



Home Office

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Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
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08 April 2015

Dear Professor Iversen,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March with the Advisory Council's advice on the five Methylphenidate-based compounds.

Your letter provides a careful consideration of the available evidence concerning the use and physical harms of these substances for the purpose of advice on temporary control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (the 1971 Act).

I am pleased to accept the ACMD's recommendations and confirm that a temporary class drug order for Ethylphenidate, 3,4-Dichloromethylphenidate ('3,4-DCMP'), Methylphenidate ('HDMP-28'), Isopropylphenidate ('IPP' or 'IPPD') and Propylphenidate will shortly be made. The advice regarding Ethylphenidate, which your letter confirms is currently being injected, is of particular concern.

Together with the Department of Health (DH), we will update public health information available on FRANK in relation to these substances to raise health warnings and awareness messages on their harms. In addition, DH and Public Health England will communicate the health risks through appropriate NHS and DH channels to NHS staff and other local healthcare professionals.

The next step in this process is for the ACMD to undertake a full assessment of harms of these substances for consideration in relation to permanent control under the 1971 Act. I ask that the ACMD now undertake that review. I am conscious that further advice should be provided in a timescale that, if appropriate, will enable the completion of the parliamentary process for permanent control within the 12 months from the making of the current order. My officials will be happy to guide you further on these timings.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone
Minister of State