

Freedom of Information – Response – 26859

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.

2023 = see below

2024 = see below

2025 = see below

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.

2023 = 15

2024 = 18

2025 = 31

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 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

2024 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

2025 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

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).

2023 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

2024 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

2025 = Suffolk Trading Standards do not have closure powers

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 = 0

2024 = 0

2025 = 0

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.

2023 = 0

2024 = 1 £230

2025 = 0

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 = These are issued by and collected by the courts, this figure is unknown to Suffolk Trading Standards

2024 = These are issued by and collected by the courts, this figure is unknown to Suffolk Trading Standards

2025 = These are issued by and collected by the courts, this figure is unknown to Suffolk Trading Standards

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

2023 = 0

2024 = 1

2025 = 0

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

2023 = 0

2024 = 1

2025 = 0

