

A GUIDE TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS IN THE ISLE OF MAN



GROW WITH CONFIDENCE

The Isle of Man, is the world's only entire nation UNESCO Biosphere. A jurisdiction where you can focus on your business ambitions, empowered by an investment friendly environment and assured by transparent regulation.

The Isle of Man has a well-established reputation for offering world-class professional services, with an accessible and engaged small government and a supportive business community; a place where both you and your business can thrive.



W E L C O M E T O T H E I S L E O F M A N

The Isle of Man, a self-governing Crown Dependency located in the heart of the Irish Sea, with a total land area of 227 square miles.

Despite its modest size, it boasts a population of 84,000 and a skilled workforce employed across diverse sectors such as Engineering & Manufacturing, Biomed, Food & Drink Export, Financial Services, and eGaming.

The Island is self-governing, with Tynwald, its parliament, holding the distinction of being the longest continuously running parliament in the world, with a history spanning over 1,000 years.

The Isle of Man is recognised as one of the safest places in the British Isles, distinguished by its unique Manx history, culture, music, language, and folklore, all of which are deeply rooted in ancient Celtic traditions.

The Isle of Man is well-connected, offering daily flights to various locations in the UK, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. Additionally, multiple ferries operate daily services to Liverpool and Heysham.

The Isle of Man is home to renowned international brands, start-ups and everything in-between with strong links, physical infrastructure and technical facilities to enable businesses to operate, develop and deliver to their customers worldwide.



WHAT SETS US APART

SAFE AND SECURE

One of the safest places in the British Isles with low crime rate and political stability



FINANCIALLY REWARDING JURISDICTION

0% corporation tax and no capital gains tax

0%

INHERENTLY SECURE

Natural sea barrier and restrictions on growing male plants outdoors



MODULAR AND FLEXIBLE LICENCING FRAMEWORK

Licences that fit various business models



SUPPORTIVE AND APPROACHABLE GOVERNMENT

Open door policy with concierge service and financial support schemes



WORLD-CLASS BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

Resilient data, infrastructure, and power provision



BUSINESS FOCUSED REGULATOR

Renowned for its pragmatic approach to regulation



APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE LICENCE AVAILABLE

In advance of facility completion



WHY LICENCE WITH US?

BUSINESS FOCUSED REGULATOR

The Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) regulate the Isle of Man's Medicinal Cannabis Sector from a cultivation, production, and export perspective. The GSC are an accessible and respected regulator with a well-established reputation earned through regulating the Isle of Man's international eGaming sector.

EU GMP CERTIFICATION AVAILABLE

With the Memorandum of Understanding in place between the Isle of Man and the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Isle of Man Licence holders can attain EU Good Manufacturing Practices Certification. This process may be facilitated via the Isle of Man Department of Health & Social Care.

MODULAR AND FLEXIBLE LICENCING FRAMEWORK

Licences that fit the business models and business requirements of licence holders and include the ability to conduct research in a regulated manner without a full cultivation licence.

LICENCE IN PRINCIPLE

Prospective operators in the Isle of Man can obtain a licence in principle prior to completing the equipping and / or construction of their facilities. Licence applicants will be required to evidence and clearly explain their route to market to gain this licence in principle, which will enable them to pursue their business objectives in the knowledge that the regulator has consented to their plans.

INHERENTLY SECURE

Isle of Man based cultivators will benefit from operating in a location protected by the natural barrier of the Irish Sea. As male cannabis plants may only be grown inside on the Island in very limited numbers for research purposes, operators are able to work in the knowledge that the risk of cross-pollination is low.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Isle of Man offers a wide variety of financial assistance schemes. This includes financial assistance of up to 40% of the cost of a variety of items such as office rent, initial set up costs, office fit outs and furnishings, training, equipment, implementing quality standards and off-Island marketing.

MEET THE TEAM - BUSINESS IOM

The Business Isle of Man team is here to help you every step of the way.

As an Executive Agency within the Isle of Man Government's Department for Enterprise, Business Isle of Man supports the development and promotion of key sectors involved in the export of physical goods and related services from the Isle of Man, and those operating services within the local economy.

CONTACT US:
contact-business@gov.im



TIM COWSILL
Chief Executive Officer
Business Isle of Man

Tim has been part of the Isle of Man Government's Department for Enterprise for over 5 years. Prior to that he has worked in International banking.

As Business Isle of Man's CEO he is responsible for all export and local focussed business in the Island. In 2020, Tim, along with the GSC, was responsible for establishing the framework to bring forward the medicinal cannabis for export sector in the Isle of Man.



KATY ASHWELL
Business Development Manager
Business Isle of Man

Katy joined Business Isle of Man in 2023, having previously worked in the Department for Enterprise for five years with Visit Isle of Man.

Katy's focus is liaising with stakeholders in the Medicinal Cannabis sector to encourage sector development. She is also responsible for the Cleantech sector and promoting the Island's attributes to businesses in the UK and further afield.

OUR REGULATOR - THE GSC

The GSC, boasts a world-class system for assessing regulatory risk and conducting physical inspections for its licensees through its supervision of the online gambling sector in the Isle of Man.

The GSC has worked carefully to apply the best of that framework to the risks associated with the Medicinal Cannabis sector, ensuring that all stakeholders will be competent, lawful and capable of building a sector that is safe, trusted and efficient.

