

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

21/10/2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2546/2025

Thank you for your request for information regarding PNC Record Deletion Statistics, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

I request the following information regarding the deletion or "stepping down" of criminal records from the Police National Computer (PNC).

1. **Number of Requests:**
How many applications for deletion of criminal records from the PNC were received by your agency in the last 10 years (2004-2024).
2. **Success Rate:**
What percentage of these applications resulted in:
 - a) Full deletion of records from the PNC.
 - b) "Stepping down" (reduction of disclosure).
 - c) Refusal.
3. **Case Breakdown:**
For cases involving convictions under the *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974* (especially for offenses like "obtaining property by deception"):
 - a) How many records were deleted/stepped down after the rehabilitation period expired.
 - b) What was the average time between conviction and deletion.
4. **Legal Basis:**
How many deletions were granted under:
 - a) The *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974*.
 - b) The *Data Protection Act 2018* (Article 17 - Right to Erasure).
 - c) Discretionary powers (e.g., Chief Constables discretion).
5. **Offense-Specific Data:**
For convictions classified as "deception" or "fraud":
 - a) How many deletion requests were successful.
 - b) What was the most common reason for refusal.
6. **Appeals Process:**
How many appeals against refusal of deletion requests were:

- a) Upheld.
- b) Rejected.

NPCC Response:

ACRO does hold information captured by parts of your request.

In wishing to assist you and for clarity and completeness, ACRO have provided additional information that may be helpful to you.

The 'stepping down' of a record from the Police National Computer (PNC) is a completely different process to the deletion of a record from the PNC under the [Record Deletion Process](#) outlined in the NPCC Guidance '[Deletion of Records from National Police Systems](#)'.

The ACRO stepdown Model is a model solely utilised by ACRO for determining what court convictions, cautions, warnings and reprimands held on the PNC get disclosed on an [ACRO Police Certificate](#) and for how long. This model is outlined in the attached document.

*The stepping down of a record from **PNC does not mean it gets deleted** from the PNC, it simply means that it does not disclosed.*

Court convictions are not eligible for deletion from the PNC. This is the current retention position in the UK in respect of court convictions held on the PNC.

A copy of the national guidance that underpins the Record Deletion Process can be accessed here: [Microfiche Library \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

1. The Record Deletion Process has been in existence since May 2025. A total of 24,539 applications for deletion have been received since then to date (06/10/2025).
2. a) As of 06/10/2025, 8,941 applications received under the Record Deletion Process have resulted in the Controller agreeing to delete an event and disposal from the PNC.
b) There is no stepping down of records via the Record Deletion Process as the 'ACRO Stepdown Model' is solely utilised for the ACRO Police Certificates process.
c) As of 06/10/2025, 9,247 applications received under the Record Deletion Process have resulted in the Controller refusing to delete the record requested for removal from the PNC.

Please note the statistics above do not relate to any court convictions.

3. a) 0 – No court convictions are deleted from the PNC under the Record Deletion Process. As outlined above, the *stepping down* of a record is purely something that is applied in certain circumstances during the issuance of an ACRO Police Certificate only.
b) Not Applicable – no court convictions are deleted from the PNC under the Record Deletion Process.

4. a) The grounds under which an application is agreed under the Record Deletion Process can be found in Annex B of the [national guidance](#) issued in respect of the Record Deletion Process. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is not a ground under which a record is agreed for deletion.
 - b) S.47 of the DPA 2018 is also not a ground for deletion, it is a subject right. A request under the Record Deletion Process is akin to a S.47 request for erasure.
 - c) The grounds under which an application is agreed under the Record Deletion Process can be found in Annex B of the [national guidance](#) issued in respect of the Record Deletion Process. Chief Officer discretion is not a ground under which a record is agreed for deletion.
5. a) 0 – No court convictions are deleted from the PNC under the Record Deletion Process. This is the position irrespective of offence or whether the conviction is regarded as spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
 - b) 0 – No court convictions are deleted from the PNC under the Record Deletion Process. Therefore, ACRO hold no reasoning for refusals for such disposals as they are not eligible for review. This position is outlined in Section 1.5.6 and 5.1.1 of the [national guidance](#) issued in respect of the Record Deletion Process.
6. Court convictions are not eligible for deletion from the PNC under the Record Deletion Process. Therefore, we do not receive appeals regarding such disposals.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

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 40 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.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

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.