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National Police Chiefs' Council

Forensic Information Databases Strategy Board

Annual Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Forensic Information Databases Strategy Board Annual Report April 2024 - March 2025

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Chair of the Strategy Board's Foreword

I am very pleased to be able to present this report as Chair of the Forensic Information Databases (FIND) Strategy Board for the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025; this being my first since taking over as Chair of the Board in June 2025.

The report describes the value of DNA and fingerprints in the provision of vital intelligence to support police investigations and the criminal justice system in bringing offenders to justice and protecting and supporting victims.

The DNA match rate from the load and search of a crime scene profile on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) remained high in 2024/25 at 65.7%. There is insightful information provided in this year's report which describes the rate at which these matches translate to detections for offences, and also case examples where DNA played a pivotal role. There is no doubting the effectiveness of the NDNAD in providing intelligence to policing, and the additional transparency given within the context of case outcomes is welcomed and I look forward to this developing further in future years.

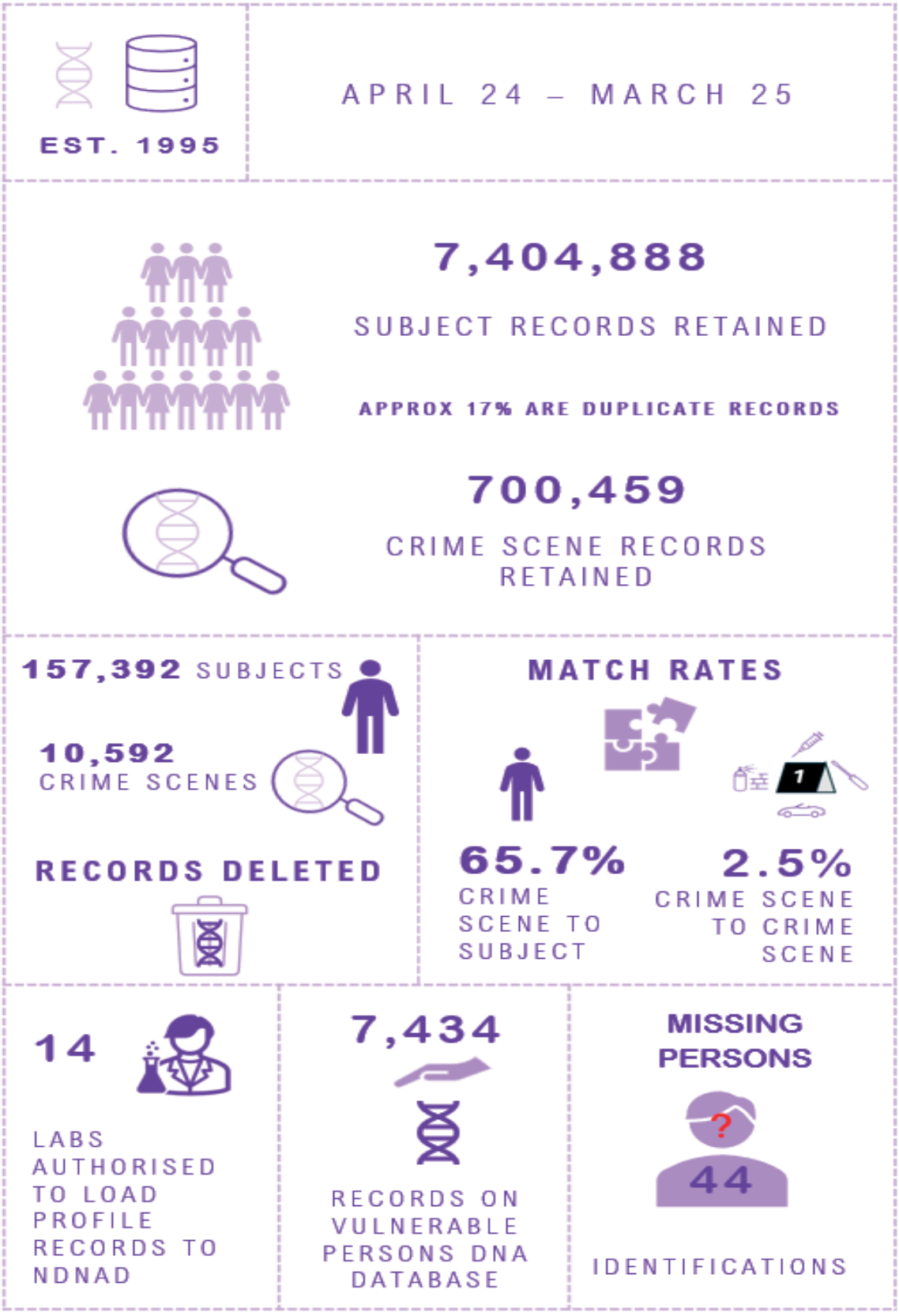
The connections between the UK and EU Member States for the international Prüm exchange of biometrics have continued to be added this year, with there now being the full complement of live connections to 27 countries for DNA and 22 countries connected for fingerprints. The case examples provided demonstrate the value of this linkage between countries to deliver key intelligence to investigations.

The report clearly indicates ongoing developments in the DNA and fingerprint databases, as well as the supporting services. The Home Office Biometrics Programme (HOB) is actively engaged in refreshing technical capabilities. Additionally, there is ongoing collaboration between the FINDS team and the Forensic Capability Network (FCN) on the development of a UK Y-chromosome (male-specific) database; this initiative is aimed at investigating sexual and other serious offences, aligning with the UK government's 'Safer Streets' mission to reduce violence against women and girls.

S Wilson

Assistant Chief Constable, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Chair of the Forensic Information Databases Strategy Board

1. The National DNA Database (NDNAD)



1.1 About NDNAD

1.1.1 Introduction

The NDNAD[1] was established in 1995. It holds electronic records of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), known as profile records, taken from individuals and crime scenes, and provides the police with matches linking an individual to a crime scene, or a crime scene to another crime scene. Between April 2001 and March 2025, it produced **843,494** matches to unsolved crimes, an average of **35,146** per year.

1.2 Who is on NDNAD?

1.2.1 Number of profile records held on and deleted from NDNAD

As at 31st March 2025, NDNAD held **7,404,888** subject profile records and **700,459** crime scene profile records. In financial year 2024/25, **335,933** new subject DNA profile records were loaded to NDNAD, together with **22,997** new crime scene DNA profile records.

The trend for the number of subject records held on, and loaded to, the NDNAD is shown on Figures 1a and 1b respectively. Some individuals have more than one profile on NDNAD. This can occur where the police force chooses to load another record or where they are sampled twice under different names. Approximately **17%**[2] of the DNA profile records on NDNAD are duplicates of an individual already sampled. Allowing for these duplicates, the estimated number of individuals on NDNAD as at 31st March 2025 was **6,151,373**.

In 2024/25 **157,392** subject DNA profile records were deleted from NDNAD. This includes **556** under the Deletion of Records from National Police Systems guidance.

For crime scenes, Figure 2a trends the number of profile records which were loaded to the NDNAD and also the number of records where a non-routine speculative search took place instead. Figure 2b trends the status of the crime scene DNA profile covering the number of contributors i.e. either 'single source' where it has been interpreted that the DNA was only contributed by one individual or a 'DNA mixture' where two or more individuals contributed the DNA. Table 1 gives the breakdown by crime type for the profile records loaded to the NDNAD in 2024/25.

In 2024/25 **10,592** crime scene DNA profile records were deleted from NDNAD; with the Strategy Board 'Access and Use' policy defining criteria for removal – including records from detected crimes or records that have been sourced to victims of offences.

[1] Annex i of this report contains a graphical representation of the end-to-end process for the NDNAD
[2] This figure is based on the assumption that a subject profile record that matches a further subject profile record(s) is sourced from just one individual.

Figure 1a: Number of subject profile DNA records held on NDNAD (in millions) (2015/16 to 2024/25)[3]

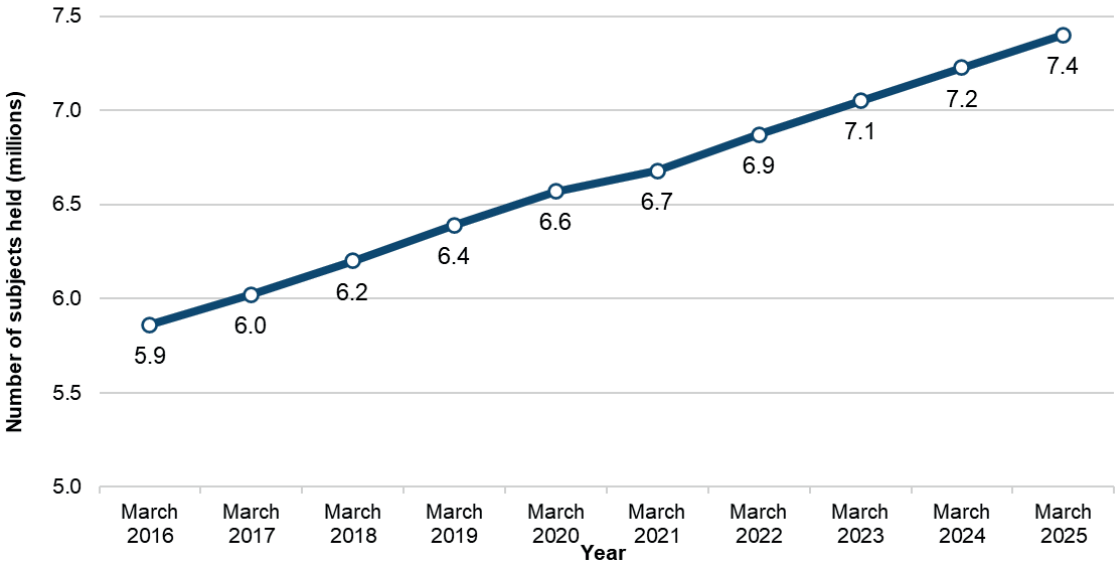
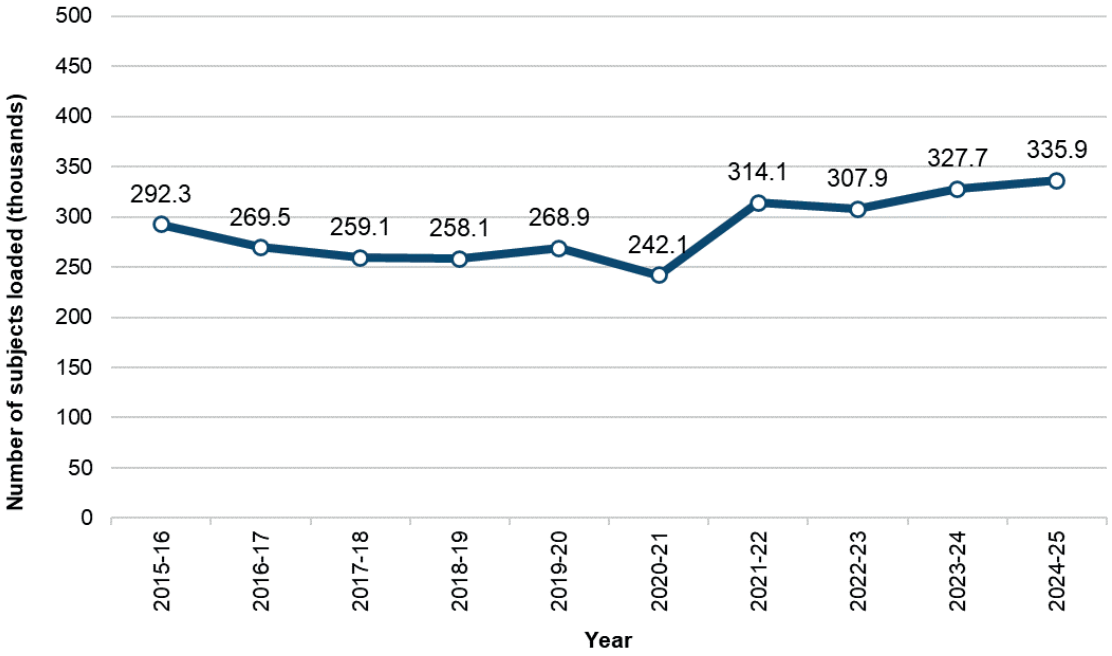


Figure 1b: Number of subject profile DNA records loaded onto NDNAD per year (in thousands) (2015/16 – 2024/25)[4] [5]



[3] The position on 31st March of the year
[4] All data in section 1 is obtained from NDNAD management information, unless otherwise stated.
[5] A new management information tool was implemented in 2021/22 which allowed counting for subject records which were loaded and deleted within the same month.

