

**Paula Keaveney**

By e-mail to [request-13173-114409be@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-13173-114409be@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Reference: 46770

7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear Ms Keaveney,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding the National DNA Database (NDNAD), made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, dated and received by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

You asked for the following information:-

*Please can you give me the following information in respect of Liverpool.*

- 1. How many children or young people aged under 18 have their details stored on the national DNA database?*
- 2. What other information is held alongside the DNA information in the case of each of these individuals?*
- 3. What is the youngest age of an individual for which there is material held on the DNA database?*
- 4. How many samples were taken in the last calendar year (2008)?*
- 5. How many of these individuals, for which data is held, have been found guilty of an offence?*

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

The NDNAD is not a criminal records database. It holds very little information about a subject's identity – only their name, date of birth, sex and ethnic appearance. It

does not hold any information relating to the address of subjects held on it. We are therefore unable to provide any information on the number of people from Liverpool retained on the NDNAD as we do not hold this information in the format requested.

Information held on the NDNAD includes the name of the police force which submitted the DNA sample and also a division/ station code. Information has been previously released in relation to the London borough of Camden. The Metropolitan Police is split into borough operational command units with defined boundaries. It is therefore possible to obtain information down to borough level for the Metropolitan Police using the division codes for samples submitted. In the case of Camden, the boundaries to the borough and the stations within the borough have not changed and the division codes for the borough are easily distinguishable. This is the criteria that is necessary for us to provide information lower than Force level. Police forces, other than the Metropolitan Police Service, do not satisfy these criteria.

The information provided in this response relates to sample records submitted to the NDNAD by the Merseyside Police Service as a whole. These subjects are not necessarily resident in the area covered by the Merseyside Police Service but were arrested or detained and had a DNA sample taken by this police force or volunteered a sample to this police force.

*1. How many children or young people aged under 18 have their details stored on the national DNA database?*

When considering the age of people held on the NDNAD, the date of birth (DOB), as held on the NDNAD, for a subject is used. The DOB held on NDNAD for a subject is provided by the individual to the police officer at the time of arrest. On occasions, this may not be their true DOB and for a very small percentage of records the DOB is unknown.

As at 24/06/09 there were 9,650 subject profiles retained on the NDNAD submitted by Merseyside police from people aged under 18 as at 24/06/09.

The figures provided relate to the number of subject *profiles* held on the NDNAD and thus do not equate to the actual number of *individuals* held 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.

The figures cover all subjects loaded to the NDNAD and therefore cover both subjects who provided a sample voluntarily, for example for elimination purposes within the context of a specific case, and also criminal justice samples which are those taken from individuals following an arrest for a recordable offence.

*2. What other information is held alongside the DNA information in the case of each of these individuals?*

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available on the Home Office website, below is a link to this document. The information is in appendix B.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-dna-database/dna-consultation?view=Binary>

*3. What is the youngest age of an individual for which there is material held on the DNA database?*

The current age of the youngest persons held on the NDNAD submitted by Merseyside Police force is aged 10.

The Home Secretary announced on 16 December 2008 that the DNA profiles of all children aged under ten would be removed from the NDNAD. Following the Home Secretary's announcement, the Chair of the NDNAD Strategy Board wrote to the Chief Constables of all forces in England and Wales asking them to remove the profiles of any children aged under 10 on the NDNAD. The removal of these profiles has now been completed and all DNA profiles taken from children aged under 10 submitted by police forces in England and Wales have been deleted from the NDNAD.

*4. How many samples were taken in the last calendar year (2008)?*

The information provided covers those samples taken and loaded to the NDNAD.

17,535 subject profiles were loaded to the NDNAD by Merseyside in 2008 in total (covers all ages).

Again the figures cover all subjects loaded to the NDNAD and therefore cover both subjects who provided a sample voluntarily, for example for elimination purposes within the context of a specific case, and also criminal justice samples which are those taken from individuals following an arrest for a recordable offence.

*5. How many of these individuals, for which data is held, have been found guilty of an offence?*

The NDNAD does not hold information on the individual cases for which DNA samples were taken or the arrest histories of the subjects who provide the samples. We are therefore unable to provide any information on the number of individuals, for which data is held, which have been found guilty of an offence.

Further statistical information relating to the NDNAD is published in the National DNA Database Annual Reports the latest of these is available for download on the NPIA web-site at <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/11403.htm> . Previous years reports are available for download from the Home Office web-site at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/using-science/dna-database/>.

### **Your right to complain**

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:

David Horne  
Director of Resources  
National Policing Improvement Agency  
10-18 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0NN

E-mail: david.horne@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](http://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,

NDNAD Delivery Unit

NPIA.