

Dear Mr

I am writing to express my deep concern about the UK's amoral stance on medicinal cannabis. Patients with a wide variety of ailments including MS, epilepsy and cancer are being deprived of sound and affordable treatment. To date, Canada, Chile, Italy, Germany, Australia, Uruguay, Israel and 23 US states have legitimised medicinal cannabis in some form, and many other countries are looking to follow suit. Why is it still prohibited here, and is there any discussion in Parliament to change this?

The current legal classification of cannabis as a Schedule 1 drug deems it to have "no therapeutic value". This is an absurd classification based on the increasing amount of research from the UK and around the world that proves otherwise. Wouldn't it be better placed in Schedule 4 alongside other Class B drugs with therapeutic value, such as Valium?

I urge you to consider the rescheduling of what, for many patients, is their only effective treatment. It is a scandal that the very legal system which is supposed to protect us from drug crime, is in fact enforcing seriously ill patients to fuel it.

It is another absurdity that even venerable institutions such as St Georges Hospital, University of London can only conduct research on medicinal cannabis with the permission of the Secretary of State. You may be aware that St Georges recently discovered that cannabis extracts can dramatically slow the growth of brain cancer - the survival rate of this notoriously difficult-to-treat cancer is just 10 per cent, five years after diagnosis. Research in the US has also shown huge success in the treatment with cannabis oil of Dravett's Syndrome, a rare and catastrophic form of intractable epilepsy that begins in infancy and affects 1 in 30,000 infants. The oil is high in CBD, a non-psychoactive compound found in cannabis. It is very easy and cheap to produce with the right cannabis variety and would help reduce epileptic fits and save lives if made available today. Does it seem right to you that children are deprived of this medicine?

All I ask, and everyone I speak to agrees, is for a simple rescheduling of cannabis and cannabis extracts to Schedule 4. In doing this The Home Secretary would enable more research, and better, safer access for those patients who would benefit. This large step would undoubtedly help improve, and in some cases save, lives.

I urge you to show compassion, study the research and to see how you might be able to encourage this crucial step.

(As your constituent and as a sufferer of _____ who derives _____ from cannabis, I look forward to your reply.)

Yours sincerely,