



Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/25/3819
We received your request on the 12/11/2025.

Request

You asked us:

Please could you provide the following information.

1. Does your police force offer drug awareness courses for people caught with possession of cannabis? If so:
2. What year did the force commence operating these courses?
3. What was the cost of running this course in the 2025 calendar year to date?
4. Please state the number of times a person attended these courses in each calendar year from 2015 to 2025 to date.
5. Please state how much money the force received from fees charged for these courses in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.
6. Please state if the income from the courses is used for any specific purpose or whether it is returned to general funds.
7. Please state the overall number of people who have received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.
8. Of persons who received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in the 2025 calendar year, please state the persons with the five largest number of previous diversionary, educational or intervention outcomes on their police record.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

1. ***Does your police force offer drug awareness courses for people caught with possession of cannabis?***
Yes - Druglink
If so:
2. ***What year did the force commence operating these courses?***
From the course provider: '2017. But officially began referrals from 2019 till present. I believe the two parties worked together without any formal agreement pre-2019, then a more formal agreement was put in place from there on in.'
3. ***What was the cost of running this course in the 2025 calendar year to date?***
£0 direct cost to BTP (I believe some funding was given when the course was set up in 2019 but there are no ongoing costs to the force; attendees must pay Druglink an attendance fee of £45 if they received a Community Resolution (CR), £90 if a Conditional Caution(CC))
4. ***Please state the number of times a person attended these courses in each calendar year from 2015 to 2025 to date.***
2019 - 33

2020 - 252
 2021 - 307
 2022 - 229
 2023 - 259
 2024 - 428
 2025 - 297

Please note – these are attendee figures: a greater number of people will have been given a condition to attend but for whatever reason did not do so

5. ***Please state how much money the force received from fees charged for these courses in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date***
 £0

6. ***Please state if the income from the courses is used for any specific purpose or whether it is returned to general funds.***

From the Provider: “All income within Druglink Diversion service goes into Druglink general funds, which supports all services including Diversion, Rehab, Detox, Counselling and more.”

7. ***Please state the overall number of people who have received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.***

From the phrasing of the question, this appears to relate to ‘outcome 22’ cases whereby the offender completes diversionary, educational or intervention activity.

From a search of BTP’s RMS, it appears that the earliest case recorded with such an outcome is in 2019.

2019 – 1
 2020 – 24
 2021 – 20
 2022 – 36
 2023 – 37
 2024 – 21
 2025 – 13

Total - 152

Please note that this is a very rough search and some of these cases may well have been recorded as Outcome 22 in error when in fact another outcome was applied – it would take too long to go through each and verify that each was recorded correctly as O22

8. ***Of persons who received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in the 2025 calendar year, please state the persons with the five largest number of previous diversionary, educational or intervention outcomes on their police record.***

Information not held.