



Cannabis Trades Association UK & EU, Bridge House, Hull, HU2 8AG  
[www.cannabistrades.eu](http://www.cannabistrades.eu) / Tel: 01430 652 500

Petitions Committee – email communication only

Email: [petitionscommittee@parliament.uk](mailto:petitionscommittee@parliament.uk)

With regards to the Government official remarks on the petition

**Keep CBD on the market as a food supplement.**

We note with interest your comments and response regarding this petition.

We as the largest trade association of its type in the world with over 700 members and 2500 active sellers of CBD and hemp products would like to draw your attention to the key points which are factually incorrect.

**You state**

*“The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is working with the industry and other key stakeholders to develop guidance for enforcement officers on a proportionate response in relation to products already on the market, and to encourage and support businesses to make applications for safety assessments and authorisation of their products under the Novel Foods Regulations.”*

**The facts**

The FSA have not been working with industry or key stakeholders in any capacity at all. This is a barefaced lie to suggest they have been doing anything of the sort.

**You state**

*“There are specific rules on what evidence is acceptable. For foods and supplements containing CBD, none of the food businesses and trade bodies operating in the UK have been able to show any evidence that meets the requirements. Evidence has not been provided in other Member States either, and therefore these foods have been clarified as novel. As a result of this decision, the European Commission’s Catalogue of Novel Foods has been updated and food products and supplements will need to meet the requirements of the Novel Food Regulations in the UK.”*

**The Facts**

We attended Brussels on the 12th of March in conjunction with the EIHA and presented empirical and factual evidence (for the 3rd time) which the commission accepted. We attended with a QC who is a foods specialist who pointed out that in no way can any hemp products be defined as Novel. It is simply an unlawful claim to suggest they may be. Products could not simply be withdrawn and we as the CTA in conjunction with 28,000 members of the other food associations operating in Europe and the UK will not allow a trade employing several thousands of



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people, selling over £480m worth of products to 7,000,000 people, disappear. Yes you read that number right, 7 MILLION, over 1 million are in the UK.

#### **You state**

*“Some companies, wrongly, assumed that since hemp oil was not considered to be novel that the same assessment would apply to CBD extract. However, CBD is a highly purified extract of the cannabis plant.”*

#### **The Facts**

CBD is not a highly purified extract of the cannabis plant, CBD is a natural cannabinoid, one of over 100 in the cannabis plant, selective extraction and indeed isolation are indeed Novel, we have helped ensure that none of our members supply pure CBD in any food product since we reached agreement with the FSA in December 2017. The FSA have reneged on that agreement. Something we take very seriously indeed. The FSA were told in June 2017 that if they tried to enforce any ban they would fall foul of “a public backlash so intense, the one that made the MHRA back down would “pale into insignificance”.

Bearing in mind that we agreed to help the MHRA in 2016, we think that you maybe ought to look more intently at this issue.

#### **You state**

*“MHRA Guidance Note 8, (in particular Appendix 10)”*

#### **The Facts**

We know, we helped write it.

We are the only trade specific organisation mentioned in Guidance Note 8 and the MHRA have worked closely with us since 2016. They also presented at our AGM.

You further go on to mention the Home Office position (which is unenforceable due to hemp seed oil (available at all good retailers) having considerably more controlled substances in that most CBD products.

#### **Fact**

We did not, nor would we ever resort to petitions that have almost no capability to influence future positions. We actually worked against this petition.

We feel it is a shocking state of affairs that our elected officials could not even take the time to check and reflect properly but instead chose to wheel out a pretty standard response that we feel had to be addressed publicly.



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We state for the record that if there is ANY attempt to enforce (what is after all guidance) on any member of our Association, we will fight this in a court of law, because the simple fact is, any attempt to do so is not in the public interest, is legally very shaky and would cause a public reaction that the UK Government has brought entirely upon itself.

We look forward to your considered response and I hope indeed to be asked to present an accurate view to the petitions committee.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M Harlington", written in a cursive style.

M Harlington  
(Chair Cannabis Trades Association)