Figure 2a: Number of crime scene DNA profile records loaded, and non-routine speculatively searched on NDNAD per year (in thousands) (2015/16 – 2024/25)

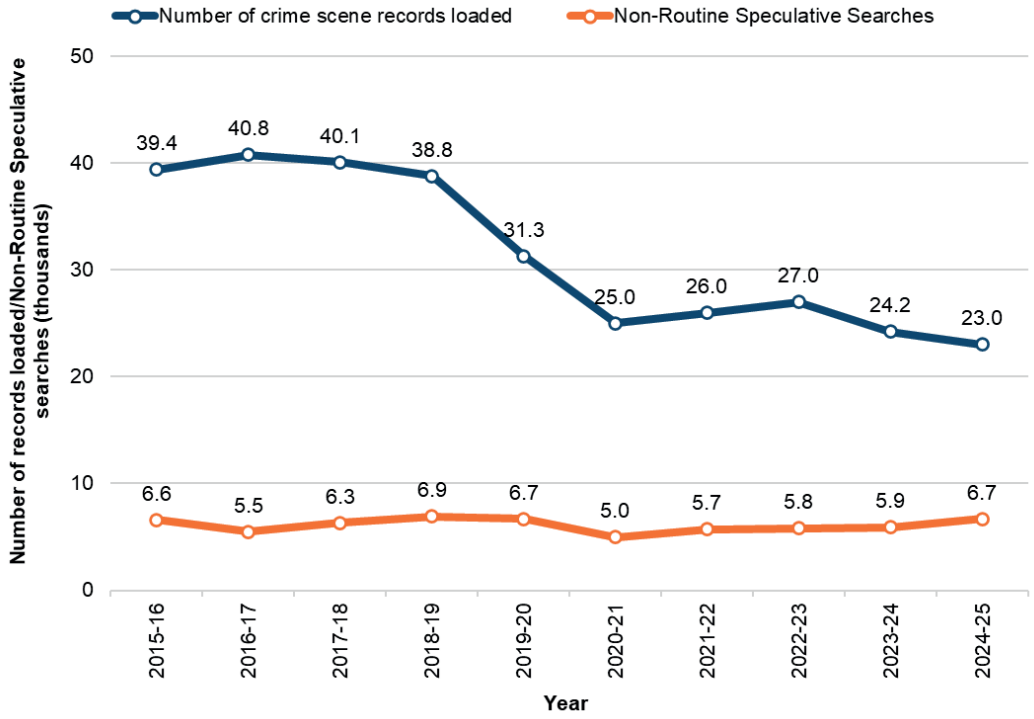
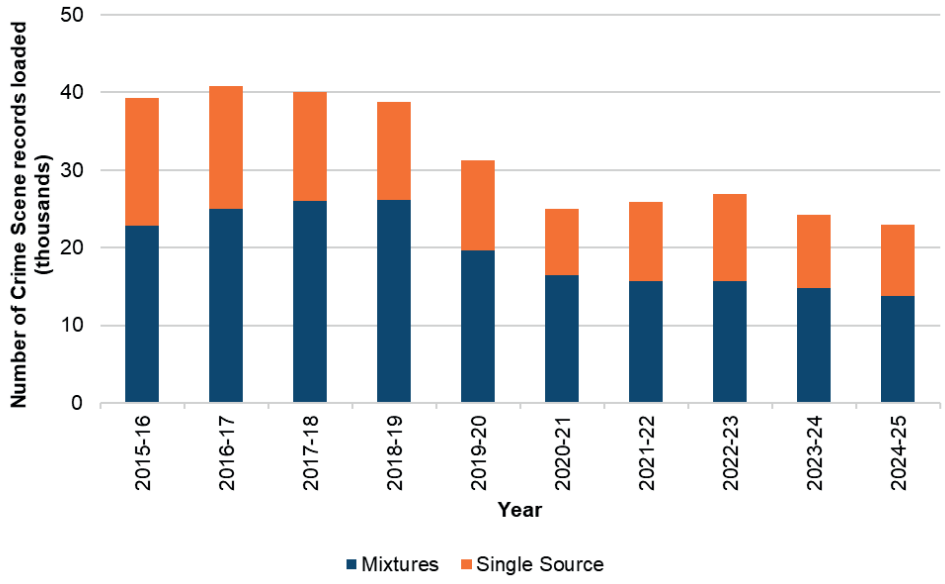


Figure 2b: Number of crime scene DNA profile records loaded to NDNAD per year (in thousands) (2015/16 – 2024/25) – split by single source/DNA mixture[6]



[6] A crime scene DNA profile is either 'single source' where it has been interpreted that the DNA was only contributed by one individual or a 'DNA mixture' where the interpretation is that two or more individuals contributed DNA to the result.

Table 1: Number of crime scene DNA profile records loaded by crime type (2024/25)[7]

Crime type	Number of crime scene profile records loaded	Proportion of total number of crime scene profile records loaded (%)
Burglary (including aggravated)	10,292	44.8%
Vehicle Crime	3,583	15.6%
Criminal Damage	1,151	5.0%
Violent Crime	1,122	4.9%
Drugs	1,696	7.4%
Robbery	775	3.4%
Theft	303	1.3%
Rape	546	2.4%
Murder, attempted murder and manslaughter	586	2.5%
Traffic (including fatal)	494	2.1%
Firearms	620	2.7%
Other sexual offences	139	0.6%
Arson and fire investigations	142	0.6%
Fraud	38	0.2%
Public Order	56	0.2%
Abduction and kidnapping	167	0.7%
Blackmail	1	<0.1%
Explosives	1	<0.1%
Other	1,285	5.6%
TOTAL	**22,997**	**100%**

[7] NDNAD offence type classification, allocated by the FSP based on the case detail

1.2.2 Geographical origin of subject profile records on NDNAD

NDNAD holds profile records from all UK police forces (as well as the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) but only profile records belonging to England and Wales forces are subject to the retention and deletion requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA)[8]. Scotland and Northern Ireland also maintain separate DNA databases; however, due to the likelihood of offenders moving between UK nations, profile records loaded to these databases are also loaded to NDNAD.

Table 2: Number of subject and crime scene DNA profile records retained on NDNAD by nation (as at 31st March 2025)[9]

Nation	Subject profile records	Crime scene profile records	TOTAL
England[10]	6,307,442	638,720	6,946,162
Scotland	405,675	21,000	426,675
Wales	415,930	29,223	445,153
Northern Ireland	226,426	8,612	235,038
Other[11]	49,415	2,904	52,319
TOTAL	**7,404,888**	**700,459**	**8,105,347**

1.2.3 Sex, age and ethnicity of individuals on NDNAD

The vast majority of subject profile records held on NDNAD come from people who have been arrested for an offence, so the composition is different from that of the general population. For example, only half the UK population is male[12], but the majority of the DNA profile records belong to men, because the majority of those arrested were male.

[8] Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own retention regime.
[9] NDNAD does not hold individuals' addresses. The geographical information provided is based on the location of the police force that submitted the profile record.
[10] Includes the British Transport Police.
[11] Includes Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, Ministry of Defence police, Criminal Records Office, National Crime Agency, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, and the Prisoner Sampling Programme.
[12] 51.0% women and 49.0% men in England and Wales) - Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Figure 3a: Proportion of subject DNA profile records on NDNAD by sex (as at 31st March 2025)[13] [14]

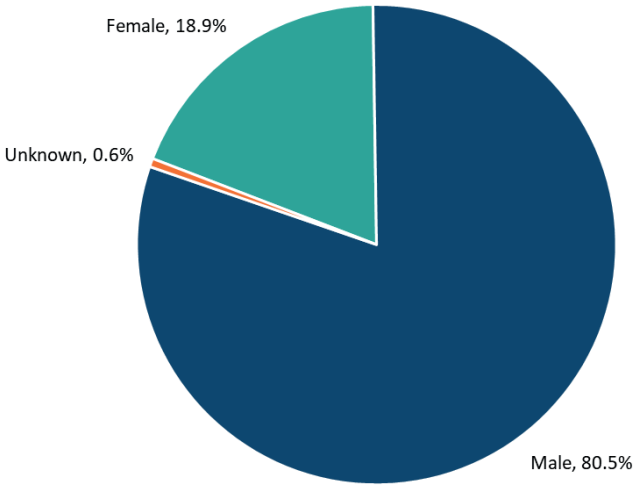
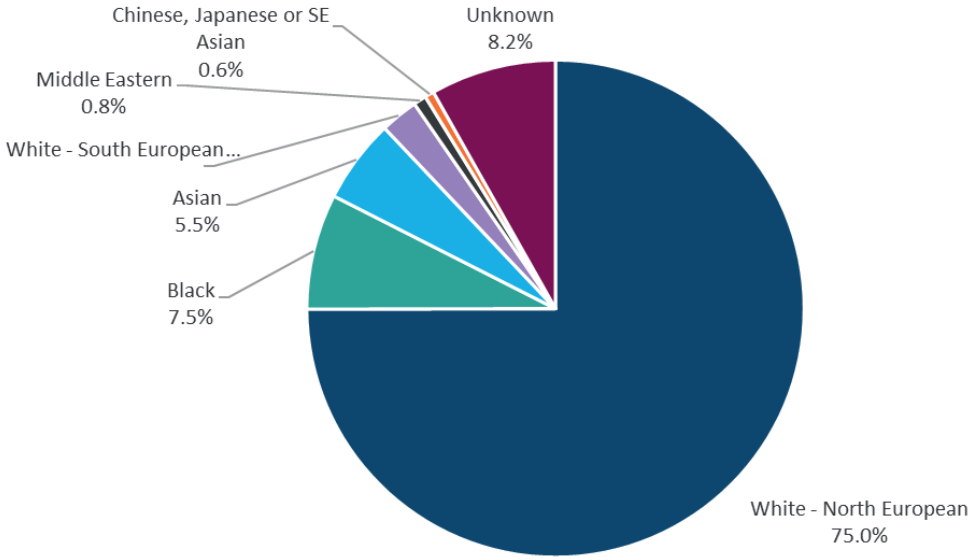
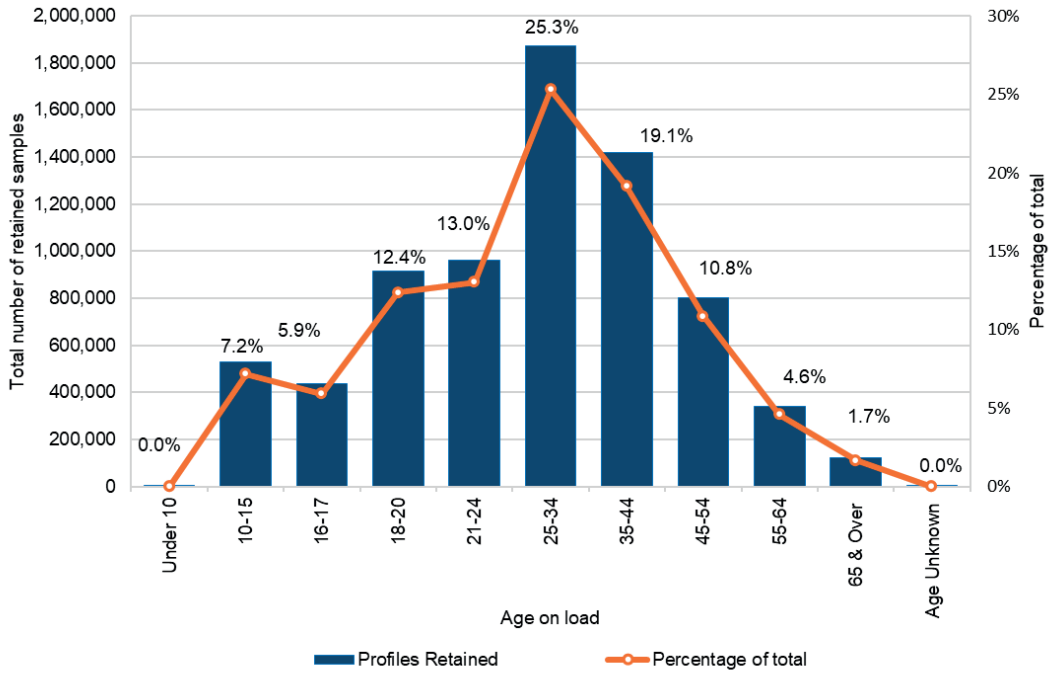


Figure 3b: Number of subject DNA profile records on NDNAD by ethnicity, as determined by the sampling officer (as at 31st March 2025) [15]



[13] Unknown is where the sex was recorded as unknown on the Police National Computer (PNC) or on the sampling DNA kit card.
[14] Where data in section 1 is shown as a %, the figures may not equal 100%, due to rounding.
[15] The ethnicity of the individual is determined by the police officer who took the DNA sample. Unknown profile records refer to those where the officer either selected 'ethnicity unknown' on the recording form or where there was no ethnicity data accompanying the profile record.

