



Khat is an illegal Class C drug. The UK ban on khat came into effect on 24 June 2014.

Why is khat banned?

Khat contains natural ingredients which are already controlled drugs both in the UK and internationally because they are harmful. To help protect local communities from the potential health and social harms associated with khat and to ensure that the UK does not become a hub for international khat smuggling, it is illegal to produce, possess, supply and import or export khat without a Home Office licence.

What happens if you use khat in Northern Ireland now?

Anyone caught producing, possessing, supplying, importing or exporting khat will be liable to arrest and may be subject to the following:

- Prosecution in Court: Police send report to the Director of Public Prosecutions for a decision to prosecute in Court; or
- Discretionary disposal: depending upon a range of factors such as age, quantity of drug, previous offending history; or
- Informed warnings; or
- Caution.

If you are a juvenile you may be subject to a discretionary disposal, a youth engagement / restorative process, caution or prosecution. Again, other factors will be taken into account.





If convicted, it will certainly limit any travel plans that you may have to visit other countries and it may limit job opportunities.

Simple possession of khat may attract sanctions of up to 2 years and / or an unlimited fine (up to 3 months in prison and / or a £1,000 fine on summary conviction).

Does the ban on khat apply in both public and private places?

Yes. Khat is an illegal Class C drug and this applies UK wide.

What happens if you trade in khat illegally?

If you are caught, the police will take action and there is a risk of prosecution. As a Class C drug it is illegal to supply, possess with intent to supply and import khat.

Sanctions for these offences for Class C drugs are up to 14 years imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both.

Supplying khat to your friends, even if you give it away, is also considered 'supplying' under the law.

Where can I go to find advice and support about giving khat up?

For advice and information on local support and treatment services for khat use, your GP or local council is a good place to start. For confidential advice and information on local support and treatment services please visit:

www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/drug-and-alcohol-directories-services

www.talktofrank.com/drug/khat