

Paul Honigmann

request-15021-4295049b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 46851

26th August 2009

Dear Mr Honigmann,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding the DNA database, dated 23rd July 2009 made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for the following information:

How many true duplicate DNA fingerprints are there in the NDNAD? I refer not to the 13.7% of entries which are currently ascribed to double-entries of the same individual ("replicates"), nor to the identical fingerprints of twins and triplets, but actual, proven cases of two or more non-identical-siblings having the same DNA fingerprint. Ideally, I would appreciate the information in the form "2,700 known duplicates, 113 triplicates" etc.

To aid you in tracking down this information - this data is probably held by the Data Quality and Integrity Team (DQIT) who work for the NDNAD's Custodian.

It may be that the information is available more readily through the Match Reporting Database (MRDB) or Management Information Database (MID) which were created specifically to get round limitations in the NDNAD. These are anonymised, thus conveniently fall outside the Data Protection Act.

The National DNA Database Annual Report 2004-5 (page 9) makes it clear that when SGS+ was introduced as the DNA fingerprinting scheme, it was not known what the occurrence of duplicates would be and a large scale exercise was in progress to determine this at the time. There was obviously concern at the time over the issue of duplicates. With a database now in excess of 4.6 million fingerprints, and simple statistical analysis, this information is presumably now readily available.

I am writing to advise you I have established that the NPIA holds some of the information you have requested.

The National DNA Database Unit's Data Quality and Integrity Team (DQIT) are responsible for the ongoing review of replicate SGM Plus DNA samples that are recorded on 2 or more different PNC records.

To date the Data Quality and Integrity Team has only identified one confirmed match, where two people have the same DNA profile, when the SGM Plus test type has been used. The two samples in this match were taken from non-identical siblings. Further work carried out by Forensic Provider laboratories on both DNA samples looking at additional DNA markers has shown a difference in the DNA profile of these individuals. Due to the Data Protection Act we are unable to provide any further details on this case. To date we are unaware of any confirmed adventitious matches from unrelated individuals.

A large scale statistical analysis of replicate DNA profiles, with a view to increasing the match probability, has not been carried out. However, the ongoing monitoring of replicate DNA profiles continues to ensure the quality and integrity of records held on the National DNA Database.

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

National Policing Improvement Agency

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