

These statistics outline the management and investigative activity around the Scottish DNA Database. Further information on the statistics provided can be found on the 'Further Information' page below.

CJ Profile Retention - This Month

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Yearly Total
CJ Profiles added	1681	1780	1578	1596	2758	1498	1750	1517	1051	1160	2704	1457	15209
CJ Profiles removed	648	965	960	837	933	800	866	720	808	776	859	879	7537
CJ Profiles classified as S18A retention	194	203	189	168	218	188	201	78	135	156	256	210	1574
S18A Profiles removed after reaching the end of retention period	62	31	65	41	69	74	124	118	88	77	69	79	672
S18A Profiles replaced by a convicted DNA Profile	10	7	24	17	9	5	9	27	4	12	9	1	112
CJ Profiles classified as S18B (sex/vio) retention	7	15	9	9	14	33	5	10	10	5	6	5	112
S18B (sex/vio) Profiles removed after reaching the end of retention period	10	10	16	7	5	15	20	10	8	5	14	9	101
S18B (sex/vio) Profiles replaced by a convicted DNA Profile	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8
CJ Profiles classified as S18B (non-sex/vio) retention	58	145	46	50	50	33	19	39	33	45	40	34	473
S18B (non-sex/vio) Profiles removed after reaching the end of retention period	51	28	28	36	25	12	36	37	29	32	16	24	282
S18B (non-sex/vio) Profiles replaced by a convicted DNA Profile	2	2	4	7	2	1	4	4	0	5	1	0	26
CJ Profiles classified as S18D retention	12	11	16	10	10	12	11	12	3	4	5	9	97
S18D Profiles removed after reaching the end of retention period	3	4	3	6	4	10	3	11	1	4	6	6	45
S18D Profiles replaced by a convicted DNA Profile	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
CJ Profiles classified as S18E retention	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
S18E Profiles removed after reaching the end of retention period	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
S18E Profiles replaced by a convicted DNA Profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

