Subject: Request for Review of Medicinal Cannabis Regulations and Guidance

Dear [MP Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of a collective of medical cannabis patient organisations, seeking your support in our efforts to improve the current regulations and guidance surrounding medicinal cannabis.

As you are aware, in 2018 you supported the rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans(1,2), which has provided much-needed relief to those suffering from a range of conditions. However, despite this progress, our collective has received numerous reports from patients who are dissatisfied with the current state of medicinal cannabis products(3).

One of our primary concerns is the effectiveness of these products. It has come to our attention that the terpenes in some medicinal cannabis products are being destroyed during the irradiation process, leading to an overall decrease in their therapeutic efficacy(5,6,7). Furthermore, there are reports of contamination with bugs and mould in some products, which even inactive mould can cause issues for some prescription holders(8,9,10,11,12,13,14).

Another issue is the lack of education among medical providers on the cannabis products they prescribe, their effects, and the law. As a result, patients are often prescribed the wrong strains(15) or strength of the medication, or prescribed excessive amounts of a product that may not be medically necessary. This can lead to overpriced low-strength oils being pushed and prescription decisions being influenced by commercial interests, rather than medical considerations.

We are also concerned about the lack of education regarding non-irradiated products, vape carts, and the overpriced oils that are being prescribed. This is particularly concerning when medical providers are not acting with integrity and prescription decisions are driven by commercial interests, rather than medical considerations.

Finally, we have received reports of police harassment of vulnerable prescription holders, despite the change in the law regarding medical cannabis. It is crucial that the home office educates its front-line officers on the law change to ensure that prescription holders are protected and not subjected to harassment or discrimination.

In light of these concerns, we are calling upon the MHRA to review the regulations and guidance around medicinal cannabis alongside cannabis subject matter experts. We believe that this review is necessary to ensure that pharmacies deliver clean, effective, and efficient medicine to prescription holders, and that medical providers are educated on the cannabis products they prescribe and act with integrity in their prescription decisions.

We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter, and would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

References

1. Home Office Circular 2018: Rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/753366/Medicinal\_Cannabis\_-\_Home\_Office\_Circular\_2018\_FINAL.pdf

2. Legalisation of Cannabis (Medicinal Purposes) Bill

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3. Understanding the Limitations and Innovations of Medical Cannabis Prescribing in the UK

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4. Taking stock of progress: Cannabis legalization and regulation in Canada

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/engaging-cannabis-legalization-regulation-canada-taking-stock-progress/document.html

5. WHAT IS ‘IRRADIATED’ CANNABIS? And why does it matter?

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6. Evaluating the Effects of Gamma-Irradiation for Decontamination of Medicinal Cannabis

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8. OPINION: Some growers complacent about using irradiation on cannabis

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12. Particle Pollution

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13. Toxicity of airborne particles—established evidence, knowledge gaps and emerging areas of importance

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14. A Review of Airborne Particulate Matter Effects on Young Children’s Respiratory Symptoms and Diseases

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Causal-relation-between-asthma-in-children-and-air-pollution-including-airborne-fine\_fig2\_324542977

15. Medical Cannabis Outcomes for Depression from the UK Medical Cannabis Registry

Showing AE's may be linked to misprescription of terpenes

https://www.sapphireclinics.com/outcomes-for-depression-from-the-uk-medical-cannabis-registry/

Alternative Version 1:

Dear [MPs],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you today as a concerned individual and to express my support for the rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans that you supported in 2018(1,2).

I am writing to bring to your attention a pressing issue regarding the regulations and guidance around medicinal cannabis in the UK. I believe that the MHRA should review these regulations and guidance in conjunction with cannabis subject matter experts to ensure that they are fit for purpose and that pharmacies are able to deliver clean, effective, and efficient medicine to prescription holders.

There are several reasons why the current medicine may not be effective, including issues with terpenes and the effects of irradiation(5,6,7). Studies have shown that some medicinal cannabis products may contain harmful contaminants such as bugs and mould, and even inactive mould can still cause issues for some prescription holders (8,9,10,11,12,13,14).

I am also concerned about the lack of education among medical providers regarding the cannabis products they prescribe, their effects, and the law. This has led to miss-prescriptions such as sativa for night use, low-strength products for those with tolerance, overpriced low-strength oil, and large amounts of a product being prescribed blindly (15). I urge you to put pressure on medical providers to ensure that they are well-informed about the products they prescribe and that their prescription decisions are based on medical considerations and not commercial interests.

I would also like to bring to your attention the issue of non-irradiated cannabis, vape carts, and overpriced oil (17). I believe that it is important to ensure that medical providers act with integrity and that prescription decisions are based on medical considerations and not commercial interests.

Finally, I would like to request that the Home Office educates its front-line officers on the law change regarding medical cannabis, one of the most heavily policed drugs. There have been reports of police harassment of vulnerable prescription holders (16), and it is important that the Home Office takes steps to prevent such incidents from happening in the future.

I would appreciate your attention to this matter and any action you may be able to take. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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1. Home Office Circular 2018: Rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans

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https://www.sapphireclinics.com/outcomes-for-depression-from-the-uk-medical-cannabis-registry/

16. The police are arresting cannabis patients with legal prescriptions

https://www.leafie.co.uk/articles/medical-cannabis-patients-arrested/

17. Site showing price of lab grade feco/rso at a US dispensary

https://muvfl.com/product/rso

Alternative Version 2:

Dear Honourable MPs,

We, the undersigned collective of medical cannabis patient organisations, write to you with a call to action. As you are aware, you supported the rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans back in 2018(1,2). Today, we implore you to take further action to ensure that the regulations and guidance around medicinal cannabis are up-to-date, comprehensive, and effective.

The current state of medicinal cannabis in our country is unacceptable. Patients are being prescribed ineffective medicine that is contaminated with bugs and mould. This not only fails to address their medical needs but also puts their health at risk(8,9,10,11,12,13,14). We demand that the MHRA conduct a comprehensive review of the regulations and guidance surrounding medicinal cannabis, in collaboration with subject matter experts in the field.

We also call upon medical providers to be properly educated about the cannabis products they prescribe and the laws that govern their use. Patients should not have to suffer from incorrect prescriptions(15) or face overpriced, low-strength medicine because of a lack of understanding among providers. It is imperative that prescription decisions are based on medical considerations and not commercial interests.

Moreover, it is unacceptable that vulnerable prescription holders are subjected to police harassment. It is the responsibility of the home office to educate its front line officers on the changes in the law regarding medical cannabis. This is one of the most heavily policed drugs and it is imperative that officers understand the law and the rights of patients.

In conclusion, we implore you to take swift and decisive action to address these issues. As medical cannabis patients, we deserve access to clean, effective, and affordable medicine. We deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by medical providers and law enforcement officers. We demand that our voices be heard and our needs be addressed.

Sincerely,

[Collective of Medical Cannabis Patient Organizations]

References

1. Home Office Circular 2018: Rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans

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