



Professor David Nutt  
c/o Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs  
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2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Professor Nutt

We would like to thank the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for the report:  
*The Primary Prevention of Hepatitis C among Injecting Drug Users.*

The report is welcome as it very much reflects our commitment to preventing the harms associated with drugs as outlined in initiatives such as the Government's drugs strategy *Drugs: protecting families and communities* and more specifically when it comes to the harms associated with injecting drug use, the Department of Health and National Treatment Agency's *Reducing Drug Related Harm Action Plan* that was launched in 2007.

We welcome the report's detailed analysis of the evidence concerning the prevention of hepatitis C among injecting drug users (IDUs) and we will consider the recommendations carefully.

The evidence of the prevalence of hepatitis C clearly demonstrates that while substantial Government investment to secure an expansion in the availability of effective drug treatment has helped support a stabilisation over the past few years in the proportion of IDU's contracting hepatitis C, following sharp increases in the previous period, more needs to be done.

This is why we are also delighted that the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will publish guidance on needle and syringe programmes on the same day that your report is published. This taken with the ACMD Report and other work already being undertaken by Government means that commissioners and providers will have the most comprehensive information and evidence-based guidance that has ever been available to support them in assessing the need in their local area and in providing services accordingly.

I can assure you that we see this as an important element of the overall Drug Strategy, as reflected in this joint letter; we are determined to maximise the positive impact from the work that you and NICE have undertaken.

Yours sincerely

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Primarolo". The script is cursive and fluid.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Campbell". The script is cursive and elegant.

**Dawn Primarolo**

**Alan Campbell**