

ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Chair: Professor Les Iversen

Secretary: Zahi Sulaiman

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Simon Hamilton MLA
Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Castle Building
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT3 3SQ

17 August 2015

Dear Minister,

RE: Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973 – Addicts Index

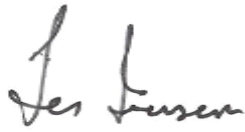
I write further to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) correspondence of 10th February 2015 in relation to Northern Ireland's continued maintenance of the Addicts Index.

The Misuse of Drugs (Supply to Addicts) Regulations 1997 revoked part of the Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) Regulations 1973 dealing with notification of addicts and re-enacted that part of those regulations dealing with supply to addicts, in England, Wales and Scotland.

We understand that this legislative change did not take place in Northern Ireland in 1997 and the legal obligation for doctors to report cases of addiction remains in place in Northern Ireland.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has considered the position in Northern Ireland, and the improvements in data collection over the years. The ACMD recommends that in light of these improvements, the obligations placed on doctors under the Misuse of Drugs (Notification of and Supply to Addicts) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973 to report cases of addiction should be removed in order to bring the Northern Ireland regulations in line with the rest of the UK.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Iversen'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Professor Les Iversen
(Chair of ACMD)

cc Rt. Hon. Theresa May, MP, Home Secretary

Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP, Secretary of State for Health

Rt. Hon. Mike Penning, MP, Minister for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice

Rt. Hon. Jane Ellison, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health