

Freedom of Information – Response – 26786

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding enforcement actions against retailers selling illicit vapes and tobacco within the Ipswich town centre area (specifically postcodes IP1 and IP2).

Please provide the following information for the period of 1st January 2024 to the present date:

1. Total Seizures: The total number of illegal/non-compliant vapes and the total volume of illicit tobacco seized by Suffolk Trading Standards within the IP1 and IP4 postcodes, broken down by year.

2024 = 34820 sticks 9.6kg HRT 2840 vapes

2025 = 16360 sticks 8.5kg HRT 1455 vapes

2026 = 0

2. Number of Premises: The total number of retail premises in these postcodes that have been visited or raided in relation to the sale of illegal vapes or tobacco.

2024 = 12

2025 = 10

2026 = 0

3. Closure Orders: The number of "Closure Orders" or "Closure Notices" applied for or granted against businesses in Ipswich town centre for persistent illegal trading of these goods.

2024 = 0 Suffolk Trading Standards does not have closure powers.

2025 = 0 Suffolk Trading Standards does not have closure powers.

2026 = 0 Suffolk Trading Standards does not have closure powers.

4. Referrals: The number of cases where a business investigated for illegal vapes/tobacco was subsequently referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA), HMRC, or the Home Office for suspected money laundering or tax evasion.

2024 = 0

2025 = 0

2026 = 0

5. Underage Sales: The number of "test purchase" failures recorded for nicotine products in the Ipswich town centre area during this period.

2024 = 0

2025 = 5

2026 = 0

