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De Les

Re: TCDOs and ACMD position on methylphenidate-based NPS

Thank you for your letter of 29 February about the Advisory Council's view on temporary class drug orders (TCDOs) generally and the current TCDO on methylphenidate-based NPS in particular.

I have considered your views on the option of extending TCDOs from 12 to 24 months. I accept your recommendation that there is not a strong case to be made for this given that in all but this one current case, 12 months has provided sufficient time for a full assessment to be completed. In view of this I do not intend to make any change to primary legislation to extend the length of TCDOs.

With regard control of compounds related to methylphenidate (the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Temporary Class Drug, No. 2, Order 2015), I note the ACMD requires further evidence before being able to make a final recommendation on this group of substances. As such, I also accept your recommendation that the TCDO be remade for another 12 months on its expiry on 26 June, so as to allow you to complete your work on this subject and come to a final recommendation.

I look forward to receiving the ACMD's advice and ask that you work with my officials on the timing of further advice to ensure it is provided in a timescale that, if appropriate, will enable the completion of the parliamentary process for permanent control within the 12 months from the re-making of the current order.

Karen Bradley

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