

From: "Information Compliance" <information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: RFI 1630**
Date: 16 December 2008 11:21:57 GMT
To: <dmery@acm.org>
Return-Receipt-To: "Information Compliance" <information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk>
Disposition-Notification-To: "Information Compliance" <information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk>

Dear Mr Mery

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: RFI 1630

I write in connection with your request for information which was dated 17th November and received on 18th November 2008. Please find below the response to your request:

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

REPLY:

2002 – No figures available
2003 – 4931
2004 – 7722
2005 – 8308
2006 – 9968
2007 – 8823
2008 – 7708 (up to Dec 2008)

Further information regarding the Forensic Science Service (FSS), the services that they offer and contact details can be found on their website www.forensic.gov.uk. It may be useful to contact the FSS directly for further assistance with your enquiry.

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.)

REPLY: Re Q2 and Q3, The information that you have requested is not available in a readily retrievable format. Details of whether a person was arrested prior to having their DNA taken or whether they volunteered to supply a sample is not recorded in a searchable format, it may be contained within the custody record but to ascertain this and identify information that may be relevant to you request would require a manual search of records. As advised above, there are in excess of 36615 records which would have to be reviewed therefore the cost of providing you with the 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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for this part of the request.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act I have a duty to provide advice and assistance in relation to your request. However, due to the volume of offences I have been unable to identify data which could be provided within the cost ceiling (even for a shorter period of time than requested).

The Home Office produce information that may be useful to you on their website www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/using-science/dna-database and in the annual reports such as [National DNA Database Annual Report for 2005-06 | Home Office](#)

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.

REPLY: WMC do not have any records for requests for DNA record removals prior to 2007. There were 5 recorded requests for removal in 2007 and there have been 17 to date (Jan – Nov) for 2008

Details of whether a person was arrested prior to having their DNA taken, or whether they volunteered to supply a sample, and then subsequently requested removal from the NDNAD is not recorded in a searchable format on WMC systems.

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.

REPLY: WMC do not have any records for the approval of DNA record removals prior to 2007. In 2007 2 requests resulted in the PNC record, DNA and fingerprints being removed from PNC, and there has been 1 to date (Jan – Nov) for 2008. Please note that these figures do not include requests for `step down` as the `step down` procedure does not involve destruction/removal of Photographs, DNA and fingerprints.

Details of whether a person was arrested prior to having their DNA taken, or whether they volunteered to supply a sample, and then subsequently had their details removed from the NDNAD is not recorded in a searchable format on WMC systems.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by our Central Data Unit and Criminal Investigation Department is as accurate and comprehensive as possible

Your attention is drawn to the below which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or telephone the Information Compliance Unit quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Forrest
Deputy Information Compliance Manager
Information Compliance Unit
Information Management and Technology Department
West Mercia Constabulary
PO Box 55

Hindlip
Worcester
WR3 8SP

01905 331545 / 331565

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require West Mercia Constabulary (WMC) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the person that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again -

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the person named at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of WMC made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with WMC to have the decision reviewed. WMC must be notified of your intention to complain within 2 months of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

West Mercia Constabulary Headquarters
Information Management and Technology Department
Hindlip Hall
Hindlip
PO Box 55
Worcester
WR3 8SP

In all possible circumstances, WMC will aim to respond to your complaint within 2 months.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with WMC if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545700

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Thank you for your co-operation.

West Mercia Constabulary