



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F 2010 00237  
**Keyword:** Crime  
**Subject:** DNA PROFILES

### Request and Answer:

I am writing to obtain information about the number of DNA profiles obtained by Police Service of Northern Ireland from people who were not convicted of any crime in the period 4th December 2008 - 1st January 2010.

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

1. The total number of people not convicted of any crime, who had their DNA taken by Police Service of Northern Ireland in the period 4th December 2008 – 1st January 2010.
2. If, in the period specified, the DNA profile was subsequently destroyed for whatever reason, please do distinguish the number of individuals concerned from the total figure.

My preferred format to receive this information is electronically, but if that is not possible I will gladly accept hard copies. I understand that under the Freedom of Information Act, I am entitled to a response within 20 working days. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request as soon as possible.

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to disclose the located information in relation to questions 1 and 2.

### Question 1

1. The total number of people not convicted of any crime, who had their DNA taken by Police Service of Northern Ireland in the period 4th December 2008 – 1st January 2010.

### Answer 1

For the period 4 December 2008 to 1 January 2010 DNA was taken from 13,502 people.

Niche cannot confirm whether or not the people from whom the DNA was taken were convicted or

not. Research on ICIS would require a check on each of the 13,502 records to ascertain who have not been convicted of any crime. This will not necessarily equate to the DNA samples within the same timeframe. Therefore the information is not categorised in a format to answer this request accurately and is therefore estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice, and the request has therefore been closed.

You may wish to submit a refined request in order that the cost of complying with your request may be facilitated within the 'appropriate limit' however; the nature and structure of the requested information would require a disproportionate cost and be detrimental to staff providing a service to frontline policing. Submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request, and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.

## Question 2

If, in the period specified, the DNA profile was subsequently destroyed for whatever reason, please do distinguish the number of individuals concerned from the total figure.

## Answer 2

PSNI can advise from January 4th 2008 to February 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 3 DNA profiles have been deleted from the database and 2 DNA profiles are quarantined pending the outcome of judicial reviews. However, PSNI can not determine if the above deletions occurred between the period 4th December 2008 to 1st January 2010.

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 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.