

# ACMD

## Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

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**Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) Full Council meeting note-  
Open session  
Tuesday 24 November 2015,  
Millennium Hotel, 17 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9NU**

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

- 1.1 Professor Les Iversen, Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) welcomed members of the public to the Open session. The Chair explained that it had been a busy summer for the ACMD. The Advisory Council had published advice to the Home Office, detailing its eight concerns on the Psychoactive Substances Bill as well as on the definition of a psychoactive substance.
- 1.2 The ACMD had also recommended a temporary control drug order (TCDO) on methylphenidate-based NPS in response to harrowing accounts received of injecting these substances in Edinburgh, most notably with ethylphenidate.

### **2. Presentation on ACMD Recovery Committee report on OST**

- 2.1 Annette Dale-Perera (Chair of the ACMD Recovery Committee) presented on part 2 of the Recovery Committee report on Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) – see attached PowerPoint slides.

### **3. Questions and answers**

- 3.1 In response to a question on offences under the Psychoactive Substances Bill in relation to importing and purchasing on the Internet, the Chair explained that the Bill had been drafted by the Home Office. Therefore, it would be most appropriate for the Home Office to answer this question, rather than the ACMD.
- 3.2 In response to a question on current doses and the use of “top-ups” on the therapeutic dose of OST, Annette Dale-Perera explained that evidence have shown indicated there maybe some underdosing of those on OST in England (methadone and buprenorphine). The recommended doses were developed by NICE and the ‘Orange Guidelines (Drug Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management, 2007). Use “on-top” of OST prescriptions is a complex

issue, including a variety of factors such as under-dosing due to cost, clinicians' concerns on safety and service users' wishes.

- 3.3 In response to a question on possibilities other than methadone and buprenorphine, Annette Dale-Perera explained that this question was slightly beyond the scope of the ACMD report but the report did comment on this issue. UK guidelines do recommend a range of OST medications are provided in each local area.
- 3.4 In response to a question on the evaluation of the Psychoactive Substances Bill, Tim Millar (Chair of the Impact WG) explained that the Home Office will be undertaking an implementation review to consider the impact of the Bill, its intended and unintended consequences. The ACMD Impact Working Group will steer the Home Office evaluation with its advice (as there is no additional resource) so the review is as good as it can be.
- 3.5 In response to a question on monitoring the impact of controlling Khat, Kyrie James (the then co-chair of the ACMD Khat Working Group) explained that the ACMD has a very heavy work programme. The Chair added that it was not within the remit of the ACMD to undertake such an evaluation.
- 3.6 A comment was made that it would be useful to keep FRANK updated and it may help to capitalise social media.
- 3.7 In response to a question on lack of provision involving family support, Annette Dale-Perera explained that there are several types of therapies recommended by NICE and 'Orange guidelines' which involved working with those with drug dependence and their families. This includes family therapy and behavioural couples therapy.
- 3.8 CRI (Crime Reduction Initiative) commended the Recovery Committee's work in this area.