

chapter
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Seizures of controlled drugs

This section provides a selection of information on seizures of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The source of statistics concerned with seizures of controlled drugs is a range of bulletins published annually by the Home Office under the general title "Statistics of drug seizures and offenders dealt with". The figures relating to Scotland are published in the "Scotland Tables" which may be obtained from the Home Office at the address given on page 145.

The statistics of seizures cover seizures made during the year by police and by officials of HM Customs and Excise and other bodies. Seizures involving more than one drug are counted as a single seizure in the total number of seizures but are counted separately against each individual drug or drug class involved. Annual movements in quantities are often heavily affected by a small number of very large seizures. It should also be noted that changes in drug seizures do not necessarily imply similar changes in the prevalence of the misuse of controlled drugs. Drug misuse is a largely clandestine activity and the numbers of seizures are affected by both by changes in the amount, direction and effectiveness of enforcement effort and by changes in recording procedures.

88 | Seizures of controlled drugs : 1985, 1990, 1993 - 1998

police force area or other organisation ¹

	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Police and other authorities								
Central	78	283	511	491	633	589	598	829
Dumfries & Galloway	45	119	289	266	414	452	444	509
Fife	103	243	255	343	526	498	658	654
Grampian	220	324	703	1 036	1 125	1 391	1 518	1 682
Lothian & Borders	546	805	1 278	1 294	728	1 471	2 369	2 378
Northern	192	248	368	380	463	471	555	394
Strathclyde	1 848	3 463	5 833	6 804	7 936	7 987	9 372	10 041
Tayside	210	486	697	697	835	967	1 049	1 259
Other authorities	..	19	-	-	-	27	15	18
Scotland	3 242	5 990	9 934	11 311	12 660	13 853	16 578	17 764
England	21 767	45 190	64 926	82 337	88 628	93 156	105 376	112 721
Wales	1 452	2 102	4 274	5 646	5 561	5 870	8 343	9 553
Northern Ireland	219	172	423	894	846	1 291	1 201	1 508
British Transport Police	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 006	957
Regional Crime Squad	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	386
Force missing, not recorded ²	..	..	495	254	-	-	-	-
UK Total	26 680	53 454	80 052	100 442	107 695	114 170	132 632	142 889
HM Customs & Excise	3 786	7 405	7 433	7 187	6 844	7 949	6 727	7 753
Total - all seizures	30 466	60 859	87 485	107 629	114 539	122 119	139 359	150 642

¹ Seizures from joint operations involving HM Customs & Excise and the police are generally recorded against HM Customs & Excise. Seizures made by the Scottish Crime Squad are recorded by the appropriate police force.

² Among English and Welsh police forces; not recorded before 1993.

.. Not available

Source : Home Office

89 | Seizures¹ of controlled drugs (number and quantity seized) : 1998

police force area or other organisation²; drug type

NUMBER OF SEIZURES

	All drugs		Class A Drugs					Total Class A
	Total	Cocaine (incl. 'crack')	Heroin	LSD	Ecstasy-type	Methadone	Other	
Police and other authorities								
Central	829	8	73	1	20	3	3	102
Dumfries & Galloway	509	8	140	2	13	3	1	157
Fife	654	5	54	2	26	3	3	86
Grampian	1 682	42	270	9	45	19	5	357
Lothian & Borders	2 378	40	120	13	103	18	15	277
Northern	394	5	5	2	14	1	2	28
Strathclyde	10 041	141	1 707	46	178	63	46	2 085
Tayside	1 259	13	41	7	60	7	19	139
Force not specified	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotland	17 764	262	2 410	82	459	117	94	3 231
England	112 721	6 195	11 991	440	3 625	1 379	596	22 536
Wales	9 553	72	380	62	311	51	127	951
Northern Ireland	1 508	14	30	6	275	-	6	320
British Transport Police	957	29	93	3	15	11	1	151
Regional Crime Squads	386	22	44	4	16	5	1	79
UK Total³	142 889	6 594	14 948	597	4 701	1 563	825	27 268
HM Customs & Excise	7 753	839	147	16	89	6	172	1 204
Total - all seizures	150 642	7 433	2 440	15 095	613	4 790	1 569	28 472

QUANTITY SEIZED (kgs⁴)

