



Home Office

Mr Francis Hall

request-497299-dd843de6@whatdotheyknow.com

6 August 2018

Dear Mr Hall

Freedom of Information Request 49408

Thank you for your email of 13 July in which you ask for:

'It is often repeated by those in government, and by recent letters sent by MPs stating that there is 'strong scientific evidence that cannabis is a drug which can harm people's mental and physical health, and damage communities.

Please list the studies that are being used to justify this claim.'

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

The Home Office bases decisions on the classification and scheduling of drugs on evidence provided by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs ('ACMD'), an independent expert body that advises the government on drug-related issues in the UK. In 2007 the ACMD were commissioned by the Home Office to research the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. Their advice is set out in the 2008 report titled '*Cannabis: Classification and Public Health*': <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acmd-cannabis-classification-and-public-health-2008>

It is with this advice that the government is able to make an informed, evidence based decision on the classification and scheduling of cannabis.

The ACMD consider any substance which is being or appears to be misused and which is having or appears to be capable of having harmful effects sufficient to cause a social problem. They also carry out in-depth inquiries into aspects of drug use that are causing particular concern in the UK, with the aim of producing considered reports that will be helpful to policy makers and practitioners.

Yours sincerely,

Drug Legislation Team
Drugs and Alcohol Unit