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23/05/2022

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 141/2022

Thank you for your request for information regarding PNC information markers, which has now been considered.

Applicant Questions:

From information disclosed in previously published FOI requests, there are various types of 'markers' on PNC relating to individuals that are sought by police for a number of reasons, for example 'wanted', 'locate and trace', 'missing' etc.

1. Please disclose a complete list of these 'markers' together with descriptions of each type
2. Please disclose all guidelines on the use of each of these markers. This may include internal policies, standard operating procedures, practice directions, etc.
3. For example, when would police officers use a 'locate and trace' marker as opposed to a 'wanted' marker?
4. Please disclose all documents relating to the review and cancellation of markers, including review schedules, criteria to be considered when removing or cancelling a marker, etc. If this would depend on other factors such as seriousness of the offence or time passed, please also disclose this information.

NPCC Response:

Due to the wording of your request, the NPCC has interpreted your request for 'markers' to be in relation to nominal information markers on PNC. The NPCC does hold information captured by question 1 of your request. There has been one minor redaction under Section 23(1) Information provided by or relating to Security Bodies. I have provided the list of PNC Information Markers alongside a description of each type below.

Outside of the Act, information in relation to 'Wanted/Missing orders' and their use can be found within the [PNC manual](#) available via what do they know.

In relation to question 2, the NPCC does not hold 'guidelines on the use of each of these markers', which in turn invalidates question 3.



The NPCC does not hold documents relating to the review and cancellation of Information Markers. However outside of the Freedom of information Act, information on the review and deletion of Warning Signals on PNC can be found on the [PNC manual](#) (p395).

In wishing to assist you further, individual forces often publish their own PNC policies, an example of which can be found [here](#).

Additionally, there is a new Code of Practice being drawn up in relation the PNC, see the current [consultation](#) and [glossary](#) which may be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Greenlees

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.



Annex A

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

Legislation - Section 23 Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies

- (1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to any of the bodies specified in subsection (3)

This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest test.

Question 1:

AS Asset Information Sought	A force requires information regarding the assets, e.g. seeks financial circumstances of the subject, following a Confiscation Order issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, usually for drugs offences. PNC L/O Letters 2012/020 and 2013/034 contain further information on this subject.
BB Breaches Bail Conditions	The subject has in the past breached bail conditions such as a curfew etc.
CD Confirmed Dead	The subject has been reported as dead and that report has been confirmed. The addition of CD causes the automatic deletion of the UD marker and all Warning Signals.
DP Deportee or ERS	(UKVI only) A deportation order is currently in effect for the subject, or the subject is a serving prisoner removed from the UK to complete their sentence in their home country under the Early Removal Scheme (ERS). Contact with the local Immigration Office must be made to ensure that the marker is still relevant and to ascertain what action they require taking.
DR DNA Required	A DNA sample for this subject is required for investigative or elimination purposes. This marker may not be added if a DNA report with status PROFILED or CONFIRMED already exists on the record. There is no power of arrest for the purpose of obtaining a sample.
FA Fails to Appear	The subject has failed to appear in answer to bail or a summons.
FL Foreign Licence	The subject holds a Driving Licence that was not issued in the United Kingdom. FL may be input only if at least one DD report exists for the subject. The FL marker will be automatically deleted when the last DD report is deleted.
GR Gender Reassigned	(PNC Reconciliations only) The subject has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment, as defined within the Equality Act 2010.
HD Home Detention Curfew	Following early release from prison the subject is or has been issued with an electronic tag under the home detention curfew scheme.
LL Life Licensee	(MPS SSS and Police Scotland) The subject has been released on licence following a sentence of life. If a breach of licence conditions may be involved the National Offender Management Service should be informed.
MO Modus Operandi	(Historical) Specific Modus Operandi details were recorded for this subject at the NIS. Due to the closure of the National Method Index references to this marker should be disregarded.
OB Offends on Bail	The subject is known to have committed an offence during a period whilst remanded on bail. This marker will appear on the Nominal Screen as an occurrence count when it is generated upon completion of the Offence detail of an Arrest/Summons report, by the system. It may also be created separately.

