



Home Office

Lord Henley

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REDUCTION

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
3rd Floor (SW)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

26th Jan 2012

I would like to thank the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for its supplementary advice addressed to Anne Milton and myself on matters of public health and protection in respect of diphenylprolinol (D2PM) and diphenylmethylpyrrolidine. I would now like respond on behalf of us both and provide an update on the actions taken to date.

As you are aware, the Government accepted the ACMD's advice on 2-DPMP and related compounds. The draft Order seeking Parliament's approval to control these drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, together with those that the ACMD has provided advice on (phenazepam and the 2 additional steroids), has now been laid and is expected to come into force on 28 March 2012. The ongoing advice and assistance to policy officials, especially in the drafting of the relevant legislative instrument, has been very helpful.

The Government welcomed the Advisory Council's further considerations of newly available evidence, building on its previous advice in respect of desoxypipradrol (2-DPMP) and related compounds. This is a real example of the Advisory Council's responsiveness to emerging evidence around the harms of these substances, underlining again the real challenges that new psychoactive substances pose to both the Council and to Government.

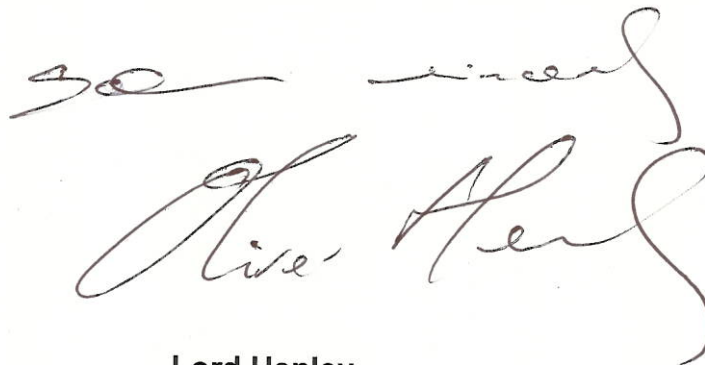
My decision to use the Open General Import License to ban the importation of D2PM and diphenylmethylpyrrolidine as an interim measure to curtail their availability in the UK was invoked on 15 November 2011. Further to the Advisory Council's earlier advice, we have also commissioned the production of chemical reference standards for 2-DPMP and related compounds through our forensic early warning system (FEWS) programme. We expect these standards to be available through the FEWS programme shortly.

The Government shares the concerns about the potential public health risk posed by these compounds. I am pleased to provide details of the actions taken by the Department of Health in response to these concerns:

- Advice on 2-DPMP and related compounds provided by the FRANK service has been updated with public health information specific to D2PM and diphenylmethylpyrrolidine, to reflect latest evidence and developments, alongside the legal updates on importation bans pending Class B control under the 1971 Act.
- As part of its engagement with delivery partners, the Department of Health and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) continue to monitor new information on the health risks associated with the use of novel psychoactive compounds and provide this to Directors of Public Health and local Drug Action Teams for dissemination to relevant health professionals across primary and acute care services.

Home Office and Department of Health officials will continue to work with other departments and delivery partners, including the UK Focal Point and the Advisory Council, to monitor the level of threat posed by 2-DPMP and related compounds and other new psychoactive substances through our drugs early warning systems.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Public Health, Anne Milton MP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Henley', written in a cursive style.

Lord Henley