LegCo Panel on Security

Statistics in relation to Taking of Body Samples for investigation of crimes

Purpose

This paper is to provide Members with statistics for the period from July to December 2002 in relation to the implementation of the Dangerous Drugs, Independent Commission Against Corruption and Police Force (Amendment) Ordinance 2000 (the Ordinance). The Ordinance empowers authorized law enforcement officers to take body samples from suspects for the investigation of crimes under specified conditions.

Background

- 2. At the meetings of the then Bills Committee on the Dangerous Drugs, Independent Commission Against Corruption and Police Force (Amendment) Bill 1999 held in June 2000, Members requested the Administration to provide to the LegCo Panel on Security (the Panel) statistics on samples taken under the Ordinance.
- 3. The Ordinance came into operation on 1 July 2001. The previous set of statistics covering the period from 1 January 2001 to 30 June 2002 was provided to the Panel in July 2002.

Statistics for the Period from July to December 2002

- 4. The following statistics covering the period from 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2002 are attached
 - (a) general statistics on the number of samples taken;
 - (b) intimate samples taken from suspects by types of samples;
 - (c) non-intimate samples taken from suspects by types of samples; and
 - (d) serious arrestable offences for which samples were taken from suspects.

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Statistics regarding the Implementation of the DNA Ordinance (July to December 2002)

	Items	No. of Samples Taken		
	2.0	Jan-Jun 2002	Jul-Dec 2002	% change
1.	Intimate samples taken from suspects (s.59A)	5	1	-80%
2.	Non-intimate samples taken from suspects (s.59C) (a) with consent (b) without consent (c) total	771 26 797	985 12 997	+27.8% -53.8% +25.1%
3.	Total number of samples taken from suspects (item 1 + item 2)	802	998	+24.4%
4.	Non-intimate samples taken from convicted persons (s.59E)	865	770	-11.0%
5.	Non-intimate samples taken from volunteers (s.59F) (a) volunteers who are detainees (b) other volunteers (c) total	0 122 122	0 192 192	- +57.4% +57.4%

Intimate Samples Taken From Suspects by types of samples

Types of Intimate Sample	No. of Samples Taken		
Types of Littlewill Sumple	Jan-Dec 2002	Jul-Dec 2002	% change
Blood	2 (40%)	1 (25%)	-50%
Semen	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Other tissue fluid	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Urine	2 (40%)	1 (25%)	-50%
Hair other than head hair	0 (0%)	1 (25%)	+100%
Dental impression	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Swab taken from a private part of a person's body or from a person's body orifice other than the mouth	1 (20%)	1 (25%)	-
Total	5 (100%)	4 (100%)	-20%

Non-intimate Samples Taken From Suspects by types of samples

Types of	No. of Samples Taken		
Non-intimate Sample	Jan-Jun 2002	Jul-Dec 2002	% change
Swab from a person's mouth (i.e. buccal swab)	796 (99.9%)	997 (100%)	+25.3%
Sample from a nail or from under a nail	1 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	-100%
Swab taken from any part, other than a private part, of a person's body (excluding buccal swab)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Saliva	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
An impression of any part of a person's body (other than private part, the face and identifying particulars described in s.59(6) of the Police Force Ordinance)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Total	797 (100%)	997 (100%)	+25.1%

Serious Arrestable Offences for which Samples were taken from Suspects

Category of	No. of Samples Taken for the offence		
Serious Arrestable Offences	Jan-Jun 2002	Jul-Dec 2002	% change
Sexual Offences (rape, indecent assault, unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16)*	100 (12.5%)	103 (10.3%)	+3%
Robbery, Burglary and related Offences (robbery, burglary, handling stolen goods, theft of vehicle)*	306 (38.1%)	447 (44.8%)	+46.1%
Murder, Manslaughter and Related Offences (murder)*	57 (7.1%)	42 (4.2%)	-26.3%
Serious Assaults and other offences against the person (wounding)*	108 (13.5%)	202 (20.2%)	+87.0%
Corruption Offences *	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	-
Others (affray, kidnap, dangerous drugs offences)*	231 (28.8%)	204 (20.4%)	-11.7%
Total	802 (100%)	998 (100%)	+24.4%

^{*} Offences in brackets are the specific offences under each category of serious arrestable offences for which samples were taken from suspects in the past 6 months.