

Ref: FOI / 6244

17th February 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Illegal Trading of Cigarettes, Tobacco, and Vaping Products

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

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?**

Nil For all Years.

For each year, please provide figures broken down by location as follows (whichever is available within the cost limit):

- a. By postcode area or postcode sector.**

Not applicable.

If you are unable to provide any breakdown by postcode, please provide a single total figure for the whole local authority area for each year.

- 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?**

Nil For all Years.

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
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BT82 8DY

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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).**

Nil For all Years.

- 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).**

Nil For all Years.

- 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).**

Nil For all Years.

- 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.**

Nil For all Years.

c. For each year, please also state how many of the civil financial penalties/sanctions and court-imposed fines recorded for that year are currently:

i. Paid in full.

Not applicable.

ii. Paid in part.

Not applicable.

iii. Unpaid (no payment received).

Not applicable.

iv. Unpaid and registered with, or referred to, a court or enforcement agents for enforcement or recovery.

Not applicable.

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?

Nil For all Years.

If possible, please also provide, for each year:

a. The number of prosecutions launched; and

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystرابane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Seamus Donaghy
Head of Health & Community Wellbeing