

**Lewis Hannam,  
Channel 4 News,  
200 Grays Inn Road,  
London,  
WC1X 8XZ.**

By email to: [LEWIS.HANNAM@ITN.CO.UK](mailto:LEWIS.HANNAM@ITN.CO.UK)

Our Reference: 44052

17<sup>th</sup> October 08

Dear Mr Hannam,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding the National DNA Database, dated and received by the NPIA on 25th September 2008, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for the following information:

*I would like details regarding the National DNA database.*

*Specifically, I would like a list of the number of subject sample profiles submitted by each constabulary in the UK.*

*For example,*

*Merseyside Police: 135,591 subject sample profiles*

*Etc...*

*The figures are to be correct up to 24 September 2008.*

In response to your request, we are able to provide you with the following information.

The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is not a criminal records database. Inclusion on the DNA database does not signify a criminal record, and there is no personal cost or disadvantage by being on it. It holds very little information about a subject's identity – only their name, date of birth, sex and ethnic appearance. It does not hold any information relating to the address of subjects held on it. Information held on the NDNAD also includes the name of the police force which submitted the DNA sample record. The information provided covers all police forces in the UK which submit profiles to the NDNAD. These subjects are not necessarily resident in the area covered by each police force but were arrested or detained and had a DNA sample taken by the police force or volunteered a sample to this police force.

The NDNAD is a dynamic, continually changing database. Because the data on the NDNAD is constantly changing, it is generally only possible to provide a "snapshot" of its contents at the current moment in time. Because of this, we are unable to run reports retrospectively to obtain figures on the total numbers of profiles and individuals held on the NDNAD at a given date in time. The following figures show the breakdown of the subject sample profiles currently retained on the NDNAD by the police force which submitted the sample record as at 26/09/08.

These figures do not equate to the actual numbers of individuals held on the NDNAD submitted by each Police. The number of subject profiles on the NDNAD is higher than the number of individuals they represent because some of the profiles held are replicates. Replicates arise from samples being taken from the same subject on more than one occasion for example where a person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests or where a Force chooses to resample them.

Force	Total Subject Profile Count
Avon And Somerset	107691
Bedfordshire	47965
British Transport	48662
Cambridgeshire	56755

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Central Scotland Police	16293
Cheshire	83992
City Of London Police	23882
Cleveland	54346
Cumbria	48329
Derbyshire	91563
Devon And Cornwall	114965
Dorset	52515
Dumfries And Galloway	7070
Durham	54886
Dyfed-Powys / Haverford West	51465
Essex	132485
Fife Constabulary	20934
Gloucestershire	46624
Grampian Police	26606
Greater Manchester Police	257909
Guernsey	3209
Gwent	54056
Hampshire	153028
Hertfordshire	77742
Humberside	85889
Isle Of Man	4936
Jersey (States Of)	1976
Kent	148158
Lancashire	149662
Leicestershire	69994
Lincolnshire	50675
Lothian And Borders Police	39510
Merseyside	137788
Metropolitan Police	853766
Norfolk	68116
North Wales	61583
North Yorkshire	59268
Northamptonshire	46435

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Northern Constabulary	16662
Northumbria	174781
Nottinghamshire	103773
Police Service Northern Ireland	54747
South Wales Constabulary	122265
South Yorkshire	124169
Staffordshire	103026
Strathclyde Police	98507
Suffolk	49686
Surrey	63466
Sussex	117999
Tayside Police	21808
Thames Valley	156974
Warwickshire Police	34127
West Mercia	80219
West Midlands	306338
West Yorkshire	225632
Wiltshire	51955
<b>Total</b>	<b>5316862</b>

These figures provided cover all subjects loaded to the NDNAD and therefore cover both subjects who provided a sample voluntarily, for example for elimination purposes within the context of a specific case, and also criminal justice samples which are those taken from individuals following arrest for a recordable offence.

The National DNA Database assists the police to protect the public by identifying more offenders, increasing the chance of detection and helping to secure convictions. It provides the police with intelligence leads on the possible identity of the offender by 'matching' a DNA sample profile taken from a person with DNA found at/collected from the scene of a crime. On average the database provides the police with over 3,100 suspect-to-scene matches each month, giving an intelligence lead on the possible identity of the offender.

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We

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will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 3 – 6 weeks. You should write to:

Gavin McKinnon  
Head of Secretariat  
National Policing Improvement Agency  
10-18 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0NN  
E-mail: [gavin.mckinnon@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gavin.mckinnon@npia.pnn.police.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the NPIA. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Further information about the NPIA is routinely published on our website at [www.npia.police.uk](http://www.npia.police.uk) or through our publication scheme. If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address above.

Yours sincerely

**Lisa Thorpe**  
Front Line Support Officer  
**National Policing Improvement Agency**