



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03633

Keyword: Crime

Subject: REMOVAL OF DNA PROFILES FROM DATABASE

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many people requested that Northern Ireland Police Service remove their DNA profiles from the DNA database in 2008-09?

Answer

The information is not categorised in a way that would enable us to accurately answer this part of your request.

Question 2

How many DNA profiles did Northern Ireland Police Service remove from the DNA database in 2008-09?

Answer

3 profiles have been deleted from the database and 2 profiles quarantined pending the outcome of judicial reviews.

Section 16 – Advice and Assistance

You may find the following links useful.

You are referred to the below document via the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-dna-database/>

The ACPO Document 'Retention Guidelines for Nominal Records on the Police National computer'

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/Retention%20of%20Records06.pdf>

contains a section in Appendix 2 - Exceptional Case Procedure for Removal of DNA, Fingerprints and PNC Records - which provides some information relating to the request.

Also you are probably aware the Home Office published a consultation – Keeping the right people on the DNA database – which intended to promote public debate on how long fingerprints and DNA should be retained. The consultation closed on 7 August 2009 but there is still ongoing dialogue between the Police Service, the Home Office and other third parties in relation to this debate.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock

Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing FOI@psni.pnn.police.uk

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.