



Motions for AGM 2026

The Hemp Trades Association UK Ltd t/a
Cannabis Trades Association

Registered Address:

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Motion 1. CTA Future Leaders & Next Gen Pilot Scheme

Purpose of Motion

That the Cannabis Trades Association establishes a one-year pilot of a CTA Future Leaders & Next Gen Programme, designed to support and develop emerging talent within member organisations, with the outcomes of the pilot to be reviewed and reported to members prior to any decision on continuation or expansion.

The pilot scheme will provide nominated individuals from member organisations with structured insight into the UK cannabis sector, its regulatory environment and leadership challenges, with the aim of supporting staff development, retention and long-term sector resilience.

Background

Scope of the pilot:

- A single cohort delivered over a 12-month period
- Participation by nomination from CTA member organisations
- A limited series of monthly insight sessions focused on sector understanding, leadership and professional judgement
- Recognition of participants as part of the CTA Future Leaders Pilot Cohort

Principles:

The pilot will be non-competitive, proportionate in scale and delivered on a light-touch basis. It will not constitute formal training, accreditation or qualification, and will not replace employer-led development.

Review:

At the conclusion of the pilot year, the Association will evaluate member feedback, participation and outcomes, and present a recommendation to members on whether the programme should be adapted, expanded, continued or concluded.



Motion 2. Approval of the Refreshed CTA Logo Design

Purpose of Motion

That the Members approve the refreshed logo design of the Cannabis Trades Association, presented to the AGM, as the official CTA logo moving forward.

Background

- The refreshed logo replaces the design originally adopted in 2019 and reflects the continued growth, maturity, and professional standing of the Association.
- Responsibility for correct implementation, usage, and any transitional arrangements from the previous logo is delegated to the Executive Directors.

I request that approval is granted for the overall logo design concept, to be implemented from April 2026



Motion 3. Introduction of a CTA Member Assurance and Points-Based Standards Framework

Purpose of Motion

That the Cannabis Trades Association adopts a structured Member Assurance and Points-Based Standards Framework, applicable to all CTA members, with effect from a date to be agreed by the Board. The framework will:

- Establish a set of mandatory baseline requirements that all members must meet in order to hold CTA membership.
- Introduce a points-based assurance system that recognises and rewards good governance, compliance, training, and transparency.
- Provide a clear, proportionate pathway for members to demonstrate maturity, credibility, and leadership within the sector.
- Enable the CTA to evidence sector standards to regulators, policymakers, partners, and the public.
- Be implemented in a supportive, non-punitive manner, with clear guidance, reasonable timeframes, and access to training and support.

The framework will be overseen by the CTA Executive Team, with regular review by the Board to ensure proportionality, relevance, and alignment with evolving regulation.

Background

Why the CTA is introducing this framework

As the cannabis, hemp, and CBD sectors mature, expectations from regulators, policymakers, partners, and the public are increasing. Membership of a trade association is no longer just about representation; it is also about credibility, consistency, and trust.

This new framework is designed to help CTA members:

- Demonstrate that they are operating responsibly and lawfully
- Show regulators and decision-makers that the sector can self-organise to high standards
- Clearly differentiate compliant, well-run businesses from bad actors
- Access practical support to improve systems, training, and governance

This is not about creating barriers. It is about recognising good practice and helping members progress at a realistic pace.

What the framework looks like in practice

The framework has three layers, designed to be fair to businesses of different sizes and stages.

1. Mandatory baseline requirements

These are the essentials of being a responsible business and a CTA member. They are not scored and are already expected in principle.



Examples include:

- Being a properly registered business
- Holding appropriate insurance
- Agreeing to the CTA Code of Conduct
- Operating within current UK law

Members who do not meet these requirements may have restricted or paused membership until resolved.

2. Core Assurance points

This is where members begin to score points by putting key systems and safeguards in place. These focus on areas that protect both the business and the wider sector.

Examples include:

- CTA compliance checks of websites, social media, and labelling
- Completion of CTA-approved training such as GreenShield
- Food hygiene registration where applicable
- Evidence of batch testing and traceability

Most members should expect to complete these within their first year, with CTA guidance and support.

3. Enhanced and leadership points

These are optional but valuable. They recognise members who go beyond minimum compliance and actively contribute to sector leadership. Examples include:

- Independent audits or advanced compliance systems
- Crisis management and recall plans
- ESG or sustainability commitments
- Active participation in CTA committees or consultations

These points unlock enhanced recognition and visibility within the CTA.

What members get from participating

This is not a box-ticking exercise. Members who engage will benefit from:

- Clear recognition of their standards through CTA badges and directory markers
- Stronger positioning with regulators, partners, and customers
- Practical tools to reduce risk and future-proof their business
- A transparent pathway to becoming a recognised sector leader

Crucially, this helps protect the reputation of the entire CTA membership.

What this is not

To be absolutely clear, this framework is:

- Not retrospective punishment
- Not enforcement on behalf of regulators



- Not designed to exclude small or early-stage businesses
- Not a substitute for law or regulation

It is a supportive assurance system, built by the sector, for the sector.

Motion 4. Responsible Adoption of Artificial Intelligence within CTA Management

Purpose of Motion

That the Cannabis Trades Association formally recognises artificial intelligence as a strategic tool capable of supporting the operational, analytical and communications functions of the Association, and commits to developing and implementing a Responsible AI Usage Framework to guide its appropriate integration within CTA management.

