

ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Chair: Professor Les Iversen

Secretary: Zahi Sulaiman

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Rt. Hon. Mike Penning MP
Minister for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

15 June 2015

Dear Minister,

Re: Temporary Control Drug Order on methylphenidate-based NPS

On 31 March 2015, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) provided advice to the then Minister of State for Crime Prevention, recommending a Temporary Class Drug Order (TCDO) on a number of methylphenidate-based Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

I have been informed by the Home Office that the TCDO which was invoked on 10 April will lapse on 26 June 2015 due to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments not being set up in time to scrutinise the Order, which in turn will lead to a lack of Parliamentary time to consider and debate the Order in both Houses. I have also been informed that as a result, a new TCDO will be prepared for your approval to come into force as soon as the extant Order lapses.

During the time the current TCDO has been in force, it has come to the ACMD's attention that two new methylphenidate-based NPS: 4-methylmethylphenidate and ethylnaphthidate (the ethyl homologue of methylnaphthidate) are being offered online by NPS retailers as replacements for the five that are temporarily controlled (see Annex). As these two NPS are being marketed as alternatives, they are likely to

be misused and such misuse is potentially capable of causing harms sufficient to constitute a social problem.

In addition to the methylphenidate-based NPS recommended for TCDO control in our report of 31 March 2015, we recommend that 4-methylmethylphenidate and ethylnaphthidate should also be subject to temporary control in pursuant to Section 2(A) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. We also recommend that the control of these NPS should be extended to their stereoisomers, salts and preparations or other products containing these substances.

The ACMD will continue to gather further evidence on methylphenidate-based NPS and will provide further advice in due course.

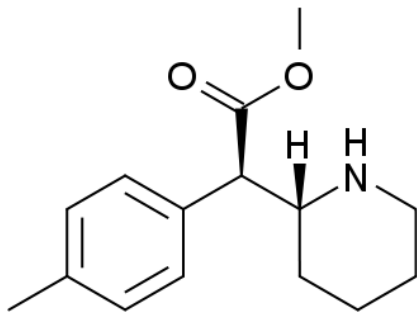
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Iversen'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

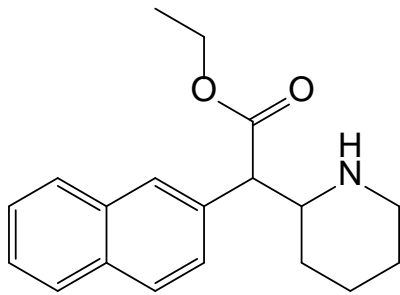
Professor Les Iversen

Chair of the ACMD

Annex – Structures of 4-methylmethylphenidate and Ethylnaphthidate



4-methylmethylphenidate



Ethylnaphthidate