



# Use of fingerprints to identify convicted people in a Member State

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# A brief history

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- **1901** - The first UK fingerprint bureau was established at Scotland Yard, led by Sir Edward Henry
  - **1984** - New Scotland Yard began using an Automatic Fingerprint Recognition (AFR) system
  - **1992** - The AFR system becomes a national programme
  - **1995** – Introduction of NAFIS and PHOENIX
  - **2001** – Introduction of LiveScan
  - **2005** – National Introduction of IDENT1
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# Use of AFIS (IDENT1)



Fingerprints taken in ink



Fingerprints uploaded to LiveScan in Custody



Upload onto IDENT1 database



1.81 Million unidentified scenes of crime marks



7.9 Million Individual's tenprint sets



7.05 Million palm prints

# IDENT1 Volumetrics

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- 440 Livescan units across England, Wales and Scotland
- 51 Bureau sites supported by 24/7 helpdesk
- 7.9 million ten-prints (growing by 34k per month)
- 1.81 million unidentified marks (growing by 10k per month)
- 85,000 Scene of Crime Idents each year

*May 2009, NPIA*

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# Convicted Persons

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## **Volumetrics**

- UK Nationals in 2008: 1,018,680
- EU nationals: 37,111 (3.6%)
- Third Country nationals: 30,969 (3%)

## **Third Country Nationals**

- All Third Country Nationals going through the UK criminal justice system are fingerprinted
  - Fingerprints are loaded to IDENT1 for future use
  - UK preferred position is to support biometric option for all offences relating to third country nationals
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# Benefits

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- No two fingerprints have ever been found identical in many billions of human and automated computer comparisons (although human error has been made – Shirley McKie case; charged with perjury and then acquitted in 98/99 respectively after fingerprint experts wrongly claimed she was at the scene of a murder in Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1997).
  - Fingerprints remain the most commonly used forensic evidence worldwide and make far more positive identifications of persons worldwide daily than any other human identification procedure.
  - Storing fingerprints with criminal records ensures that persons are correctly identified, even when giving a false or an alias name.
  - Not considered as ethically contentious as other biometrics
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# Fingerprints and Criminal Records

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## Case Study

- A conviction notification was received from Switzerland for illegal entry into the country
  - Offence entered on Police National Computer in accordance with 1959 Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance
  - UK citizen with matching personal details disputes Swiss convictions
  - Fingerprints obtained from Swiss Federal Police
  - Fingerprints do not match those of the disputee
  - Swiss fingerprints checked on IDENT1: confirm that they match an African national, using the UK national's details as an alias.
  - This would not have been picked up on using personal details alone.
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# Challenges

- Common Standards
- Technical issues (CODIS, SAGEM)
- Legal issues
- Retention and sharing issues between EU MS
- S & Marper case in UK context – 15 year retention period now proposed for fingerprints - <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-dna-database/>



# Evolution of IDENT1

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- Greater automation ('lights out approach')
  - Ongoing work with the Police Services to identify further identification business requirements to support effective policing and decision-making
  - Ongoing work with the government's biometrics programme to identify mechanisms to further support identification where required.
  - Ongoing implementation and management of IDENT1 services to the UK Border Agency (30k asylum fingerprints recently checked with US generated 429 matches, 29% different nationality recorded; 63% different identity recorded)
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Questions?