

Cannabis Cultivation and Research Licences

Key Information

Overview

The Cultivation & Research Licence permits the indoor cultivation and scientific research of cannabis plants containing more than 0.2% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Licensees are authorised to harvest, possess, and store cannabis biomass and plant parts obtained from cultivation.

Important: The cultivation of male cannabis plants is **not** permitted under this licence.

Licence Types

Class 3 – Cultivation Licence - Female plants only.

Designed for commercial growers producing cannabis biomass for extraction or sale. This licence supports full-scale cultivation and product packaging.

Permits:

- Indoor cultivation of female cannabis plants only.
- Harvesting and possession of cannabis biomass.
- Drying, curing, and storage of harvested material.
- Sale of biomass (flowers, leaves, buds).
- Sale of seedlings and propagated plant parts.

Restrictions

- Male plants are not permitted.
- Cannot sell seeds unless also holding a Class 4 licence.

Class 4 – Research Licence - Male and female plants allowed.

Ideal for breeders or researchers developing new strains or validating plant genetics. Allows for controlled experimentation and limited distribution.

Permits:

- Indoor cultivation of male and female cannabis plants.
- Sale of seeds, seedlings, and propagated plant parts.
- Limited sample supply of biomass (e.g. flowers, leaves, buds) for testing or cultivar validation.

Restrictions

- Cannot sell biomass in bulk.
- Intended for research and breeding, not commercial production.
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Dual Licensing (Class 3 + Class 4)

Holding both licences allows:

- Full flexibility in cultivation.
- Sale of all plant parts, including seeds and biomass.
- Use of male plants for breeding while still commercially selling biomass.

Facility Requirements

- Indoor growing only.
- Glazing limit: Default maximum of 20% glazing; exceptions require GSC approval.
- Facilities must meet security and biosecurity standards.

Licence Scope

This licence is required for:

- Commercial cannabis growers producing biomass for extraction or manufacture
- Research organisations studying cannabis cultivation or product development
- Businesses developing proprietary strains or cultivation technologies

Licensees may also apply for additional licences, such as:

- Manufacture & Extraction Licence
- Transport & Storage Licence
- Export Licence

Application Requirements

- Must be an Isle of Man company.
- Responsible person must be an Isle of Man resident.
- Applicants must demonstrate:
- Integrity and competence.
- Valid source of wealth and business plan.
- Existing route to market.

Applicants must submit comprehensive plans detailing:

- Cultivation site layout and security provisions
- Seed sourcing and strain selection (must exceed 0.2% THC)
- Environmental controls and growing methods
- Record-keeping and crop monitoring systems
- Research protocols (if applicable)
- Waste disposal and biosecurity measures

The GSC will assess applications based on:

- Applicant fitness and operational competence

- Financial viability
- Facility readiness and compliance with standards

Site inspections may be conducted prior to licence approval.

Compliance & Oversight

Licensees must comply with:

- The Misuse of Drugs Act 1976
- Relevant provisions of the Medicines Act 2003
- Reporting obligations under the UN Convention on Narcotic Substances

The GSC may conduct inspections and require regular reporting on cultivation volumes, research outcomes, and product handling.

Licence Fees

Licence Type	Year 1	Year 2+
Cultivation (Class 3)	£47,250	£36,750
Research (Class 4)	£21,000	£12,600
Import/Export Licence	£10,500	£7,875
Maximum Annual Cap	£62,500	

Licences operate on a rolling 12-month basis. The cap is automatically applied when each fee is paid.

Contact & Application

To apply or request further information, please contact the GSC Cannabis Licensing Team:

✉ **Email:** canna@gov.im

☎ **Phone:** +44 (0)1624 694331