



Response Date: 26/02/2025

2025/211 - Rape kits

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

The number of rape kits currently awaiting processing

Clarification

By 'rape kits' I mean those used by SARCs to gather evidence.

By 'awaiting processing' I mean waiting to be tested ie for DNA.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system as there are far too many varying factors. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

The average time it takes to process a rape kit

Once received at the lab the processing usually takes 28 days but there can be various factors that can cause delays in receiving the results.

The number of rape kits processed by your force in the past 12 months

Total SARC Forensic medicals 116

We do also send under 16s to St Marys (are not included in these figures).

Whether your force has experienced a rape kit shortage.

There are no shortages of kits.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 25/02/2025