



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI794637517**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Illegal trading of cigarettes, tobacco and vaping products.

You have requested the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information on the illegal trading of cigarettes, tobacco and vaping products in your local authority area. Please respond to the following questions.

1. For the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, how many shops or other premises in your local authority area have had illegal cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products seized by your local authority (for example, by Trading Standards or other relevant teams)? For each year, please provide figures broken down by location as follows (whichever is available within the cost limit):

- a. By Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA); or, if LSOA figures are not held or cannot be provided within the cost limit,**
- b. By electoral ward; or, if that is not possible,**
- c. By postcode area or postcode sector.**

If you are unable to provide any breakdown by LSOA, electoral ward or postcode area/sector, please provide a single total figure for the whole local authority area for each year.

The information we record is only available as a single yearly total and not as LSOA; electoral ward or postcode area. The total number of shops where products have been seized are:

2023 28 shops
2024 - 43 shops
2025 43 shops

2. For the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, how many business premises in your area have been required to close as a result of enforcement action in relation to illegal trading in cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products? For each year, please provide:

a. The number of premises required to close temporarily (for example, closure notices or orders, temporary licence suspensions, or other short term legal orders or notices requiring temporary closure).

2023 One
2024 - For
2025 Three

b. The number of premises required to close permanently (for example, following licence revocation, long term premises closure orders, or other legal action which resulted in the business ceasing to trade at those premises).

Nil. There have been no premises that have been permanently closed as described in the examples.

3. For the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, as a result of enforcement action by your local authority in relation to the selling of illegal cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products, please provide the following information, where you hold payment status data: For each year:

a. The total number and total value in pounds sterling (£) of civil financial penalties and other non court financial sanctions issued directly by your authority (for example, civil penalties, fixed penalty notices and similar council issued sanctions).

2023 - Nil.
2024 Nil.
2025 - £600 fixed penalties.

b. The total number and total value in pounds sterling (£) of fines imposed by the courts following criminal prosecutions brought by, or following investigations led by, your authority in relation to illegal cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products.

We confirm no criminal prosecutions have been taken in relation to illegal cigarettes, tobacco, or vaping products. The authority has used the closure process for enforcement.

For each year, please also state how many of the civil financial penalties/sanctions and court imposed fines recorded for that year are currently:

a. Paid in full.

b. Paid in part.

c. Unpaid (no payment received).

d. Unpaid and registered with, or referred to, a court or enforcement agents for enforcement or recovery.

All fixed notices served have been paid in full.

4. For the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025, how many cases relating to illegal trading in cigarettes, tobacco or vaping products have been successfully prosecuted, resulting in a conviction or guilty plea in the courts, following investigations by your authority (for example, Trading Standards)?

The authority has not taken any prosecution cases relating to illegal trading in cigarettes, tobacco, or vaping products for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

If possible, please also provide, for each year:

a. The number of prosecutions launched; and

b. The number of those prosecutions that resulted in a conviction or guilty plea.

Not applicable.

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