Background

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the way organisations operate across research, administration, communications, data analysis and strategic planning. As a modern trade association operating within a complex and highly regulated sector, the CTA must ensure it remains efficient, informed and forward-thinking in its management practices.

This motion does not propose the replacement of human judgement or professional expertise. Rather, it recognises AI as a tool that, when used responsibly, can:

- Enhance operational efficiency
- Improve research and policy analysis capability
- Strengthen communications and member engagement
- Support strategic insight and horizon scanning
- Reduce administrative burden on staff and directors

The integration of AI within CTA management should be deliberate, transparent and governed by clear principles.

Responsible AI Usage Framework

If adopted, the Board will develop a Responsible AI Usage Framework to ensure that:

- Human oversight and accountability remain central
- Sensitive or confidential data is handled appropriately
- Outputs are reviewed for accuracy and regulatory alignment
- AI tools are used to support, not substitute, professional judgement
- Ethical considerations are embedded in decision-making

The framework will clarify where and how AI may be used within CTA operations, ensuring confidence among members and stakeholders.

Scope

The motion applies to internal management functions of the Association, including:

- Administrative efficiency
- Research and policy preparation
- Drafting and communications support
- Data organisation and analysis



- Strategic planning support

It does not mandate any specific technology platform, nor does it require immediate financial investment beyond proportionate operational review.

Strategic Value to Members

Adopting a structured and responsible approach to AI integration will:

- Improve responsiveness and insight
- Enable more effective representation
- Demonstrate modern governance practice
- Position the CTA as forward-looking within the wider cannabis sector

It also provides a foundation for potential future guidance to members on AI governance within their own organisations.

Governance and Review

The Board will oversee development of the Responsible AI Usage Framework and report to members on implementation progress and any material developments.

Motion 5. Regulatory Fragmentation and the Establishment of a UK Cannabis Office

Purpose of Motion

That the Association formally reaffirms its support for the creation of a dedicated United Kingdom Cannabis Office to provide coordinated oversight, strategic leadership and regulatory alignment across all areas of cannabis policy, including health, food, agriculture, trade, enforcement and patient access.

Further, that the Association be mandated to:

- Develop and publish a policy paper outlining the proposed structure, remit and governance of a UK Cannabis Office.
- Engage with relevant government departments and agencies to advance this proposal.
- Seek cross-party political support for the establishment of such an Office as a mechanism to modernise and rationalise the UK cannabis regulatory framework.

Background

The current regulatory landscape for cannabis in the United Kingdom remains fragmented across multiple departments and agencies, including the **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency**, the **Food Standards Agency**, **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**, and the **Home Office**, among others.

This division of responsibility has resulted in:

- Inconsistent policy interpretation and enforcement
- Regulatory delay and duplication
- Uncertainty for investors and operators
- Reduced patient and consumer confidence
- Inhibited development of industrial hemp and related sustainable industries

By 2025, the economic and operational consequences of this fragmentation are clearly evidenced across medicinal cannabis, CBD novel foods, industrial hemp licensing and financial services access.

A dedicated UK Cannabis Office would not replace existing regulators but would provide central coordination, strategic coherence and a single point of accountability. Such a body would:

- Align policy objectives across departments
- Reduce regulatory conflict and duplication
- Improve investor confidence
- Support patient access and public safety
- Position the United Kingdom as a credible, modern jurisdiction for cannabis governance

This motion represents a strategic, forward-looking initiative intended to provide long-term structural stability for the sector.

Motion 6. Import Reliance and UK Cannabis Supply Resilience

Purpose of Motion

That the Association undertakes a comprehensive strategic review of United Kingdom cannabis supply resilience, with particular focus on the sector's reliance on imported product and the structural, regulatory and economic barriers to responsible domestic cultivation. Further, that the Association be mandated to:

- Assess current levels of import dependency within the UK medical cannabis market.
- Identify regulatory, licensing and commercial barriers that inhibit scalable domestic production.
- Develop policy recommendations to improve national supply resilience, patient safety and continuity of access.
- Engage with relevant government departments and regulators to advocate for a more balanced and secure supply framework.

Background

The United Kingdom medical cannabis market remains structurally dependent on imported product, sourced primarily from overseas jurisdictions. Since 2025, global geopolitical instability, shipping disruption, and international GMP bottlenecks have exposed the fragility of this model. Import reliance presents several material risks:

- Delays in patient access due to supply chain disruption
- Batch variability and substitution issues
- Price instability linked to currency fluctuation and freight costs
- Reduced national control over quality assurance and supply planning

Oversight of cultivation, licensing and import controls currently spans multiple departments and agencies, including the **Home Office**, the **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency**, and the **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**. This complexity contributes to limited domestic production capacity despite increasing patient demand. This motion reframes domestic cultivation not merely as an industry growth objective, but as a matter of:

- Patient safety
- Continuity of supply
- National resilience
- Economic sovereignty

A structured review will allow the Association to move beyond anecdote and provide evidence-based recommendations to government and regulators. By strengthening domestic cultivation capability within an appropriately regulated framework, the United Kingdom can improve supply stability while maintaining high standards of compliance and public protection.