



Baroness Browning

Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction

2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

My colleague, James Brokenshire, wrote to you last year about the possible presence of so-called 'legal highs' at our summer music festivals. His particular concern was that the availability of these substances and the potential harms they can cause might overshadow the positive atmosphere of these occasions. I share this concern.

I am aware that you responded positively to this challenge last year. I want to thank you for taking steps to ensure the public enjoy these events in a safe and healthy environment and to ask you to continue to work with the appropriate authorities to the same end this year.

We need to remain aware that a substance that may be sold as a 'legal high' is not necessarily legal and can be far from harmless. I would ask you to remain alert to the possibility that substances marketed as "legal" - and in some cases misleadingly sold as "plant food", "bath salts", research chemicals or simply, labelled "not for human consumption" - may actually contain one or more illegal drugs, including mephedrone which was banned last year as a Class B drug.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that some of these substances are far from harmless and can have similar health risks to drugs like cocaine and amphetamine. Others of them are so novel that we know very little about their risks to health.

As you finalise your preparations for this year's event, I invite you once again to review the measures you have put in place to ensure that your festival is as safe an environment as possible to help protect the public, especially young people, from the potential harms and risks of all drugs.

Please refer anyone seeking information on the risks and dangers of so called "legal highs", as well as illegal drugs, to the FRANK website (www.talktofrank.com) or the confidential helpline (0800 77 66 00).

I am copying this letter to your local authority and police force.

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