



Ms Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer

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Our Ref: AFB

8 December 2008

Mr D Mery
dmary@acm.org

Dear Mr Mery

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT Reference No F-2008-484

With reference to your request for information received on 18 November 2008, I note you seek access to the following information:

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.

We have now been able to consider the disclosure of this information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests for information in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requester. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

We consider that to endeavour to retrieve this information would require manual searching of every record that meets the criteria and endeavour to assess the outcome record. We consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.



I would like to advise that the information you seek can be requested from The National Policing Improvement Agency, and their website address is www.npia.police.uk.

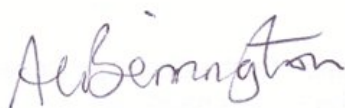
Complaint Rights

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Bedfordshire Police.


Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Berrington". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Ms Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer



From: "Freedom of Information" <foi@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk>
Subject: **RE: FOIA request concerning the processing of DNA records**
Date: 10 December 2008 13:10:28 GMT
To: "David Mery" <dmery@acm.org>
 1 Attachment, 309 KB

Dear Mr Mery

Please see attached acknowledgement for you new FOI request. I cannot answer your query regarding Q4 under the FOI Act as this information is a personal opinion of an employee and not true factual information held by Bedfordshire Police.

My own opinion is not releasable under the FOI Act. In this case, the member of staff spoken to for this information meant very low to be one or two cases of DNA removal. My original response remains that S12 is engaged for both questions 4 and 5.

Yours sincerely

Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer
ext 2213

-----Original Message-----

From: David Mery [mailto:dmery@acm.org]
Sent: 09 December 2008 12:43
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: Re: FOIA request concerning the processing of DNA records

Dear Ms Berrington,

Thank you for your email, though it is disappointing that none of the information I seek is available within the cost constraints.

As the "the number of DNA samples taken" is the one data available, even though not exactly what I was after it will still give me an order of magnitude for the volume of DNA samples your force is dealing with.

Can you please provide me with this data for all the calendar years since 2005 for which the data is held by the Bedfordshire Police.

You wrote that for Q4 & 5, "I can confirm that this number would be very low." I assume you mean this for Q4 (the number of requests received). The number for Q5 (how many of these were granted) is obviously less (the number for all the English and Welsh forces combined is what I would say is low as the maximum per year in the last five years was 310 in 2007).

Can you please specify what "very low" means to you? Whether this is indeed for Q4. And whether you confirm this for the last four years or only for a specific year?

br -d

FYI there's a typo in the URL you included to a page on the Home

Office website! The correct URL is:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/using-science/dna-database/>

If you answer other FOIA requests on the NDNAD you may also want to include a link to the NPIA as this where the latest NDNAD annual report is available:

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/8934.htm>

On 9 Dec 2008, at 12:00, Freedom of Information wrote:

Dear Mr Mery

In response to your below query please allow me to define my response letter:-

Q 1-3. I deemed this as over costs as these statistics are not held by Bedfordshire Police. A report for our computer system would have to be written to enable this data to be extracted which would engage S12, as explained in my letter dated 8 December.

The only data that is held by Bedfordshire Police is the number of DNA samples taken but these are not necessarily added to the database as samples may be faulty or insufficient for loading into the DNA database.

The National DNA Database will be able to give you exact details of samples loaded per Force and their address is;

DNA Database
Forensic Science Service
P O Box 12522
West Bromwich
B70 1AJ.

You will probably find the following website very informative also:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/usingscience/dna-database

Q4-5. These are also deemed as S12 over costs, as a manual search of all the Chief Constable's correspondence would have to be undertaken. I can confirm that this number would be very low.

I hope this is of further use to you.

Yours sincerely

Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer
ext 2213

-----Original Message-----

From: David Mery [mailto:dmery@acm.org]
Sent: 08 December 2008 16:34



Ms Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer
Corporate Development Department, 'M' Division
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Our Ref: AFB

9 January 2009

Mr D Mery
dmery@acm.org

Dear Mr Mery

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT Reference No F-2008-501

With reference to your request for information received on 9 December, I note you seek access to the following information:

As the "the number of DNA samples taken" is the one data available, even though not exactly what I was after it will still give me an order of magnitude for the volume of DNA samples your force is dealing with. Can you please provide me with this data for all the calendar years since 2005 for which the data is held by the Bedfordshire Police.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and **therefore in the public domain without caveat.**

In response to your questions, I have today decided to release the information requested in full on the attached sheet, as I can see no harm to any individual, the community, the police service or other bodies. After considering whether releasing this information will affect the good order and functioning of community, government or other public service affairs, I believe it is in the public's interest the information be released. The information lies within the arena of public safety and may provide common benefit to members of the community. Releasing this information will not identify any individual or compromise any court case, law enforcement or investigation.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Bedfordshire Police. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Ms Angela Berrington
Information Services Officer

DNA SAMPLES TAKEN

Please note: Not all samples taken would be loaded to the National DNA database.

There is no need to have duplicate samples on the database therefore all samples taken are checked and, if found to be duplicates, destroyed in-force ie, not sent to the Lab for profiling

A small number of samples, when profiled, fail, or are insufficient, therefore these too cannot be loaded to the NDNADB

BEDFORDSHIRE	Samples taken
2002/03	5371
2003/04	4865
2004/05	4888
2005/06	6453
2006/07	6629
2007/08	5916