

Freedom of Information Office
Resources Directorate
Warwickshire Police Headquarters

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Date: 10 December, 2008

Mr D. Mery
dmery@acm.org

Dear Mr. Mery,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: F-2008-00445

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17 November, 2008 which was received by Warwickshire Police on 17 November, 2008, in which 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.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Warwickshire Police to locate information relevant to your request. Please find below the responses to your questions.

Q1. and Q2. Please note the following regarding the following Data Submission by Forensic Development Unit (FDU) in answer to Q1 and Q2:

- a) DNA Samples refer to Recorded Crimes Data as per Forensic Data Management Figures.
- b) DNA Samples refer to 'Persons' only, not crime stains taken from crime scenes.
- c) FDU does not hold data sets which categorise samples, e.g. volunteer, arrestee, etc, although it should be pointed out that volunteer samples tend not to be loaded to the National DNA Database.

DNA Samples taken

2002: 3484
2003: 3363
2004: 2924
2005: 3811
2006: 4561
2007: 4896
2008 (January to September): 3097

DNA Samples loaded to Database

2002: 3157
2003: 3193
2004: 2500
2005: 3375
2006: 4229
2007: 4878
2008 (January to September): 3156

Differences between these two figures noted above can be due to a number of reasons:

- a) Subject may already have a profile on the NDNAD,
- b) Administrative failures,
- c) Processing failures at laboratory,
- d) Sample taken for evidential reasons not required, i.e., a sample taken to confirm person in custody is one-in-the-same as the person named on the NDNA is not required (e.g., person admits offence on basis of forensic intelligence or other evidence).
- e) Pending submissions can fall into different reporting periods.

Q3. No records exist for previous years. Since September 2008 records have been kept of volunteer samples submitted to a Forensic Provider. Fourteen samples have been submitted but the number of loaded samples are not known as these details are not collated. The majority of volunteer samples are taken from complainants rather than suspects and the form allows the complainant to authorise the sample to be loaded to the database or not.

Q4. None.

Q5. No information is held, no records are retained.

Appeal Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of appeal

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely



Sabina Harris
Information Compliance Officer



WARWICKSHIRE POLICE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEALS PROCEDURE

This appeals procedure is issued in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Lord Chancellor's Freedom of Information Access Code of Practice.

Appeal Notification

When a Freedom of Information (FOI) applicant, who has made a request for information, is dissatisfied with the response received from Warwickshire Police, the FOI applicant should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons why the response is deemed unsatisfactory.

Should a person who feels that Warwickshire Police is not complying with its Publication Scheme, the person should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons for their dissatisfaction.

Action by Warwickshire Police

When a dissatisfaction report is received, the circumstances of the dispute will be reviewed initially by the Decision Makers in the Freedom of Information Office.

If the Decision Makers are unable to resolve the dispute with the FOI applicant, the dispute will be referred to a Board comprising a Head of Department and a Chief Officer. The Board will not have been involved in the original decision making process to compile the response.

The Board will consider the dispute and will advise the FOI applicant of their decision as soon as practicable but within 60 working days.

Further Action by FOI Applicant

If the FOI applicant remains dissatisfied with the Warwickshire Police response, they then have the option to refer the case to the Information Commissioner.