

Doping Case Of Tiernan-Locke Is Imminent, Says UK Anti-Doping Chief

UK Anti-Doping chief executive Andy Parkinson has remarked that the doping case of Team Sky rider [Jonathan Tiernan-Locke](#) is likely to be heard within a month.

Speaking at the Tackling Doping in Sport conference at Wembley, Parkinson said that was now close to being heard. “*imminently*,” and added that clearly the issue with that case is that it was in the public domain earlier than was ideal, and earlier than we put out a notice of charge. Parkinson added the process has seemed longer than it has been because we only received the notification after Christmas and biological passport cases are difficult to run and you need a lot of expert witnesses.

The former Tour of Britain winner became the first rider of [Team Sky](#) to be charged with doping, a charge that he vehemently denies. This was after discrepancies in his biological passport were found by the International Cycling Union (UCI) suggesting that the rider had taken drugs. The findings came from the rider's time on the Endura racing team for whom he won the Tour of Britain in 2012, said Team Sky.

The UCI confirmed that it had initiated disciplinary proceedings against the 28-year-old rider. In a statement, the UCI said the analysis of the biological passport of Jonathan Tiernan-Locke by the experts panel has demonstrated an anti-doping rule violation (use of prohibited substances and/or methods) and the UCI has requested his national federation to initiate disciplinary proceedings consequently, and in compliance with the UCI Anti-Doping Rules. The UCI statement also revealed that the World Anti-Doping Agency and UK Anti-Doping have been notified of the matter pursuant to the UCI Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA code.

The representatives of Tiernan-Locke issued a statement protesting his innocence and confirmed he would fight the charges. The statement reads that Jonathan Tiernan-Locke was notified that the UCI wish to instruct British Cycling to instigate proceedings against him regarding an abnormality in his biological passport. It also revealed that Tiernan-Locke vehemently denies the charges brought against him and has informed the UCI that he fully intends to contest them and Tiernan-Locke will not ride for Team Sky, attend training camps or undertake any team duties until a decision is made in these proceedings and added that Tiernan-Locke is looking forward to a speedy and just resolution of these unfortunate charges. The statement by the rider's representatives added that Tiernan-Locke will make no further comment on the matter until a decision has been reached.

According to a confirmation by the UK Anti-Doping director of legal Graham Arthur, the doping case of the rider has been handed to it for management. Arthur added we are progressing on a case relating to a possible anti-doping rule violation and the matter is subject to confidentiality restrictions imposed by the Anti-Doping Rules, and as such we are unable to comment further as this protects the rights of all involved. He also added that all violations of the World Anti-Doping Code are published on our website if confirmed, when sanctions have been agreed and all appeal windows are over.