



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI669718625**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Freedom of Information Request regarding Nicotine Inhaling Products.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to request the following information relating to local enforcement actions taken against individuals, points of sale, and other premises relating to the sale of Nicotine Inhaling Products.

For the purposes of this request, please define “not legal for sale in the UK” as meaning at least one of the following:

- 1) Possessing of a tank size or fill level over the maximum 2ml legal limit**
- 2) Possessing a nicotine content over the maximum legal limit of 20mg per millilitre**
- 3) Possessing ingredients that contravene the UK Government guidance for nicotine containing liquids, for example, ingredients such as vitamins, formaldehyde, ethylene glycol, acetaldehyde, acrolein, preservatives liable to release formaldehyde, diacetyl, or base metals including cadmium, chromium, iron, lead, mercury, and nickel.
UK Government Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-6-ingredient-guidance-great-britain/4687fea1-5977-4744-a9b1-498b19490e81>**
- 4) Not complying with the requisite nicotine warning label requirements of UK law as set out**

under the Tobacco and related Products Regulations.

Specifically, can you please provide me with:

1) The number of individuals who have been prosecuted between 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024 in your council area for the sale of Nicotine inhaling products (sometimes known as “e-cigarettes”, “vapes” or “vapour products”) for not being legal for sale in the United Kingdom, due to investigations conducted by your council.

None. To clarify, we use closure orders as opposed to prosecution. Closure orders are deemed a better deterrent.

2) The number of businesses and sole traders subject to any penalty between 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024 (including but not limited to fine, opening restrictions, removal of premises licence) for the sale of nicotine inhaling products (sometimes known as “e-cigarettes”, “vapes” or “vapour products”) that are not legal for sale in the UK, due to investigations conducted by your council.

During the timeframe given, this authority obtained three closure orders against traders involved in this activity.

3) The number of shops, and other places of business (including but not limited to market stalls, “car boot sales” and other point of sale locations) that have been visited between 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024 by your council for the purposes of detection and disruption of the sale of nicotine inhaling products that are not legal for sale in the UK.

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded specifically in the way it is requested. We can however advise that we conduct between 10 and 20 vape/tobacco visits a month.

4) The number of Trading Standards officers employed by the local council whose job description, roles, and responsibilities entail the investigation, detection, and disruption of the sale of nicotine inhaling products that are not legal for sale in the UK.

Coventry City Council currently employ three full time and two part time Trading Standards staff, all of which are responsible for enforcing the relevant legislation.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to

your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance