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Friday, 06 March 2009

Dear Mr Mery,

FOI Reference No: FOI-20083/21269

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11 Dec 2008 and listed below. Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is as follows:

Based on your figures, my calculation shows that the above revised questions would require approximately 17 hours (possibly even less as I reduced the date range for all questions).

Can you please confirm that you agree with my understanding and calculation, and let me know when you will likely be able to provide me with a response?

1/ Question withdrawn.

2/ For each calendar year since 2005, how many DNA profiles were contributed to the NDNAD of individuals that were arrested by your force.

2005 - 25058
2006 - 32664
2007 - 24412
2008 - 17544 notified to 12/12/08

The above figures refer to DNA samples routed via the DNA Bureau only and may not include all profiles that have been submitted via another force on behalf of West Yorkshire Police or those that may have been submitted direct to the laboratory by the Senior Investigation Officer as part of an on-going investigation.

3/ For each calendar year since 2005, how many DNA profiles were contributed to the NDNAD of individuals that volunteered their DNA samples to your force.

Please note that the Volunteer Database contains samples that are kept indefinitely, West Yorkshire Police have obtained the volunteer's written consent for this to occur, before they are loaded on to it.

No of Volunteer Profiles

2005 - 148
2006 - 302

2007 - 655

2008 - 437

Please note that the above figures refer to volunteer samples routed via the DNA Bureau only and do not include volunteer samples that are taken and submitted direct to the laboratory, such as when the police service ask for volunteers for elimination purposes following a crime being committed, these refer to samples where consent has not been gained and the sample is destroyed after being used for elimination purposes. Also, be aware that a further 472 volunteer profiles have been taken and loaded onto the National DNA Database within the time frame requested but we are unable to confirm the load date, therefore these are additional profile numbers that need to be added to the above figures quoted, if a total figure for the period is required.

4/ For each calendar year since 2005, 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 2005, 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.

Year	**Total Number of Exceptional Case Requests	Arrested Persons DNA Removed	Volunteer Persons DNA Removed
2005	5	3 Exceptional Cases.	None
2006	13	7 Exceptional Cases.	None
2007	35	16 Exceptional Cases.	None
2008	40	9 Exceptional Cases.	None
2009	13	4 Exceptional Cases.	None

** Please note that exceptional case requests can include requests for removal from the National DNA database, fingerprints, Police National Computer or a combination of all three databases. Also be aware that West Yorkshire Police have received no requests for removal of profiles from persons who have volunteered their DNA, therefore the figures quoted under this column represent requests from arrested persons only.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request. This is due to a large volume of Freedom of Information requests that are currently being dealt with by West Yorkshire Police.

Police forces providing information do not use generic systems, nor are the procedures used for capturing the data the same. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Janette Mitchell
Freedom of Information Project Officer

pp
Steven Harding
Head of Information Management

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