

Ref: FOI-454

Sent via email only: [REDACTED]

13 November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

1. Thank you for your email of 16 October 2024 in which you requested information from UK Anti-Doping ('UKAD') under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Specifically, your request was as follows:

*How many anti-doping tests were carried out on British cyclists (professional or amateur – can you please state how many were amateur athletes [sic] between March 2021 and September 2024. Of those tests, how many were positive?*

## Response

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2. UKAD confirms that, subject to the clarifications explained below, it holds and discloses most of the information requested.
3. Between 1 March 2021 and 30 September 2024 (inclusive), a total of 1,259 "anti-doping tests" were carried out on "British cyclists". From those tests, 12 Adverse Analytical Findings' ('AAFs') were reported, i.e. 12 "positive" Samples were returned.
4. Please note, UKAD does not hold information relating to whether any British cyclists tested are "professional" or "amateur". The totals referred to above relate to all tests of "British cyclists" under the jurisdiction of British Cycling.

## Clarifications

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5. In relation to your request, UKAD has interpreted an "anti-doping test ... carried out" as any successful test of a single Athlete on a single occasion. If multiple Samples (blood and/or urine) are collected from an Athlete on a single occasion, this is only counted as one 'test' for the purposes of this response.
6. In relation to your request, UKAD has interpreted "British cyclists" as Athletes under the jurisdiction of British Cycling, whose recorded nationality is any of the

following: 'British', 'English', 'Scottish', or 'Welsh'; or who are otherwise identifiable as British.

7. UKAD has interpreted a "*positive*" (anti-doping test) as an AAF in a Sample for the presence of a Prohibited Substance, or evidence of the use of a Prohibited Method, contained in the World Anti-Doping Agency ('WADA') Prohibited List.<sup>1</sup> Please note, as clarified at paragraph 5 (above), multiple Samples may be collected from an Athlete on a single occasion. Therefore, a single test may result in more than one AAF.
8. Please note, the detection of an AAF in a Sample does not automatically lead to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV') under the UK Anti-Doping Rules (and/or any other applicable anti-doping rules) for a number of reasons. For example, an Athlete who returns an AAF may have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ('TUE') which permits them to use a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method contained in the Prohibited List, when such use or administration is necessary to address a legitimate medical requirement.<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, an Athlete may be able to show that: (i) a Prohibited Substance was ingested via a permitted route (as outlined in the Prohibited List); (ii) there was an apparent departure from WADA's International Standard for Testing & Investigations or International Standard for Laboratories that caused the AAF; or (iii) the AAF was derived from the ingestion of a substance that is itself permitted (for example, morphine derived from the ingestion of codeine). The application of relevant Technical Documents and Technical Letters issued by WADA may also mean that an AAF in a Sample does not necessarily lead to an ADRV.

## Conclusion

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9. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed via email to [foi@ukad.org.uk](mailto:foi@ukad.org.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any further communications.
10. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

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<sup>1</sup> Available on the WADA website [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Further information about the TUE system is available on the UKAD website [here](#).

Yours sincerely

UK Anti-Doping

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