

ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

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Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP
Home Secretary
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

1st April 2008

Dear Home Secretary,

Advice on the classification of 24 steroidal and 2 non-steroidal substances

In May 2007, the Technical Committee of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) reviewed the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) Substance List; to identify and consider the status of substances on the list that are currently not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Previously the ACMD considered the misuse of anabolic steroids in January 1993 and concluded that the misuse of steroids (and other related substances) constituted a social problem; a key criterion that needs to be satisfied under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) before a substance can be brought within its controls. The ACMD recommended at the time that legislative controls should be introduced - aimed at the activities of the illicit suppliers and traffickers who supported anabolic steroid misuse, but that an offence of simple possession would be "undesirable as it would criminalise a whole group of people".

In November 1994, the then Home Secretary accepted this advice; confirming that the anabolic steroids would be brought under the control of the Act as Class C drugs and that they should be subject to Schedule 4 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, but with additional import/export restrictions. It was to be an offence under the Act to produce, supply or possess/import/export with intent to supply without a licence. The current regulations state that a Home

Office licence is required by persons importing/exporting anabolic steroids, unless the substance is in the form of a medicinal product being imported for personal use only.

In January 1995, the ACMD gave further consideration to substances that should be included in the legislative measure, in addition to anabolic steroids, beta-2-agonists and growth hormones were considered for control. Resulting from this advice, 54 substances became Class C drugs under the Act and Schedule 4 Part 1 drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985.

In May 2007 Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) made representation to the Technical Committee of ACMD to request that they consider the 'The World Anti-Doping Code –The 2007 Prohibited List'. Mindful of the ACMD's responsibilities under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the recommendation for the classification of the 24 steroidal and 2 non-steroidal substances (listed Annex 1) associated with sport, body building and image enhancement is based on: i) demand reduction; ii) harm minimisation, and; iii) reduction of supply.

During meetings in 2007 the ACMD's Technical Committee was presented new evidence by Drugscope and Liverpool John Moores University regarding the current trends of steroid misuse in the UK, and doping in sport from UK Sport and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The Technical Committee heard from John Moores University that the problem of anabolic steroid misuse was further compounded by counterfeits and fakes, and incidents of steroid diversion from pharmaceutical sources. However, the business of anabolic steroids remained commercially lucrative, with numerous internet suppliers.

Evidence from Drugscope highlighted data from the British Crime Survey, the most recent of which (2006/07) estimates that 32,000 people had used steroids in the last year, and 14,000 in the previous month (Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Drug Misuse Declared, 18/07). Figures from the Department of Health's Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey (2006) show a steady increase in the number of young people that had "ever" tried anabolic steroids from 0.2% in 2001-2004 to 0.3% in 2004/05 and 0.5% in 2006.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has carefully considered the issues discussed by the Technical Committee and recommends that:

The Government should consider the inclusion of the 24 steroids and 2 non-steroidal agents annexed in this letter under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Class C and these to be scheduled as Schedule 4 (IV) substances under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, so as not to preclude legitimate use on prescription.

You will be aware from my letter dated 9th January that the ACMD has become increasingly concerned at the use of anabolic steroids by the general

public, and in particular young people. There is evidence to show that anabolic steroid use can be harmful; potentially causing both psychiatric and physical problems to the individual. I look forward to being able to report back to you on the findings from our anabolic steroids working group to provide further advice to you and the ministers of relevant departments.

Yours sincerely,

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

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins FMedSci
Chairman

cc. Vernon Coaker MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Gerry Sutcliffe MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Annex 1. Anabolic Steroids and 2 non steroidal agents recommended by the ACMD for classification in Class C (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) and scheduled as schedule 4 (IV) (Misuse of Drugs Regulations) on the 2007 WADA list - but not presently controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

All 26 substances are **not** subsumed by MDA 1996 generic definition and neither listed explicitly by SI 1243:2003 nor SI 1300:1996. Zeranol & Zilpaterol are not steroids but WADA sub-category includes Clenbuterol, which **is** MDA controlled.

Chemical Name

1-Androstendiol
1-Androstendione
Boldione
Gestrinone
Danazol
Desoexomethyltestosterone
19-Norandrostenedione
Prostanazol
Tetrahydrogestrinone
Dihydrotestosterone
5 α -Androstane-3 α ,17 α -diol
5 α -Androstane-3 α ,17 β -diol
5 α -Androstane-3 β ,17 α -diol
5 α -Androstane-3 β ,17 β -diol
Androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol ('Androstenediol')
Androst-4-ene-3 α ,17 α -diol
Androst-4-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol
Androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 α -diol
5-Androstenedione
Epidihydrotestosterone
3 α -Hydroxy-5 α -androstan-17-one
3 β -Hydroxy-5 α -androstan-17-one
19-Norandrosterone
19-Noretiocholanolone
Zeranol
Zilpaterol