



Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse
of Drugs
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Re: ACMD advice – MT-45 and 4,4'-DMAR

I am grateful for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' advice on the two new psychoactive substances known as MT-45, a synthetic opioid which mimics the effects of morphine, and 4,4'-DMAR, a chemical used as a 'legal high' stimulant which has also been linked to loss of lives including in the UK. I understand that both drugs came to our attention through UK and EU drugs early warning systems and that the European Commission initiated risk assessments to potentially EU-wide action on these drugs in the future.

The Council has assessed available evidence on the harms of MT-45 and 4,4'-DMAR. Your assessment makes it clear that these drugs have the potential to cause significant harms. Therefore I accept the Council's recommendation to control them as Class A drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. I have asked my officials to commence legislative work without delay with a view to laying a draft Order before Parliament in time to control these drugs in early 2015.

I also accept your advice to designate MT-45 and 4,4'-DMAR as drugs which have no recognised legitimate or medicinal uses, beyond the research sector. Accordingly, the Government will legislate to place them in Schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. In addition, we are updating FRANK advice and information to reflect the Council's advice and the latest available evidence on the potential harms of these drugs.

I thank the Council for its continuous work on new psychoactive substances. I am also copying this letter to the Minister of Justice in Northern Ireland who has an interest after raising his concerns about reports of deaths linked to 4,4'-DMAR in his jurisdiction.

Rt Hon. Lynne Featherstone MP