

## Fact sheet – Uncertain Identities in the National DNA Database

---

### Investigation of uncertain identities

SKL discovers uncertain identities with respect to the personal information and DNA profiles if DNA samples have been collected at least twice and the samples at these occasions have

- the same personal information but different DNA profiles
- different personal information but the same DNA profiles

The uncertain identities are reported in match reports (alias matches) or in case reports addressed to the police authorities that have collected the DNA samples. In the DNA database these persons will be marked with a status *Identity uncertain* and in future match reports and case reports where such a person matches a crime scene sample, the identity will be described as *Identity uncertain* until the identity has been investigated and verified by the police. It is the responsibility of the Police to investigate and verify uncertain identities. The police investigation of uncertain identities could mean that new DNA samples from the persons have to be taken. The new DNA sample should then be accompanied with a request of comparing the new DNA sample/profile with the DNA profile marked with *Identity uncertain* in the database. When the police investigation is finished, the National Police Board (RPS) should be informed through [mrbr@polisen.se](mailto:mrbr@polisen.se) so that the personal information and DNA profiles can be corrected in the DNA database as well as in other databases. Status *Identity uncertain* can then be removed. RPS should be informed even if the investigation does not result in a verification of the correct identity. The result of the investigation is noted on the person in the DNA database.

A person with uncertain identity is also marked with the status *Identity uncertain* in the database available for the police, in order to question if a person is in the DNA database or not. There is also an informative text recommending to take a new DNA sample from the person and that it must be accompanied with a request of comparing the new DNA sample/profile with the DNA profile marked with *Identity uncertain* in the database.

### Alias matches

The conclusion "The DNA profiles for search samples and matching samples are in concordance" is used in match reports containing alias matches. There could be several possible explanations to alias matches:

- The DNA samples originate from the same person who has presented incorrect information about his/her personal data at least at one occasion
- The DNA samples originate from the same person and the person has been given a new identity
- The DNA samples originate from identical twins
- The DNA samples originate from different but closely related persons, for example full siblings
- The DNA samples originate from two persons, where one person is the recipient of stem cells and the other is the donor
- The DNA samples originate from unrelated persons and the match is an adventitious match

### Information on the Swedish Police Intranet

- <http://skl.skl.police.se/html/fakta/traffrapportering> - SKL web page
- [https://intrapolis.polisen.se/yoa556\\_101\\_660/Arbetsrum/Arbetsrum/Samverkan/00-Nationellt/Traffrapportsamordnare-dna---Samverkan-Gemensamt/](https://intrapolis.polisen.se/yoa556_101_660/Arbetsrum/Arbetsrum/Samverkan/00-Nationellt/Traffrapportsamordnare-dna---Samverkan-Gemensamt/) - Workroom

Contact person, SKL: Karin Hedberg, [karin.hedberg@skl.polisen.se](mailto:karin.hedberg@skl.polisen.se), +46 10 562 81 37.