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Dr Owen Bowden-Jones
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
2 Marsham Street
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16th March 2017

Dear Owen,

ACMD further advice on methylphenidate-based drugs and advice on phytocannabinoids

Thank you for your letter and report of 10th March regarding methylphenidate-based compounds. I am happy to accept your recommendation in full to control both the original seven compounds subject to a Temporary Class Drug Order and the further five substances that have come to your attention as class B drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. My officials and I are pursuing parliamentary approval for the control of these substances, as well as U-47,700 and the designer benzodiazepines as soon as possible.

I look forward to your further advice later this month on the scheduling of these drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 to take account of any therapeutic/ legitimate use.

I am also grateful for the letters and report from your predecessor on phytocannabinoids dated 16 December and the recommendation to review the inclusion of Schedule 1 drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and its potential impact on research.

The Government aims to maintain a proportionate system to allow research into controlled drugs whilst ensuring we protect the public from harm and misuse. I fully recognise the value of important scientific research and agree that it is imperative that drug control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 does not place a disproportionate hindrance on research. I look forward to receiving the ACMD's recommendation on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Newton

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