



Home Office

Crime, Policing and Fire Group
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
Fax: 020 7035 4745
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rachel Wright
request-477020-d07c3007@whatdotheyknow.com

25 April 2018

Dear Miss Wright

Freedom of Information request reference: 48050

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 April 2018, in which you stated:

The International Narcotics Control Board report states that the UK is the largest producer of cannabis in the world - 95 tons in 2016. It is also the largest exporter - but as that is only 2.1 tons the rest stays in the UK. Please can you tell me who the UK is exporting to and why and what the 92.9 tons of cannabis that remains in this country is being used for.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The INCB's current reporting methodology means that definition of 'cannabis' in this context includes all products containing traces of THC (and other controlled cannabinoids), and figures reported by any countries reporting these figures could include any plant material exported for pharmaceutical purposes or pharmaceutical products containing cannabinoids that are manufactured in the UK and exported, such as Sativex.

As such, this definition will make it appear that the UK is a producer and exporter of cannabis, whereas it cultivates cannabis for the extraction of cannabinoids as outlined above. The Home Office have not issued any licences for 'medicinal cannabis', which we take to be substances produced to be consumed, be that smoked or ingested in any way.

Exports of cannabinoid based medicines, such as Sativex, have been made to the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

The remaining stock that is not exported may well remain in the UK as a working 'stock' (to be used as set out above), or alternatively the extracted cannabinoids could be used in the

manufacture of MHRA approved medicinal preparations. These preparations would be used in the UK or exported as required.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 48050. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Drugs and Firearms Licensing Unit