

Mr [REDACTED]

Ref: FOI-468

Sent via email only: [REDACTED]

13 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

1. Thank you for your email of 12 February 2025 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 in-competition drug tests were carried out on Premier League footballers and English Football League footballers during the 2022-23 season and 2023-24 season. If any tests are carried out in domestic cups, please include these for the relevant league that the player is competing in.*

** How many out-of-competition drug tests were carried out on Premier League footballers and English Football League footballers during the 2022-23 season (for these purposes July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) and 2023-24 season (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)*

** How many players tested positive for banned substances during in-competition tests*

** How many players tested positive for banned substances during out-of-competition tests*

** How many players testing positive for banned substances (in and out of competition) were sanctioned."*

Summary of Response

2. UKAD confirms that, subject to the explanations provided below, it holds information relevant to your request.

3. In relation to Parts 3, 4 and 5 of your request, UKAD has interpreted the requests as also pertaining to the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons.
4. Please note for the purposes of responding to your request, UKAD has used the specific dates identified by you in your request for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons. Please note however, the dates within your request may not directly correspond timeframes for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons elsewhere (where different timeframes may have been used, consistent with The FA's Regulations, e.g. 1 June – 31 May).
5. In respect of Part 1 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds the requested information. The number of In-Competition drugs tests carried out on players in the Premier League and English Football League, during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24
Total	684	606

Part 2 of your request

6. In respect of Part 2 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds the requested information. The number of Out-of-Competition drugs tests carried out on players in the Premier League and English Football League, during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24
Total	1772	1570

Part 3 of your request

7. In respect of Part 3 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds the requested information. The number of players that tested positive for a Prohibited Substance, following an In-Competition drug test, across the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons, is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24
Total	1	2

Part 4 of your request

8. In respect of Part 4 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds the requested information. The number of players that tested positive for a Prohibited Substance, following an Out-of-Competition drug test, across the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons, is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24
Total	1	0

Part 5 of your request

9. In respect of Part 5 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds the requested information. The number of players that received a sanction, after testing positive for a Prohibited Substance, across the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons, is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24
Total	0	0

AAFs and ADRVs

10. It is worth underlining in the context of your request that there may be various reasons why the detection of an Adverse Analytical Finding ('AAF') in a Sample (sometimes more commonly referred to as a '*positive test*') does not automatically lead to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation ('ADRV'). For example, a Player who returns an AAF may have a Therapeutic Use Exemption ('TUE') which permits them to use a Prohibited Substance or 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 a Prohibited Substance was ingested via a permitted route (as outlined in the Prohibited List) or that it 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.

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

Conclusion

11. 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.
12. 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "UK Anti-Doping".

UK Anti-Doping