



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Dr Owen Bowden-Jones
Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

13 February 2018

Dear Dr Bowden-Jones

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REPORTS FROM THE ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON THE MISUSE OF DRUGS (ACMD) ON COMMISSIONING
IMPACT ON DRUG TREATMENT**

I am writing to provide you with the Government's response to the ACMD report on the extent to which commissioning structures, the financial environment and wider changes to health and social welfare impact on drug misuse treatment and recovery. I am very grateful to the ACMD for all the work it has undertaken in producing this high quality report.

The Government has considered the ACMD's advice carefully and has accepted the majority of the recommendations.

However, we do feel that it is important not to overload local authorities with central prescriptions, therefore we do not accept the need to devise new mechanisms to record spend, set standards for staffing or insist on defined lengths of contracts.

I am aware that there has again been a delay in responding to this report, which I apologise for on behalf of the Government. I am grateful to you and the Council for your patience in this matter and can assure you that the Government remains committed to meeting the timescales as set out in the protocol. However, for various reasons this has not been possible on this occasion and I understand you have held discussions with officials when this point was raised.

I will encourage officials to continue to work closely with the ACMD and its Secretariat to improve performance in this area.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Council going forward. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the response to the ACMD report in more detail and the work of the Council as a whole.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Brine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'B'.

STEVE BRINE

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care