

# ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

---

## Minutes of the ACMD meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at Victoria, London

**Confidentiality status:** Public document.

**Author:** Rachel Fowler, ACMD Secretary

### ACMD Members present

|                        |               |                   |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Leslie Iversen (Chair) | Simon Gibbons | Richard Phillips  |
| Gillian Arr-Jones      | Sarah Graham  | Howard Roberts    |
| Martin Barnes          | Kyrie James   | Fabrizio Schifano |
| Simon Bray             | Nigel Kirby   | Harry Sumnall     |
| Roger Brimblecombe     | Dave Liddell  | Arthur Wing       |
| Annette Dale-Perera    | Hew Mathewson |                   |
| Paul Dargan            | Jo Melling    |                   |

### Apologies

Linda Harris  
Graham Parsons  
Fiona Measham  
Raymond Hill

### Observers present

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| John McCracken (DH)         | Gary Maxwell (Northern Ireland)                      |
| Angela Scrutton (HO)        | Ric Treble (LGC Forensics)                           |
| Jaee Samant (HO)            | Kouji Maruyama (Health attaché,<br>Japanese Embassy) |
| Hannah McCarthy (HO)        | Katayama Makoto (Legal attaché,<br>Japanese Embassy) |
| Michael Gaffor (Jersey)     |  |
| Calum McVean (Gurnsey)      |  |
| Lesley Keenan (Isle of Man) |  |

### ACMD Secretariat present

Rachel Fowler (ACMD Secretary)  
Will Reynolds (Head of Science Advisory Bodies, Science Secretariat)  
Michelle Judge (ACMD Secretariat)  
Ali Mohammed (ACMD Secretariat)

**1. Welcome, declarations of interest and apologies**

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed ACMD members, officials and members of the public and press to the meeting. The Chair welcomed Rachel Fowler, the new ACMD secretary.
- 1.2. The Chair reminded members that the secretariat should be promptly informed of any changes to their declared interests so that information on the ACMD website could be kept up to date by the secretariat.
- 1.3. Apologies were received from Dr Fiona Measham, Dr Linda Harris, Mr Graham Parsons and Prof. Raymond Hill.

**2. Minutes of 28 March 2012**

- 2.1. Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting (29 April 2012) with no amendments.

**3. Chair's update**

- 3.1. The Chair informed members that he had met with the Home Secretary in June to discuss the ACMD 2012/13 work program and in particular the ACMD's advice on new psychoactive substances.
- 3.2. The Chair reported that since the ACMD's last meeting, the Council had provided advice to the Home Secretary on Naloxone (8 June 2012). The Chair informed members that he expected to receive a response from the Government to the ACMD's advice on naloxone shortly.
- 3.3. The Council provided further advice to the Home Secretary on the provision of foil as an intervention (21 December 2011). Regarding the ACMD's advice on foil, the Chair reported that a response was due at his meeting with the Minister of State for Crime Prevention on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- 3.4. The Chair informed members that there were several pieces of Council advice due to be published before the end of the year. These were:
  - Methoxetamine – A Temporary Class Drug Order (TCDO) was invoked on 28 March 2012 following advice from the Council. According to the requirements of a TCDO, the Council will be providing further advice on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in the context of control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
  - Synthetic Cannabinoids – The Council will be providing advice on expanding the generic definition on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
  - Khat – the Council will be providing advice on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
  - Tramadol and Cocaine – the Council intend to provide advice on these drugs in December 2012.

- 3.5. The Chair reminded members of the Council that evidence gathering on ketamine would be initiated following completion of the above advice.
- 3.6. The Chair reported that all outstanding actions from the previous meeting were complete.
- 3.7. The co-Chair of the Recovery Committee (Annette Dale-Perera) noted that the ACMD had written to senior officials regarding the 'Putting Full Recovery First' document.

