



Home Office

Norman Baker MP  
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Professor Les Iversen  
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs  
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12 February 2014

*Dear Professor Iversen*

I am grateful for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' latest advice on ketamine.

The Advisory Council's review and advice on ketamine, commissioned by the Home Secretary, is most welcome in light of the developing evidence around the acute and chronic harms from long term use of the drug.

In respect of the responsibilities of my Department, I accept your recommendation to reclassify ketamine as a Class B drug. I have taken this decision in light of the evidence of chronic harms associated with ketamine use, including chronic bladder and other urinary tract damage highlighted in the Advisory Council's report. I note that ketamine use in adults in the UK has gone down in the past two years although it is too early to establish whether this downward trend will continue. We will feed the Advisory Council's findings into our messages on harms to ensure the public are well informed on the growing evidence of chronic harms associated with ketamine misuse.

The Department of Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have policy responsibility for the other recommendations on public health measures, research, forensic identification in substance related deaths, and drug treatment provision. My officials are in discussion with these departments to co-ordinate a separate response to the Advisory Council on these recommendations. That response will follow soon.

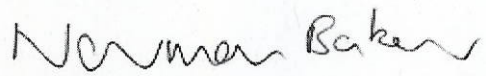
Following your recommendation on the appropriate scheduling of ketamine under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, we will undertake a consultation exercise to fully assess the impact on the healthcare and veterinary sectors associated with subjecting ketamine to tighter controls on its availability for legitimate medical care.

It is my intention to start the parliamentary process to reclassify ketamine shortly and address the issue of its scheduling separately to allow for a period of consultation.

I would like to thank the Advisory Council for your diligence in completing the review.

I am copying this letter to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Baker".

**Norman Baker MP**  
**Minister for Crime Prevention**