

21 July 2022

2022-044

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

### REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 5 July, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

The cost to the Scottish Police Authority's Forensic Services for testing a DNA sample for a Criminal Justice profile for storage on the Scottish DNA database. Please state the current cost of one test, how much it cost to complete all Criminal Justice profiles and the number of profiles that were completed for this cost in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

### RESPONSE

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is able to provide the following.

The information requested regarding the number of criminal justice profiles completed in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is publicly accessible and accordingly, the following exemption is applicable:

#### **Section 25(1) – Information otherwise accessible**

This is an absolute exemption and does not require consideration of the public interest test.

Please see the link below to the Historic DNA Database which details Criminal Justice profiles added each month, during each year, as well as a yearly total:

<https://www.spa.police.uk/forensic-services/dna/historic-dna-database/>

In relation to the cost of a DNA sample, and complete cost for all Criminal Justice profiles in each of the years listed; the SPA does not hold the information you have requested. Therefore, this represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

By way of explanation, SPA Forensic Services provides forensic services to the criminal justice sector in Scotland. DNA samples (CJ samples) are analysed by the SPA's Forensic Services within one of our DNA analysis units. We do not record costings to cover a DNA sample. To cost this we would need to consider numerous parameters:

- Administration costs for sample processing;
- Laboratory staff time for sample preparation / sample tracing and continuity including weeding / retention;
- Consumables whether the analysis is using manual processing or the robotics;
- We batch samples and therefore the cost would need to include controls / standards and be divided across the samples;
- On occasion there will be a requirement for re-analysis but not for all samples;
- Equipment costs / depreciation / maintenance costs / accreditation costs;
- Sample analysis time through the software by the analysts;
- Loading samples to the National DNA database and Scottish database.

## RIGHT TO REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@spa.police.uk](mailto:foi@spa.police.uk) or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.