

# Buried justice – a critical review into the cross-matching of unidentified bodies and missing persons reports in England and Wales

This project aims to critically review the cross-matching process of unidentified bodies and missing persons reports in England and Wales.

## Key details

<b>Lead institution</b>	<a href="#">Staffordshire University</a>
<b>Principal researcher(s)</b>	Emma Tilley <a href="mailto:emma.tilley@research.staffs.ac.uk">emma.tilley@research.staffs.ac.uk</a>
<b>Police region</b>	West Midlands
<b>Level of research</b>	PhD
<b>Project start date</b>	January 2021
<b>Date due for completion</b>	January 2025

## Research context

This research project aims to:

- critically review the cross-matching process of unidentified bodies and missing persons reports in England and Wales
- produce a basis for the development of a Code of Practice for the treatment of unidentified bodies in England and Wales
- examine the epidemiology of unidentified bodies in England and Wales
- identify how information about unidentified bodies is obtained, recorded, stored, reviewed, cross-matched, deleted and shared on a local, national, and international level
- understand the obstacles and opportunities concerning the cross-matching process

- produce a basis for the development of a Code of Practice for the treatment of unidentified bodies in England and Wales

## Research methodology

A mixed methods approach including:

- analysis of data from the UK Missing Persons Unit
- Freedom of Information requests to police forces, coroners, and local authorities in England and Wales
- semi-structured interviews with practitioners and families of missing persons