



Home Office

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

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Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
c/o 1st Floor (SW)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
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25 March 2015

Dear Professor Iversen,

Re: Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS) Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs

I am grateful for the Advisory Council's advice on legislative changes to introduce the electronic prescribing of Schedules 2 and 3 controlled drugs.

I note the Advisory Council's view that introducing electronic prescribing for these drugs will improve patient care as well as assist in reducing diversion and illicit supply. I also note assurances sought prior to implementation of this policy.

I have received correspondence from Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality at the Department of Health, which provides the assurances sought in relation to health policy in England. I have enclosed a copy of Earl Howe's letter. I am informed that Wales and Scotland do not currently operate an electronic prescribing system similar to England but that this may be considered in the future. I am satisfied that the assurances provided by Earl Howe and legislative provisions being implemented in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 address the Advisory Council's concerns around implementation of this policy and therefore accept the Advisory Council's recommendations.

My officials inform me that the legislative provisions implementing this change are being included in a wider statutory instrument making a number of changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, due to be laid shortly. I have asked them to keep you informed of their progress.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister of State

Enc: Letter from Earl Howe dated 16 March 2015