



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03016

Keyword: Crime

Subject: REMOVAL OF INFORMATION FROM DNA REGISTER

Request and Answer:

Question 1

(A) How many times have you agreed to a request to delete an "innocent person's" (somebody whose DNA was taken but they were not convicted) DNA from the register?

(B) How many times has this taken place in the first six months of 2009?

Answer

(A) - 5

(B) - All 5 were in the first six months of 2009.

Question 2

(A) How many requests have you had from "innocent people" (somebody whose DNA was taken but they were not convicted) for the removal of their DNA from the database.

(B) How many have been refused or

(C) Still pending?

Answer

(A) - Prior to 2009 dealing with such requests was a devolved responsibility to individual Districts and subsequently dealt with at that level. The information is not categorised in a way that would enable us to answer your request.

(B) - 1

(C) - 0

Question 3

If the total of "refused removal applications" added to "pending removal applications" added to "agreed removals" does not total the sum of all requests could you explain/detail those that have not already been accounted for?

Answer

All requests accounted for.

Question 4

(A) In relation to the last three applications from "innocent people" that were refused

(B) and the last three that were agreed please state what offence that person had been arrested for that resulted in them giving a DNA sample.

Answer 4

(A) - Drink Driving

(B) - The last three offences were Disorderly Behaviour, Attempting to Bribe a Public Official and Attempted Burglary.

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.psni.police.uk

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