

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2009**

Question

Would the Minister provide the Assembly with the following information:

- a) the number of people in Jersey who have a criminal record;
- b) the number of people whose DNA is recorded on the DNA database;
- c) the number of people who have been arrested but not charged (who do not have an existing criminal record) whose DNA is recorded on the DNA database;
- d) the number of criminal record checks to which Jersey Police have provided information within the Island over the last five years;
- e) the policy followed with regard to the retention of DNA material obtained from people arrested but not charged with a criminal offence and, in particular, whether it is retained or destroyed immediately or after what period?

Answer

- a) The States of Jersey Police does not have this information. Checks are not carried out on every person who enters or leaves the Island and, therefore, it is impossible to state how many people in Jersey have a criminal record.
- b) As at 26th November 2009, there were 2460 subject profiles retained on the DNA database that had been submitted by Jersey. This covers all profiles taken from subjects, so includes Criminal Justice, reference and volunteer samples. It is not necessarily a count of individuals, as it includes some replicate profiles.
- c) Nil
- d) Approximately 45,000 PNC name checks are completed annually. However, this figure may include multiple checks on the same individual as part of the case papers process, vetting checks and numerous other reasons.
- e) The policy followed is in line with the Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence (Jersey) Law 2003. If a person is arrested but not charged with a criminal offence, their DNA is only retained for the length of time that it takes to carry out the investigation into the offence. Once the decision not to charge the person is taken, the DNA material is destroyed.