

Food Standards Agency: Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Date released: 23 August 2017

Request & Response

1) On your site, it states: "We lead national operations against people who sell DNP and work with international and law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

a) Please confirm the number of operations the FSA has been involved in, and how many of these have been with international enforcement partners' versus how many were domestic. Please state the outcome. (i.e. lead to prosecution)

Please provide this information over the timeframe 1 Jan 2012 - 1 August 2017 and break it down by year.

Answer:

The National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) was established in December 2014. We are unable to provide specific figures for the period prior to the NFCU's inception owing to the way in which the data was collected and stored.

The NFCU is responsible for operations targeting DNP within the FSA. The NFCU has been involved in four specific cases targeting DNP. Of these one has been in partnership with international enforcement partners and three in partnership with domestic law enforcement partners. These cases resulted from an overarching NFCU operation for targeting the sale of DNP.

Jan to December 2015– 1 case

Jan to December 2016– 1 case

Jan to August 2017 – 2 cases

Of these cases, one has led to a successful conviction, one is awaiting trial and two are under active investigation.

In addition to specific enforcement interventions, the NFCU has taken action (with international law enforcement partners and internet web hosts) to take down 30 websites selling DNP online and a further 5 are no longer selling DNP.

b) Please confirm how many separate instances pills have been seized in the UK (and if known country of origin of pills)

Please provide this information over the timeframe 1 Jan 2012 - 1 August 2017 and break it down by year. Could you please confirm which international and law enforcement partners the FSA works with?

Answer:

December 2014 – No seizures.

2015 – No seizures.

2016 – Three seizures.

2017 – No seizures to 01 August.

The DNP powder from one of the 2016 seizures originated in China. The country of origin for the DNP seized on the other two occasions is not known.

The NFCU has worked with the Metropolitan Police Service, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Local Authority Trading Standards and Environmental Health departments, National Crime Agency and the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA).

2) [On your site, it states:](#) "We would like to hear from you if you have information about people selling or importing DNP as a 'fat burner' or for any type of human consumption."

Please confirm the number of people who have sent in information about this issue in each year. Please provide this information over the timeframe 1 Jan 2012 - 1 August 2017 and break it down by year.

Answer:

December 2014 – 0 people.

2015 – 3 people.

2016 – 0 people.

2017 – 0 people to 01 August.