

ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

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Dear Professor Silverman,

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) are pleased to respond to the review of the UK's current and future provision of forensic research.

It is important that the ACMD continues to have access to high quality forensic science to ensure that it can provide advice to Ministers based on the best possible available evidence.

To support its work programme the ACMD gathers evidence from forensic providers concerning: analysis of drugs seizures; novel analysis and detection; and, also takes evidence directly from those involved with forensic research and development. In recent years the ACMD has received evidence from predominantly FSS and LGC forensics. In addition, the ACMD has received input via the UK Focal Point group concerned with early warning and the forensic providers that support this.

Although the detail of process is yet to be agreed by Parliament, the proposed Temporary Class Drug Orders, as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, the ACMD will provide advice to input to the Ministers considerations. It is therefore of paramount importance that forensic techniques and developments are available to detect and interdict the range of new psychoactive compounds as they may arise.

The ACMD would like to see a joined up approach to forensic science research, such that there is coordinated effort to ensure that forensic research matches priorities i.e. capability, efficiency, new and cutting edge research.

The ACMD welcome the review and look forward to the report of findings.

Yours sincerely



Professor Les Iversen