

Paul Hangman
request-15021-4295049b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 47058

26th February 2010

Dear Mr Hangman,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding the DNA database, dated 31st January, 2010 made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for the following information in relation to DNA profiles/samples relating to non recordable offences:

thank you for the response to my query. You have explained that there are two _confirmed_ cases of duplicate SGM+ DNA profiles known to the NPIA after investigating 7165 replicates.

Interestingly your point 8 could be interpreted to mean that there are, additionally, almost 1900 pairs of matches for which you offer no explanation, ie:

7165 - (2x1092 confirmed from twins) - (3x3 confirmed from triplets) - (1183 confirmed from false ID's etc) - (2x2 known actual duplicates) = 3785 unexplained replicates, or 1892.5 pairs.

I think this could be worth further enquiry. It may simply be that the DQIT team has not yet had time to check out the remaining replicates thoroughly, or I have misinterpreted your point 8. Perhaps they have been determined to differ at STR's outside the usual SGM+ profile.

I can confirm that the NPIA holds the information you have requested.

1. All the 7165 replicate profiles provided in Point 8 of FOIA 46983 have been investigated and relate to 3566 groups of profiles. The figures provided in relation to identical twins, triplets and profiles from the same individual relate to replicate groups. Each replicate group investigated by the Data Quality and Integrity Team (DQIT) may contain more than 2 DNA profiles e.g. If an individual had been sampled three times under Police National Computer (PNC) ID1 and his/her twin brother/sister sampled once under PNCID2, this would be counted as four replicate profiles, but only 1 set of identical twins.

2. In the response provided by the NPJA to FOIA 46983 it was stated that if there is enough evidence to confirm two matching DNA samples were taken from the same individual, the DQIT will request the owning Police Force to merge the two PNC records. An example of this evidence would include matching fingerprints on the two PNC records. As stated in the response to FOIA 46983 there were 1183 groups of profiles where this occurred. If there is less evidence, but there is a strong indication that the samples were taken from the same individual then a 'may be identical' information marker is entered onto each PNC record by DQIT. The information marker alerts any operator/officer viewing the records that there is a strong indication that they relate to the same individual. All available information from both the Police National Computer and the Police Force that owns the DNA sample is used to assess each replicate group. If it is suspected that two matching DNA samples do not relate to the same individual further work will be carried out by the Forensic Provider laboratories to look at additional DNA markers. In the period 01/01/07 – 10/12/09 DQIT placed a 'may be identical' marker onto 1162 groups of records where the supporting information provides a strong indication that the matching DNA samples were taken from the same individual.

In summary, the 3566 groups of profiles are as follows:

Twins	- 1092
Triplets	- 3
Known actual duplicates	- 2
False identities	- 1183
Groups which may be identical	- 1162
Groups with an anomaly	- 125 (details are provided in point 3)
Total	- 3567

3. During the period 01/01/07 – 10/12/09 DQIT have investigated approximately 125 groups where there was an anomaly with a record held in the group. If an anomaly is discovered this will be reported to the owning Police Force and the record is either amended, deleted or the samples re-analysed as appropriate.

Further statistical information relating to the NDNAD is also published in the National DNA Database Annual Reports. The most recently published NDNAD Annual reports are available for download on the NPJA website at <http://www.npia.police.uk/en/14189.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:

National Policing Improvement Agency

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 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.