| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2876  Responded to: 16 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information for the period 1 January 2023 to the present.

## Number of seizures of illicit or counterfeit vapes recorded, by calendar year. Please include: (a) number of seizure incidents (b) total number of vape units seized (c) estimated total retail value (d) number of premises searched during those seizures.

## For seizures where the retail source type was recorded, please provide the number of incidents attributed to each type of outlet (e.g., convenience stores, vape specialist shops, supermarkets/large stores, market stalls, or other recorded categories).

## Number of seizures assessed as linked to organised crime groups (or referred to a regional organised crime unit).

**Number of compliance or underage sales checks involving vapes (run by or with your force), and how many resulted in penalties or referrals to Trading Standards.**

**Number of incidents recorded where counterfeit or illicit vapes were linked to a public-safety incident (e.g. fire, hospitalisation, poisoning).**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process these requests. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, there are no incident or crime classifications that directly align to the behaviour described in your request, meaning that the research necessary would be extensive.

To be of assistance, you may wish to contact [Trading Standards](https://www.tsscot.co.uk/) who have responsibility for the seizure of illegal vapes.

## Number of prosecutions, cautions, or fixed penalty notices related to illicit/counterfeit vapes, with details of offences charged, outcomes, and sentences.

## Total value of fines or civil penalties issued to retailers for selling illicit/counterfeit vapes (and illegal tobacco seized alongside vapes), by year.

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

## Number of premises subject to closure orders, business suspensions, or similar enforcement actions for selling illicit/counterfeit vapes, including dates of orders.

This is the responsibility of each individual local authority, not Police Scotland.

As such, the information sought is not held and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

You may wish to contact the various local authorities across Scotland for this information.

## Total recorded costs for handling, storing, and disposing of seized vapes, and the disposal methods used.

Police Scotland are not responsible for the seizure of vapes, this is the responsibility of Trading Standards.​​​

As such the information sought is not held and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.