	Class A Drugs					
	Cocaine (incl. 'crack')	Heroin	LSD (doses)	Ecstasy-type (doses)	Methadone	Other
Police and other authorities						
Central	0.1	0.1	4	5 892	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	-	5.3	5	6 386	-	0.6
Fife	0.2	0.4	59	5 110	-	-
Grampian	0.5	2.4	98	1 109	-	-
Lothian & Borders	0.6	0.3	299	3 610	0.1	-
Northern	-	-	19	217	-	-
Strathclyde	26.0	30.4	2 406	6 313	-	0.1
Tayside	0.1	0.1	22	7 126	-	0.2
Other authorities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scotland	27.7	39.0	2 912	35 763	0.1	0.9
England	114.5	237.5	23 275	442 762	76.6	38.4
Wales	1.2	1.6	1 766	63 476	4.9	4.5
Northern Ireland	4.2	0.2	655	131 847	-	-
British Transport Police	2.0	23.4	86	19 288	0.1	-
Regional Crime Squads	26.0	53.9	136	413 489	0.1	-
UK Total³	175.6	355.6	28 830	1 106 625	81.7	43.8
HM Customs & Excise	2 809.5	989.0	11 223	988 713	0.8	65.5
Total - all seizures	2 985.1	1 343.7	40 053	2 095 338	82.5	109.3

1 As a seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added to produce totals.

2 Seizures from joint operations involving HM Customs & Excise and the police are generally recorded against HM Customs & Excise (Number of seizures) or the lead agency (quantity seized). Seizures made by the Scottish Crime Squad are recorded by the appropriate police force.

3 Includes seizures made by British Transport Police in England and Wales.

4 All quantities are in kilograms except for LSD and Ecstasy-type (doses), and cannabis plants

Source : Home Office

Seizures ¹ of controlled drugs (number and quantity seized) : 1998

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continued

NUMBER OF SEIZURES

Class B Drugs				Class C Drugs				Unknown		
Cannabis	Amphet- amines	Other	Total Class B	Benzo- diazepines	Temez- epam	Anabolic steroids	Other Class C	Total		
										Police and other authorities
727	52	5	748	8	6	-	8	22	-	Central
341	54	2	374	9	-	-	1	10	1	Dumfries & Galloway
550	108	12	606	17	1	-	4	21	-	Fife
1 329	213	21	1 437	69	19	-	18	89	-	Grampian
2 010	348	78	2 241	71	28	-	17	100	5	Lothian & Borders
352	58	1	378	5	-	-	-	5	-	Northern
7 354	1 100	192	8 154	445	501	-	51	912	2	Strathclyde
1 066	156	28	1 168	22	13	-	14	46	1	Tayside
18	2	-	18	1	2	-	-	2	-	Force not specified
13 747	2 091	339	15 124	647	570	-	113	1 207	9	Scotland
84 181	14 304	165	94 093	1 306	229	122	47	1 645	487	England
7 541	1 818	10	8 845	61	106	8	1	165	18	Wales
1 257	102	1	1 312	8	-	-	12	17	-	Northern Ireland
768	54	-	810	7	1	1	-	90	-	British Transport Police
299	30	-	321	5	-	-	2	5	-	Regional Crime Squads
107 793	18 399	515	120 505	2 034	906	131	175	3 129	514	UK Total ³
6 370	136	3	6 484	10	5	39	19	64	2	HM Customs & Excise
114 163	18 535	518	126 989	2 044	911	170	194	3 193	516	Total - all seizures

QUANTITY SEIZED (kgs ⁴)

Class B Drugs				Class C Drugs				Unknown			
Cannabis (herbal)	Cannabis Plants	Cannabis Resin	Cannabis Liquid	Amphet- amines	Other	Benzo- diazepines	Temez- epam	Anabolic steroids	Other		
										Police and other authorities	
2.1	86	117.6	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	Central	
2.9	77	5 355.2	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	Dumfries & Galloway	
3.9	421	164.7	-	3.9	-	-	-	-	-	Fife	
23.0	183	393.0	-	17.2	-	0.1	-	-	-	Grampian	
2.1	691	247.6	-	19.8	0.1	-	-	-	-	Lothian & Borders	
772.0	26	4 447.2	-	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	Northern	
1.3	436	1 166.3	-	52.6	0.3	0.4	58.6	-	-	Strathclyde	
3.9	40	40.7	-	1.8	0.2	-	-	-	-	Tayside	
1.2	-	23.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Other authorities	
812.3	1 960	11 956.0	-	107.8	0.6	0.5	58.6	-	-	Scotland	
1 244.6	61 698	6 623.4	0.7	391.2	0.3	1.8	0.4	3.0	0.3	2.7	England
25.4	5 957	2 721.6	0.5	35.4	-	0.4	0.2	0.4	-	0.3	Wales
1.0	102	419.9	-	6.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	Northern Ireland
3.0	20	27.7	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	British Transport Police
27.0	2 233	399.6	-	53.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	Regional Crime Squads
2 113.4	71 970	22 148.2	1.2	598.2	0.8	2.8	59.2	3.4	0.3	3.0	UK Total ³
19 546.1	-	63 674.8	6.2	1 206.4	-	-	-	14.2	10.0	0.8	HM Customs & Excise
21 659.5	71 970	85 823.0	7.4	1 804.6	0.9	2.8	59.2	17.7	10.3	3.9	Total - all seizures