Figure 3c: Number of subject DNA profile records by age at time of loading onto NDNAD (as at 31st March 2025) [16]



This data is published quarterly on the NDNAD web page on www.gov.uk. The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10. There were **93** profiles from children aged under 10 on NDNAD, all of these being generated from samples taken from 'vulnerable persons' (an individual who was believed to have the potential to come to harm and / or go missing) and were loaded with appropriate consent and authorisation for retention and searching on the NDNAD.

[16] This is calculated from the date of birth provided by the individual to the police officer at the time of arrest.

1.3 Searching the NDNAD

1.3.1 Routine loading and searching

DNA samples are analysed to generate DNA profile records for loading to the NDNAD for ongoing routine searching. Routine matches are made from DNA profile records loaded to NDNAD; the breakdown for these matches is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Number of routine crime scene to subject matches by crime type (2024/25)[17] [18]

Crime type	Matches
Burglary (including aggravated)	8,562
Vehicle crime	3,346
Criminal damage	1,182
Violent crime	1,117
Drugs	1,559
Robbery	775
Theft	310
Rape	529
Murder (including attempted) and manslaughter	460
Traffic (including fatal)	453
Firearms	523
Other sexual offences	117
Arson and fire investigations	151
Fraud	34
Public order	61
Abduction and kidnapping	143
Blackmail	2
Explosives	9
Other	1,077
TOTAL	**20,410**

1.3.2 Non-routine speculative searches

In order for a DNA profile to be uploaded to NDNAD, it must consist of a minimum of four pairs of numbers and a sex marker (for crime scene DNA profile records) and a full profile[19] (for subject profile records). Where this criterion is not met, for crime scene DNA records, it is nonetheless possible to carry out a non-routine search of NDNAD; the breakdown for these matches shown in Table 4 below.

[17] NDNAD offence type classification
[18] Due to the way in which the data is recorded and because all profiles loaded to the NDNAD are routinely searched against all profiles held on the NDNAD it is not possible to provide figures for the number of searches or the match rate for this table as has been provided for Table 4.
[19] The profile record may either be from DNA-17 (i.e. 16 numbers plus a sex marker) or from the previous system SGMPlus (i.e. 10 numbers plus a sex marker).

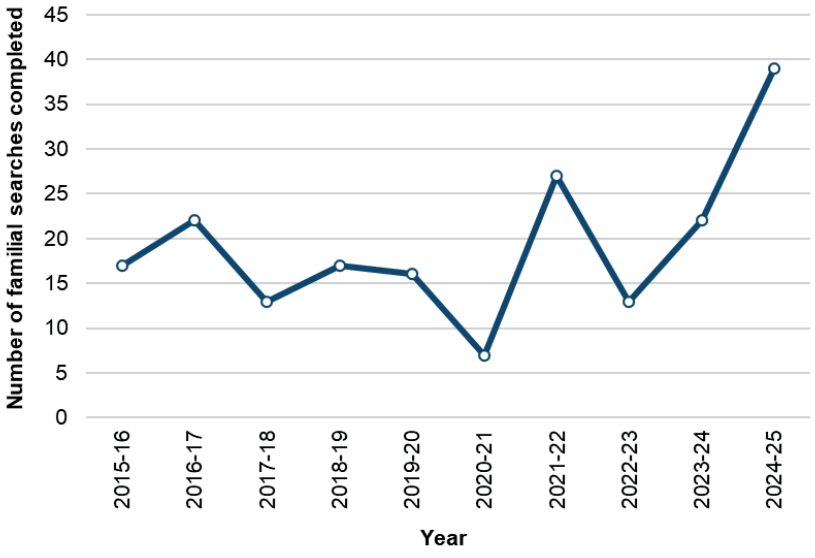
Table 4: Number of non-routine search matches by crime type (2024/25)

Crime type	Searches	Matches	Matches (%)
Burglary (including aggravated)	1,583	1,474	93%
Vehicle crime	581	552	95%
Criminal damage	110	102	93%
Violent crime	220	186	85%
Drugs	395	362	92%
Robbery	241	224	93%
Theft	45	42	93%
Rape	488	413	85%
Murder (including attempted) and manslaughter	327	268	82%
Traffic (including fatal)	75	71	95%
Firearms	267	242	91%
Other sexual offences	169	157	93%
Arson and fire investigations	50	44	88%
Fraud	7	7	100%
Public Order	8	8	100%
Abduction and kidnapping	40	38	95%
Blackmail	0	0	N/A
Explosives	1	1	100%
Other	2,058	842	41%
TOTAL	**6,665**	**5,033**	**76%**

1.3.3 Familial searches

In cases where the police have found the perpetrator's DNA at the crime scene, but they do not have a profile on NDNAD, a search of the database known as a 'familial search' can be carried out to look for possible close relatives (parents, children, or siblings) of the perpetrator. All such searches require the approval of the Chair (or their nominee) of the FIND Strategy Board. A total of **39** familial searches were carried out between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. Figure 4 trends the number of familial searches in the last decade.

Figure 4: Number of familial searches per year (2015/16 – 2024/25)



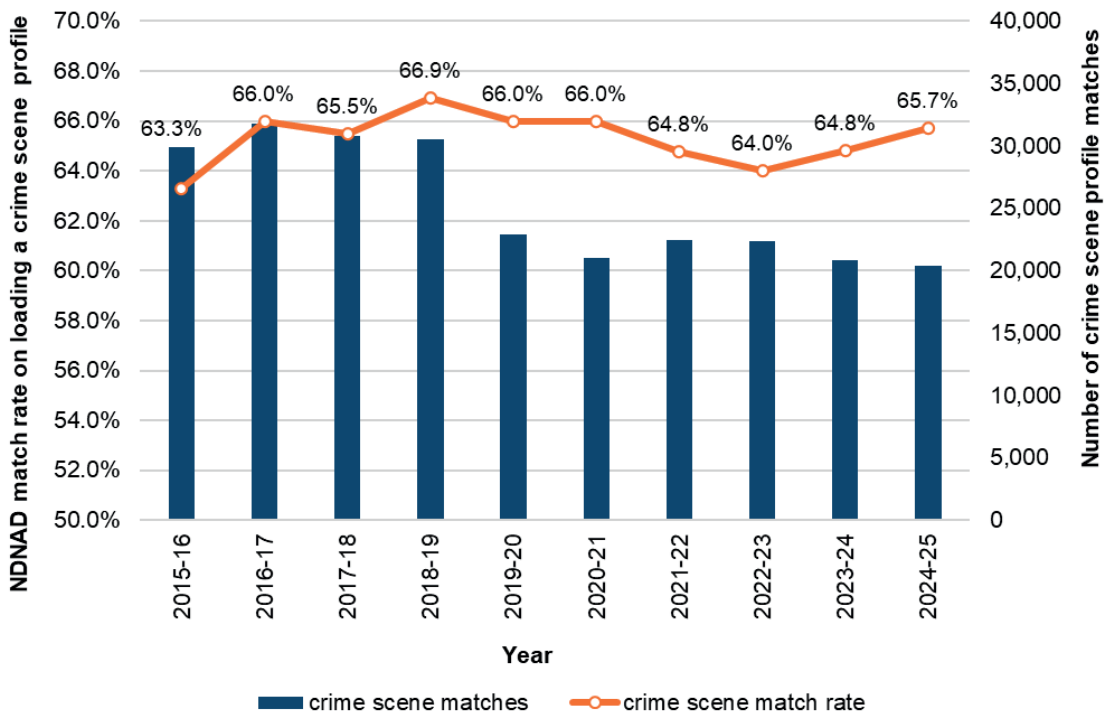
1.3.3 Match rate

In 2024/25, the chance that a crime scene DNA profile loaded onto the NDNAD matched against a subject DNA profile stored on NDNAD was **65.7%**. Figure 5 shows the yearly match rate on loading a crime scene DNA profile to the NDNAD.

These do not include crime scene DNA profiles that match another crime scene on loading, or where a DNA profile was deleted in the same month as it was loaded.

Further DNA profile matches will occur when a new subject DNA profile is added to NDNAD and matches to a crime scene DNA profile already on the database. As at 31st March 2025, there were **220,535** crime scene DNA profile records on NDNAD that had not yet been matched. The offences relating to these crime scenes might be solved if the perpetrator's DNA was taken and their DNA profile added to NDNAD. Every individual who is arrested will have their DNA profile searched against all existing crime scene DNA profiles on NDNAD, even if their profile is subsequently deleted.

Figure 5: Match rate on loading a crime scene profile (2015/16 to 2024/25) [20]

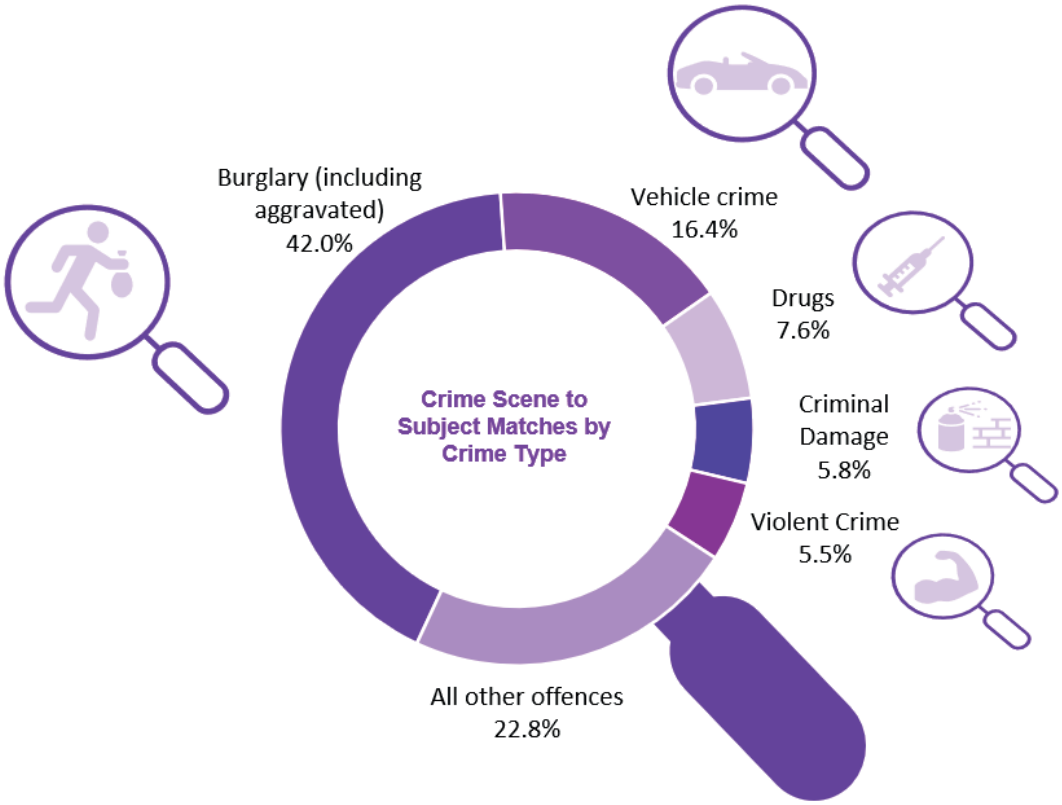


In 2024/25, NDNAD produced **20,410** routine crime scene to subject DNA profile matches, including to **460** homicides and attempted murders and **529** rapes; the percentage breakdown of matches is shown in Figure 6, and the offence breakdown of these matches is shown in Table 3. It provided **1,042** crime scene to crime scene matches (this information is useful in helping to identify serial offenders). It also provided **5,033** matches following a non-routine

[20] Excludes crime scene to crime scene matches.

search. A large number of the non-routine searches will produce a partial match. Although a partial match has less evidential value than a full match, it can nonetheless provide the police with useful intelligence about a crime. The offence breakdown of these non-routine searches can be seen in Table 4.

Figure 6: Crime Scene to Subject Matches by Crime Type (2024/25)



1.3.4 Timing of first subject match to a crime scene DNA profile

The time interval between the first subject match to an existing NDNAD retained crime scene can potentially be indicative of the status of the match type, for example:

- An 'investigation match' – where the subject is under active investigation, or a person of interest, for the offence and where the time interval between the crime scene to subject DNA profile loads to the NDNAD may be minimal; and

- A 'cold hit', where the subject to crime scene linkage is first made by a NDNAD match (i.e. in the absence of any prior investigative leads), where the time interval could stretch to many years.

An analysis of the time intervals for the NDNAD matches generated in 2024/25 was undertaken and is presented in Figures 7 and 8 below. The only matches eligible for inclusion

were those for which the crime scene first matched to a subject record in 2024/25 and had not been deleted or eliminated through scientific checks when the analysis took place[21].

