

64749 Reports of Underage Vape Sales, Trading Standards Resourcing and Inspection Policy

Please give a separate figure for each of the five financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The number of complaints or reports received from members of the public alleging the sale of vaping products to a person under 18.

2021/22 - 18

2022/23 - 64

2023/24 - 116

2024/25 - 80

2025/26 - 75

Of those, the number that resulted in a visit or test purchase at the premises concerned within 12 weeks of the report.

Test purchase operations are undertaken based on volunteer availability and not specific time frames. It should also be noted that it is extremely common for multiple complaints/reports to be made in relation to the same premises, and therefore the data provided above does not necessarily relate to complaints regarding separate premises. Additionally, certain premises may be subject to multiple test purchases where circumstances warrant it.

All reports are recorded for intelligence purposes and premises are then identified to be subject to test purchase. The following data represents the number of test purchases undertaken in each financial year:

2021/22 - 0

2022/23 - 41

2023/24 - 84

2024/25 - 97

2025/26 - 88

The number of full-time equivalent trading standards officers employed by the council as at 31 March in each year, and how many of those had duties including tobacco and vaping enforcement.

2021/22 - 9.5

2022/23 - 9.5

2023/24 - 9.5

2024/25 - 10.5

2025/26 - 10.5

There is no specific number or FTE breakdown in relation to the number of officers directly involved in tobacco and vaping enforcement.

Whether the council has a written policy, target or minimum frequency governing how often premises selling vaping products are inspected. If it does, please provide a copy. If it does not, please confirm that.

We do not hold any information that determines any inspection cycle for premises selling vaping products. The Scottish Government request that 10% of relevant premises receive a test purchase attempt and 20% receive advisory visits, but this is not a formal KPI.

The amount of Scottish Government grant funding received for tobacco and nicotine vapour product enforcement in each year.

This information is already published within the Scottish Government's Green Book. Tobacco funding levels contained within the block grant are published within the category 'Cleansing & Environment/Tobacco Enforcement', and this is available for each year for every authority in Scotland.