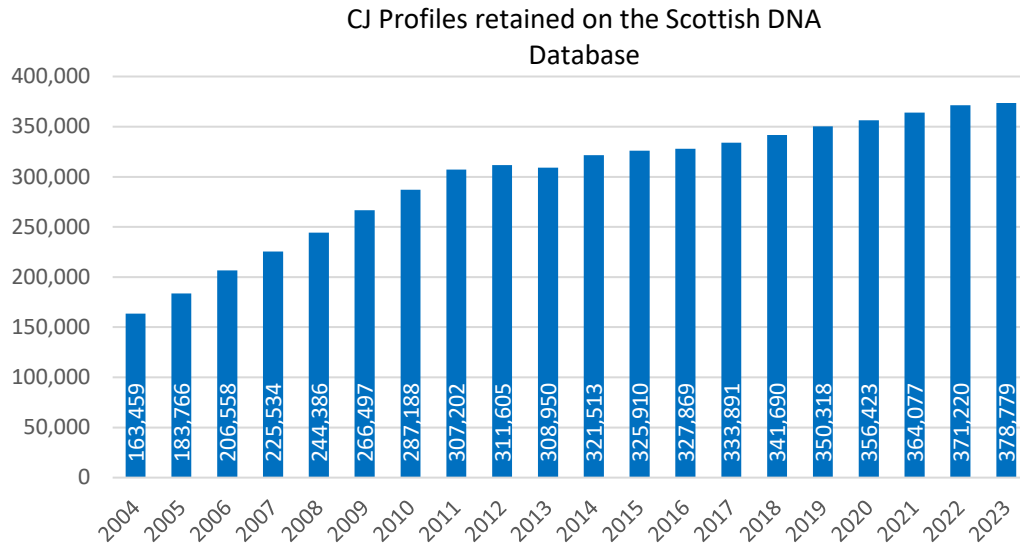
Crime Scenes - This month

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Yearly Total
Unidentified profiles from Crime Scenes added	163	174	151	162	174	120	105	154	218	220	206	161	1421
New CJ Profiles added that matched to an existing Crime Scene profile	29	27	28	19	17	25	21	28	19	11	14	28	213
New Crime Scenes profile that matched to an existing CJ Profile	89	116	88	81	99	56	60	91	131	123	129	91	811
Unidentified Crime Scene profiles matching another unidentified Crime Scene Profile	3	2	3	2	8	2	4	2	3	8	3	3	29
Crime Scene Match Reports issued	121	145	119	102	124	83	85	121	153	142	146	122	1053
Match rate of a new CJ profile matching an existing Crime Scene Profile	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Match rate of a new Crime Scene profile matching an existing CJ Profile	55%	67%	58%	50%	57%	47%	57%	59%	60%	56%	63%	57%	57%
Matches against Group 1 Offence Crime Scenes	13	18	25	18	19	9	15	22	20	18	23	16	159
Matches against Group 2 Offence Crime Scenes	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	12
Matches against Group 3 Offence Crime Scenes	77	78	54	54	64	45	37	58	82	86	75	55	549
Matches against Group 4 Offence Crime Scenes	10	14	13	8	10	7	11	14	14	11	15	10	101
Matches against Group 5 Offence Crime Scenes	16	20	1	12	18	12	10	13	20	14	18	22	122
Matches against Group 6 Offence Crime Scenes	6	13	4	9	9	7	6	7	8	11	5	15	69
Matches against Group 7 Offence Crime Scenes	5	9	5	0	4	2	6	5	7	2	10	4	43
S18A CJ Profiles matching a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
S18B (sex/vio) CJ Profiles matching a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
S18B (non sex/vio) CJ Profiles matching a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
S18D CJ Profiles matching a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
S18E CJ Profiles matching a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crime Scene Spec Searches undertaken	116	134	136	101	130	100	116	97	139	146	135	124	1069
Crime Scene Spec Search matches	70	70	91	58	82	59	75	59	95	93	79	85	659
Crime Scene Spec Search % matches	60%	52%	67%	57%	63%	59%	65%	61%	68%	64%	59%	69%	553%

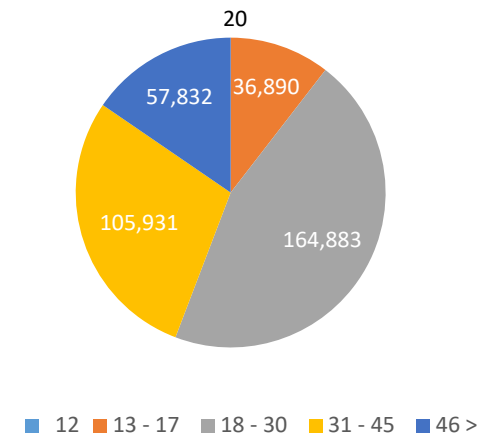
Volunteers - This month

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Yearly Total
New Intelligence Led Screen (ILS) Operation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ILS Profiles added	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Volunteer Profiles Loaded	0	4	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	3	11
Volunteer Profiles that matched a Crime Scene Profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11

CJ Profile Retention – Total

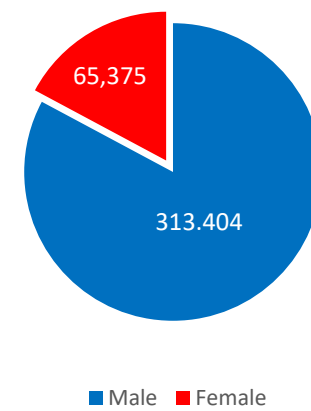


Breakdown on profiles retained by age when the sample was taken



Individual Profiles Held	378,615
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Breakdown on profiles retained by gender