The GSC's role is to facilitate the licencing, regulation and supervision of activity related to the manufacture and cultivation of medicinal cannabis.

The GSC supervises licensees through a robust supervision programme which includes but is not limited to integrity tests, site inspections, testing, regular financial and harvest returns.

TYPES OF LICENCES

Eight distinct licences are available, with an **overall licence cap of £62,500**, limiting the total expense for licence holders with multiple licences. Prospective licensees can apply for the licence that is applicable to their products and services with licence costs reducing after year one.

Manufacturing and Extraction Licence

This licence allows the manufacturing of any cannabis based product except for ones that are created from biomass.

The unrefined materials can be produced using an extraction licence. Similarly, unrefined materials (but not biomass) can be imported using an import licence.

Cultivation Licence

A cultivation licence gives the licence holder the ability to grow high THC cannabis indoors in order to sell biomass, live plants and the packaged plant parts.

Only female seeds can be used and pollen bearing plants must be destroyed as soon as they are detected.

Research Licence

A research licence allows the licence holder to grow high THC cannabis indoors, with the aim to create new strains or seed stock.

The seeds and seedlings can be sold whilst the biomass of the plant can be sampled for testing.

MEET THE TEAM - THE GSC



LINDA ALTON-HEATH
Director-GSC

Linda joined the Isle of Man Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) in 2014 as an Inspector. Linda now leads the Medicinal Cannabis licencing team as the Director of the new business division, a role she commenced in July 2023.

With a robust background in offshore financial services and accountancy (ACCA), Linda has been a pivotal figure in senior management within the Isle of Man's financial sector. At the GSC, she oversees the Medicinal Cannabis licencing team as well as the gaming application and operational support teams. She is the Commission's Designated Finance Officer.



GAVIN CALLOW
Senior Inspector-GSC

Gavin brings a wealth of experience to the Medicinal Cannabis team at the GSC. Joining as a Gaming Inspector in February 2023, he moved to his current role later in that year.

Prior to joining the GSC, Gavin had a 25 year career with the Isle of Man Police and held the rank of Inspector. He is an accredited detective and has extensive operational expertise, particularly in proactive operations and drug trafficking countermeasures. He was the policing lead on protest liaison, public order, cybercrime, media relations, and chemist inspections.



HELEN CHASE
Inspector-GSC

Helen's journey with the GSC began in 2019, and her ascent to Inspector within the Medicinal Cannabis licencing team by 2021 underscores her significant contributions to the Commission.

Helen's last three years have been marked by her key role in building and shaping medical cannabis licencing policies and procedures. Recognised as the authority on Isle of Man Cannabis licencing, Helen has played a crucial part in processing the team's inaugural applications.



KEITH MCELHINNEY
Inspector-GSC

Keith is a cornerstone of the Medicinal Cannabis licencing team at the GSC, having joined as an Inspector November 2022. His efforts are central to the evolution of the Island's medicinal cannabis program, providing invaluable guidance to applicants.

Keith's previous tenure as a Senior Business Development Executive, coupled with his extensive cannabis knowledge and certifications in cannabis compliance, risk management, and money laundering risk in betting & gaming, make him an indispensable asset to the team.

L I C E N C I N G F R A M E W O R K

Licence Type	Year 1 Fee	Standard Fee
Cannabis Licence (high THC cultivation)	£47,250	£36,750
Research Licence (male & female plant)	£21,000	£12,600
Extraction Licence	£23,625	£18,375
Manufacturing Licence	£23,625	£15,750
Import Licence	£10,500	£7,875
Export Licence	£10,500	£7,875
Transportation and Storage Licence	£5,250	£2,625
Analysis Licence	£13,125	£8,400

Some licences sit naturally together --> Import/Export can be applied together or separately
Fees are capped at £62,500 in a preceding period of 364 days for licensees with multiple licence types

L I C E N C I N G P R O C E S S

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be an Isle of Man registered company.
- Companies must have a minimum of 2 on-island directors.
- Companies must nominate a Responsible Person (RP) as the key contact.
- Applicants need to be able to evidence a legal route to market for the goods they intend to export.

APPLICATION

1. Review licence Guidance Document for your activity type.
2. Complete Application Form and compile supporting documents.
3. Applicants are encouraged to consider their capacity to gain GMP Certification and the extent to which their facilities would be consistent with Secure by Design principles.
4. Check the Business Plan Checklist for required information.
5. Submit full package by a registered business or a legal/corporate advisor.

NEXT STEPS

1. The team at Business Isle of Man can provide guidance regarding the economic and regulatory factors that potential operators will need to be mindful of.
2. We can assist through liaising with other Government Departments and private sector stakeholders.
3. Business Isle of Man can assess and understand the built environment requirements of your business (including location) within the framework of Government policies and strategies.

CONTACT US TO GET STARTED: CONTACT-BUSINESS@GOV.IM



JOIN OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

THE ISLE OF MAN IS THE IDEAL BASE FOR:

- Start-ups with bold ideas and innovative business concepts
- Medium-sized operators developing differentiated products
- Established operators wishing to ensure their production division is diversified and robust
- Research focussed businesses seeking regulatory assurance
- Cultivators seeking the control and consistency that indoor growing can offer
- Producers of medicinal cannabis with a high quality and targeted product range

BUSINESS
ISLE OF MAN 

GSC
CANNABIS

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