



By e-mail to request-762-a7c8ab2c@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 42113

15th July 2008

Dear Mr Washington,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding the National DNA Database, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, dated and received by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on 19th June 2008.

You asked for the following information:

1. *How many samples are in the database?*
2. *How many people had their DNA sampled while under 18?*
3. *How many people had their DNA sampled while under 16?*
4. *How many people had their DNA sampled but were released without charge?*
5. *How many people had their DNA sampled, were charged, not acquitted in court?*

In response to your request we are able to provide you with the following information.

1. *How many samples are in the database?*

The National DNA Database (NDNAD) holds both DNA profiles derived from samples taken from known individuals (referred to as subject sample profiles) and also DNA profiles derived from samples left at unsolved crime scenes from unknown individuals (referred to as crime scene sample profiles).

As at 25/06/08 there were 5,187,700 subject sample profiles retained on the NDNAD.

This figure does not equate to the actual number of individuals on the NDNAD; the number of subject profiles on the NDNAD is higher than the number of individuals because some of the profiles held are replicates. Replicates arise from samples being taken from the same subject on more than one occasion for example where a person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests or where a Police Force chooses to resample them to improve the discriminating power or evidential value of the sample.

As at 25/06/08 there were also 330,609 crime scene sample profiles retained on the NDNAD.

2. How many people had their DNA sampled while under 18?

As at 25/06/08 of the 5,187,700 subject sample profiles retained on the NDNAD, 1,091,898 were aged under 18 when they were loaded to the NDNAD. Again due to the presence of some replicate samples from the same individuals being on the NDNAD this does not equate to the actual number of individuals aged under 18.

3. How many people had their DNA sampled while under 16?

Of the 5,187,700 subject profiles retained on the NDNAD, 615,852 were aged under 16 when they were loaded to the NDNAD. Again due to the presence of some replicate samples from the same individuals being on the NDNAD this does not equate to the actual number of individuals aged under 16 when loaded to the NDNAD.

4. How many people had their DNA sampled but were released without charge?

5. How many people had their DNA sampled, were charged, not acquitted in court?

The NDNAD does not hold information on the arrest and criminal histories of the individuals from whom DNA samples are taken. Data on the arrest and conviction histories of persons with a profile on the DNA Database is held on the Police National Computer (PNC) but is not routinely available. The main function of the PNC is to support operational policing and the investigation of crime; it is not an information database for statistical purposes.

National Policing Improvement Agency

We are therefore unable to provide any information on the numbers of people whom have had their DNA sampled but were released without charge and whom have had their DNA sampled and were charged and not acquitted in court.

However, some data on the number of persons on the NDNAD who have no conviction, caution etc has been obtained from the PNC in the past, mainly for research purposes. This involves the writing of a special programme or script to obtain the relevant data. The process of writing, testing and running the script is costly and can take several days.

The last report ran to obtain information on the numbers of people on the NDNAD whom have committed no offence was run on 31/03/08.

It is not possible to give a precise figure for the number of persons with a DNA profile on the NDNAD whom have committed no offence as some relevant conviction and caution records have been weeded from the PNC.

Data obtained from the Police National Computer (PNC) on 31 March indicates that 3,832,986 (of the 4,116,713) persons had a record retained on PNC. Of these, 3,259,347 persons had a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC (79% of persons on the NDNAD sampled by forces in England and Wales); and 573,639 persons (14% of persons on the NDNAD sampled by forces in England and Wales) had no current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC. The PNC records for the other 283,727 persons (7% of persons on the NDNAD) had been removed from the PNC for various reasons, for example, their conviction and caution records had been weeded after 5-10 years, the person had been acquitted or proceedings were discontinued.

Please note this information is for people sampled by English and Wales forces only and not the whole of the NDNAD.

Further statistical information relating to the NDNAD is published in the National DNA Database Annual Reports which are available for download on the Home Office web-site at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/using-science/dna-database/>.



We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 3 – 6 weeks. You should write to:

National Policing Improvement Agency

Gavin McKinnon
Head of Secretariat
National Policing Improvement Agency
10-18 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0NN

E-mail: gavin.mckinnon@npia.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the NPIA. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Further information about the NPIA is routinely published on our website at www.npia.police.uk or through our publication scheme. If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address above.

Yours sincerely,

Chike Chinukwue

Chike Chinukwue
Information Service Support Manager
National Policing Improvement Agency