

Ref: FOI-495

Sent via email only:

27 August 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

1. Thank you for your email of 8 July 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:

I am looking at anti-doping testing in football and am keen to study more detailed data than is currently published by UKAD and the FA; in particular around out-of-competition testing.

While the FA funds more testing than any other sport in the UK, can UKAD provide me with a breakdown of those OOC tests, in terms of tests conducted at training grounds, at home and other locations when a player has provided information for their whereabouts away from a club training ground? The last year, or ideally the last two years, would be most helpful.

2. On 31 July 2025, in response to a request from UKAD, you provided the following clarification:

...can you please provide the data requested for: April 1 2024 to March 31 2025 and April 1 2023 to March 31 2024 and April 1 2022 to March 31 2023.

Response

3. UKAD confirms that, subject to the explanations provided below, it holds some information relevant to your request.
4. UKAD holds information in relation to Out-of-Competition tests by UKAD in football in England (i.e. Testing of footballers falling under the jurisdiction of The Football Association ('The FA')) for the timeframes specified in your request. This information is contained in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Total number of Out-of-Competition tests on footballers under the jurisdiction of The FA between 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2025

Dates specified	Total Out-of-Competition tests
1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	2,147
1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024	1,995
1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	2,043

5. Please note that UKAD defines a test as any attempt to test a single Athlete (here, footballer) 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. If the Athlete is not located or is unavailable for Testing, this is defined as one unsuccessful test attempt, regardless of the number of planned Samples to be collected from that Athlete. Please note that the information contained in Table 1 of your request is publicly available on UKAD's website.¹
6. You further requested that UKAD provide a breakdown of tests conducted "*in terms of tests conducted at training grounds, at home and other locations when a player has provided information for their whereabouts away from a club training ground*". Please note that whilst UKAD records addresses when it plans Testing, it does not at any time categorise these addresses in any way, or use them to create a breakdown of Testing locations in the manner (or similar to the manner) requested, e.g. at a training ground, the Athlete's home, or based on whereabouts information. As a consequence, UKAD does not hold information for this particular part of your request.

Conclusion

7. 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.
8. 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.

¹ UKAD publishes the details of Testing by reference to each national governing body on a quarterly basis [here](#).

Yours sincerely

UK Anti-Doping

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