OV Offend Vulnerable Person	<p>The subject has been arrested or otherwise dealt with for an offence against a child or young person, or one who is elderly, or who is mentally or physically disabled and may present a threat to any such person. This will include people cautioned, reprimanded or warned, and includes any other sanctioned detection. It may also include appropriate cases where no further action is being taken against the person.</p> <p>The OV Marker can also be used to highlight that a subject has been or could be engaged in the grooming of children or other vulnerable persons. The creation of an OV Marker for grooming should be based on the existence of appropriately graded intelligence under the National Intelligence Model. Using the OV Marker in this way supports the findings of the [REDACTED].</p>
PP Prolific Offender	<p>The subject has been identified as a Prolific and Priority Offender. In England & Wales this marker should be used for all levels of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) subjects if inclusion on the download to IDIOM is required. See PNC L/O Letters 2012/055 and 2012/063 for further details. The marker may be used regarding any managed offender scheme, in conjunction with a MANOFF OI report.</p>
RE Manual Weed Review	<p>The record is to be retained until the date recorded with the marker, for manual review before it is weeded.</p>
RF Refer to File	<p>(Historical) May still be seen on pre-1995 records, to show that further information is available on microfiche.</p>
SO Sexual Offender	<p>This marker is used by non-ViSOR forces in conjunction with Wanted/Missing orders to identify persons who are required to register with Police as a requirement of Sexual Offences Act 2003. The marker should be removed on a come to notice basis if the VS marker is present.</p>
UD Unconfirmed Dead	<p>The subject has been reported as dead but the report has not yet been confirmed.</p>
UN Uses Nominal Details of	<p>The subject is known to use the details of another person (who is not a PNC subject) when arrested or dealt with.</p>
VS ViSOR Subject	<p>Marker generated by the ViSOR system to indicate that there is an entry for the subject on ViSOR. The text of the information marker shows the category of offender. The possible values are REGISTERABLE SEX OFFENDER, OTHER SEXUAL OFFENDER, VIOLENT OFFENDER, OTHER DANGEROUS OFFENDER, SOC OFFENDER, TERRORIST, VIOLENT(VOO), PDP, DOMESTIC ABUSE, STALKING.</p> <p>When the ViSOR record is archived, the text is prefixed by ARCHIVED ViSOR RECORD.</p>

The following are dummy Information Markers generated by the system:

RELEASED SUPERVISED RELEASED UNSUPERVISED	<p>(Two-tier system generated marker) This is not an Information Marker but is displayed like one. It is shown on the first screen of an online display if the person has been released from prison on licence for supervision by the Probation Service, and has a Release entry on the Custody History page with a Licence Type of any value. If the Start and End Dates of the supervision period cover today's date RELEASED SUPERVISED - SEE CUSTODY HISTORY is shown. When the subject's licence reverts to a non-supervised 'at risk' period, and the Sentence Expiry Date is in the future, RELEASED UNSUPERVISED - SEE CUSTODY HISTORY is shown. This marker will also be shown for a subject who is released with no supervision but whose licence shows they are at risk of being returned to prison.</p>
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Note that if the subject has three or more Information Markers the Nominal Screen display will be abbreviated to RELEASED SUPERVISED or RELEASED UNSUPERVISED, as appropriate.

Although exceptional, it is possible for a subject to have both markers displayed simultaneously if the relevant licence details and dates are recorded in separate Custody History (CU) entries. In these cases examine the CU page carefully and seek clarification from NOMS if necessary. See PNC L/O Letter 2011/088 for further details.

TS DNA E+W Take Sample	No DNA profile is held on the National DNA Database (England and Wales only).
SR DNA E+W Recommended	DNA test method requires upgrade (England and Wales only).
NS DNA E+W Not Required	DNA profile is held on the National DNA Database (England and Wales only).

The dummy Information Markers Released Supervised, Released Unsupervised and system generated Offends on Bail are only shown on the Nominal Screen (NS) of #NE and similar transactions. They do not appear on the Information Markers (IM) screen or in the Police Print.

The dummy Information Markers TS, SR and NS are shown on the NS and IM screens of #NE and similar transactions. The date shown on the IM screen will be today's date. The text will be automatically populated; the FS/Reference and Date Last Updated fields will be empty. Only one of these three Information Markers may be present. If a record has at least one Arrest/Summons report, but none owned by an English or Welsh force, the marker TS will be displayed.

Note that the creation of DP, GR and LL Information Markers is restricted to specific organisations.

The order of priority when displaying Information Markers is as follows:

VS, SO, OV, HD, RELEASED SUPERVISED/UNSUPERVISED, PP, DR, TS, SR, NS, UD or CD, FA, OB, BB, LL, UN, GR, AS, MO, DP, RF, FL and RE. Note that the system generated OB marker will be displayed first if any offence on the subject's record was committed on bail, with the count of such offences.

The only Information Markers that may exist more than once are AS, OB, OV and UN, for which each one must refer to a different non-PNC subject.