



I am writing to request information regarding the seizure of illegal/counterfeit tobacco and cigarettes within the jurisdiction of Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council and subsequent prosecutions initiated by the trading standards officers.

Specifically, I request the following information for each of the past five years, starting from January 1, 2019:

Seizure Data:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The total quantity of illegal/counterfeit tobacco (e.g., number of cigarettes, kilograms of hand-rolling tobacco, or other relevant measures) seized by trading standards officers each year. | 2020/21- 6240 Cigarettes No Tobacco
2021/22 – 17,700 Cigarettes 2.85Kg Tobacco
2022/23 – 146,540 Cigarettes 23Kg Tobacco
2023/24 – 122,938 Cigarettes 8.2Kg Tobacco
2024/25 – 55,069 Cigarettes 25.9kg Tobacco |
| 2. The total number of instances (i.e., separate occasions) of such seizures each year. | 2020/21 - 1
2021/22 - 8
2022/23 - 20
2023/24 - 17
2024/25 - 18 |

Prosecutions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. The number of prosecutions launched by trading standards against sellers of illegal/counterfeit tobacco and cigarettes each year. | 2020/21 - 0
2021/22 - 0
2022/23 - 1
2023/24 – 0
2024/25 - 1 |
| 4. The number of successful prosecutions each year. | <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">All prosecutions taken were successful</div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Prosecution figures for question 3 relates only to when court proceedings were instigated. It does not include cautions or warnings.</div> |
| 5. The number of unsuccessful prosecutions each year. | |

If possible, please provide the data in a structured format (e.g., spreadsheet or table) and clarify any definitions used for "cases" or "illegal tobacco products" (e.g., counterfeit, smuggled, or non-compliant products).

Please note –

Figures held on record relate to financial years (the format the data is held)
Figures for 2018/2019 are outside of 6 years retention and no longer available.