Figure 7: Timing for match to a crime scene profile (on loading subject profiles between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025) – serious crime

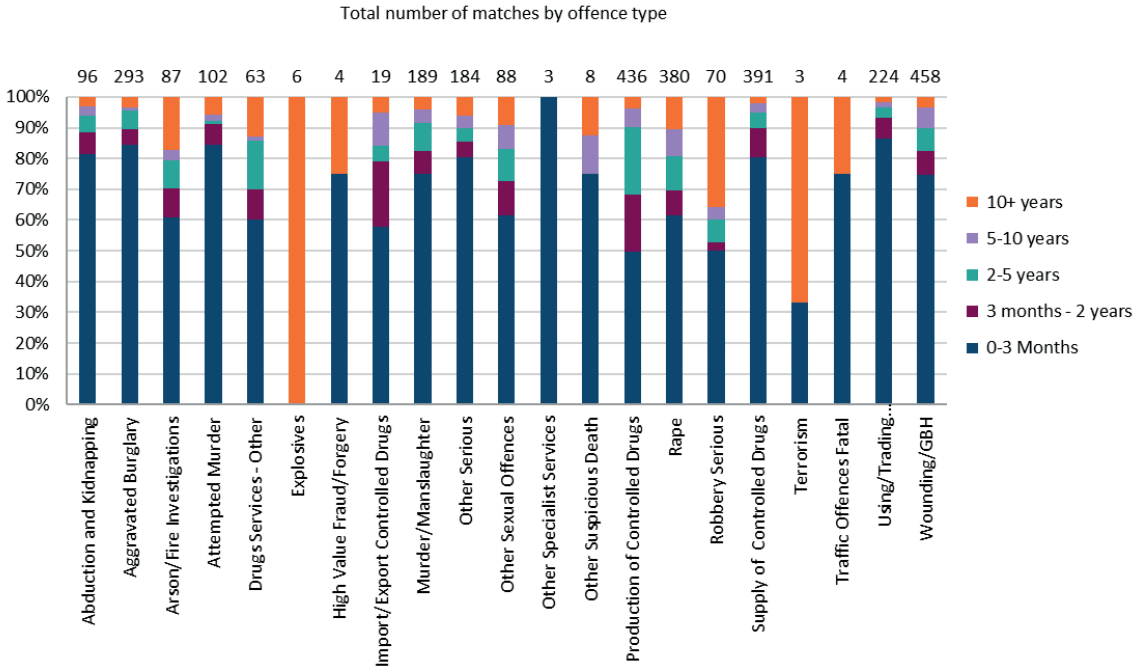
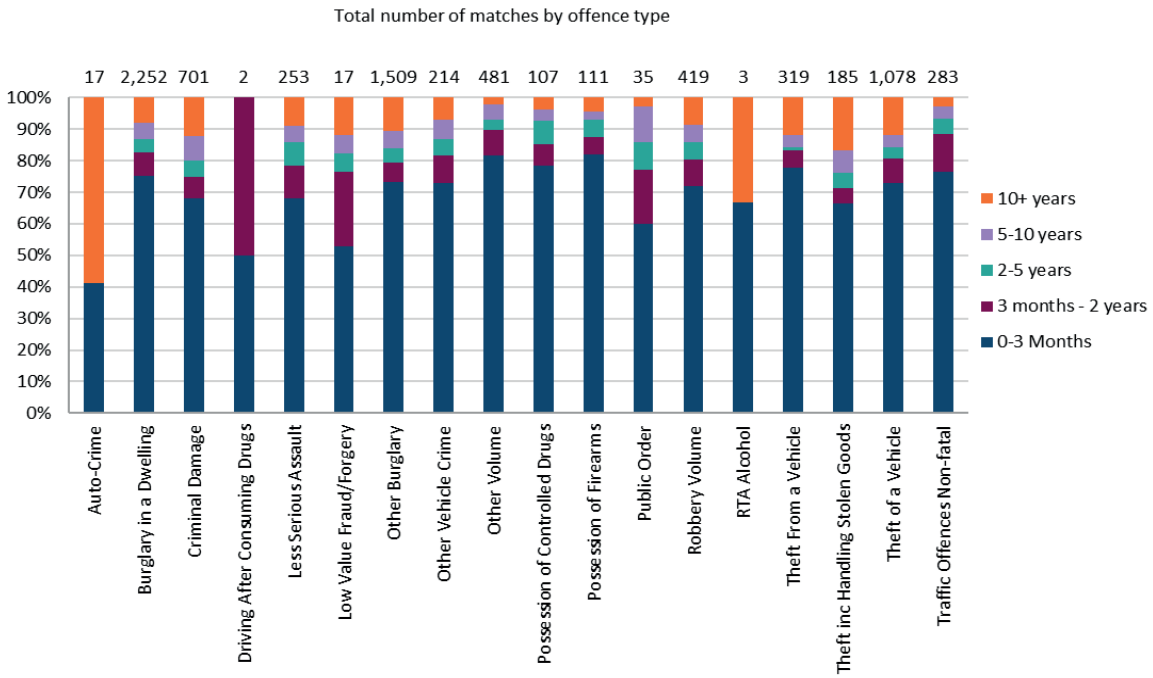


Figure 8: Timing for match to a crime scene profile (on loading subject profiles between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025) – volume crime



[21] April 2025

1.4 How many crimes does NDNAD help solve?

1.4.1 Introduction

NDNAD matches crime scene DNA profile records against subject DNA profile records and other crime scene DNA profile records, providing the police with invaluable information that helps them to identify possible suspects and solve crimes (albeit that a DNA profile match in itself is not usually sufficient to secure a conviction so not every DNA profile match will lead to a crime being solved or a successful conviction).

Considering the contribution of the NDNAD in the wider context of all recorded crime, Table 5 below gives the percentage of NDNAD matches generated through the routine searching of crime scene profiles against the full set of recorded crime data from 2024/25[22].

It must be noted that actual offence categories can differ between those available on the NDNAD and the recorded crime figures, with FINDS aligning these as closely as possible for the purposes of comparison. There is also incomplete geographical alignment between the NDNAD and recorded crime datasets, with the NDNAD figures relating to all Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and recorded crime figures being solely England & Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland (i.e. excluding non-territorial forces[23]).

[22] Recorded crime data for England & Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland
[23] As defined within the Strategy Board 'Access and Use' policy

Table 5: Number of NDNAD matches for crime scenes loaded in 2024/25 as a percentage of all recorded crime

Crime type	All recorded crime	NDNAD matches	% All crime with NDNAD match
Violent Crime[24]	1,322,994	1,117	0.1%
Fraud	1,307,274	34	<0.1%
Theft	1,253,610	310	<0.1%
Other	805,034	1,077	0.1%
Public Order	526,831	61	<0.1%
Criminal Damage	526,702	1,182	0.2%
Vehicle Crime	359,081	3,346	0.9%
Burglary (including aggravated)	255,534	8,562	3.4%
Drugs	236,944	1,559	0.7%
Other sexual offences	153,346	117	0.1%
Robbery	81,006	775	1.0%
Rape	75,782	529	0.7%
Blackmail	31,541	2	<0.1%
Arson / fire investigations	26,684	151	0.6%
Abduction and Kidnapping	8,951	143	1.6%
Traffic (including fatal)	8,321	453	5.4%
Firearms	5,950	523	8.8%
Unclassified[25]	3,024	n/a	N/A
Murder, manslaughter, and attempted murder	1,768	460	26.0%
Explosives[26]	0	9	N/A
Total	**6,990,377**	**20,410**	**0.3%**

[24] Includes wounding/GBH and less serious assault

[25] Scottish records recorded as 'serious assault and attempted murder' as a specific category, which does not align to the NDNAD classifications where these offence types are split between two defined categories.

[26] No equivalent category available within recorded crime classifications.

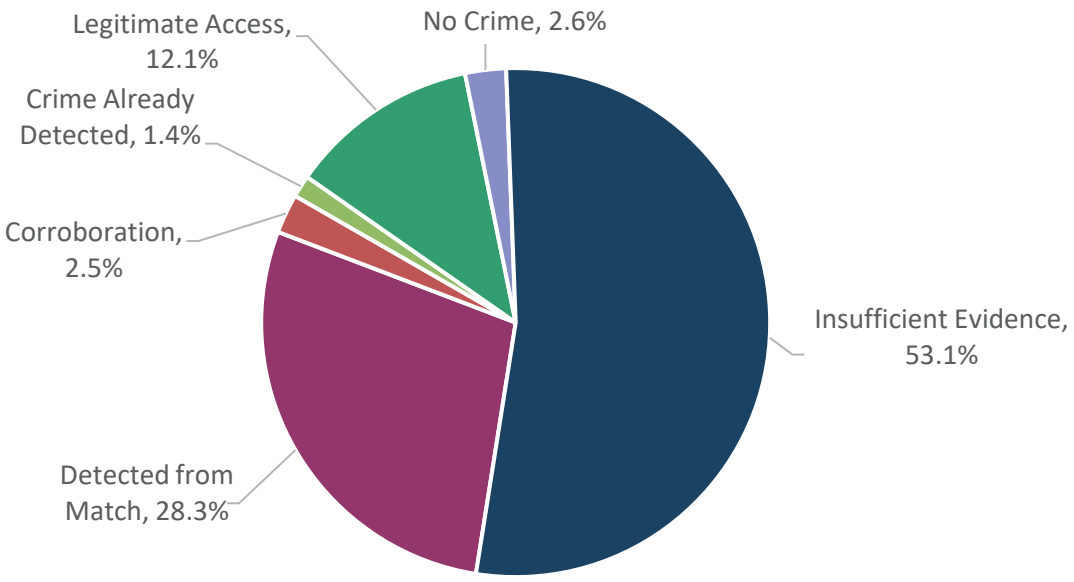
1.4.2 Conversion status from NDNAD match to offence outcome in a case (pilot study)

To assess the effectiveness of NDNAD matches, a study was conducted with pilot police forces that currently have IT systems capable of generating the specific outcome data reported in Figure 9. It is important to note that the information produced is just specific to the responses from the pilot study. If similar data were able to be obtained from a broader range of forces, the proportions allocated to the given categories might differ.

Figure 9 shows outcome data obtained for 2024/25 NDNAD matches for the pilot study forces. Considering the overall high numbers of NDNAD matches generated every year, the conversion of 28.3% of these which enable the offence to be considered as being 'detected'[27] illustrates the overall effectiveness of NDNAD in supporting criminal investigations.

The actual usability of an NDNAD match will be dependent upon a number of factors, the majority outcome of insufficient evidence is the outcome decision from the entirety of evidence available in the case (i.e. not purely based on the viability of an NDNAD match), and another example is the consideration of the significance of the original exhibit/item sampled from the crime scene in the context of the offence.

Figure 9a: NDNAD match use for offence outcome in 2024/25 for a subset of Forces



[27] Noting the usage of this term is not applied in official figures, as described by section 6.2 in Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK

1.4.3 Outcomes

The number of offenders convicted with the assistance of DNA evidence is not recorded. However, DNA evidence has been found to be significant[28] in the conviction of the perpetrators of many serious crimes. There is well-established positive impact of NDNAD matches providing essential information to police forces, such as in the following case examples:

Metropolitan Police

Case 1: Murder

In June 2023, three males aged 14, 15, and 17 arranged to meet with a 17-year-old male victim for the purpose of buying and selling knives. During the meeting, the victim was stabbed and subsequently pushed into the canal, after which the group stole his bag and bicycle. When police attended the home of one of the suspects, a knife used in the attack was thrown from the suspect's bedroom window. This knife was analysed and found to contain a full DNA match for the victim's blood on the blade and the suspect's DNA on the handle. The DNA evidence and the match generated from the NDNAD was crucial in linking the suspects to the scene and the murder weapon, leading to the conviction of the suspect for murder. In July 2024, the suspect received a life sentence with a minimum term of 20 years.

Case 2: Murder

In July 2023, a 16-year-old victim was stabbed in Plashet Park, Newham, with a distinctive red sword. The police recovered the weapon, which was hidden in a tree, following a search of the park. An urgent submission to the lab confirmed the victim's blood on the weapon, as well as a fingerprint and DNA match to the suspect. The database results, which were received while the suspect was in custody, were a key piece of evidence at a time when the suspect was still denying involvement. When questioned about the DNA evidence, the suspect claimed to have been stabbed by a similar weapon the week before, in an attempt to explain the presence of his DNA; however, this defence was not pursued during the trial due to the strength of the fingerprint and DNA evidence. The suspect, who was 15 years old at the time of the offence, was found guilty in May 2024 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Merseyside Police: Aggravated Burglary

In the early hours of the morning, a family including two young children were sleeping in the bedroom at their home address when they were subjected to a violent burglary by two offenders. A number of key items recovered from the scene – including a knife, machete, and sports draw string bag containing black bin liners, a roll of masking tape and a packet of cable ties - underscored the severity of the attack within the family home. Two gloves were recovered which when swabbed resulted in a DNA mixture from which the main profile

[28] Prosecutions are very rarely based on DNA evidence alone.

identified the first offender through a DNA match. This was supported by fingerprint analysis of the contents of the sports bag that provided a fingerprint match to the same individual from marks detected on a black bin liner and the cable tie packet. The investigation team secured phones from the first offender that then opened further lines of enquiry, leading them to identification of the co-defendant. The pair of offenders were convicted and received 10-year and 12-year sentences respectively in December 2024. The DNA match was key to the prosecution case with the offenders being unknown to the victims.

