

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *The Forensic use of bioinformation: ethical issues* between November 2006 and January 2007. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Mr Andrew Gretton

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 1: The interpretation of bioinformation

ANSWER:

NOT QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON THIS ONE

Question 2: Sampling powers

ANSWER:

FROM ARRESTED PERSONS ONLY AND MUST BE ABLE TO HAVE THESE DESTROYED IF NO CHARGES BROUGHT DOES NOT MATTER AT WHAT STAGE BUT ONLY FOR USE IN SOLVING CRIMES PERSONAL / PHYSICAL DETAILS SUCH AS ETHNICITY OR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD NOT BE USED AT PRESENT POLICE DO NOT PUT MUCH RESOURCE INTO MINOR CRIMES WITH LITTLE CHANCE OF A CONVICTION, THEFT ,BURGLARY, EXPENDITURE ON ANALYSING LEGITIMATE DNA /BIOMETRIC SAMPLES SHOULD BE FULLY FUNDED THEREFORE. AS BEFORE THOSE NOT CONVICTED MUST BE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR RECORDS DESTROYED, IF MINORS CAN BE CONVICTED THEN THE SAME JUSTIFICATION AND RULES SHOULD APPLY. IF THEY CANNOT BE CONVICTED THEN RECORDS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN.

Question 3: The management of the NDNAD

ANSWER:

BIOINFORMATION FROM SUSPECTS AND VOLUNTEERS SUCH PERSONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO REQUEST FOR THEIR BIOINFORMATION TO BE REMOVED FROM A DATABASE IF NO CONVICTIONS PREVIOUSLY OR FROM THE IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION NO DISCRETION CLEAR RULES.

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *The Forensic use of bioinformation: ethical issues* between November 2006 and January 2007. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Question 4: Ethical Issues

ANSWER:

A. CERTAINLY FAMILIAL SEARCHING IS AN UNWARRENTED INVASION OF FAMILY PRIVACY B. IF ONLY TAKEN FROM ARRESTED PERSONS THEN THE DATA BASE WILL REFLECT THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY, EG LESS WOMEN MORE MEN. C. VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT ALWAYS VOLUNTEERS, SOME WOULD VOLUNTEER IN CASE REFUSAL IS SEEN AS SUSPICIOUS. THEREFORE VOLUNTEERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE RECORDS DELETED. D. A NATIONAL DATABASE FROM BIRTH DOES NOT SIT COMFORTABLY WITH MANY. AS ONLY 0.8% OF CRIMES USE DNA TO CONVICT IT WOULD BE A WHOLLY DISPRPORTIANATE USE OF RESOURCES AND INTRUSION. THIS IS FORCING PEOPLE TO ABIDE BY A MORAL CODE FROM BIRTH WITH NO CHANCE TO ALTER IT UNTIL THEY COULD VOTE OR DEBATE, AT 18, THEREFORE 18 SHOULD BE THE MINIMUM AGE.RATHER BETTER TO EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE.AS A DEMOCRACY ANY SUCH WIDE RANGING DECISION MUST BE AGREED BY THE MAJORITY LAW ABIDING POPULATION.

Question 6: Other issues

ANSWER:

DATABASES OF ANY SORT ARE NOT SECURE AND NEVER WILL BE LINKING OF DATABASES SHOULD NOT THEREFORE HAPPEN IDENTITIES CAN BE STOLEN, DATA COULD BE CHANGED, DATA XOULD BE STOLEN AND USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES BRITAIN HAS SOME OF THE WEAKEST SECURITY MEASURES REGARDING DATA STORAGE AND ALSO HOLDS MORE PERSONAL INFORMATION THAN ALL OR MOST OTHER COUNTRIES THIS DOES NOT MAKE SENSE IF WE ARE TO CALL OURSELVES A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY

Question 5: The evidential value of bioinformation

ANSWER:

WHAT THE CERTAINTY IS OF ANY MATCH IF NOT CERTAIN BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT OTHER EVIDENCE THAT ELIMINATES THAT DOUBT MUST BE AVAILABLE TO CONVICT