



Department  
of Health



Home Office

*Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs  
Dr Owen Bowden-Jones*

c/o Zahi Sulaiman  
Secretary to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)  
Home Office Science Secretariat  
Home Office  
1st Floor (NE), Peel Building  
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London SW1P 4DF

Dear Owen

## **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FOUR REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE MISUSE OF DRUGS**

We are writing to provide you with the Government's response to four ACMD reports. We are very grateful to the ACMD for all the work they have undertaken in producing such comprehensive and high quality reports. We have considered the ACMD's advice in each of these reports carefully and have accepted the majority of the recommendations in the reports below, with the exception of drug consumption rooms:

**Annex A:** How can opioid substitution therapy (and drug treatment and recovery systems) be optimised to maximise recovery outcomes for service users?

**Annex B:** Reducing Opioid Related Deaths in the UK

**Annex C:** Diversion and Illicit Supply of Medicines

**Annex D:** Independent prescribing of controlled drugs by therapeutic radiographers

In each response we have set out in detail the range of work we are taking forward to address the recommendations.

We are aware that there has been a significant delay in responding to these reports, particularly the report on Opioid Substitution Therapy, which we apologise for on behalf of the Government. We are grateful to you and the



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Council for your patience in this matter. We would like to assure you that the Government remains committed to meeting the timescales as set out in the protocol and responding within the established three month period following publication. Officials will be working closely with the ACMD and its Secretariat to ensure this happens.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Council going forward and are happy to meet with you to discuss the responses to the ACMD recommendations in more detail.

**STEVE BRINE MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
Public Health and Primary Care

**SARAH NEWTON MP**

Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and  
Vulnerability