



Home Office

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Professor Owen Bowden-Jones
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse
of Drugs

Professor Simon Thomas
Chair of the ACMD NPS Committee

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Dear Professor Bowden-Jones and Professor Thomas

Response to the ACMD's report: A review of the evidence of the use and harms of novel benzodiazepines

Thank you for your advice of 29 April about the thirteen novel benzodiazepines that the ACMD has considered for control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

I accept your recommendation to control flualprazolam, flunitrazolam and norfludiazepam under Class C of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and to place them in Schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

I note the Council's concerns about the ongoing risks posed by the other ten novel benzodiazepines identified in your report. I agree that it is important to continue to monitor these compounds for health harms and prevalence. The Forensic Early Warning System will continue to identify new psychoactive substances and will remain an important means by which to identify these substances both at the border and in prisons.

I thank the Council again for its valuable report and recommendations.

KIT MALTHOUSE MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing