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INTELLIGENT CANNABIS CONNECTION

JUDGE THE DRIVER CAMPAIGN
NORTHERN IRELAND · CONSULTATION CLOSES 27 JANUARY 2027

Judge the driver, *not the blood level.*

Prescribed cannabis and Northern Ireland's new drug driving law

The problem

Cannabis has been a legal prescription medicine across the UK since 1 November 2018. Northern Ireland is now consulting on new offences of driving over a set blood limit for specified drugs, with the drugs and limits to be decided later.

If THC gets a strict limit, **a patient who takes their medicine exactly as prescribed could be prosecuted while driving safely,** hours after a dose.



Chris Hobday is a wheelchair user prescribed cannabis for Complex Pain Syndrome. His car is how he stays independent. Under a strict THC limit, a routine stop and a blood test could cost him his licence, however well he was driving.

Chris works with Cannavec and shares his story with permission.

What the evidence says;

- THC can impair driving for several hours. **We do not dispute that,** and impaired drivers should be prosecuted.
- But the amount of THC in a driver's blood says little about whether that driver is impaired. **Across 28 studies, the link was close to zero.**
- Great Britain's 2 µg/L limit was set to rule out accidental exposure to an illegal drug, **not to measure road risk.** It is lower than the 5 µg/L its own expert panel advised.
- The crash risk linked to cannabis is real but modest, and studies generally put it **below the risk of alcohol at the legal limit.**

What we are asking for

1. **Keep prosecuting impaired drivers.**
   Any driver impaired by any drug, prescribed or not.
2. **Give patients a checkable exemption from any THC limit.**
   Based on the Republic of Ireland's medical exemption certificate. Lost if the driver is impaired, has been drinking, has taken drugs that were not prescribed, or ignored their prescriber's advice on timing.
3. **Make the medical defence work at the roadside.**
   Before arrest and charge, not only months later in court.
4. **Measure what the law does.**
   Record prescription status, publish the outcomes, and review the law within three years.

We support a limit offence for everyone else. The exemption covers one group, medical cannabis patients, under conditions the police can check.

How you can help

ENDORSE

Add your organisation's name

Patient groups, clinicians, prescribers, trade bodies, road safety and disability charities: read the draft, ask for changes, and decide before we submit. Each endorser says whom it represents and declares its interests.

SPONSOR

Help fund the work

Independent legal review in Northern Ireland, keeping the evidence review open and up to date, and taking the campaign to the next government that changes its drug driving law.

READ AND COMMENT

Have your say

Anyone can read the full proposal. Register for a free account to comment on any line or section of it.

Who we are. Judge the Driver is a Cannavec.ai campaign. Cannavec.ai provides AI and knowledge services to the medical cannabis sector, and declares that interest. Every claim in our proposal is sourced, and the evidence review behind it is open to public comment.

Campaign: cannavec.ai/driving/judge-the-driver Full proposal: cannavec.ai/driving/briefing-room

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