



Overview of the Application Process

The Isle of Man Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) follows a structured and transparent process for issuing medicinal cannabis licences. This ensures compliance, integrity, and security across the sector.

Applicants may submit their application directly to the GSC or work through a Corporate Services Provider (CSP). Both routes are treated equally.

If you are unsure where to begin, Business Isle of Man's Medicinal Cannabis team can provide guidance on licensing requirements, operating standards, and the application process. They can also signpost suitable corporate service providers who assist with medicinal cannabis applications.



☎ [+44 1624 685335](tel:+441624685335)

✉ contact-business@gov.im

Step 1: Determine the Appropriate Licence Type

Start by identifying the licence type that match your business model. The GSC offers several licence categories, including:

- Cultivation
- Research
- Manufacturing
- Extraction
- Transport & Storage
- Import
- Export
- Analysis
- Industrial Hemp

Each licence type has specific permissions, responsibilities, and fees. Refer to the [Guidance](#) for details.

In some cases, you may need to apply for multiple licences at the same time (for example, import, export, and cultivation), which is entirely acceptable. You may also add a licence later if your operations expand.

Note: The GSC does not regulate pharmacies or activities involving Schedule 2 substances. Applicants undertaking these activities must seek advice from [the Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\)](#).

 [+44 1624 685816](tel:+441624685816)

 dhsc@gov.im

Step 2: Review the Eligibility Requirements

To apply, you must:

- Be an Isle of Man registered company
 - Have at least two on-island directors
 - Nominate a Responsible Person (RP) to act as the key contact with the GSC
 - Nominate an Authorised Witness who will be responsible for overseeing the destruction of medicinal cannabis
-

Step 3: Prepare Your Application Package

A complete application enables the GSC to assess compliance, security, and operational integrity. The checklist below outlines the key information we recommend including in your business plan and application pack; however, additional details may be required depending on your business model and the licence type you are seeking.

Business & Company Details

- Licence class and scope
- Detailed business model and objectives
- Motivation for choosing the Isle of Man
- Company details (Incorporation certificate, register of directors, register of members, registered number)
- Ownership and control (group structure chart, operational structure)
- History with cannabis licences elsewhere

People & Governance

- Named roles: Responsible Person, Authorised Witness, Person in Charge, Directors
- Personal Declaration Forms for all key individuals
- Employment plans and onboarding process
- AML/POCA controls

Facility, Security & Planning

- Site address and site plan
- Secure by Design approach and Design Out Crime Officer approval
- Detailed security measures (CCTV, alarms, access control)
- Infrastructure and utilities
- Environmental considerations
- Planning permissions
- Waste management and pest control
- Business continuity plan

Operations & Quality

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Planting and harvesting schedules
- Internal control systems (track and trace)
- Testing and quality assurance protocols
- Record-keeping systems
- Compliance with GACP, GMP, and GDP standards, including evidence for any cannabis products sourced outside the Isle of Man (such as valid compliance certificates)

Product, Market & Logistics

- Seed origin and seed-to-sale process
- Route-to-market strategy
- Transport and storage security
- Customs and Excise considerations
- Marketing and advertising compliance

Financial Information

- Funding details, including equity, loans, financial instruments, and evidence of source of funds and source of wealth where required
- Banking information
- Three-year financial projections
- Licence fee payment confirmation

Submission Materials

- Completed application form
- Supporting declarations and checks
- Business plan
- Evidence pack (Incorporation certificate, register of directors, register of members, registered number, security drawings, planning approvals, compliance certificates etc.)
- Jurisdictional coordination with DHSC (if applicable)

Step 4: Submit Your Application

Applications can be submitted:

- Directly to the GSC via Canna@gov.im
 - Through a registered Corporate Services Provider (CSP)
 - Via the Department for Enterprise at contact-business@gov.im
-

Step 5: GSC Review Process

The review process includes:

- Initial Screening: Check for completeness
 - Detailed Review & Due Diligence: Background checks and compliance assessment
 - Interviews: Key persons may be interviewed
 - Formal Hearing: Present your application to the GSC Board
-

Step 6: Decision

If approved, you will receive either:

- **Approval in Principle (AIP):** Confirms compliance before operations begin
 - **Full Licence:** Allows you to commence operations
-

Post-Licensing Obligations

Once licensed, operators must comply with:

- Regular reporting
- Technical audits
- Compliance reviews
- On-site inspections