



REQUEST 19285

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.

RESPONSE

1.
2023 – 34
2024 – 32
2025 – 27

Information is provided broken down by postcode area.

2023

M29	2
M46	3
WA3	1
WN1	8
WN2	5
WN4	4
WN6	2
WN7	9

2024

M29	2
WA3	3
WN1	6
WN2	4
WN4	2
WN5	7
WN6	2
WN7	6

2025

M29	1
M46	1
WA3	1
WN1	8
WN2	3
WN4	3
WN5	2
WN7	8

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).
a. 2023 – 0
2024 – 0
2025 – 2
- 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).
b. NONE

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).
a. NONE
- 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.
b. Only the number of prosecutions resulting in a fine and amount of fine can be provided. The courts will hold information as to whether fines were paid / unpaid.

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.

2023 – 1 (£1404)
2024 – 1 (£3358)
2025 – Investigations not yet complete

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)?

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.

If data is not available by calendar year, please provide it for the three most recent yearly recording periods, clearly stating the periods used.

4.

a.

2023 – 1

2024 – 1

2025 – 20 (still pending legal action)

b.

2023 – 1

2024 – 1

2025 – Investigations still pending