| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2174  Responded to: 11th August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Specifically - for each of the past 5 years (2020-2024), and partial data for 2025 if available - I am seeking anonymised data from your police force on the following:

## The total number of sellers found to be in possession of illegal, unregulated or "black market” vape products

## The number of sellers who faced any form of legal action, including but not limited to warnings, fines, charges, or prosecutions

## The number of individuals formally prosecuted (i.e. individuals who were taken to court and faced criminal proceedings resulting in a conviction or ongoing trial)

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

By way of explanation, I can advise that there are no relevant markers available on the Police Scotland crime recording systems, nor is there a search facility available, which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information from any relevant reports of vape related offences.

To be of assistance however, I can advise that Trading Standards is responsible for the seizure of illegal vapes - you may wish to contact them directly for any pertinent information:

[Consumer Help and Advice - Chartered Trading Standards Institute UK](https://www.tradingstandards.uk/consumer-help/)

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.