

49.3% **Supportive responses**

36.7% **Negative responses**

12.6% **Neutral responses**

**255 MPs Awaiting response** (next week update - 1st June)

**93.1% of the current negative responders ignored the original email and entirely copied and pasted their reply from start to finish.**

### **NEGATIVE RESPONSES:**

**IGNORED AND FULLY COPY + PASTED:** The following MPs completely ignored the original message and sent the **exact same** copy and pasted response (B)

Chris Skidmore MP - Kingswood  
Paul Holmes MP - Eastleigh  
Gary Streeter MP - South West Devon [Word for word]  
Simon Baynes MP - Clwyd South  
Saqib Bhatti MP - Meriden  
Kwasi Kwarteng MP - Spelthorne  
Bim Afolami MP - Hitchin and Harpenden  
Marco Longh MP - Dudley North  
Philip Dunne MP - Ludlow, Shropshire  
Vicky Ford MP - Chelmsford  
Julian Smith MP - Skipton and Ripon  
Chris Heaton-Harris MP - Daventry  
Mark Jenkinson MP - Workington  
Jeremy Wright MP - Kenilworth and Southam  
Damian Collins MP - Folkestone and Hythe  
Mark Pawsey MP - Rugby  
David morris MP - Morecambe and Lunesdale  
Neil Hudson MP - Penrith and The Border  
Christian Wakeford MP - Bury South  
Fiona Bruce MP - Cheshire East

**The following MPs completely ignored the original email and have sent mainly copied sections from templates A - D**

Liam Fox MP - North Somerset

Simon Baynes MP - Clwyd South  
Greg Smith MP - Buckingham  
Kwasi Kwarteng MP - Spelthorne  
Vicky Ford MP - Chelmsford  
Mark Jenkinson MP - Workington  
Kieran Mullan MP - Crewe and Nantwich  
Duncan Smith MP - Chingford & Woodford Green

The following MPs ignored the original email and responded negatively with a **non-copy-paste** written response:

Sammy Wilson MP - East Antrim, Northern Ireland  
Damian Collins MP - Folkestone and Hythe

**B Template) Received from MPs over 100 times in one week (and sent to more than one person)**

*I appreciate that you and I may have different views on this issue, and I acknowledge that there are a range of different approaches to drugs policy. (Optional)*

What is clear to me is that there is scientific and medical evidence showing that drugs are harmful to health and society. It is my belief, therefore, that a legalisation programme would not address the harm to individuals and communities.

Cannabis for example can unquestionably cause harm to individuals and society. Legalisation of cannabis would not eliminate the crime committed by the illicit trade, nor would it address the harms associated with drug dependence and the misery that this can cause to families.

Despite the potential opportunity offered by legalisation to raise revenue through taxation, there would be costs in relation to administrative, compliance and law enforcement activities, as well as the wider costs of drug prevention and health services.

I welcome the fact that the Government keeps drug control under constant review and considers new evidence of misuse and harms alongside independent experts at the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

The Government's approach on drugs remains clear and it is one which I support. Drug use must be prevented in our communities, help should be provided to dependent individuals, while law enforcement must protect society by stopping the supply and tackling the organised crime that is associated with the drugs trade.

Regards,

**(Exact same was sent by all of the MPs above B category)**

**Template response section A - D) Received multiple times, sent to more than one person**

"The Government has no plans to legalise the recreational use of cannabis. The official advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs cites medical and scientific research showing that cannabis use has a number of adverse acute and chronic health effects, especially for people with mental health problems, and continues to present a significant public health issue."

"The Government's approach on drugs remains clear and it is one which I support. Drug use must be prevented in our communities, help should be provided to dependent individuals, while law enforcement must protect society by stopping the supply and tackling the organised crime that is associated with the drugs trade."

"There is strong scientific evidence that cannabis can harm people's mental and physical health, and damage communities. However recent cases have shown the need to look more closely at the use of cannabis-based medicine in treating patients with very specific conditions in exceptional circumstances."

"Cannabis for example can unquestionably cause harm to individuals and society. Legalisation of cannabis would not eliminate the crime committed by the illicit trade, nor would it address the harms associated with drug dependence and the misery that this can cause to families."

**NEGATIVE RESPONSE (highlights)**

**Liam Fox**

## North Somerset

Cannabis in its raw form is not recognised as having any medicinal purposes. The licensing regime for medicines is administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which issues licences for medicines in the UK which have been tested for their safety, quality and efficacy.

Apart from the drug Sativex, which is derived from cannabis, the UK does not recognise herbal cannabis as having any medicinal use.

### **NOTE:**

Incorrect - many cannabis patients legally use herbal cannabis that isn't from the government's favorite cannabis company, GW pharmaceuticals, who produce 'Sativex'.

## **Mohammad Yasin**

Bedford and Kempston

(Not a negative response, focused on medical and ignored the original email)

As you know, in November 2018 the law was changed to allow doctors on the specialist register of the General Medical Council to prescribe cannabis-based products for medicinal use.

I welcome that the Government accepted the therapeutic use of cannabis. However, more than 22 months later, many patients report that they are still unable to obtain a prescription on the NHS. A report published in 2020 by the Care Quality Commission found that just 6.5% of the total number of cannabis-based medicinal products prescribed to patients in 2019 came from NHS prescriptions.

**NOTE: Government welcomes therapeutic cannabis? Let Liam Fox above know!**

## **John Redwood**

Wokingham - Berkshire

Thank you for your email to Sir John about the possible legalisation of cannabis. At present, there are no proposals within Parliament to legalise on this subject and the government remains opposed to legislation based on recreation use.

Sir John understands there are arguments relating to the possible medicinal use of cannabis which he would consider should this matter come before the house again.

Thank you for taking the time to contact him.

NOTE: 3 Years too late John mate.. The law was changed in 2018. Thanks anyway.

**Sammy Wilson**

East Antrim, Northern Ireland

Thank you very much for your email regarding drugs policy reform.

I assume that when you talk about reforming the drugs legislation you mean that we should legalise these harmful substances.

It is something which I am not prepared to support. I understand how criminals are able to use the restrictions on drugs to make huge profits but the answer is to go after the criminals, not to decriminalise products which are harmful to peoples' health and to society.

Sammy Wilson MP

NOTE:

What's the answer then Sammy - Prohibition?

Kind regards? Nah.

**Handwritten negative responses:**

(Both ignored the original email)

**Damian Collins MP**

Folkestone and Hythe

Thank you for your email.

I appreciate the point you make about the clinical benefits for some patients of cannabis, and the government quite recently permitted the prescription of

cannabis-based pharmaceutical products to patients. However, on the broader question of decriminalisation, I am sure you will appreciate that the majority of cannabis use is recreational not medicinal and, given that the drug has harmful effects, it is right that it remains subject to restriction.

The recognition of the “CanCard” is a matter for individual police forces and their decisions in terms of directing resources. As Crown Servants, they perform their duties free of interference from politicians like me.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to me.

Kind regards,

Damian Collins

**NOTE: Drugs with harmful effects should be restricted?**

**NEUTRAL RESPONSES:**

Robin Stewart MP - East Antrim, Northern Ireland

Shabana Mahmood MP - Birmingham Ladywood

Justin Tomlinson MP - North Swindon

Adam Afriyie MP - Windsor Constituency