

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002539
Date 16 July 2018

Counterfeit Products

Request:

I am looking to get a picture of the amount of counterfeit products that are being sold in Wolverhampton. As such I would like to make a freedom of information request for the following:

Could you please send me both the amount of recorded incidents, and value of seizures, relating to the sale and seizure of:

- *Counterfeit tobacco
- * Counterfeit beer
- *Counterfeit wine
- *Counterfeit spirits

I would like the figures, by year, for 2010 to 2017. If you also have the information for the first quarter of 2018 (Jan-Mar) I would be grateful for those as well those as well.

In response to your request, please find our response below:

Illicit Cigarettes & Hand rolling tobacco only.

Unable to break down further as to:

- which are counterfeit copies well-known brands into counterfeit
- opposed to foreign brands,
- counterfeit foreign brands

FINANCIAL YEAR	No. of premises visited	No of premises with seizures	Cigarettes	HRT	Beer	Wine	Spirits	Est value
2010 - 11	No data							No data
2011 - 12	No data							No data
2012 - 13	No data							No data
2013 - 14	No data							No data
2014 - 15	25	13	52919	10.95 kg	No data	No data	No data	No data
2015 - 16	48	24	510,033	87.69 kg	No data	No data	No data	No data
2016 - 17	24	8	65434	13.2 kg	No data	No data	No data	No data
2017 - 18	16	10	84563	61 kg	No data	No data	No data	Retail – £47890

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

We cannot comment authoritatively on the value of the items because many of the brands of cigarettes and tobacco are from outside this country and so not intended for this country and so there is no legitimate product to compare with. We have therefore taken an average value using a spreadsheet devised by another Trading Standards Officer once that method of calculation became available which was in 2017. HMRC may be able to provide a value or a method for lost duty.