1.5 Missing and Vulnerable Persons Databases

In order to separate DNA profile records for individuals who have been arrested (retained on the NDNAD), from records for missing persons and vulnerable people (which are given with consent), there are separate databases set up specifically for missing and vulnerable persons.

1.5.1 Missing Persons DNA Database (MPDD)

The MPDD holds DNA profile records obtained from the belongings of people who have gone missing or from their close relatives (who will have similar DNA). If an unidentified body is found that matches the description of a missing person, DNA can be taken from the body and compared to the relevant record on the MPDD to see if there is a match. This assists with police investigations and helps to bring closure for the family of the missing person.

As at 31st March 2025, there were **2,475** records on the MPDD. In 2024/25, the MPDD produced **44** matches[29].

1.5.2 Vulnerable Persons DNA Database (VPDD)

The VPDD holds the DNA profile records of people who are at risk (or who consider themselves at risk) of harm (for instance due to child sexual exploitation or honour-based abuse) and have asked for their profile to be added. If the person subsequently goes missing, their profile can be checked against NDNAD to see if they match to any biological material (such as blood or an unidentified body found at a crime scene) helping the police to investigate their disappearance. The taking of fingerprints and DNA samples is a key protective measure advised by National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidance. This is aimed at addressing identification issues in potential investigations and to protect potential victims from serious acts of violence, abduction and homicide[30].

As at 31st March 2025, there were **7,434**[31] records on the VPDD, **12** of these records are searchable on the NDNAD, following approval from the Chair (or their nominee) of the FIND Strategy Board.

[29] The match figures will include international matches that have occurred following a one-off search of the NDNAD / MPDD.
[30] ACPO Guidance on Taking of Fingerprints, DNA & Photographs of Victims / Potential Victims of Forced Marriage – Handling Procedures.
[31] This figure includes all datasets recorded on the VPDD.

There are two distinct datasets with the VPDD relating to the version[32] of the consent form signed by the person who was DNA sampled; the specific consent given defines the scope of searching that takes place as a standard database activity:

- V 1-3 consent – all unidentified bodies/parts' DNA profiles submitted to the MPDD will be speculatively searched against these records on load and then quarterly afterwards.
- V 4+ consent – automatically searched against all unidentified bodies/parts' DNA profiles retained on the NDNAD.

The numbers of searches that cross-search DNA databases, and resultant matches, is set out in Table 6 below.

On the basis of a generated match, the purpose of the searching relates to:

- Identification of a deceased individual;
- Providing potential intelligence for the investigation of an offence, the detection of this providing safeguarding for further individuals who may otherwise have come to harm; and
- For safeguarding for the individual sampled as a vulnerable person - where crime scene material (e.g. blood is searched (rather than a body/parts)).

Table 6: Number of database searches of vulnerable persons' records

Search regime	No. profiles searched (or retained)	No. matches to vulnerable persons
All MPDD searched unidentified bodies and unidentified alive individuals vs. VPDD (consent v1-3)	341	0
NDNAD retained unidentified bodies vs. VPDD class code 'VPC' (consent v4)	301	0
Speculative search of the VPDD[33] (consent v1-4) for crime scene records (UK and International) relating to high-risk potential – including modern slavery and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE)	0	0
International unidentified body searches vs. the VPDD (consent v1-4)	132	0

[32] Version 1 denoted by V1 in the text
[33] The Chair (or their nominee) of the FIND Strategy Board approval is required – consideration on a case-by-case basis.

1.6 Biometrics Assurance

1.6.1 Forensic Service Provider (FSP) accreditation

FSPs carrying out DNA profiling work for loading to NDNAD must be approved by FINDS and the FIND Strategy Board and must hold accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 as defined in the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice. As at 31st March 2025, **14** laboratories were authorised to load profile records to NDNAD from standard processing.

1.6.2 Centralised DNA Contamination Elimination Database

FINDS administers a Centralised DNA Contamination Elimination Database (CED) from which regular, national searches of crime scene profile records submitted to the NDNAD are checked against elimination profile records.

These elimination profiles are generated from DNA samples provided by police officers and staff, and from other individuals with potential to introduce contamination into the DNA supply chain, including staff employed within DNA consumable manufacturing organisations and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs).

This searching allows identification of those crime scene profile records relating to contamination (rather than the crime scene material actually sampled) for further integrity investigation and deletion of the crime scene record from the NDNAD.

Once an elimination profile is retained on the CED, it is checked against all newly submitted crime scene profile records added to the NDNAD. Following any necessary quality assurance checks by the FSPs which processed the crime scene DNA sample, matches are investigated by the police forces or organisation which owns the elimination record. Any crime scene DNA profile records concluded to originate from contamination, are then deleted from NDNAD.

As at 1st April 2025, **3,103** potential contamination events had been identified for investigation. Forces have been investigating these matches and **2,950** have been concluded resulting in the removal of **2,684** crime scene profile records from the NDNAD[34]. As LEAs conclude their investigations the number of crime scene records deleted from the NDNAD will increase.

For 2024/25 there were **184** crime scene profile records deleted from the NDNAD as confirmed contamination from CED matches.

DNA profile records taken from serving police officers and police staff are retained for elimination purposes for 12 months after they leave a police force (except where they transfer to another force)[35]. In line with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), DNA samples will be destroyed within 6 months of the sample being taken.

[34] Following investigation, 241 crime scene records were eligible for continued retention on the NDNAD with there being a valid reason (e.g. adventitious) for the match generated.
[35] This change was brought in via The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and The Special Constables (Amendment) Regulations 2015. The regulations were signed off on 1st April 2015.

1.6.3 NDNAD integrity check – Near Match Report

The NDNAD integrity check 'Near Match Report' (NMR) identifies NDNAD retained records which are fully matching (consistent) at all values except for one or two differences[36]. The NMR is designed to record instances where a complete match between DNA profiles at all values is expected but does not occur, due to certain integrity factors such as:

- the DNA profiles were generated by the use of different processing chemistries between which there is known discordance[37] potential; or
- one of the DNA profiles in the near match has been assigned an incorrect value during the DNA profile interpretation.

Details for near match events identified between subject vs. crime scene, and crime scene versus crime scene NDNAD retained records are reported to the respective FSP which performed the DNA profile interpretation in order that they can check the integrity of the record and undertake any further confirmation re-processing and/or request any necessary NDNAD profile record amendment.

In addition to indicating integrity incidents, there were further potential sources for a near match to occur, including:

- adventitious near match (high partiality/allele frequency for a crime scene DNA profile(s) in the near match); and
- familial match – there is a close familial relationship (such as full siblings) between the individuals whose DNA profiles are in near match.

As an outcome of NMR investigations completed in 2024/25, there were **164** subject and **93** crime scene records amended, and **3** crime scene records deleted.

DNA profile amendments triggered by NMR investigations allow full matches to be generated for the affected records (which wouldn't exist without the NMR being in place). Examples of the case impact from such matches were given through feedback from police forces:

Suffolk: Sexual offence

A match generated in July 2024 against a sexual offence that the person in question was not a suspect in the investigation until the DNA match was received. The suspect was subsequently arrested and this opened further lines of enquiry with other on-going investigations.

Metropolitan Police: Wounding/GBH

The suspect inflicted 25 stab wounds to the victim using a screwdriver, which was not recovered. However, during the assault, the suspect dropped his glasses at the scene, which

[36] Up until June 2024, only near matches with one difference were highlighted for checking. From July 2024, this integrity check was expanded so that near matches with two differences are now highlighted – increasing the coverage of this integrity check.
[37] The potential for DNA samples that relate to the same person generating DNA profiles which are non-identical due to different DNA testing methods (processing chemistries) used.

were later recovered and submitted for DNA Analysis. A partial DNA profile was obtained and uploaded to the NDNAD. Following the profile amendment, as a result of the NMR, a match was generated to the suspect. The DNA was crucial in confirming the suspect's identity and establishing a forensic link to the scene.

1.6.4 DNA Proficiency Testing

The high performance of laboratories that process forensic evidence is critical in the ability to generate a DNA profile that is of high enough quality to search against, or keep on, the NDNAD.

Proficiency testing is an essential requirement for the accreditation of FSP units to ISO/IEC 17025. It is also an important way of comparing laboratory performance against other organisations carrying out similar tasks. Proficiency testing schemes provided by FINDS allow FSPs to identify and implement improvements and provide assurance on the quality of their processes.

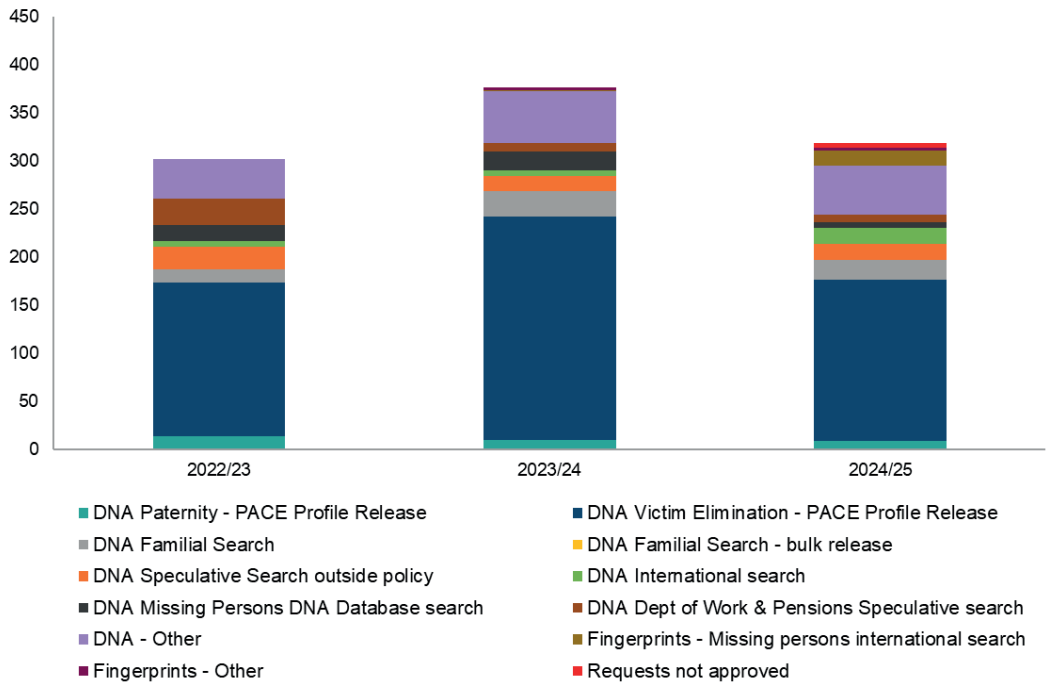
FINDS also provides an ISO/IEC17043 accredited body fluid assessment and identification (BFAI) proficiency testing scheme. The scheme supports law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to locate, identify, and recover body fluids and cellular material. Carrying out these activities to the highest possible standard is essential for isolating a good quality forensic DNA sample suitable for processing.

1.6.5 Exceptional circumstances approvals

FIND Strategy Board and FINDS policies detail the standard allowance and constraints for biometrics' usage where the representative national database fall under the governance of the Strategy Board. In circumstances where an LEA (or FSP on behalf of the LEA) would seek usage for DNA or Fingerprints which incurs variance to standard policy, there is the ability to request consideration of these as exceptional circumstances via a request to the Chair (or their nominee) of the FIND Strategy Board.

Further to exceptional circumstances, there are specific activities such as DNA familial searching which require as standard procedure the Chair (or their nominee) of the FIND Strategy Board authorisation in every case. The following Figure 9b trends the requests received in the last three years.

Figure 9b: DNA exceptional circumstances approval requests



1.7 DNA Database and services developments in 2024/25

There is an ongoing programme of enhancement for the national DNA databases and provided DNA services to incorporate new developments in technology and meet evolving operational needs. This involves significant work in developing and testing these changes to ensure they meet the necessary standards. The Home Office also responds to any scientific and technological developments that could impact on the effectiveness of maintained DNA databases and related services.

