

48735 Test Purchasing Vapes

How many instances of test purchasing vapes were carried out, to combat underage sales of vaping products?

01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 – 46

01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020 – 4

01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021 – 0

01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022 – 27

01/01/2023 to 22/11/2023 - 67

How many of these test purchases resulted in the sale of vapes/e-cigarette products to underage individuals?

01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 – 4

01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020 – 0

01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021 – 0

01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022 – 4

01/01/2023 to 22/11/2023 - 10

What is the £ cost of carrying out a single test purchase investigation?

Please present this data annually for each of the below periods:

1st January 2023 > 22nd November 2023

1st January 2022 > 31st Dec 2022

1st January 2021 > 31st Dec 2021

1st January 2020 > 31st Dec 2020

1st January 2019 > 31st Dec 2019

If you could send the information over in a CSV or XLSX format, that would be ideal.

We are unable to provide the information requested because it is not held by the Council.

Test purchase operations are conducted as a standard activity of the Trading Standards and Enforcement Service and are resourced by operational officers who are funded through the general Revenue Budget. The officers involved may be of a different designation and be placed on different salary grades. There are also a number of other variables that will impact on the cost of any exercise.

Accordingly, it is not possible to appropriate a specific cost to a single test purchase operation due to the number of variables that are applicable.