



13 April 2016

Ref #16/2395

Emma Cullen
Fyi-request-3779-852eec5f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Cullen

Official Information Act Request – DNA Profile Database

I refer to your email of 16 March 2016 requesting the following information related to the DNA profile Database:

- Q1. How many DNA profiles are currently kept on a temporary database?
- Q2. What is the average number of DNA profiles on the temporary database?
- Q3. What is the length of time these profiles have been on this temporary database in terms of an average and shortest to longest?
- Q4. How long from when the charges are dropped until the DNA profile is disposed of?
- Q5. How many DNA profiles have been taken for offences that were not imprisonable?
- Q6. How many times have DNA samples been taken by force?
- Q7. Of these forced samples were any for non imprisonable offences?
- Q8. If so how many?

The following information is provided in response to your questions:

1. The number of profiles held on the temporary DNA database is not static. On a daily basis, new profiles are added, profiles are deleted (as prescribed when charges are withdrawn, dismissed or the court outcome is acquitted), and profiles are removed and transferred to the National DNA database (when a conviction occurs). The number of profiles held on the temporary DNA database as of the afternoon of 4 April 2016 was 7499.
2. Please refer to the NZ Police Annual Report 2014-2015, Appendix 6: Information Required by Statute – Bodily Samples. The total number of samples stored on the Temporary DNA Databank at year-end for the past two years is reported in row ('eg').
3. It is not possible to derive this information as profiles are continually added, deleted and transferred to and from the Temporary DNA database.

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4. When charges are withdrawn, in order to accommodate possible court proceedings where charges are re-laid or appeals are entered, the destruction process does not commence until after a period of 42 days has elapsed.
5. With the exception of one offence (Peeping and Peering) listed in Part 3 of the 'Schedule Relevant Offences' of the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act 1995, all offences for which DNA can be obtained are for imprisonable offences. Between July 2012 and June 2014, nine DNA samples were taken from persons who had been charged with Peeping and Peering however each of these persons had also been charged with imprisonable offences for which DNA could be taken.
6. Again, please refer to the NZ Police Annual Report 2014-2015. The information is reported in Appendix 6: Information Required by Statute– Bodily Samples, row ('ef').
7. Force was not used to obtain any of the DNA samples referred to in paragraph 5 above.
8. Refer to response in paragraph 7.

You have the right, under section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours faithfully



Tim Anderson
Detective Superintendent
Acting National Manager: National Criminal Investigations Group