

Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI754279239

Thank you for your request for information relating to illegal vapes and nicotine replacement seizures.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide the following information separately for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025 (up to latest available data), unless requested otherwise.

Section 1. Number of illegal products seized, in the below categories:

1. How many units of the following products were seized in total?

o Any e-cigarettes/vaping devices/e-liquid products

2020 to 2021 - no available data*

2021to 2022 -141

2022 to 2023 - 3477

2023 to 2024 - 9640

2024 to 2025 - 6879

NB* - we are advising you as per Section 1(1) that we do not hold this information.

o Single-use disposable vaping devices (post-1st June, 2025)

Post June 2025: 1,568

o Cigarette or hand-rolling tobacco packs

2020 to 2021: Cigarettes 1,163, HRT 9

2021 to 2022: Cigarettes 3,954, HRT 281 2022 to 2023: Cigarettes 2,238, HRT 133 2023 to 2024: Cigarettes 3,733, HRT 342 2024 to 2025: Cigarettes 11,727, HRT 649

o Tobacco-free nicotine pouches

As these are tobacco free we are currently not seizing these items

Section 2. Information on enforcement:

2. How many Trading Standards inspections of premises selling vaping devices, cigarettes and tobacco, or nicotine pouch products have taken place?

2020 to 2021 - no available data* 2021 to 2022 - no available data* 2022 to 2023 - 21 2023 to 2024 - 50 2024 to 2025 - 53

NB* - we are advising you as per Section 1(1) that we do not hold this information.

• How many reports of tobacco-free nicotine pouches being sold to persons under the age of 18 have you received?

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) that we do not hold this information. As these are tobacco free products, we currently do not record this information.

Section 3. For the below questions, we request the individual data for

- 3. The number of identified cases of illegal products being in possession of, stocked, or sold by businesses or individuals
- a. Illegal vaping devices,
- b. Illegal single-use disposable vaping devices (post-1st June, 2025)
- c. legal cigarette/hand-rolling tobacco products:

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

This information is not held in a reportable format. To provide the data for businesses or individuals on the number of cases of illegal products for the 3 sub questions above and for the individual years is not possible within 18 hours. To obtain the information would require manually trawling through five years of business information. This part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

• How many (count of) fines or penalties have been issued for being in possession of, stocking, or selling the illegal products?

Fines: see response below.

Penalties: the local authority has issued a total of 9 closure orders with 2 extensions.

• What was the total value in £ pound sterling of fines issued by your local authority for illegal vapes?

If a fine includes fixed penalty notices the local authority has issued fines to the total value of £900.

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: <u>FOI/EIR Disclosure Log</u>, <u>Publication Scheme</u>, <u>Facts about Coventry</u> and <u>Open Data</u> 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: infoqov@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