

15 February 2024

Danica Knowles
fyi-request-25339-52f40789@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Danica

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act request (OIA) dated 5 January 2024, in which you requested:

When DNA (fingerprint, saliva) is found at a crime and entered into the NZ police database does it compare itself to all DNA the NZ police have on system until it finds a successful match?

When a DNA profile is obtained from a crime scene sample, for example from saliva, that profile may be loaded into the unsolved crime scene sample database, which is managed by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR). The decision on whether that DNA profile is loaded into the unsolved crime scene sample database is dependent on a range of factors, such whether that crime scene sample DNA profile is likely to identify the suspect, and whether that evidence is necessary in the particular case.

The new unsolved DNA profile is compared to other unsolved crime scene sample DNA profiles to identify if there are any links to other crime scenes. Following that process, and at regular intervals, the new unsolved crime scene profile is compared to the National DNA Profile Databank of known DNA profiles from people (including convicted offenders) to search for a match. If a match is obtained, the results of that search are provided to Police by the ESR.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Paul Berry
Detective Inspector
New Zealand Police