



REQUEST 19468

1. The number of retail applications submitted for vape shops in your area from 1st January to 31st December 2023
 - a. The number of approved vs rejected applications in 2023
2. The number of retail applications submitted for vape shops in your area from 1st January to 31st December 2024
 - a. The number of approved vs rejected applications in 2024
3. The number of retail applications submitted for vape shops in your area from 1st January to 31st December 2025
 - a. The number of approved vs rejected applications in 2025
4. The number of retail applications submitted for vape shops in your area from 1st January to 28th February 2026
 - a. The number of approved vs rejected applications in 2026

RESPONSE

Under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended), the retail sale of goods, including the sale of vaping products, ordinarily falls within Planning Use Class E(a). Since the amendments introduced by Government in September 2020, a wide range of commercial, business and service uses were consolidated into the new 'Planning Use Class E', allowing many premises to change between these uses without the need for planning permission.

Because vape shops fall within Class E(a), a premises that is already lawfully in any form of Class E use (for example, a general retail shop, financial/professional services, a café, or various indoor service uses) may lawfully change to a vape shop without submitting a planning application. Only where the previous use did not fall within Class E, would a "change of use" planning application potentially be required.

As a result, the Council does not hold a complete dataset identifying "vape shop applications", because not all vape shops require planning permission and therefore will not appear in the planning application system. The information that the Council does hold is therefore limited to those cases where planning permission was required, and this will not represent every vape shop operating in the borough.

All planning application records the Council holds however are publicly available and searchable on the Council's website using the online Planning Public Access system at the following link:

[Search and comment on planning applications](#)

You may search applications by keyword, address, date range, ward or other filters using the search function available. Support and guidance on how to search the information the Council holds on this section of its website is available on the above webpage, but is also provided via the link to the relevant page on the Council's website below:

[Idox PA for Planning User Guide](#)

These resources will enable you to review all planning applications held by the Council for the relevant time periods. However, for the reasons outlined above, the Council cannot provide a complete list of all vape shops or all changes of use to vape shops, as many such changes occur lawfully without the need to submit a planning application and are therefore will not be recorded in the Council's planning register system.