

[REDACTED]
Sent via email only: [REDACTED]

Ref: FOI-455

15 November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

1. Thank you for your email of 21 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:

I would like to make a freedom of information request for the following information.

1. In relation to the English Premier League football, from the 2015/2016 season to the end of the 2023/2024 season how many footballers have been visited at their home addresses for unscheduled drugs tests?

2. In relation to the English Premier League football, from the 2015/2016 season to the end of the 2023/2024 season how many footballers have failed any anti doping tests?

3. In relation to the English Premier League football, from the 2015/2016 season to the end of the 2023/2024 season how many anti doping tests have been conducted?

4. What is the process for transparency and naming of offenders who fail doping tests?

Summary of Response

2. UKAD confirms that it does not hold the data in relation to Part 1 of your request. UKAD does not record the league a player competed in at the time of collecting or analysing a Sample within the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System ('ADAMS') or elsewhere. Further, it is not possible for UKAD to readily identify whether anti-doping testing has been carried out specifically at a player's

home address. UKAD therefore does not hold information as to how many Premier League players were visited at their home addresses for anti-doping testing.

3. UKAD confirms that, subject to the clarifications explained below, it holds some information relevant to Parts 2 and 3 of your request. Please note that the information for Part 3 of your request has been provided in a table annexed to this response.
4. As more particularly explained below, the information you have requested at Part 4 is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 21 of the Act (information accessible by other means).

Part 2 of your request

5. UKAD does not “hold” the information at Part 2 of your request. This is because UKAD does not record Adverse Analytical Findings (‘AAFs’) by reference to the league a player participates in.
6. The above notwithstanding, UKAD has cross-referenced the data it holds with publicly available (not UKAD-specific) information in good faith, to try to discern where players were (i.e. which league), in order to respond to your request. UKAD has interpreted “failed doping tests” to mean tests reported as AAFs under the World-Anti-Doping Code.
7. UKAD is able to confirm that there were 16 (sixteen) AAFs reported for Premier League players from the 2015/2016 season to the end of the 2023/2024 season. Please note that for the purposes of this response, UKAD has identified AAFs from those Samples belonging to players in the Premier League that have subsequently been reported by a World Anti-Doping Agency (‘WADA’) accredited laboratory for the detection of a Prohibited Substance or Method (as per the WADA Prohibited List in force at the time).
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 (or the FA Anti-Doping Regulations) for a number of reasons. For example, a player 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 requirement¹. Alternatively, a player 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. 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.

Part 3 of your request

9. As to Part 3 of your request, UKAD does not "hold" the information in the form requested (as per section 1 of the Act) as UKAD does not record test information by reference to the league a player participates in.
10. The above notwithstanding, UKAD confirms that, subject to the below clarifications, it holds planning information for testing Premier League players during the seasons 2015/2016 season through to the 2023/2024 season.
11. UKAD has previously published information in relation to planning information for testing Premier League players from the 2017/2018 season to the 2020/2021 season in FOI-338, which can be found on UKAD's website [here](#). UKAD has therefore not included this information in this response in accordance with section 21 of the Act.
12. UKAD has completed a table on the basis of test planning information it holds for the 2015/2016 season, 2016/2017 season, 2021/2022 season, 2022/2023 season and 2023/2024 season, which is annexed to this letter.

Part 4 of your request

13. Section 21 of the Act states:

Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

For the purposes of subsection (1)—

- a. *information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and*

¹ Further information about the TUE system is available on the UKAD website [here](#).

- b. *information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.*

14. The information requested in relation to Part 4 is publicly available information and can be found in the [UK Anti-Doping Rules](#) (specifically Articles 8.5, 13.8 and 10.15) and the [FA Anti-Doping Regulations](#) (specifically Regulations 112 and 137). This means that the information you are asking for is covered under the exemption at section 21 of the Act.

Conclusion

15. 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. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any further communications.
16. 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.

Yours sincerely



UK Anti-Doping