1.7.1 Y-Chromosome Reference DNA Database

FINDS and FCN continued development of a UK Y-chromosome reference database that will enable the estimation of the frequency of Y-chromosome (termed 'Y-STR') DNA profiles specifically in the UK population. This reference database will enhance the UK's capability in the investigation of sexual offences as well as other serious criminal offences, where often the male DNA profile is masked due to a mixed DNA profile being obtained. A collection exercise of approximately 10,000 mouth swab samples to obtain Y-STR profile data for the reference database was commenced by FINDS and FCN in 2023.

The project is split into three phases:

1. Sample collection
2. Research
3. Implementation of the database

Sample collection has been ongoing through 2024/25 and will be completed in 2025/26. Phase 2 has also commenced in this period; this research is to propose the statistical method for evaluating Y-STR profiles, and is being guided through an Expert Network group set up to gather user requirements.

1.7.2 Expansion of the NDNAD to include additional markers (including Y-STR)

FINDS are exploring the potential expansion of the NDNAD to allow for additional DNA markers to be retained, these will include both autosomal markers as well as Y-STR markers (from males). Exploratory work during 2024/25 has focussed on confirming whether there is allowance within existing legislation and policy to allow the expansion to go ahead, or if updates/changes are required. Two significant milestones have been reached this year:

1. It has been confirmed that a legislation change to PACE is not required to allow retention of Y-STR markers on the NDNAD; and
2. The FIND Strategy Board approved for Y-STR markers to be retained on the NDNAD in the future.

During 2025/26 further investigation work, including the requirements for the necessary NDNAD IT system development required to hold the new DNA markers on the NDNAD will be explored, noting that any planned system changes would be subject to funding being in place.

1.7.3 Implementation of DBLR™ Software

FINDS have purchased a license for the DBLR™ (database likelihood ratios) software, which will allow:

1. FINDS to provide a centralised DNA familial searching service for the UK; and
2. Replacement of the existing DNAboost searching facility (mixture searching against nominals from the NDNAD)

Testing commenced during 2024/25 and the anticipated launch date for the services is within 2025/26.

1.7.4 Proficiency Testing scheme for Sexual Assault Referral Centres

During 2024/25, FINDS developed a specialised scheme focused on the activities of SARCs to assist them in meeting accreditation requirements. The SARC proficiency test is conducted through FINDS providing a 'verification package' that includes a piece of vinyl (simulating skin texture) and a gynaecological anatomical model, both seeded with body fluids containing DNA. The objective of the test is for SARC staff to accurately identify the correct areas to sample for body fluids and then apply appropriate recovery techniques to gather sufficient DNA for generating a profile suitable for comparison against the NDNAD.

1.8 Error Rates

Table 7 shows the error rate for subject and crime scene profile records held on NDNAD for each type of organisation in 2024/25. These errors have been identified through FINDS integrity checks. No known miscarriage of justice arose from these errors; they were detected by the routine integrity checks in place. However, had they remained undetected, they could have affected the integrity of the NDNAD.

Table 7: Error rates 2024/2025

		Sample Type	April to June 2024	July to September	October to December	January to March 2025
Profile records loaded		Subject	80,704	88,672	82,852	83,705
		Crime scene	5,700	5,844	5,702	5,751
Organisation	**Error types**	**Sample Type**	**April to June 2024**	**July to September 2024**	**October to December 2024**	**January to March 2025**
Police Forces	Sample or record handling	Subject	30	85	49	48
		Subject (%)	0.04%	0.10%	0.06%	0.06%
Forensic Service Providers	Sample or record handling	Subject	1	1	2	0
		Subject (%)	<0.01%	<0.01%	<0.01%	0.00%
		Crime scene	1	2	4	3
		Crime scene (%)	0.02%	0.03%	0.07%	0.05%
	Interpretation [38]	Subject	4	6	4	3
		Subject (%)	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
		Crime scene	17	10	7	17
		Crime scene (%)	0.30%	0.17%	0.12%	0.30%
FINDS (DNA)	Transcription or amendment	Subject	0	0	0	0
		Subject (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
		Crime scene	1	0	0	1
		Crime scene (%)	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%

[38] It should be noted that the percentage error rates for record/sample handling are not directly equivalent to those for interpretation: a record/sample handling error will affect a complete DNA profile while an interpretation error will affect (generally) one area of the DNA analysed by the Forensic Service Provider (a single allele or locus).

1.9 Access to the NDNAD

Day-to-day operation of NDNAD is the responsibility of FINDS. Data held on NDNAD are kept securely and the laboratories that provide DNA profile records to NDNAD are subject to regular assessment.

FINDS is responsible for ensuring that operational activity meets the standards for quality and integrity established by the FIND Strategy Board. There were **32** vetted staff who had access to the NDNAD as at 31st March 2025 and there were **9** accounts which do not have direct access to the NDNAD but are used to facilitate the sending of reports to police forces.

No police officer or police force has direct access to the data held on NDNAD, but they are informed of any matches it produces. Similarly, FSPs who undertake DNA profiling under contract to the police service and submit the resulting crime scene and subject profile records for loading, do not have direct access to NDNAD.

2. National Fingerprint Database

2.1 Introduction

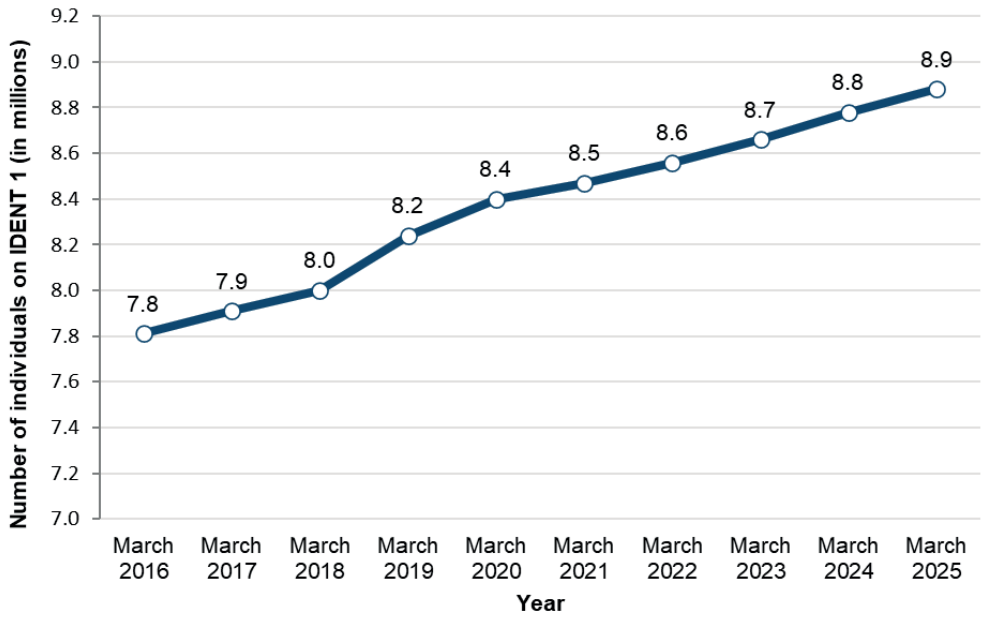
The National Fingerprint Database and National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), now collectively referred to as IDENT1, was established in 1999 and holds fingerprint images obtained from persons and crime scenes by LEAs of the United Kingdom. It provides the ability to electronically store and search fingerprint images to manage person identity and compare fingerprints from known individuals with fingermarks from unsolved crimes.

2.2 Who is on IDENT1?

2.2.1 Number of profile records held on IDENT1 System[39]

As at 31st March 2025, IDENT1 held **28,995,971** fingerprint forms relating to **8,875,582** individuals. Figure 10 shows the yearly number of individuals on IDENT1.

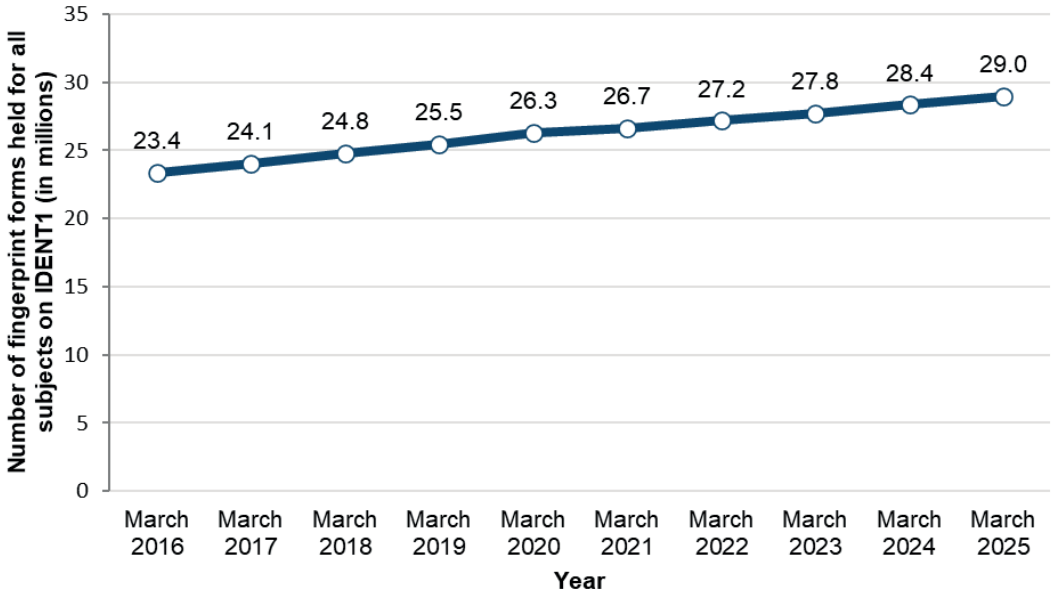
Figure 10: Number of individuals on IDENT1 (in millions) (2015/16 to 2024/25) [39, 3]



As at 31st March 2025, IDENT1 held **1,908,991** unidentified crime scene marks. Figure 11 shows the yearly number of unique unidentified mark submissions held on IDENT1.

[39] Source: FINDS - National Fingerprint and PNC Office in consultation with the IDENT1 supplier

Figure 11: Number of Fingerprint Forms Held for all Subjects on IDENT1 (in millions) (2015/16 to 2024/25)[40,]



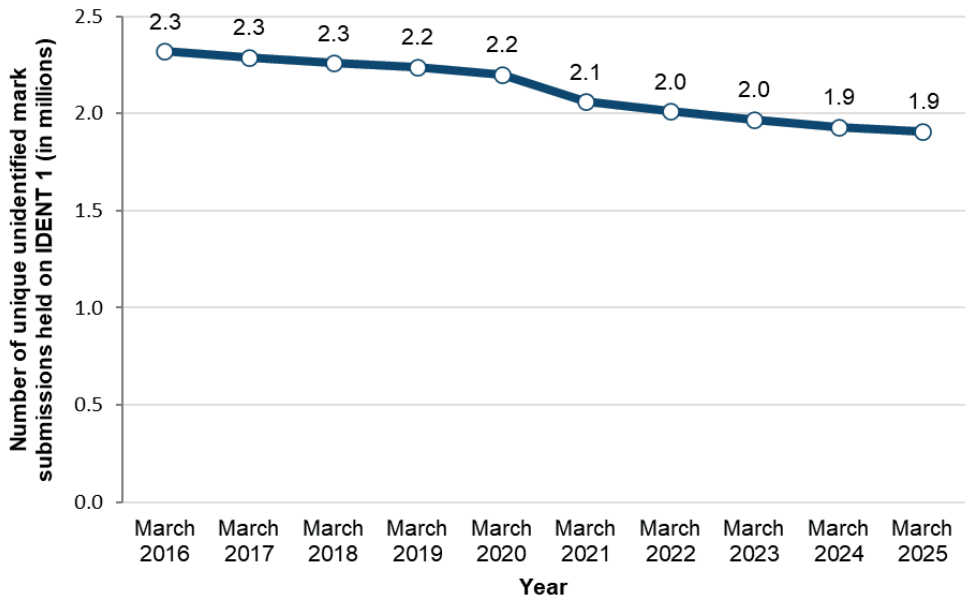
The number of records held on IDENT 1 each year from 2015/16 to 2024/25, (including the number of unidentified crime scene marks), is shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Records held on IDENT1

Year	Number of Individuals on IDENT1	Number of Fingerprint Identification Forms held on IDENT 1	Number of unidentified crime scene marks held on IDENT1
March 2016	7,814,041	23,364,390	2,318,576
March 2017	7,905,419	24,059,907	2,285,669
March 2018	8,012,521	24,822,939	2,259,139
March 2019	8,240,881	25,477,499	2,240,580
March 2020	8,397,761	26,298,205	2,203,279
March 2021	8,468,335	26,651,175	2,060,567
March 2022	8,562,878	27,168,685	2,009,989
March 2023	8,665,793	27,748,542	1,969,492
March 2024	8,775,385	28,374,312	1,930,902
March 2025	8,875,582	28,995,971	1,908,991

[40] Source: FINDS - National Fingerprint and PNC Office in consultation with the IDENT1 supplier

Figure 12: Number of unique unidentified mark submissions held on IDENT 1 (in millions) (2015/16 to 2024/25)[41,]



2.3 Missing persons

Fingerprints relating to unidentified bodies, and unidentified or missing persons investigations are searched on the National Fingerprint Database in an attempt to establish identity or locate a missing person. Where the investigation allows, the fingerprints obtained are stored in the Missing Persons Fingerprint Collection and as such are only searchable by request. Fingerprints obtained from the belongings of a missing person are also searched against both the National Fingerprint Collection and the Missing Persons Fingerprint Collection to assist with police investigations and to help to bring closure for the family of the missing person.

