



Gary Maxey
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

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Our Ref: FOI2019/02905

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02905

I write in connection with your request for information received on 30th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

Is there a designated length of time for which your force(s) and laboratories you instruct, both internal and external, retain physical material gathered during police investigations in respect of convicted crimes? If there is a divergence of policy according to crime type, please provide clarification. The phrase "physical material" above refers to all objects and items which are exhibited as part of both the "used material" at trial AND the "unused material", not subsequently used at trial.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Response – Bedfordshire Police complies with the (NPCC) National Police Chiefs Council retention schedule for information held by the force. Please see the document attached marked as **Annex A - FOI2019 02905**, this document is the National Guidance on the minimum standards for the Retention and Disposal of Police Records.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey
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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.