



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2010-00001

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Childrens DNA

### Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I ask for a disclosure of the following information relating to PSNI's use of children's DNA:

1. How many persons **aged 17 and under** currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.
2. How many persons **between 10 and 15** currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.
3. How many persons **between five and nine** currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.
4. How many persons **aged under five** currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.
5. State the age of the **youngest person** who has their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify if this person has (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence

See below a table with the PSNI Response.

Though we have endeavoured to find out the information you requested regarding convictions/cautions, the database system which the PSNI uses to record DNA profiles cannot confirm if a conviction or a caution has followed charging for an offence. Another computer system retained convictions until November 2009 however technicians have established that the 2 systems cannot be interrogated in such a way that would allow us to answer this part of your request.

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

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](mailto: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](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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

FOI 2010-00001

**1. How many persons aged 17 and under currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.**

| Jan-09 | Comments   |
|--------|--|
| 124    | 118 were charged or reported. The remaining 6 individuals were released unconditionally. |
| Jan-10 | Comments   |
| 106    | 79 were charged or reported. The remaining 27 individuals were released unconditionally. |

**2. How many persons between 10 and 15 currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.**

| Jan-09 | Comments   |
|--------|--|
| 47     | 45 were charged or reported. The remaining 2 individuals were released unconditionally.  |
| Jan-10 | Comments   |
| 44     | 33 were charged or reported. The remaining 11 individuals were released unconditionally. |

**3. How many persons between five and nine currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.**

There is no record of any persons aged between five and nine having had DNA taken

**4. How many persons aged under five currently have their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify how many have (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence? Provide a comparison figure for the same period 12 months previously.**

There is no record of any persons aged under five having had DNA taken

**5. State the age of the youngest person who has their DNA data retained by the PSNI? Specify if this person has (i) a conviction (ii) a caution (iii) not been charged with any offence**

The youngest person to have had DNA taken was 10 years of age at the time when DNA sample was taken. The individual was subsequently charged/reported.