Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
c/o 1st Floor (SW)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

04th March 2015

Dear Professor Iversen,

Re: Rescheduling of ketamine and Patient Group Directions

I am grateful for the Advisory Council's further advice on the rescheduling of ketamine.

You will recall that the Advisory Council's recommendations on ketamine were accepted by my predecessor and reclassification to Class B was implemented on 10 June 2014. A full public consultation, as recommended by the Advisory Council, took place between 8 August and 3 November 2014.

Seventy responses were received by the closing date of the consultation. In summary, the vast majority of respondents supported the rescheduling of ketamine to Schedule 2 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (the 2001 Regulations), as recommended. Importantly, respondents shared the view that Schedule 2 status will not be a burden as most veterinary practices and healthcare organisations already treat ketamine as a Schedule 2 drug. A summary of the consultation responses will be published in due course.

In light of this outcome, the Advisory Council's further recommendation on legislative changes to ensure ketamine continues to remain available for the immediate treatment of sick injured persons under Patient Group Directions (PGDs), following rescheduling, is most welcome.

I accept this further advice and have approved the rescheduling of ketamine from Part 1 of Schedule 4 to Schedule 2 to the 2001 Regulations, including the legislative changes needed to ensure its continued use under PGDs.

My officials will prioritise the legislative work needed with the view to implementing this decision at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Advisory Council once again for its continued support of the Government's work programme.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister of State