

Ref: FOI-492

Sent via email only:

28 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

1. We write in relation to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Specifically, your request was as follows:

1) The total numbers of doping tests given to players in the NIFL Premiership since testing began or since the beginning of the 2024/25 season until the end of the season. If the data is available could the form of these tests be broken down i.e. if they were done at home, at the training ground, post-match or at a doping testing centre.

(2) For the same time period, the number of players who tested positive for banned substances.

(3) For the same time period, the number of players, support personnel or others who violated any of the 11 Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) and if possible, a breakdown of this by both rule and who committed them (player, support personnel etc)

(4) For the same time period, the outcome of any failed test or broken ADRV, meaning what were the consequences and punishment for doing so or whether any punishment was required.

2. On 30 June 2025, in response to a request from UKAD, you provided the following clarification:

If possible could you provide both NIFL Premiership and NIFL Women's Premiership players. If not possible then a) Only NIFL Premiership (i.e. NIFL Men's Premiership) players will do.

Summary of Response

3. UKAD confirms that, subject to the explanations provided below, it holds some information relevant to your request.
4. In relation to Parts 1 and 2 of your request, UKAD confirms that it holds and is prepared to disclose the information requested.
5. In relation to Parts 3 and 4 of your request, UKAD confirms that it does not hold the information requested.
6. Where capitalised terms are used in this response but not defined, they have the same meaning as defined in the 2021 UK Anti-Doping Rules (the 'ADR').

Response to Part 1 of your request

7. UKAD holds and is prepared to disclose the total number of tests conducted in the Northern Irish Football League ('NIFL') Premiership and NIFL Women's Premiership during the 2024/25 season. UKAD can confirm that there were 30 tests in total during the 2024/25 season.
8. Please note that UKAD defines a test as any attempt to test a single Athlete in a single Sample collection session. If multiple Samples (blood and/or urine) are collected from an Athlete in a single Sample collection session, this is only counted as one test.
9. You requested "*the total number of doping tests given to players in the NIFL Premiership since testing begun*". Please note that UKAD began conducting Testing in the NIFL Premiership and NIFL Women's Premiership at the beginning of the 2024/25 season.
10. You further requested that the number of tests be "*broken down i.e. if they were done at home, at the training ground, post-match or at the doping testing centre*". Please note that, when UKAD conducts Testing, it does not record whether the test took place "*at [an Athlete's] home, at the training ground, post-match or at the doping testing centre*". UKAD is therefore unable to provide a breakdown of its Testing information in the manner requested. However, UKAD can confirm that all 30 tests were conducted were conducted In-Competition. In-Competition is defined in the ADR as follows:

The period commencing at 11:59 p.m. on the day before a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to participate through the end of such Competition and the Sample collection process related to such Competition; provided, however, that WADA may approve, for a particular sport, an

alternative definition if an International Federation provides a compelling justification that a different definition is necessary for its sport. Upon such approval by WADA, the alternative definition shall be followed by all Major Event Organisations for that particular sport.

11. Please note that the number of tests disclosed at paragraph 7 of this response does not include tests conducted (if any) in any cup competition (including, the County Antrim Shield) during the 2024/25 season.

Response to Part 2

12. UKAD holds and is prepared to disclose the information sought at Part 2 of your request. UKAD can confirm that zero (0) NIFL Premiership and NIFL Women's Premiership players returned an Adverse Analytical Finding during the 2024/25 season.

Response to Parts 3 & 4 of your request

13. In light of our response to Part 2 of your request, UKAD does not hold the information sought at Parts 3 to 4 of your request.

Conclusion

14. 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.
15. 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