

**Subject:** Medical cannabis prescriptions and your drug policy at Albert Hall Manchester

**From:** Kieron JH <advocacy@thereasonableadjustment.co.uk>

**Date:** 15/02/2026, 11:55

**To:** info@alberthallmanchester.com

**CC:** accessibility@alberthallmanchester.com

Dear Management Team,

I am writing in relation to a recent incident at Albert Hall Manchester, where a lawful medical cannabis patient reports being refused entry unless they hid their prescribed cannabis flower in a bush outside your venue.

According to their account, despite presenting ID that matched the pharmacy label on their medication, they were told by a duty manager that:

- there is “no way” for cannabis flower to be legitimately prescribed
- only oils can be prescribed legally
- their medication was “prescribed by a company, not a proper doctor”
- a paper copy of the prescription was required, and even then might not be accepted

They were then subjected to a **full body search** after stashing their medication outside.

All of this is factually wrong, and potentially discriminatory.

Since 1 November 2018 there has been a clear legal route for cannabis based products for medicinal use to be prescribed by doctors on the General Medical Council specialist register, under the Misuse of Drugs (Amendments) (Cannabis and Licence Fees) Regulations 2018 and related Home Office and NHS guidance.

Those cannabis based products include plant material such as cannabis flower, provided it meets the statutory definition as a product for medicinal use. There is no legal rule that “only oils can be prescribed”, and there is certainly no rule that prescriptions from private specialist clinics somehow “do not count” because the clinic has a company brand. The legal prescriber is always an individual doctor on the specialist register, not a logo.

There is also no general legal requirement in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations or Home Office circulars for a patient to carry a paper copy of their prescription in order to possess their dispensed medicine. The standard evidence is what this patient already had, a properly labelled pharmacy container showing their name, the prescribing doctor or clinic, and the date of dispensing, alongside matching ID.

I appreciate that Albert Hall, like many venues, operates a zero tolerance policy in relation to illegal drugs. That policy does not entitle staff to treat lawfully prescribed controlled drugs as illicit, to force patients to hide their medication in bushes outside, or to tell them their prescription “is not real” because a manager has not kept up with legislation that has been in place since 2018.

Many medical cannabis patients meet the Equality Act 2010 definition of disability. If a patient is

using prescribed cannabis for a long term condition, and is then refused entry or humiliated because of that medication, that is very likely to be unfavourable treatment arising from disability. A blanket approach that treats all cannabis flower as illegal “by default”, regardless of evidence on the label, risks both discrimination and a failure to make reasonable adjustments.

In light of this, please can you:

1. Confirm whether the incident described above is consistent with your current policy and training on prescribed controlled drugs, including cannabis based products for medicinal use.
2. Provide a copy of your written policy or guidance for staff on how to handle prescribed controlled medicines at events.
3. Explain what steps you will now take to ensure your managers and security staff are correctly briefed on:
  - the 2018 rescheduling of cannabis based products for medicinal use
  - the fact that cannabis flower can be, and routinely is, prescribed lawfully
  - your obligations under the Equality Act when dealing with disabled patrons who rely on prescribed medication.
4. Confirm what process you will implement so that medical cannabis patients can attend safely, for example accepting original pharmacy packaging plus ID as proof, and allowing use of a dry herb vaporiser in smoking areas, subject to your usual rules.

It should not be the case that a patient who has done everything correctly, travelled for several hours, and presented clear evidence of a lawful prescription is treated like a criminal, while your own building is “smoked out” by people who did not bother to do anything by the book.

Given how long the law has been in place, I am expecting a clear and prompt response that shows Albert Hall Manchester is prepared to correct course and bring its staff training and policies into line with both drug law and equality law.

Yours sincerely,

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Kieron JH

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