

News story: Government announces that medicinal 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.

The law change, laid in Parliament today, came after the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, listened to concerns from parents of children with conditions such as severe epilepsy.

Over the summer he called for an urgent review of cannabis-based medicinal products and accepted recommendations that followed from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and the UK's Chief Medical Adviser.

The new law will not limit the types of conditions that can be considered for treatment and doctors will no longer need to seek approval from an expert panel in order for patients to access the medicines.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Having been moved by heartbreaking cases involving sick children, it was important to me that we took swift action to help those who can benefit from medicinal cannabis.

We have now delivered on our promise and specialist doctors will have the option to prescribe these products where there is a real need.

I'm grateful to the expert panel – who have been considering cases in the interim – and to those who've worked hard to bring about this change at the earliest possible opportunity.

The decision to prescribe these unlicensed medicines must be made by a specialist doctor – not a GP. These doctors focus on one field of medicine such as neurology or paediatrics and are listed on the General Medical Council's specialist register. They must make decisions on prescribing cannabis-based 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.

Patients under the care of a specialist should discuss their treatment plan with them.

NHS England, the British Paediatric Neurology Association and the Royal College of Physicians will provide clinical advice to doctors ahead of the law change. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has been commissioned to develop more detailed guidelines for clinicians in the longer

term.

President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Professor Ashok Soni OBE, said:

This news will be welcomed by many patients with serious health conditions.

The prospect of a future where safe and effective licensed cannabis-based medicines can be prescribed to help relieve suffering is genuinely exciting.

We will work with the NHS to help support specialists in making the right prescribing decisions.

The Home Secretary has made it clear that today's announcement does not pave the way towards legalising cannabis for recreational use. The penalties for unauthorised supply and possession will remain unchanged.

[News story: Aspire Achieve Advance 3aaa apprenticeship training provider termination of contracts](#)



In conjunction with recent investigations, we have issued notices to terminate contracts with 3aaa. The notices will bring the contracts to an end in a three month period, in January 2019.

During the notice period, the suspension on apprenticeship enrolments remains in place. Our investigations will continue until all concerns have been addressed.

Our priority is to protect the apprentices and to ensure minimum disruption to their learning. We will source high quality alternative provision as

quickly as possible and support apprentices and employers to enable them to continue with their apprenticeship programme. We will write to all apprentices and employers to explain the next steps.

In the meantime, for enquiries from concerned apprentices, parents, or employers the ESFA has a dedicated e-mail: 3.AAA@education.gov.uk

Published 11 October 2018

[News story: Latest UK Aid Match round calls to charities tackling wildlife crime and deforestation](#)

The Department for International Development has confirmed today (Thursday 11th October) the latest £20 million round of UK Aid Match, inviting applications from charities working to achieve sustained poverty reduction and to achieve the Global Goals, and particularly encouraging proposals from wildlife and conservation charities.

The announcement came as further evidence of DFID's commitment to spend its foreign aid budget on programmes that protect and conserve the natural world as well as helping the world's poorest people.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt said:

UK Aid Match gives the British public a chance to see the money they donate to their most passionate development causes matched pound-for-pound by the government.

We owe it to future generations for UK aid to work alongside some of our most innovative and hard-working charities to tackle the scourge of the illegal wildlife trade and protect our natural environment. I want to encourage our partners to look to UK Aid Match as a way of furthering their efforts to do this and connecting with the British public.

To do so is a win for the public; a win for the world's poorest people; and a win for wildlife.

UK Aid Match brings charities, the public and UK government together to collectively change the lives of some of the world's poorest people. It also gives the British public an opportunity to engage with international development issues and have a say in how UK aid is spent.

In the last five years, UK Aid Match has supported 42 charities and run projects in 27 countries, which have benefitted more than 25 million of the world's poorest people. The government has matched every public donation made to these charities pound for pound, helping them go further in changing and saving lives.

To find out more and apply for UK Aid Match please visit: www.ukaidmatch.org.

