



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Date: 12th January 2009

Our Ref: FOI/502/08

Contact: Alice Duarte

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By email only to : dmary@acm.org

Dear Mr Mery,

Thank you for your request for information on concerning the processing of DNA records by Hertfordshire Constabulary including the following.

I am able to confirm that your request has been processed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI). Following enquiries within the Constabulary I have answered your questions in the order you have raised them.

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

Hertfordshire Constabulary does not hold the information prior to 2005. Since 2005 Hertfordshire Constabulary submits approximately 1000 profiles per month of individual DNA.

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.)

I regret to inform you that I cannot provide you with the information you have requested in respect of questions 2 and 3 for individual DNA and questions 1,2 and 3 for crime scene profiles. Section 17 of the Act requires the constabulary, when refusing to provide such information because of the application of an exemption, to provide you with a notice which i) states that fact; ii) specifies the exemption in question; and iii) states why the exemption applies.

It is considered that that the information you have requested is exempt by virtue of Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 12 (1) states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost with complying with request would exceed the appropriate limit.

You may find it useful to look at the Freedom Information ([Fees and Appropriate Limit](#)) [Regulations 2004](#) (for more information on fees limits please follow highlighted web link).

I have been informed by the Forensic Services Department that this data is not held in an easily retrievable format. To gain particulars from each record would involve

searching [manually] through all the forensic submissions since 2005 to identify relevant statements and read through the same which would take several weeks to collate and therefore exceed the appropriate limit to retrieve an accurate response to your question.

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.

Hertfordshire Constabulary does not have figures for 2002 - 2005 as the ACPO Exceptional Case Procedure came into force in 2006. The numbers of requests we have had since then have been as follows:

2006 = 22

2007 = 36

2008 (as at today) = 22

All of the requests have come from individuals who were arrested and had their DNA samples taken.

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.

The numbers of cases where Hertfordshire Constabulary has agreed to remove an individual's DNA and associated records either in accordance with the ACPO Exceptional Case procedure or at the discretion of the DCC are as follows:

2006 = 10

2007 = 9

2008 (as at today) = 10.

Again, all of these cases relate to those who had their DNA taken following an arrest.

Yours sincerely,



Alice Duarte

Freedom of Information Assistant

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. If you decide to request such a review and having followed Hertfordshire Constabulary's full process and you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.