National Police Chiefs' Council

National Police
Freedom of Information
and Data Protection Unit

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922
Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

23/06/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 3001/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding CBPM Guidance Review Arrangements, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

It is submitted as part of an ongoing, transparent research programme examining the regulatory, criminal-law, equality, and real-world impacts of the framework governing cannabis-based products for medicinal use (CBPMs). The programme builds on material previously submitted to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) Call for Evidence on CBPMs, which closed on 17 October 2025, and on subsequent analytical updates and correspondence provided to the ACMD as the evidence base has continued to develop.

Background

Attached is NPCC response FOI 2802/2026.

In that response NPCC states that:

- *CBPM guidance was published under the NPCC Drugs Portfolio;*
- *portfolio leadership has recently changed;*
- *review arrangements are being established;*
- *review timelines have not yet been formally set; and*
- *the guidance will be subject to future review.*

This request concerns recorded information relating to the ownership, development and implementation of those review arrangements.

For clarity

- *this request concerns formally recorded information only;*
- *it does not seek draft guidance;*
- *it does not seek informal communications;*
- *it does not seek operational decisions of individual police forces;*
- *it does not seek case-level information;*

• *it does not seek opinions regarding the merits of the policy.*

Requested Information

1. Please identify the body, team, governance group, office-holder or individual responsible for establishing the review arrangements referred to in FOI 2802/2026.
2. Please provide any records documenting the establishment, proposed establishment, implementation or operation of those review arrangements.
3. Has the review process commenced?
4. If the answer to Question 3 is yes, please identify:
   - the timetable; and
   - the scope of the review.

NPCC Response:

1. The NPCC does not hold recorded information in scope of part 1 of your request.
   The guidance referenced is published on the College of Policing website.

2. The NPCC does not hold recorded information in scope of part 2 of your request.

3. The NPCC does hold recorded information in scope of part 3 of your request.
   The author of the second edition confirms this work has commenced.

4. The NPCC does not hold recorded information in scope of part 4 of your request.
   No recorded timetable is held. Any progression of the work is dependent on the author's availability and workload.

While not forming part of the formal response under the Act, the following contextual information may assist:

- In October 2025, the NPCC authorised initial guidance on medical cannabis for police officers and staff. This was produced by the Association of Police Controlled Drug Liaison Officers (APCDLO) and is available via the College of Policing.

- Work is currently underway to develop a second edition of this guidance. This reflects the evolving mature of the medical cannabis landscape and the need to expand coverage in key areas, including drug driving, information sharing, and engagements with patients and healthcare partners.

- The second edition will involve wider consultation with stakeholders and address more complex subject areas requiring specialist input.

- This work is being led by the APCDLO Executive rather than through a centrally coordinated NPCC programme.

- No formal timetable has been set. Progress is dependent on available resources, competing operational priorities and specialist scientific and legal advice.

Development of the second edition is ongoing and subject to resource constraints.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

50 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BL

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Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

(1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

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