

ACMD ADVISES THAT LEGAL HIGH DESOXYPIPRADROL (2-DPMP) – SOLD AS IVORY WAVE – SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has recommended that the substance desoxypipradrol (2-DPMP), identified in samples of 'Ivory Wave', should be controlled as a Class B drug, in its advice to government published today.

The Council also recommends that structurally related compounds diphenylprolinol (diphenyl-2-pyrrolidiny-methanol, D2PM) and 2-diphenylmethylpiperidine are also controlled to ensure that alternatives cannot be developed to circumvent the ban.

This advice follows a recommendation to put in place an import ban on 2-DPMP, which was accepted and implemented by the government in November 2010.

The ACMD reviewed 2-DPMP and its structurally related compounds in detail as part of its ongoing consideration of the legal high market, which has already led to bans on naphyrone, mephedrone (and related cathinones), Spice, GBL and BZP.

Chair of the ACMD, Professor Les Iversen, said:

“The health effects of desoxypipradrol (2-DPMP) and its related compounds correspond with those related to other Class B drugs and have the potential to cause harm.

“That is why we are recommending that the government takes action to control the substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act”.

In making its recommendation, the ACMD has considered evidence on the harms and sales of the compounds from the National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths, Clinical Toxicology Services, forensic providers, academic literature and government departments.

The National Poisons Information Service in Edinburgh highlighted a number of cases from the summer of 2010 in which patients reported symptoms including hallucinations, paranoia and severe agitation following the use of 2-DPMP. In some cases the symptoms were still being felt 5-7 days after the initial use of the drug.

The ACMD's recommendations in full are that:

- 2-DPMP be brought under control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Class B and under Schedule I of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

- The structurally related compounds diphenylprolinol (diphenyl-2-pyrrolidiny-methanol, D2PM) and its desoxy form 2-diphenylmethylpyrrolidine are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Class B and scheduled under the Misuse of Drugs regulations 2001 by virtue of a generic definition to ensure that desoxypipradrol and related compounds are fully captured.
- The proposed generic definition has been designed to include desoxypipradrol and analogues.

Notes to Editors:

1. The ACMD was established under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is the duty of the ACMD to keep drugs misuse, in the United Kingdom, under review and to advise the government on measures for preventing misuse and social problems arising from it.
2. Professor Les Iversen is chair of the ACMD. Full council membership can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/about-us/committees-and-members/list-members/>
3. For further information on the ACMD go to: <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/>
4. For interview requests or further information please contact Matt Francis on 020 7035 3535.