

**Information Access Team  
Corporate Performance Branch**

XXXX

29<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Dear XXXX

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th March 2005, that was received by Greater Manchester Police on the same date. I note you seek answers to the following questions:

1. For spent Magistrates court convictions, when is police evidence (e.g. witness statements) destroyed?
2. Are they destroyed once the conviction is spent; x years after the convictions is spent, when the convicted person takes up residence outside the UK?
3. When the convicted person dies?
4. Who is responsible for copying across convictions from a Magistrates Court to New Scotland yard records bureau?
5. When this is mis-done, causing problems for the convicted person, what is the mechanism for redress?
6. Under what circumstances is financial compensation payable for mis-copying records?

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate answers relevant to your request:

1. A spent conviction does not mean that the record is actually destroyed, it means that under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act that after a certain period of time you do not have to admit to the offence.
2. Convictions are not destroyed when they become spent. See 1. above.
3. Convictions are weeded upon death, after a death report has been submitted.
4. All forces in the country have access to the Police National Computer (PNC), thus no need for records to be 'copied'.
5. When a problem arises with a record identity or convictions dispute, if it is in relation to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, then a dispute must be raised with the CRB. [www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk). If for any other reason write to the Police Force concerned, outline your complaint and it will be investigated.
6. If we hold information that is incorrect, then again you would have to write in to the Data Protection Office of the Police Force concerned.

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed sheet, which details your right of complaint.

Yours sincerely,