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Dr Owen Bowden-Jones

c/o Zahi Sulaiman
Secretary to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)
Home Office Science Secretariat
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03 July 2018

Dear Owen,

PART TWO - COMMISSION TO THE ACMD – SCHEDULING UNDER THE MISUSE OF DRUGS REGULATIONS 2001

As you are aware, on 19 June I announced the Government's intention to commission a two part review of cannabis and cannabis related products. The first part of the review was led by the Chief Medical Advisor for the UK Government, Professor Dame Sally Davies.

I am grateful for the findings provided by Professor Dame Sally Davies, which concluded that cannabis and cannabis related products should be moved from Schedule 1 under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 ("2001 Regulations").

I now wish to formally commission the ACMD for their expert advice and recommendation on whether cannabis and cannabis related products should be rescheduled under the 2001 Regulations. I understand that this is an extremely complex policy area and that the ACMD may not be able to consider all aspects of this request within a short timeframe.

However, as you would have seen in the last few months, this is an urgent matter which must be considered at the earliest opportunity and this is why I would like to ask the ACMD to provide their recommendations in two parts:

1. To consider the appropriate scheduling of cannabis and cannabis related products and whether there are further provisions that could be made under the 2001 Regulations to reduce the risks of harm and diversion.
2. To consider the areas which could not be undertaken within the timescales of the short term review.

I recognise that this will be a challenging piece of work and I am very grateful for the continued collaborative approach you have shown as chair of the ACMD so far and the world class advice that we continue to receive from the Council. I look forward to receiving your recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP