



Home Office

James Brokenshire MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CRIME PREVENTION

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Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
3rd Floor (SW)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
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11 OCT 2010

Dear Professor Iversen,

The Advisory Council last undertook a full review of the use and harms associated with khat misuse in the UK in 2005, *Khat (Qat): Assessment of Risk to the Individual and Communities in the UK*. At that time the Council recommended that the khat plant should not be controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, informed by its assessment of the medical harms and its finding that “use of the substance (was) very limited to specific communities within the UK, and has not, nor does it appear likely to, spread to the wider community”.

The government is concerned about the use of khat, the harms caused to individuals and the societal harms in the affected UK’s Somali, Yemeni and Ethiopian communities. It is for this reason I ask the ACMD to undertake a comprehensive review of the available evidence, to update its assessment and provide the government with advice both in relation to control under 1971 Act and a wider response.

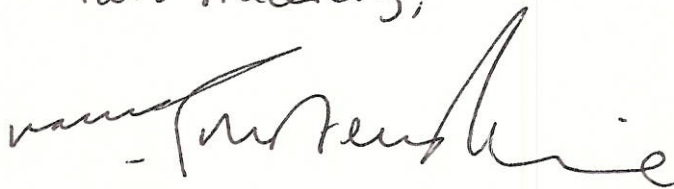
The Home Office has today published a study which has explored the perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use.

A review of national and international literature on the social harms associated with khat and the impact of legislation in countries which have legislated has also been commissioned and will be published in early November.

My officials will be happy to discuss these reports with you. We also have estimates of the prevalence of khat use in the general population for the first time in the latest British Crime Survey report 'Drug Misuse Declared 2009/10'.

I am grateful for the advice of the ACMD and ask that you provide an indication of a timescale you will need to consider this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

JAMES BROKESHIRE