

**Full Council
22nd January 2007**

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber,
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.**

Justice for all Brent residents.

This Council notes :

- the emphasis given by the Government to the Police collecting DNA records in order to create a comprehensive national database by stealth
- the lack of any effective Scrutiny over this database, or affirmed support for or public consultation on its introduction
- that over 3.6 million people had DNA details on the database at the end of 2006
- that in many cases DNA samples are being taken without people being charged, including where suspects are too young to go to court, or where Fixed Penalty Notices are issued, preventing cases from going to court
- that at least a third of young black men have had DNA samples taken, representing more than 10 times the ratio of Afro-Caribbeans in the population
- that DNA samples and records are not deleted when people are acquitted, and that at the end of 2006 about a third of people on whom DNA records were held – around a million people - had not been found guilty of any crime
- the increasing encroachment generally of the Government into every area of people's private life and details, without adequate reason or justification

Council therefore calls for :

- Brent Police, and the Metropolitan Police, to end the practice of automatically taking DNA samples on arrest
- An end to taking DNA samples for Fixed Penalty and Public Order offences – which has contributed to the heavily imbalanced racial profile of the register
- Regular statistics by area detailing the ethnic breakdown of people whose samples have been collected, for monitoring by Police Authorities and local partnerships
- A national framework to govern collection of DNA samples, removing the discretion of local Borough Commanders to require these automatically
- The destruction of DNA records held on innocent people who have not been charged with or found guilty of any offence, and measures to monitor this.