear Ms Mullen,

Many thanks your assistance.

br -d

On 18 Dec 2008, at 11:29, !Freedom of Information wrote:

Dear Mr Mery

With regards to your e mail below, I have contacted the relevant department to see what the possibilities are for them to provide you with some useful information, but on a smaller scale within the 18 hours.

I will then contact you as soon as I have heard back from them.

Many thanks

Carolyn Mullen
Information Access Co-ordinator
Information Access Team
Strategic Support Directorate
Surrey Police

Tel: 01483 630728
Fax: 01483 634911
Email: <mailto:mullen10201@surrey.pnn.police.uk>
Not Protectively Marked

From: David Mery [<mailto:dmary@acm.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 13:16

To: !Freedom of Information

Subject: Re: 165-08-601 Response to request for information

Dear Ms Mullen,

Thank you for your email. May I remind you that, as specified in Section 16 of the Act, you have a duty to provide me with me advice and assistance.

You wrote that you do not hold information in an easily retrievable format and finding answers to the five questions I asked would require a manual review of many individual profiles and exceed cost and/or time constraints for a FOIA. That being the case would narrowing my request help make it possible for you to answer it while still providing me with useful information? I would appreciate your advice and assistance if there's any possibility to provide some answers within the acceptable constraints. If this means you can answer only some of the questions I asked, I would be most interested in order of priority by question 4 (requests for removal received), then 5 (requests granted), then 2 (CJ arrestees added), then 3 (volunteers added) and eventually 1 (total added). Another change which may help fit within the scope of acceptable constraints would be to reduce the range of years for which I asked data for.

I look forward to reading your advice.

br -d

On 16 Dec 2008, at 09:05, !Freedom of Information wrote:

<<Response Letter 165-08-601.pdf>> <<Surrey Appeals Notice.pdf>>

Many thanks

Carolyn Mullen

Information Access Co-ordinator

Information Access Team

Strategic Support Directorate

Surrey Police

Tel: 01483 630728

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