#### **4. Recovery Committee report**

- 4.1. The co-Chairs of the ACMD Recovery Committee (Annette Dale-Perera and Richard Phillips) gave an overview of the Committee's work and its aims - to advise the government on how to support people to recover and how to prevent drug and alcohol misuse and its harms.
- 4.2. The co-Chairs drew members' attention to the first output of the Recovery Committee, a report that scopes the contribution of various themes to recovery. The report will highlight the strengths and gaps in the evidence for recovery, and will be published by December 2012. From this work, the Recovery Committee is prioritising recovery questions for more in-depth reports.
- 4.3. The co-Chairs informed members that they had gathered evidence on the first of these in-depth reports, 'What does the evidence tell us, and isn't able to tell us, about recover outcomes we can expect from drug and alcohol dependence?'. Members noted that a draft of this paper would be discussed by the Council in a later agenda item.

#### **5. Technical Committee report**

- 5.1. In the absence of the Committee Chair (Raymond Hill), the Chair of the ACMD (Leslie Iversen) updated the Council on Technical Committee business since the last ACMD meeting.
- 5.2. The Chair informed members that the British Compressed Gasses Association (BCGA) had presented to the Committee at its last meeting. The BCGA had presented on the misuse of gases and the poor public understanding of their hazards. The Chair informed members that the Committee would be discussing the matter further at its next meeting to decide what, if any, action it might recommend the Council takes.
- 5.3. Benzodiazepines and 'Z' class substances were also discussed at the Committee's last meeting and the Chair informed members that this discussion would also be continued at their next meeting, again, for the Committee to decide what, if any, action it might recommend the Council takes.

- 5.4. The Chair reported that the Technical Committee was in discussion with the Home Office Drugs Legislation team regarding amendment of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. The changes proposed by the Home Office were to consolidate the Regulations and make several amendments. Of these amendments the Technical were particularly considering the possibility of mandatory requisition forms and the use of running balances in controlled drug registers.
- 5.5. The Chair drew members' attention to the Committee's work on prescription drug misuse. The Committee had considered evidence collated by the National Treatment Agency and written a paper scoping potential work the ACMD may wish to undertake regarding prescription drug misuse. The Chair informed members that the Committee would be considering the US Drug Enforcement Agency position at its next meeting.
- 6. New Psychoactive Substances Working Group report**
- 6.1. The Chair of the Working Group (Simon Gibbons) updated members on the Working Group's progress drafting advice on methoxetamine. He reminded members that methoxetamine was currently under control via a TCDO and that, in accordance with TCDO procedure, the Working Group had been looking at whether methoxetamine should be classified under the Act.
- 6.2. The Chair updated members on the Working Group's progress considering the synthetic cannabinoids not currently covered by the generic definition. The group was considering the harms of these compounds that were outside of the generic definition.
- 6.3. A draft of both pieces of advice would be discussed by the Council in a later agenda item. The Chair informed members that the advice was scheduled for publication on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- 7. Cocaine review update**
- 7.1. The Chair of the Working Group (Dave Liddell) updated the Council on its review of the harms associated with the misuse of cocaine. Members noted that a draft of the report would be discussed by the Council in a later agenda item. The Chair informed members that the report and advice was scheduled for publication in December 2012.
- 7.2. The draft report covered a number of key themes – classification would not be discussed. The evidence found that there were many different populations who took cocaine in different contexts. Tailored interventions were therefore important. The final report would have a focus on early interventions with aim of preventing further and more regular/harmful use.
- 8. Khat review update**
- 8.1. The co-Chairs of the Working Group (Hew Mathewson and Kyrie James) updated the Council on its review of khat harms. The co-Chairs

reminded members that the ACMD provided the government with advice on the harms of khat in 2008 and had since been asked by the Home Secretary in 2011 to review the issue.

- 8.2. The co-Chairs outlined to members the Working Group's evidence gathering events, which included meetings with MPs, local councils, experts on the pharmacology, crime and treatment services for khat use and community groups to who the review was of particular interest. The Chair of the ACMD noted the considerable work the group had undertaken to gather evidence from these communities.
- 8.3. Members noted that a draft of this advice would be discussed by the Council in a later agenda item. The co-chair informed members that the advice was scheduled for publication on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012.