



Home Office

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[Sent 16th June 2009]

david@gizmonaut.net
Mr David Mery

Reference: T8416/9

Dear Mr Mery,

Thank you for your e-mail of 16/05/2009 at 2:22:34 AM asking for copies of all correspondence entered into with Ken Pease and the Jill Dando Institute by the Home Office in relation to any aspect of the Home Office consultation on DNA retention titled 'Keeping the right people on the DNA database'.

I can confirm that the Home Office holds the information that you requested. However I am not obliged to disclose it to you. After careful consideration we have decided that this information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of section 35 (formulation or development of government policy) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information we are withholding under section 35 covers advice and policy discussions between officials, as well as communications between Ministers, on policy relating to the European Convention on Human Rights and its impact on police practices, and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 which provides the basis for the taking and retention of DNA and fingerprints.

Information provided by the Jill Dando Institute can already be found within the public domain via Annex C of the 'Keeping the right people on the DNA database', consultation document which can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-dna-database/>.

We have notified The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) who commissioned the Jill Dando Institute to complete the research contained within the consultation document of our response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting your complaint to the below address quoting reference CR12048.

Information Rights Team
Information and Record Management Service
Home Office
4th Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Email: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

During the independent review the department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Ami Badmus
Policing Powers and Protection Unit