



Home Office

Public Safety Group  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Cefyn Jones  
[cefyn.jones@hemphound.co.uk](mailto:cefyn.jones@hemphound.co.uk)

28 January 2025

Dear Mr Jones,

**Freedom of Information Request: FOI2024/11395**

Thank you for your email of 31 December 2024, which we have included as Annex A. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We are sorry for the delay in response.

I am unable to confirm whether the Home Office does hold information within the scope of your request. Under section 12(2) of the FOIA, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the appropriate limit. We estimate that the cost of identifying whether any information is held would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it. The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. In this case the time taken to identify whether information is held, would exceed this limit.

This is because, to complete your request, we would need to look through all electronic and physical files that the Home Office possesses which may be potentially relevant. Physical files are securely kept and are in different locations. When assessing your request, the Drug Misuse Unit and the Drugs and Firearms Licensing Unit have estimated that there are at least 55 physical files in storage that pertain to cannabis. This number does not include the files that may be stored online. We also estimate that each file would take 30 minutes to sift through. This would exceed the appropriate limit, and therefore section 12 of the Act is engaged.

It is difficult for us to suggest how you could narrow your request. However, if you wish to submit a revised request, we would be happy to consider it. I should also point out that if you submit a revised request, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

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.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference **FOI2024/11395**. 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.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>.

Yours sincerely

Drug Misuse Unit

## ANNEX A

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of all correspondence, meeting notes, or documentation related to Dr. Geoffrey Guy's regulatory proposal for cannabis (commonly referred to as the '22-point plan') submitted to the Home Office between January 26, 1998, and February 26, 1998.

This request includes communications involving Alan Macfarlane and other Home Office officials regarding the development or review of regulatory frameworks for cannabis during this time.

I previously submitted a broader request on 15/04/24, but I was advised to narrow down the timeframe, which I have done based on further research.

Knowledge of this 22-point plan comes from two sources attributed to Dr. (now Prof.) Guy:

1. The Medicinalization of Cannabis (2009), attached for reference (see p. 37).
2. A book authored by Dr. Guy in 2021, a relevant excerpt of which is included below for your consideration.

Dr. Guy provides detailed accounts of his interactions with Alan Macfarlane and his regulatory efforts. I would appreciate the opportunity to corroborate these accounts, which would only be possible if the Home Office can oblige this FOI request.

If there are any issues or clarifications required regarding this request, please feel free to contact me directly at the number provided below.