



## Home Office

**Drugs Licensing & Compliance**  
4th Floor (NW) - Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street, London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to let you know about changes to the licensing regime of controlled drugs and precursor chemicals (“controlled substances”) in the United Kingdom.

Since 15 November 2010, all licenses have been issued with a limited validity period.

The Home Office has launched a “*licence review and replacement*” programme which will see the review of all existing open-ended domestic licences and their replacement with time limited licences, to ensure we comply with domestic and EU legislation and ensure parity of licensing.

Affected licence holders will need to consider whether they have a continuing need for a licence, and if so re-apply for new licences if they wish to continue handling controlled substances, and are not covered by a licensing exemption. Please note a fee will be payable for any licence issued under this programme in accordance with the existing fees structure which came into force on 15 November 2010.

This letter provides further information on the programme which launched on **30 January 2012**, as announced on our website, and to let you know what action you need to take and when.

**Full details of how license applications are considered and decided, as well as the fees structure, can be found in the Drug Licensing Handling & Fee Guidance 2012. This will be available for download from the Home Office Website shortly.**

I hope you have found this information useful. Please feel free to visit our website for more information.

Yours sincerely

C. Fernandez-Packham  
**Project Manager – Time Limited licences.**