



The Government has decided to make khat an illegal Class C drug. The ban on khat will come into effect on 24 June.

## Why is khat being banned?

Khat contains natural ingredients which are already controlled drugs both in the UK and internationally because they are harmful. To help protect local communities from the potential health and social harms associated with khat and to ensure that the UK does not become a hub for international khat smuggling, it will become illegal to produce, possess, supply and import or export khat without a Home Office licence.

## What will happen if you use khat from 24 June in England and Wales?

From 24 June 2014, police will be able to use khat warnings and penalty notices for disorder (PND) for £60 to adults. This means that if the police find you with khat which is meant for your own personal use, you can:

- be given a warning for the first possession offence
- be given a penalty notice for disorder (a £60 fine) for your second possession offence
- face arrest for your third possession offence.

## Will the ban on khat apply in both public and private places?

Yes. Khat will become an illegal Class C drug and this will apply UK wide.





## What happens to under 17s caught with khat?

Young people aged 17 years of age, or under, cannot be given a Khat Warning or a PND for possession of khat. Section 65 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that such young people be considered for a youth caution, youth conditional caution or prosecution.

## What happens if you trade in khat once it becomes an illegal Class C drug?

If you are caught, the police will take action and there is a risk of prosecution. As a Class C drug it will be illegal to supply, possess with intent to supply and import khat. Sanctions for these offences for Class C drugs are up to 14 years imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both.

Supplying khat to your friends, even if you give it away, is also considered 'supplying' under the law.

## Where can I go to find advice and support about giving up khat?

For advice and information on local support and treatment services for khat use, your GP or local council is a good place to start. For confidential advice and information on local support and treatment services please visit <http://www.talktofrank.com/need-support>

If you live in Tower Hamlets you can contact the following services for direct help and support:-

### **Young Peoples Service**

(Under 19's)  
Spotlight (2nd Floor),  
30 Hay Currie Street,  
London E14 6GN  
Tel: 020 7536 8869

### **RESET**

#### **Tower Hamlets Drug & Alcohol Service**

Adults over 18  
Beaumont House,  
Mile End Hospital,  
Bancroft Road  
London E1 4DG  
Tel: 020 8121 5301  
Email: [elt-tr.reset@nhs.net](mailto:elt-tr.reset@nhs.net)