



CISTA is a new political party. In the General Election we will campaign for a Royal Commission to review the UK's drug laws relating to cannabis. CISTA is for harm reduction.

- 84% of the British populace feel that the current drugs policy and the so-called “*War on Drugs*” is failing – costing lives and money and criminalizing the wrong people.
- Current policy costs an extra £361 million per year. A change in the law would reduce policing costs and resources could be diverted to tackling other crime. The cost of new regulations and controls would be borne by the consumer. Why should the tax payer continue to fund a war that no one wants?
- There is a sound economic argument for legalisation – properly regulated, the Exchequer would benefit from as much as £900m if cannabis was made legal and properly controlled. In America, the state of Colorado has made \$50 million in cannabis tax since legalisation in 2014.
- Evidence shows that tax revenues collected in places like Colorado are funding education programmes that reduce consumption among young people.
- A regulated market will protect consumers from contact with hard drugs and from rogue dealers. Just as with any other consumer product, a proper regulatory environment will reduce the risks for consumers by providing them with the reliable information they need, as well as protecting society from unscrupulous practices and underage consumption.
- Cannabis has numerous, medically verified health benefits and can be used to treat glaucoma, help to control epileptic seizures and ease the pain of multiple sclerosis sufferers.
- In 2012, the Home Affairs Committee suggested a review of Britain’s drug laws. A Royal Commission is needed to ensure the Government acts on the recommendations.
- Current policy only benefits organised criminal gangs. The estimated value of the UK trade in illegal drugs is £ 8 billion each year.
- CISTA is for harm reduction – current policy does more harm than good and is woefully outdated. CISTA will campaign for a policy review that treats adults like adults.

### **Why a new political party?**

We are a brand new political party with the ambition of building a broad-based community of candidates and members.

We want your help, not only to break stereotypes and show that everyday people are backing changes to cannabis laws, but to build a sustainable platform for real change.

Decades of criminalising use of cannabis have failed on every front. Across the world, countries are properly redrafting laws relating to cannabis use with benefits for the economy, public health and levels of crime. CISTA exists to replicate this success. Our candidates during the 2015 Elections will be campaigning for a Royal Commission to review Britain's drug laws.