90 | Number and quantity¹ of seizures² of class A, B and C drugs; Scotland : 1985, 1990, 1993 - 1998

drug type

	Number of seizures							
	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All Class A	510	412	1 203	1 257	1 496	2 456	2 702	3 231
Cocaine inc.'crack'	41	26	45	83	70	119	196	262
Dextromoramide	2	5	6	4	2	-	1	2
Dipipanone	15	19	23	18	19	13	16	7
Heroin	388	114	394	489	738	1 208	1 788	2 410
LSD	53	172	346	271	107	140	100	82
Ecstasy-type ³	-	8	198	363	524	893	527	459
Methadone	7	20	33	37	44	112	111	117
Morphine	7	37	36	36	25	36	30	45
Opium	-	1	3	1	1	-	1	1
Pethidine	5	9	3	5	2	1	4	6
Other Class A	8	26	155	428	45	83	599	493
All Class B	3 000	4 583	9 134	10 415	11 346	11 679	14 425	15 124
Amphetamines	370	335	1 400	1 273	1 525	2 089	2 095	2 091
Barbiturates	12	5	7	4	2	1	3	3
Cannabis(herbal)	296	112	1 084	927	585	1 032	573	442
Cannabis plants ⁴	127	40	311	290	265	263	190	125
Cannabis resin	2 526	5 225	7 228	8 805	9 896	9 456	12 570	13 469
Cannabis liquid	22	24	12	11	15	7	9	7
Methaqualone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Class B	3	74	108	111	98	189	292	336
All Class C	5	525	592	791	745	1 124	828	1 207
Benzodiazepines	..	242	355	555	288	449	458	647
Temazepan	..	..	..	..	..	624	326	570
Other Class C ⁵	5	316	274	285	498	747	335	578
	Quantity seized (kgs)							
	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
All Class A								
Cocaine inc.'crack'	0.400	0.100	8.317	3.569	0.797	2.452	4.582	27.855
Dextromoramide	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.001	-	-	-	-
Dipipanone	- ⁷	- ⁷	0.002	0.011	0.006	0.006	0.001	-
Heroin	6.600	2.600	3.764	2.720	9.115	34.761	23.835	40.168
LSD ⁶	0.001	10.000 ⁶	14 172	10 926	6 749	24 010	7 629	2 929
Ecstasy-type ^{3,6}	-	80.000 ¹	4 636	21 574	2 422	49 599	18 879	36 304
Methadone	- ⁷	0.006	0.109	0.014	0.012	0.067	0.303	0.114
Morphine	0.004	0.241	0.041	25.408	0.034	0.042	0.025	0.210
Opium	-	- ⁸	0.009	-	-	-	0.001	0.056
Pethidine	- ⁸	- ⁸	0.005	0.015	0.004	-	0.001	0.002
Other Class A	- ⁸	0.200	0.319	2.386	0.094	6.600	0.068	0.025
All Class B								
Amphetamines	5.000	6.300	60.413	36.299	31.000	70.257	1 761.232	111.093
Barbiturates	0.200	- ⁸	0.016	0.052	0.001	0.001	0.081	-
Cannabis (herbal)	708.700	108.500	34.277	114.539	18.367	90.340	66.857	813.490
Cannabis plants ⁴	718	177	1 611	3 338	2 455	2 070	34 793	2 030
Cannabis resin	71.800	106.400	4 734.440	926.510	357.597	406.556	3 607.455	11 970.650
Cannabis liquid	0.100	0.200	0.048	0.001 ⁸	0.007 ⁸	-	0.001	0.033
Methaqualone	-	- ⁸	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Class B	0.200	0.100	0.572	0.473	0.119	1.366	0.583	0.637
All Class C								
Benzodiazepines	..	0.243	0.393	0.806	0.217	0.521	0.149	9.071
Temazepan	..	..	..	..	..	3.024	0.028	58.602
Other Class C ⁵	- ⁸	0.014	0.320	0.046	0.297	3.027 ⁹	0.035	0.017

1 Drugs are seized in a variety of forms but where possible, for the purpose of this table, amounts have been converted to weights. Seizures of unspecified quantities are not included.

2 As a seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

3 MDMA up until 1995.

4 Number of plants.

5 None of these 'other class C' drugs were Anabolic steroids.

6 Number of doses. Measured in kilos until 1993. Data for 1985 -1992 are in kilos; from 1993, data refer to number of doses.

7 Less than 0.5 gram.

8 Less than 50 grams.

9 Equals 381 369 capsules.

.. Not available.

Source : Home Office