There were **65** print sets received and searched relating to missing persons held on the database as at 31st March 2025. During the reporting period (1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025), there were **5** positive identifications for Missing Persons Unit cases.

2.4 Vulnerable persons

The National Fingerprint Database contains fingerprints obtained with consent from vulnerable persons, specifically those defined at risk of honour-based abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation. The taking of fingerprints and DNA samples is a key protective measure advised by the NPCC guidance to practitioners. This is a two-fold measure, aimed at addressing identification issues in potential investigations and to protect potential victims from serious acts of violence, abduction, and homicide[42] Fingerprints donated by vulnerable

[41] Source: FINDS - National Fingerprint and PNC Office in consultation with the IDENT1 supplier
[42] 1.5 ACPO - Guidance on Taking of Fingerprints, DNA & Photographs of Victims / Potential Victims of Forced Marriage - Handling Procedures.

persons are stored on the national fingerprint database and as such provide means to identify a vulnerable person when they come to police notice.

There were **9,526**[43] sets of fingerprints relating to vulnerable people held on the database as at 31st March 2025.

2.5 Outcomes using Fingerprints.

The number of offenders convicted with the help of Fingerprint evidence is not recorded.

Within IDENT1 it is possible to search tenprints[44] and fingermarks to investigate links between a person and unidentified scene of crime fingermarks.

During the period 2024/25, there were **411,989** scene of crime mark to tenprint searches resulting in **11,472** matches.

For all tenprint records obtained from persons arrested in the UK there is a search of the arrestee tenprint collection to confirm whether a person has a previously obtained fingerprint set on the database. This search confirms a person's identity and is linked to the person's arrest event, biometrically validating a person's arrest history.

2.6 Fingerprint Database and services developments in 2024/25

The Home Office Biometrics Programme (HOB) has provided the following developments for fingerprints capture, searching, and storage over the last year:

- Continued increase in the usage of the fingerprint searching product 'Rapid Search' with a total of 33 Forces now onboarded to use the product.
- The Strategic Matcher Platform was rolled out to an early adopting bureau for testing; the platform hosts the algorithms that enable fingerprint biometric matching (and facial image matching in later stages), replacing the current matching services.
- Completed the feasibility phase for replacing the current IDENT1 bureau desktop and establishing practitioner groups to gain insight on the priority of key areas which need addressing.
- Various IDENT1 hardware and software components have been updated and refreshed to ensure business continuity.

[43] Provide by the Strategic Central & Bureau Platform (SCBP) Service Performance Monitoring Report (March 2025 Service Period).

[44] A tenprint is a set of fingerprints comprising of:

- Impressions of the fingertips taken by rolling each finger from edge to edge.
- An impression of all 4 fingers taken simultaneously for each hand and both thumbs.
- Impressions of the ridge detail present on both palms.

2.6.1 Future developments

HOB has supported the following future developments to improve efficiency and enhance capability:

- Strategic Matcher Platform will continue to roll out enhanced mark to print search performance to all fingerprint bureau throughout 2025/26. The upgraded fingerprint matcher will provide more accurate fingerprint search results to users.
- Working with practitioners on the design phase for the IDENT1 bureau desktop refresh to ensure the system will enhance user experience and opportunities for improvement are identified and prioritised.
- Working with Police Digital Services to explore the benefits of integration of the Digital Fingerprint Capability with IDENT1. Integration of the two systems would streamline fingerprint bureau workflow and allow a digital 'end to end' user journey offering time saving efficiencies.
- Additional technical refreshes are planned for IDENT1 to ensure continuity of service until a full replacement of the IDENT1 bureau desktop and central architecture is completed.

An individual's biometric information is sensitive personal information and is handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. To ensure transparency, HOB completes Data Protection Impact Assessments for all areas of the Programme. HOB continues to engage with and provide updates to the Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group (BFEG).

2.6.2 Custody facial image retention on IDENT1

In the September 2022 FIND Strategy Board meeting, it was agreed that there should be a national data controller for the proposed retention of facial custody images on IDENT1, and that the governance should sit with the FIND Strategy Board.

This year, a NPCC-sponsored programme delivering on behalf of policing recommended retention criteria that should be consistently applied to facial custody images. It is expected that this work will inform the wider government ambitions to govern the collection, retention, and use of facial images as a biometric.

The same technological platform will be used to house custody images and fingerprints. A new collection, with tight access and use rules, was under development in 2024/2025. Once fully delivered, this will include the ability to automate the retention and deletion of custody images that have been taken at arrest through the powers in PACE. The aim in 2025/2026 is to enable these images to be loaded to this newly developed collection and for them to be searched by a national Home Office facial recognition searching service.

2.7 Access to National Fingerprint database

The number of IDENT1 active bureau users was **1,432** as at 31st March 2025. Fingerprints are captured electronically on a device called Livescan and electronically transmitted to the fingerprint database for search and the number of active Livescan users was **14,361** as of 31st March 2025.

3. International Data Exchange

3.1 Overview

DNA and fingerprints are exchanged between the UK and other countries to aid criminal investigations and in connection with missing person or unidentified body investigations. All exchanges must abide by national and international law and all non-Prüm exchanges of DNA and Fingerprint data are made via the NCA UK International Crime Bureau.

3.2 International requests for DNA & Fingerprint exchange

3.2.1 DNA

During the 2024/25 period, FINDS processed **657** requests from other countries for DNA profiles from their jurisdictions to be searched against the NDNAD. Of these requests, **525** were related to criminal investigations, while **132** were connected to unidentified body part(s) investigations.

3.2.2 Fingerprints

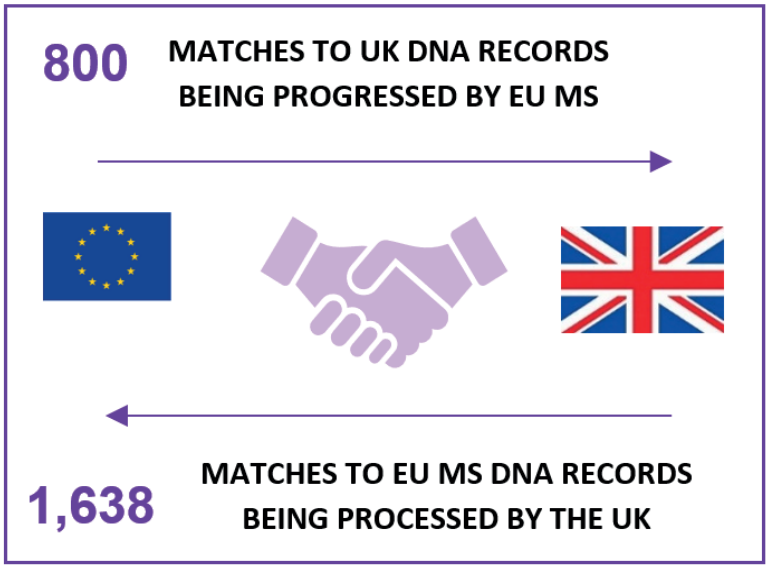
During the 2024/25 period, FINDS processed **64** requests from other countries for fingerprint searches against IDENT1, all of which were in connection with missing or unidentified persons. Of these requests, **13** were missing persons, **46** related to unidentified bodies, and **5** were for unidentified alive individuals.

3.3 Exchanges under Title II of Part 3 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (Prüm exchange)

Title II of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) provides for the continued exchange of biometric data with EU Member States to improve cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies to combat terrorism and cross-border crime. Cooperation prior to EU exit was governed by the Prüm Council Decisions and the biometric exchange mechanisms and governance framework continue to be referred to as 'Prüm'.

Prüm allows the sharing of biometric data (DNA profiles and fingerprints) with EU Member States on a reciprocal basis through a two-step process. Step one is an anonymised search of biometric data against national databases providing a 'hit/no hit' result. Step two involves the sharing of demographic data (e.g. name, date of birth) and policing intelligence where there has been a verified match against the anonymised data.

3.3.1 DNA Profile Exchange



The UK began sharing DNA profiles in July 2019 and is now connected to the 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Demark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

During 2024/25 the UK obtained **26,252** matches to subjects and **4,309** matches to crime scene profile records retained on national DNA databases. During this period, 800 incoming requests were reported out as matches to requesting Member States (MS) and **1,638** reports were sent out to UK police forces to request the intelligence from the MS.

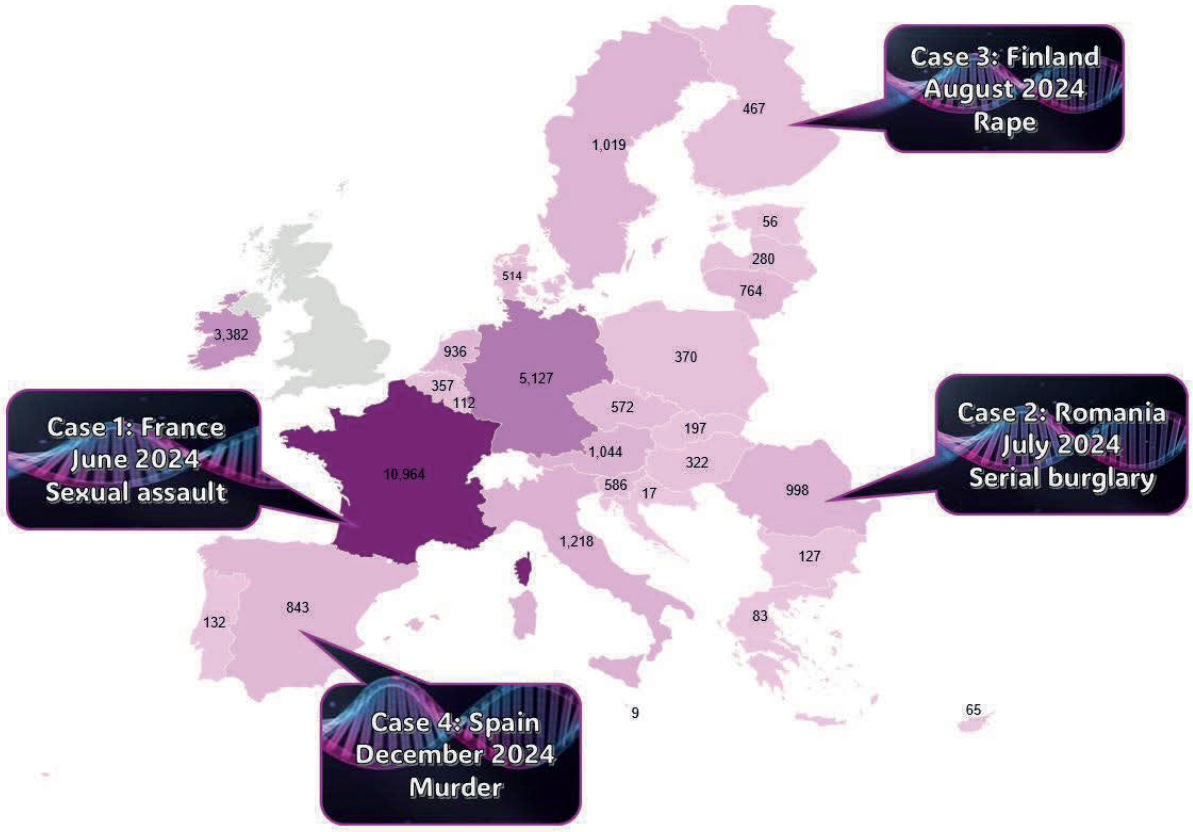
The UK's connection to Prüm DNA has produced positive results for both the UK and the EU partners connected. From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, EU MS received **658** UK held convicted subject profiles, **140** non-convicted subject profiles and associated intelligence packages, with **211** of these for serious crime offences.

The UK has received **941** EU MS subject profiles and associated intelligence packages, with **413** of these for serious crime offences.

Since the UK's involvement in Prüm DNA exchange, there have been **6,797** inbound crimes (sent from EU MS) Step 2 cases and **10,486** hits outbound (sent from UK LEAs) Step 2 cases that have assisted in criminal investigations.

