



Home Office

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for
Crime and Policing

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Mr Julian Braybrook
The Government Chemist
Queen's Road
Teddington,
Middlesex
TW11 0LY

Email: Selvarani.Elahi@lgcgroup.com

170321

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Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 26 February to Professor Owen Bowden-Jones, Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), about my commission to the ACMD for advice on consumer CBD (cannabidiol) products. Thank you also for the information you provide in your letter regarding your role as Government Chemist and your ongoing work regarding CBD.

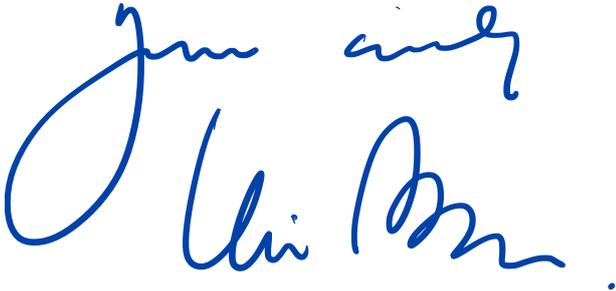
As your letter notes, I have asked the ACMD to provide advice on how the Government can strengthen the law on consumer CBD products. Ministers hope this advice will allow them to make sure the law is clear and that these products are safe for consumers so those who seek to create legitimate, safe CBD consumer products are able to do so more easily. The CBD sector is a rapidly growing market yet there is a wide variation in the quality and safety of products. The Government wants the UK to have the highest standards for CBD products, driving quality and safety, and establishing the UK's reputation in this globally significant market.

Home Office officials are in regular contact with those at LGC leading on the ring trial you referred to (which the Home Office co-funded, along with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA)), and we look forward to the initial results of that trial, towards the end of March 2021. Officials here have also been in regular contact with both UKAS and Fera.

As you are aware, the FSA has renewed its advice to the CBD industry to submit their novel food applications and move towards compliance with novel food regulations. Companies now have until 31 March 2021 to submit their applications. Companies with suitably validated applications should then be able to continue selling their products in England and Wales until they have been considered by independent scientific committees and a decision on authorisation has been made. Applications are subject to an 8-day admin check, and it can then take up to 30 working days for an application to be validated. These validated applications will then continue through an authorisation process that undertakes checks on safety to determine whether products can be authorised for sale. Once the process has been concluded only products on

sale on 13 February 2020 and linked to an application submitted before 31 March 2021 that is subsequently validated will have Novel Food status.

Thank you for writing to me and for your valuable contributions on this subject.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim King" on the top line and "Kit Malthouse" on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kit Malthouse MP