CJ Profile Temporary Retention

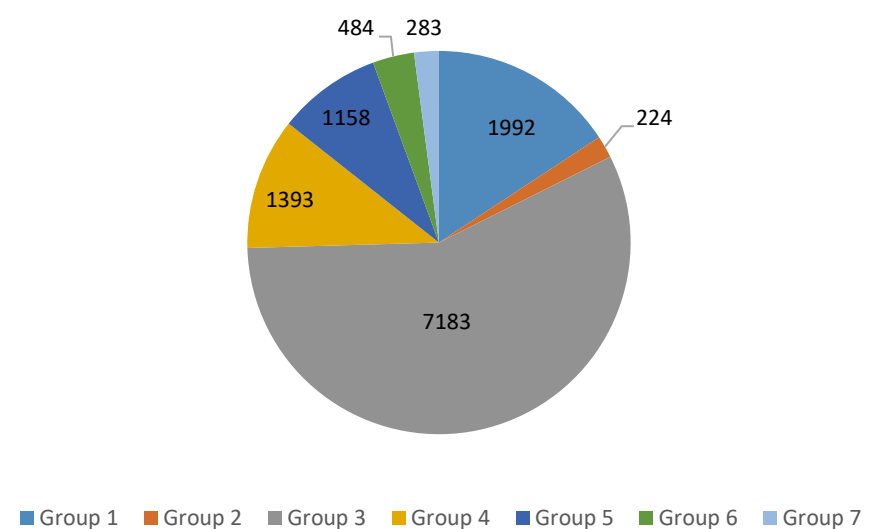
S18A Retained	6168
S18B (sex/vio) Retained	189
S18B (non-sex/vio) Retained	759
S18D Retained	209
S18E Retained	24
S18A Extensions Requested	0
S18B (sex/vio) Extensions Requested	0
S18E Extensions Requested	0

Crime Scenes – Total

Unidentified Crime Scenes Profiles retained	59,723
Crime Scene Match Reports issued	41,067
Crime Scene Match Rate (since April 2011)	57%

Crime Scene Match Reports against S18A CJ Profiles	165
Crime Scene Match Reports against S18B (sex/vio) CJ Profiles	15
Crime Scene Match Reports against S18B (non sex/vio) CJ Profiles	104
Crime Scene Match Reports against S18D CJ Profiles	94
Crime Scene Match Reports against S18E CJ Profiles	1

Breakdown on crime scene matches by offence group (since 2011)



Volunteers – Total

Number of ILS Profiles Retained	5,010
Number of General Volunteers Retained	428
Total Number of Volunteer Matches	55

Further Information

1. What is a CJ profile?

Section 18 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 allows officers to obtain mouth/hair samples from arrested persons, or persons detained under Section 14 of the same act. These are commonly known as Criminal Justice (CJ) samples. From these samples, DNA profiles are extracted.

DNA is exactly the same for every person except for slight variations in the code which are responsible for different physical characteristics such as height, eye colour, skin tone and hair colour, for example. These differences are critical for the use of DNA in forensic science.

SPA Forensic Services profiling does not examine all variations between individuals. Instead, the technique is designed to target areas of DNA that are known to differ widely between individuals.

Other than gender, the areas of DNA targeted by Forensic Services' profiling do not contain information that could be attributed to physical characteristics – such as eye colour– or enable definitive determination of medical conditions.

It is possible to identify a person very precisely but the DNA area used to show a match contains virtually no genetic characteristic information.

The current DNA profiling method used for the Scottish DNA Database –known as DNA24 -analyses 23 areas of a person's DNA and the gender marker. The resulting DNA profile is a series of up to 46 numbers plus the gender marker.

This profile is then retained on the Scottish and National DNA Databases for the duration determined by current legislation. Profiles retained on these databases will routinely be searched against unidentified profiles from unsolved crime scenes.

2. CJ profile retention

The retention of DNA is dependent on the outcome of the case for which it was taken for. Section 18 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 governs the retention rules. DNA data can be retained indefinitely upon a court conviction (Section 18) and destroyed for non-findings of guilt. The exceptions to these rules are outlined in Sections 18A-E of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 which allows DNA to be retained for a short period of time depending on specific criteria.

3. What is S18A?

Section 18A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 allows DNA data to be retained from individuals when criminal proceedings were initiated for specific sexual or violent offences but those proceedings end without a conviction. In such cases their DNA data can be retained for 3 years plus possible rolling 2 year extensions which can only be decided by a Court.

4. What is S18B?

As an alternative to prosecuting an individual the Procurator Fiscal can offer a fixed penalty or other relevant offers. These are not classed as convictions. Section 18B of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 allows DNA data to be retained from individuals who have been issued with and accepted a relevant offer or fixed penalty. In cases relating to specific sexual or violent offences the DNA data can be retained for 3 years plus possible rolling 2 year extensions which can only be decided by a Court. In cases relating to all other offences, DNA data can be retained for 2 years after which it must be destroyed. That period cannot be extended.

