



**CENTRE FOR
MEDICINAL
CANNABIS**

CBD UK POLICY REPORT

OUTLINE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

In Q1 2019, the CMC is undertaking a new research project on cannabidiol (CBD) in the UK to be published in March. This project, led by our Policy Lead Blair Gibbs, will generate a detailed policy report examining the state of the CBD market in the UK, the political and regulatory context, and make recommendations.

This report will not attempt to estimate consumer spending patterns or quantify the size and value of segments in this rapidly expanding market. Instead, the CMC's report will focus on the more vital issues relating to policy, the status of the law and the interests of consumers. It will set out how CBD products are regulated in the UK and the gaps and areas of potential weakness in those rules.

In reviewing the status of the law and the regulatory landscape around CBD in the UK, the report will compare approaches taken in other jurisdictions. It will address definitions, the recent outcomes of EU and WHO reviews, as well as summarise the research around the health impacts of CBD and the wider evidence base.

The report will summarise the sources of CBD, the supply chain for products, and the rules governing hemp cultivation and CBD extraction, processing and importation. The report will profile a selection of the product range in the market and explore how consumers use CBD currently, including new survey data and analysis.

The theme of the report will be on protecting consumers, and consistent with the CMC's core mission to support patients, the CBD review will look at how to ensure high standards, and how best to support consumers to access quality products, and make educated decisions with the fullest information.

To this end, the review will include consideration of practices around labeling, traceability, testing regimens, and distribution and retail practices. The CMC intend to commission original laboratory testing to inform the recommendations based on a sampling of retail products being sold in the UK currently and the implications of these findings, in line with the approach taken by other research institutes in Europe.

The report will conclude with recommendations that are evidence-based and politically deliverable, with the overarching goal of helping the industry, regulators and policy-makers, to reach agreement on the best way forward. In order to support the growth of a responsible, innovative and consumer-friendly CBD market in the years ahead, the report will make proposals around best practice and quality standards so that the UK can improve its regulation of CBD products.

Our objective for this project is to inform policy-makers, the media and the public about the present context for CBD, and to outline how the UK can ensure those who seek the health benefits of cannabidiol are better protected. In so doing, we aim to set out an approach that, if adopted here, would likely influence other regimes globally.

For further information or inquiries regarding research into our CBD report, please contact: cbd@thecmcuk.org