

Expert Panel on Drug Driving – approved minutes of 20th November 2012 meeting, 11:45 – 16:00

Venue: Department for Transport

Attendees:

Dr. Kim Wolff, Chair (King's College London)
Professor Robert Forrest (Sheffield University)
Professor Atholl Johnston (Barts & London School of Medicine, Queen Mary University)
Professor David Taylor (South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust)
Dr. Roger Brimblecombe (ACMD representative)
Xxxxxx Xxxxxxx (Centre of Applied Science & Technology)
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Apologies:

Honorary Professor Eilish Gilvarry (Newcastle University)
Dr. Lily Read (Northampton Healthcare NHS Trust)
Dr. Judith Morgan (DVLA)
Professor David Osselton (Bournemouth University)
Dr. J. Colin Forfar (CHM representative)
Dr. Mark Prunty (DoH) - Observer
Xxxxxxx Xxxxxx (DfT)

1. Minutes from the previous meetings & general update

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting of 25th October, subject to some minor amendments.

Xxxx Xxxxx has met the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) on 19 November to discuss the need for clearer labelling on medication.

2. Discussion and approval of report chapters

The four chapters on methodology, cannabis, cocaine and opioids had been circulated and seen by all on the panel and some had provided comments which had been taken on. Sections on initial findings, Z drugs and benzodiazepines would be sent to the Panel shortly for comments.

Xxxx Xxxxx asked the panel to consider the four chapters of the report and to make comments or raise amendments.

Panel members went through the four chapters in detail, providing their amendments, corrections and drafting suggestions. These were annotated by the secretariat and would be taken on in the final version. The secretariat would also proof read the final report and raise with Xxxx Xxxxx any language that was deemed to specialist and technical and discuss if it could be replaced with more easily understood language.

3. Presentation of drug driving data

CAST also presented revised drug driving data to the panel, which included the results of screening and confirmatory analysis, and allowed for more detailed analysis. The data was referred to during subsequent discussion.

4. Discussion and agreement of recommended limits for further drugs

a) Benzodiazepines

The draft chapter was nearly complete and would be circulated to the Panel by Xxxx Xxxxx for comments shortly.

b) Ketamine

It should be noted that references in the document to papers from Hong Kong related to evidence from oral fluid samples and not whole blood.

A ketamine limit of 350ug/L was suggested by the Panel (or 175ug/L if the drug was combined with alcohol of 20mg per 100mL blood or greater).

c) Amphetamine type drugs

MDMA has a half life of 7 hours and a pharmacological effect for up to 5 hours. Other types of Amphetamines would be added to the paper and circulated by Xxxx Xxxxx to the rest of the Panel for comments shortly.

The Panel agreed a provisional limit of 300 ug/L or 150ug/L in combination with alcohol above 20mg per 100mL blood.

d) Z-drugs

A draft chapter would be circulated to the Panel by Xxxx Xxxxx for comments shortly.

5. Policy update

Xxxxxxxx would be liaising with DfT's Press Office for a publication date for the report. There was also still the option of publishing an interim report covering completed chapters, if the full report could not be finalised for publication in time.

6. AOB

Comments on the draft chapters of the report are needed from the Panel by the end of November. The panel would be asked to sign off the final draft of the report via e-mail within 48 hours of it becoming available to enable its publication.

CAST would aim to convene a new Panel of experts in early 2013 to look at the specification for the new roadside drug testing devices, that would be able to screen for the drugs and limits in the new offence. Xxxxxx Xxxxxxx extended an invitation to Panel members to express an interest in this work.

Action: Panel members should advise Xxxxxx Xxxxxxx of their interest.