5. What is S18D?

Police Scotland can offer fixed penalties as an alternative to prosecution for specific offences. These are not classed as convictions. Section 18D of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 allows DNA data to be retained from individuals who have been issued with and accepted a fixed penalty notice. In such cases their DNA data can be retained for 2 years after which it must be destroyed. That period cannot be extended.

6. What is S18E?

Section 18E of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 allows DNA data to be retained from children who have been referred to a Children’s Hearing. This only applies to those children who are referred for specific violent and sexual offences and either accept these grounds or grounds are established at the hearing. In such cases their DNA data can be retained for 3 years plus possible rolling 2 year extensions which can only be decided by a Court. It applies to children aged 8 years and above, as this is the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland.

7. Why would one profile be replaced by another?

There is no requirement to hold more than one DNA profile per person on the DNA Database therefore once a sample can be retained indefinitely following a court conviction, all other surplus DNA data can be destroyed.

8. Age at date taken

When a DNA sample is taken, the age at the time of the sample being taken is recorded to ensure any DNA data is retained lawfully and information about the range of age groups retained on the DNA Database is available upon request.

9. What is a crime scene profile?

Scene of Crime Officers will attend and obtain production/sample lifts that could be of evidential value left at crime scenes. Forensic laboratory staff obtain DNA profiles from these items if possible and the profiles loaded onto the relevant databases for comparison. These are commonly known as Scene of Crime (SOC) profiles and any matches against subject DNA profiles are then reported to investigating officers.

10. How are profiles compared?

Two profiles are compared using the individual components of a DNA profile known as “alleles”. There is a minimum number of components that must be identical to consider the information to be a reliable match

11. What is a match reports?

A match report is issued when two or more profiles loaded to the database have identical DNA profiles. This can be a person’s DNA matching a undetected crime scene stain, or two undetected crime scene profiles matching each other.

12. What is a match rate and how is it calculated?

The match rate is provided to highlight how effective DNA can be in detecting unresolved crimes. This figure is representative of the number of crime scene DNA profiles from unsolved crimes that provide an instant match against a subject DNA profile when loaded to the DNA Database.

13. What are offence groups?

Crime in Scotland is recorded in specific categories, known as crime groups, namely:

Group 1 – Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence

This group includes murder, attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, cruelty to children, threats & extortion etc.

Group 2 – Crimes of Indecency

This group includes rape, indecent assault, lewd & libidinous practises, sexual offences, etc

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

This group includes theft, housebreaking, theft of and from motor vehicles, fraud, etc

Group 4 – Fire and Malicious Damage

This group includes – vandalism, malicious mischief, fire-raising, reckless conduct, etc

Group 5 – Other crimes

This group includes all drug offences, carrying offensive weapon (including knives), bail offences, crime against justice (e.g. perjury), etc

Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences

This group includes breach of the peace, petty assault, racially aggravated conducted or harassment, alcohol related offences, etc

Group 7 – Road Traffic Offences

This group includes dangerous and careless driving, drink/drug driving, speeding, vehicle defect offences, etc

14. What is a Spec search?

A speculative search of the database is requested when the crime scene profile quality does not meet the national criteria for loading and can be searched as a one-off in the hope of obtaining a match.

15. What is an Intelligence Led Screen?

During major incidents for serious offences Police Scotland can request members of the public to voluntarily supply mouth swab samples in effort to identify the source of a crime scene profile. These operations are called Intelligence Led Screens (ILS). Volunteers can choose to have their DNA profile compared to all outstanding crime scene profiles (A class volunteer) or solely for the operation for which the sample was taken (B class volunteer). These samples are retained until permission is withdrawn (A class) or once the operation is finished (B class).

16. What is a volunteer profile?

Section 56 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 allows officers to obtain mouth/hair samples from persons willing to voluntarily supply their DNA profile. These profiles are compared to outstanding crime scene profiles and retained until the person withdraws their permission.