Each charity appeal must run for up to three months and raise up to a maximum of £2million, subject to a due diligence assessment.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Applications for the next round of proposals opens on the 22 October and guidance will be available on the Aid Match website from 12 Oct.
- UK Aid Match brings charities, the British public and the UK government together to collectively change the lives of some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.
- It is designed to provide opportunities for the UK public to engage with international development issues and have a say in how UK aid is spent, whilst boosting the impact of the very best civil society projects to reach the poorest people in developing countries.
- For every £1 donated to a UK Aid Match charity appeal, the government will also contribute £1 of UK aid, to help these projects go further in changing and saving lives. UK Aid Match is funded from the international development budget, for donations made by individuals living in the UK.
- For more information on the fund, or to make an application, please visit the UK Aid Match website

Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, London, 11-12 October 2018

- With over 1000 delegates, the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference will be the largest of its kind ever to be held. 84 countries have confirmed that they will be sending delegations, spanning Africa (26); Americas (14); Asia and Oceania (17); Europe (23) and the Middle East (4).

The conference will focus on three themes:

- Tackling the illegal wildlife trade as a serious organised crime: strengthening law enforcement.
 - Building coalitions: engaging the private sector, NGOs and academia; harnessing technology and innovation.
 - Closing markets for illegally traded wildlife products: building on the Chinese ivory trade ban.
-

News story: Immigration Rules: Next phase of EU Settlement Scheme confirmed

The next phase of the roll-out of the EU Settlement Scheme, which allows resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain their UK immigration status, has been confirmed in the Immigration Rules.

This follows the successful first private pilot, involving 12 NHS Trusts and 3 universities in the North West of England, which had very positive feedback from customers on the ease of the application process.

The second phase will run from 1 November to 21 December 2018 and will test the full online application process. The number of participating organisations will increase significantly, with staff in the higher education, health and social care sectors across the UK included in this phase.

Vulnerable people with additional support needs are also going to be included in this phase, with the involvement of a small number of local authorities and community organisations.

This second test phase will help to make sure that the EU Settlement Scheme will operate as effectively as possible when it is fully open.

Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes said:

As this Government has consistently made clear, EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and to our society and we want them to stay.

The EU Settlement Scheme will make it simple and straightforward for EU citizens to get the status they need but it is important that we get this right.

I am pleased with how the first phase of the scheme has progressed, especially that those who have applied have found the process easy to use.

The Rules also introduce the new form of immigration leave for children transferred to the UK during the Calais camp clearance to reunite with family here, as announced in September 2018. Calais Leave will grant those who qualify the right to study, work, access public funds and healthcare, and apply for settlement after 10 years.

The changes also include bringing forward a new application service for visas. The new service builds on UKVI's digital application platform and will

transfer all data, such as supporting evidence and biometric information, to UKVI digitally. This is a significant step towards UKVI's ambition to become more digital and user friendly.

As announced in May 2018, the new front-end service will be operated by Sopra Steria and will begin to be rolled out from next month.

The UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services centres will be available across the country, with six core centres in Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Cardiff, Belfast and Croydon as well as a premium lounge in London. These will be supported by an additional 50 enhanced service points providing coverage across the UK.

There will also be additional services which include being able to upload your evidence from home or arranging a mobile service to come to your business, university or home.

The Rules are also being amended to specify the evidence for medical exemption from Knowledge of Language and/or Life in the UK requirements. The changes include specifying the medical professionals who can support a request for exemption and the format in which this request must be made.

These changes will come into force on 1 November 2018.

Further information on the EU Settlement Scheme can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

[News story: Statement on Funding for Scottish Farmers Post-Brexit](#)



Dairy Cows

Yesterday [Wednesday 10 October] Environment and Rural Affairs Secretary Michael Gove addressed the UK Parliament on the Agriculture Bill during its [second reading](#). He guaranteed that agricultural funding will not be Barnettised post-Brexit. This is to ensure that the rightly generous settlement which Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales currently receive will be defended.

Welcoming the announcement, Scottish Secretary David Mundell said:

This is great news for Scottish farmers. Under the present arrangements, Scotland receives twice as much money for farming support than might be expected were the Barnett formula alone used to determine allocations. So Michael Gove's commitment that future agriculture funding will not be Barnettised should be welcomed across the board.

More details of future support arrangements will be announced shortly but this latest guarantee reinforces our commitment to Scottish farmers. It comes with the UK Government already having agreed to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support for Scotland until 2022.

I remain concerned that the Scottish Government is keeping Scottish farmers in the dark about its plans for the future of agriculture. Farmers in Scotland need the same reassurance that the UK Agriculture Bill is giving those in England and Wales and time is running out for the Scottish Government to act.

Published 11 October 2018