



**Information Governance Team**

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11 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI653210474**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Illicit Seizure Prosecutions.

You have requested the following information:

**1. How many prosecutions have been sought by Trading Standards against retailers for a) illicit tobacco and vape sales b) underaged tobacco and vape sales in your local authority, in the last five years (2019 to 2024)**

Nil. We use premises closure orders as a more effective sanction, alongside formal warnings and premises licence reviews.

**2. Whether there is a minimum number of illicit tobacco and vape possession offences a retailer must have received before prosecution is sought? If so, what is the minimum number?**

No. No piece of law or guidance gives such a figure. Decisions regarding appropriate outcome of investigations are based on the nature of the offending at hand, along with issues such as the trader's previous history of compliance. All relevant factors are taken into consideration.

**3. Whether there is a minimum quantity of illicit tobacco and vape products Trading Standards officers must seize from a retailer before prosecution is sought? If so, what is the minimum quantity?**

**4. Whether there is a minimum value of illicit tobacco and vape products Trading Standards**

**officers must seize from a retailer before prosecution is sought? If so, what is the minimum value?**

For Questions 3 and 4, please refer to Question 2.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**