The following Figure 13 displays the number of matches generated from the action of exchanging UK retained DNA profiles with EU Member States in 2024/25; the figures for each country are the total of all the matches to UK subjects and crime scenes.

Figure 13: Number of matches generated between EU Member State and the UK in 2024/25



Case 1: Prüm outbound - UK crime scene matched to subject from France
Investigation into a historic sexual assault in which an unknown perpetrator sexually assaulted a female victim. A DNA match was generated to a subject known to French authorities for a previous rape offence committed there in 2021.

Case 2: Prüm outbound - UK crime scenes matched to subject from Romania
DNA request regarding a residential burglary in July 2024, which matched to a subject identified as being a linked series offender - committing a series of 40 burglary offences in 2 different force areas. The individual initially pleaded guilty to 27 offences in March 2025 carried out in 1 force area and received a 4½-year prison sentence, and subsequently pleaded guilty to the remaining 13 offences in the second force area.

Case 3: Prüm outbound - UK crime scene matched to subject from Finland
In August 2024, a match was received to a subject from Finland in relation to a rape case. Biographic data and supporting materials were provided for the subject who was known in Finland for three stranger rapes. The individual was not previously known to UK law enforcement.

Case 4: Prüm Inbound: crime scene in Spain matched to a UK subject
In December 2024, DNA from a murder crime scene matched a UK-held subject profile. UK authorities provided Spain with antecedents for the individual, fingerprints, and custody facial image. The subject had no current UK footprint as he had been deported to the Netherlands in 2015. The Netherlands reported the same subject had also been involved in gun violence in Amsterdam later in December 2024, had been arrested at the time, and later died in custody. UK authorities coordinated with Spain and the Netherlands to progress the investigations.

3.3.2 Fingerprint Exchange

Following a positive peer evaluation and unanimous support from EU Member States (MS), the UK began exchanging fingerprint data under the Prüm Council Decisions in October 2020 and continues these exchanges under the TCA. Fingerprint searches against EU MS collections are initiated by practitioners in police bureaux via IDENT1.

As at 31st March 2025, the UK was connected to **21** EU countries via Prüm: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden.

UK LEAs have conducted over **50,435** fingerprint searches across the connected EU countries.

From 1st April 2024 up to 31st March 2025, the UK undertook **14,181** outbound fingerprint searches. Fingerprint enquiries during this time period have resulted in **155** intelligence packages received from the EU in respect of outbound UK enquiries, and **320** outbound intelligence packages sent by the UK to the EU in response to their inbound enquiries.

Since the UK's involvement in the Prüm fingerprint exchange, the UK has made a total of **1,006** outbound intelligence requests to EU Member States. The EU states have responded to over **98**% of all requests, providing **995** subject profiles that have assisted LEAs in criminal investigations.

EU MS have made **795** inbound intelligence requests to the UK. The UK has responded to over **98**% of these requests, providing **785** UK subject profiles that have assisted in EU Member State investigations.

Planned future connections include Cyprus and Spain in early 2025/26.

4. Finance 2024/25

In 2024/25 the Home Office and policing spent **£4.4m**[45] delivering FINDS services for the NDNAD, IDENT1, and the National Footwear System[46] on behalf of the Criminal Justice System (and **£0.22m** for the DNA Proficiency Testing schemes run by FINDS).

5. Supplementary content

To provide additional information on the governance, legislation, and glossary of DNA and fingerprint analysis for database purposes, the FIND Strategy Board Annual Report – Supplementary Content document is available.

[45] Does not include IT costs.
[46] Incorporating the National Footwear Database (NFD) and the National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC)

Annex i NDNAD end to end process

National DNA Database (NDNAD) Process

This 'Rich Picture' provides an overview of the core process for collecting and processing DNA samples for investigative purposes. England & Wales, plus Northern Ireland forces, collect and process DNA samples under the Police And Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). Forces in Scotland are regulated by the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

The CPS is responsible for ensuring DNA evidence has conformed to the appropriate legislative process, and that there is direct linkage between the evidence, the individual and the crime scene. The CPS will not prosecute based solely on DNA evidence – there must be corroborating material.

Court

DNA evidence plays a powerful role in supporting prosecutions. However, as with all evidential material, the defence are able to challenge its validity and relevance.

❷ Scene of Crime

At the crime scene, a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) identifies and collects evidence including finger prints and DNA.

Items potentially containing DNA are placed into sealed bags and each item is labelled with a common reference number for that case. All bags are deposited into a large, sealed container together with an information card, and recording relevant details about the scene. Afterwards, the sealed bags are taken back to the police station for processing. These exhibits are then prioritised according to the likely value of the evidence.

The CSI collates the recovered material, records exhibit details and enters key information into the police systems. The DNA samples are kept at a controlled temperature prior to dispatch to the force's nominated forensic science laboratory.

Transport

DNA samples are securely sealed in a tamper-proof bag, prior to collection by a courier. Every handover of the sealed courier bag is recorded, timed, and signed for auditable continuity of evidence purposes.

❹ Forensic Supplier Laboratory

DNA analysis is provided by selected forensic science DNA laboratories which are accredited to the Forensic Science Regulator statutory code. Forensic suppliers ensure the full traceability of each sample, from point of delivery, through the testing procedure and forwarding of the DNA profiles electronically to the NDNAD2 IT system for the NDNAD, plus subsequent storage of the sample.

❺ The NDNAD2 system - Loading and Interrogation

DNA profiles generated by the forensic suppliers are sent electronically to the NDNAD2 IT system for loading to the NDNAD. An individual's profile will only be loaded if there is consistency between the unique reference numbers that accompanied the sample to those present within the NDNAD skeleton record (previously generated from the PNC). In the rare event of a profile failing to load, the NDNAD2 system notifies the forensic supplier to liaise with the relevant police force to resolve the discrepancy; following which the forensic supplier re-submits the profile for NDNAD loading.

Following a successful load, the profile is automatically searched against all pre-existing profiles on the NDNAD.

❻ FINDS - NDNAD Service Centre

Matches between individuals and crime scenes, or crime scenes and crime scenes, generate a report which is securely transmitted to the relevant police force(s).

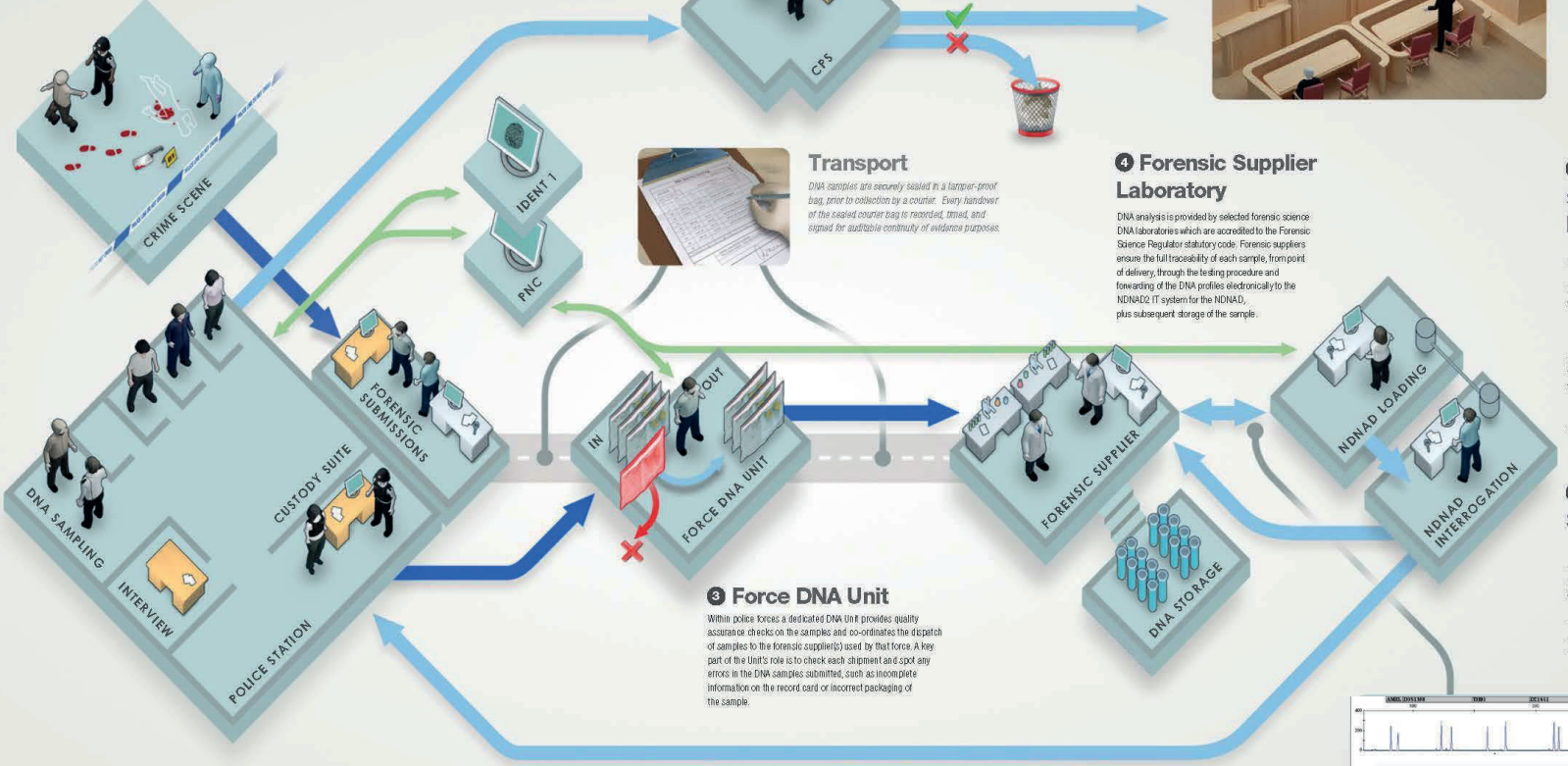
The Home Office FINDS NDNAD Unit provide a service desk for queries with the status of NDNAD records and matches.

❶ Custody Suite

Following arrest for a recordable offence, the detainee is taken to a force Custody Suite. This provides a controlled environment to interview the suspect, establish identity, generate a record on the Police National Computer (PNC) and obtain a DNA sample. Fingerprint checks against the National Fingerprint Database (IDENT1) will assist in the identification of any known aliases. The PNC record includes unique reference numbers for the individual, and the arrest, and confirms if a DNA profile is currently held. In parallel, the creation of the PNC record also generates a skeleton record on the NDNAD, which includes these unique references. The unique references generated will accompany the sample throughout the remainder of the process.

❸ Force DNA Unit

Within police forces a dedicated DNA Unit provides quality assurance checks on the samples and co-ordinates the dispatch of samples to the forensic supplier(s) used by that force. A key part of the Unit's role is to check each shipment and spot any errors in the DNA samples submitted, such as incomplete information on the record card or incorrect packaging of the sample.



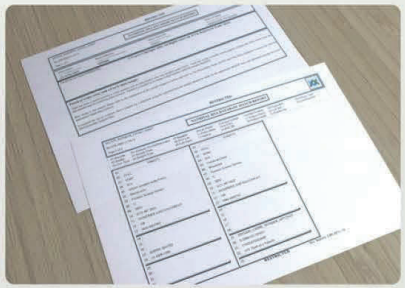
PACE Kit

If PNC and IDENT1 checks confirm that no DNA sample has previously been provided by the arrestee, then a sample will be taken under the appropriate legislative framework. The DNA sampling kit contains two identical swabs and is uniquely identified with a barcoded record card and labels. Following sampling, they are sealed in barcoded tubes, placed in an inner bag with tamper-proof seal, and accompanied by the barcoded DNA record card. The DNA sampling kits are then all enclosed in an outer bag.

Match Report

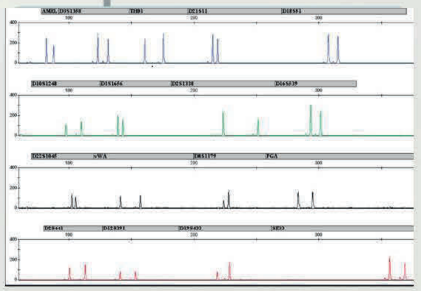
DNA match information is not acted upon in isolation by police. The match report does form the basis of further investigation, and where applicable, provides additional supporting evidence in the case submitted to the CPS.

Where a match with an unsolved crime is identified, the original investigating officer is informed that this additional information is available.



DNA Profile Transfer

DNA profiles derived from individuals and crime scenes are securely transmitted by the forensic laboratory to the NDNAD2 IT system. The DNA record contains a numeric string and unique reference number. In the case of England and Wales forces, the profiles derived from individuals contain neither personal nor demographic information.



DNA profile example - copied with permission from Promega

DNA Samples
DNA Information
Database Access

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