


From: "#Freedom of Information Requests" <FOIREQUESTS@avonandsomerset.police.uk>
Subject: Reply to Your Freedom of Information Request - 08/577
Date: 19 December 2008 14:00:27 GMT
To: <dmery@acm.org>
 1 Attachment, 51.5 KB

Corporate Information Management Department

Force Headquarters, PO Box 37, Valley Road,
Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8QJ
Facsimile 01275 814667

Our Reference: 08/577

Date: 19th December 2008

Private

David Mery
dmery@acm.org

Dear Mr Mery

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th November 2008 concerning the processing of DNA records by Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is below. Some of the information was held by Avon and Somerset Constabulary at the time of your request. In line with Sec 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (duty to assist) we have conducted further research in an effort to answer your request more fully. The additional information we have obtained is highlighted in yellow in the tables below.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

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

The table below shows the number of subject profiles and crime scene profiles contributed to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) yearly by Avon and Somerset Constabulary. The subject figures provided are for all subject sample profiles loaded to the NDNAD, they therefore include criminal justice (CJ), volunteer and reference profiles. These figures do not necessarily relate to the number of individuals as the number of subject profiles on the NDNAD is higher due to some individuals having replicated profiles. Replicates arise when samples are taken from the same subject on more than one occasion, for example, when an individual gives a different name upon arrest or when a force chooses to resample them.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008- to date 19/11/08
Crime Scene profiles*	2028	1862	8186	1628	1439	1291
All Subject profiles*	8563	9165	9913	14486	13800	11524

*Additional information supplied in line with Sec 16 FOI Act 2000

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.)

The table below shows the number of CJ subject samples received by Avon and Somerset Constabulary Scientific Investigations Department and the number of CJ subject profiles loaded yearly on to the NDNAD by Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Again these figures do not necessarily relate to numbers of individuals as the number of subject profiles on the NDNAD is higher than the number of individuals as some of the profiles held are replicates.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 - to date 19/11/08	
CJ samples received by Scientific Investigations Department						9053	8654
	12276					11324	14687
CJ profiles loaded on to NDNAD*	8560	8850	9831	14333	13714	11398	15280

*Additional information supplied in line with Sec 16 FOI Act 2000

Previously if an individual already had a confirmed profile on the NDNAD we would not automatically send the new sample for profiling unless it was required evidentially. This has changed and we now send all PACE (Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984) samples for individuals even if they have a previous (pre-PACE) confirmed profile. NB. These figures may include a small number of samples taken by other police forces on our behalf. Due to the searching restrictions of our case management system we are unable to exclude these from the figures.

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.)

The table below shows the number of volunteer subject samples received by Avon and Somerset Constabulary Scientific Investigations Department and the number of volunteer subject profiles loaded yearly on to the NDNAD by Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Again these figures do not necessarily relate to numbers of individuals as the number of subject profiles on the NDNAD is higher than the number of individuals as some of the profiles held are replicates.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 - to date 19/11/08	
Volunteer Samples received by Scientific Investigations Department						0	0
	399	366	117				160
Volunteer profiles loaded on to NDNAD*	0	310	56	146	72	117	

*Additional information supplied in line with Sec 16 FOI Act 2000

The difference in figures for 2004 is due to the fact that volunteer samples were not recorded on our case management system at that time. The number of samples taken and the number of profiles loaded on to the NDNAD differ due to the fact that some samples are taken but are not submitted for profiling. Also volunteer profiles cannot be loaded on to the NDNAD unless the consent section of the DNA sampling form is completed.

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.

This information was not recorded prior to 2006. Figures are only held in relation to arrested persons who had DNA samples taken. We do not hold the information in relation to volunteers.

Number of requests received for removal of DNA profile from NDNAD:

2006	3
2007	63
2008 (to date)	90

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.

This information was not recorded prior to 2006. Figures are only held in relation to arrested persons who had DNA samples taken. We do not hold the information in relation to volunteers.

Number of requests for removal of DNA profile from NDNAD that were agreed:

2006	2
2007	11
2008	20

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer

Freedom of Information Officer
Corporate Information Management Department

Please note:

- 1 . Requests and responses may be published on Avon and Somerset Constabulary's website (within 24 hours), some of which may contain a link to additional information, which may provide you with further clarification.
- 2 . Whilst we may verbally discuss your request with you in order to seek clarification, all other communication should be made in writing.
- 3 . Avon and Somerset Constabulary provides you with the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure (copy enclosed).

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