



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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[MHRA Website](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00544**

16 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 17 May 2026. You wrote:

'I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning staff and friends/family discount schemes in the private medical cannabis sector.

This request concerns arrangements whereby employees of a medical cannabis business, and/or their friends or family members, receive discounted access to consultations, treatment, or prescribed cannabis-based medicinal products.

Please provide:

- 1. Any recorded information held from 1 January 2023 to the date of this request concerning whether MHRA has considered, discussed, assessed, or received concerns about such discount schemes.*
- 2. Any guidance, internal briefing, policy note, enforcement material, or regulatory position held by MHRA which addresses whether these schemes may raise issues under medicines advertising or promotion rules, including indirect promotion of prescription-only or unlicensed medicines.*

For search purposes, relevant terms may include: "medical cannabis", "CBPM", "staff discount", "employee discount", "friends and family discount", "family discount", "discount scheme", "promotional offer", "discounted medication", and "discounted treatment".

MHRA Response

The MHRA does not hold any information relevant to this request. The sections of the request are discussed in turn below.

1. **Any recorded information held from 1 January 2023 to the date of this request concerning whether MHRA has considered, discussed, assessed, or received concerns about such discount schemes.**

This query has been interpreted as any recorded information relating to staff and friends/family discount schemes in the private medical cannabis sector. The MHRA does not hold any information concerning considerations, discussions, assessments or concerns about these discount schemes.

2. **Any guidance, internal briefing, policy note, enforcement material, or regulatory position held by MHRA which addresses whether these schemes may raise issues under medicines advertising or promotion rules, including indirect promotion of prescription-only or unlicensed medicines.**

The MHRA does not hold any information regarding 'employees of a medical cannabis business, and/or their friends or family members, receive discounted access to consultations, treatment, or prescribed cannabis-based medicinal products'.

As such, we do not hold any guidance, internal briefings, policy notes, enforcement materials or regulatory positions that address whether these discount schemes may raise issues under medicines advertising and promotion rules.

Advice and assistance

Regarding indirect promotion of prescription-only or unlicensed medicines, you may be interested in the MHRA Blue Guide as this provides comprehensive guidance on advertising and promotion rules relevant to the scope of the request. The MHRA Blue Guide is available online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blue-guide-advertising-and-promoting-medicines>

The MHRA Advertising Team publishes advertising investigations online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/advertising-investigations-by-mhra>

These may be relevant as background information in medicines advertising and promotion rules. However, the MHRA does not hold any data relating to staff and friends/family discount schemes in the private medical cannabis sector.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

Please note that there is no right to complain under the Fol Act where the Fol is deemed to be invalid under Section 8.

Therefore, MHRA will not process any complaints where the Fol is deemed to be invalid under Section 8 of the Fol Act.

The ICO also states that “An individual submitting an invalid request under Section 8 does not have any further rights of complaint to the Information Commissioner”. This statement can be viewed on the ICO website: [Recognising a request made under the Freedom of Information Act \(section 8\) | ICO](#)

Re-use of our information

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<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>