



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000817-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 27th February, 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

Now that medicinal cannabis is legal, what Advice or guidelines have your officers received to handle any confusion if a patient is found in possession of legal cannabis, or is tacking their legal medicine in public?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4th March, 2019.

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

The following briefing was distributed to Officers and also referred to during student inputs surrounding drug legislation.

The government announces that medical cannabis is legal

For the first time in the UK, expert doctors have been given the option to legally issue prescriptions for cannabis-based medicines when they agree that their patients could benefit from this treatment.

As of Thursday 1 November, specialist doctors (NOT a GP) will be allowed to prescribe cannabis products for medicinal use; these doctors must focus on one field of medicine such as neurology or paediatrics and are listed on the GMC's specialist register.

They must make decisions on prescribing cannabis-products for medicinal use on a case by case basis and only when the patient has an unmet special clinical need that cannot be met by licensed products.

There are three broad requirements for products before they can be prescribed:

- The product is or contains cannabis, cannabis resin, cannabidiol or cannabidiol derivatives
- The product must be produced for medicinal use in humans
- It must be a product that is regulated as a medicinal product or an ingredient of a medicinal product



Only products meeting these standards will be rescheduled to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, any product not meeting these safety and quality assurance standards will remain in Schedule 1 meaning that it is thought to have no therapeutic value and cannot be lawfully possessed or prescribed. It may be used for the purpose of research, but a Home Office licence is required.

Cannabis will remain a Class 'B' under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the penalties for unauthorised supply and possession will remain unchanged.

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700