



Home Office

Jeremy Browne MP

MINISTER 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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31st Oct 2012

Dear Les,

I am grateful for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' latest advice on a number of new psychoactive substances (NPS), which is accepted in full. Work on NPS remains a key priority for the Government.

In late 2011, the ACMD provided its thematic advice which informed our cross-government NPS Action Plan. In the Plan, we committed to making evidence-based drug controls and fast-tracking amendments to existing "generic definitions" as well as taking forward recommendations to inform our public health and harm prevention approaches. In parallel with updating information and advice with the Department of Health to reflect the ACMD's assessment of harm of these NPS, we will be initiating the legislative process in the forthcoming days to control these drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The ACMD's review of the current controls on synthetic cannabinoids is welcome. The evidence around the availability and harms of these "second generation" cannabinoids underscores the realities of the NPS market and the challenges for us both. The Government acknowledges again the impressive expertise the Council has continued to provide with the updating and drafting of the "generic definitions". We see other countries looking to the UK to emulate this approach.

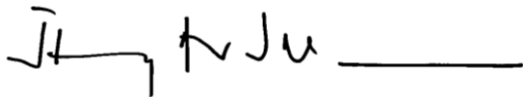
These controls need to be effectively monitored and I was pleased to see that the Home Office Forensic Early Warning System and our wider drugs early warning system played a useful part in the formulation of your advice. These

systems continue to be available to you to help fulfil your commitment to continue to monitor these drugs.

I would like to thank the ACMD for your diligence in completing the review of temporary class drug methoxetamine within six months of the temporary class drug order (TCDO) coming into force. This will allow for the completion of the legislative process for full and permanent control within the 12-month period anticipated by the TCDO provisions. I note that the ACMD also provided a generic definition that captures related compounds including analogues of ketamine, which the Home Secretary requested in her annual commissioning letter to the ACMD.

Officials from across the relevant departments and the Devolved Administrations continue to work with the relevant agencies to drive the cross-Government co-ordination of tackling NPS as set out in our NPS Action Plan. This will ensure that NPS are considered in the wider demand reduction initiatives already outlined in the 2010 Drug Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Browne', followed by a horizontal line.

Jeremy Browne MP
Minister of State

Cc: Home Secretary
Minister for Public Health