



MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND DRIVING

Meeting held on 22nd March 2023

Present:

Panel Members:

Professor Eilish Gilvarry (Chair)
Dr Richard J Aspinall
Dr Stephen Morley
Dr Edward Day
Dr Robert Searle
Dr David Fox
Mr James Nutt
Dr Bhagat Sharma
Mr Abdul Elghedafi (Lay member)
Miss Sarah Oldham (Lay member)

OBSERVERS:

Professor Denis Cusack	Director, Irish Medical Bureau of Road Safety
Dr John McVicker	Occupational Health Service
Dr Michael Trudgill	Chief Medical Officer Civil Aviation Authority

EX-OFFICIO:

Dr Nick Jenkins	Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr Amanda Edgeworth	Deputy Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr Darren Griffiths	DVLA Doctor
Dr Sophie Davies	DVLA Doctor
Dr Stephanie Williams	DVLA Doctor
Dr Rajiv Ghose	DVLA Doctor
Mrs Keya Nicholas	Driver Licensing Policy Lead
Mr Dewi Richards	Driver Licensing Policy
Ms Emma Lewis	Driver Licensing Policy
Mrs Julie Bartlett	Driver Licensing Policy
Mr Richard Davies	Service Management
Mrs Suzanne Richards	Service Management
Mr David Snelling	Policy Team Leader, Road Policing Team, DFT
Mrs Sharon Abbott	Senior Lead of Business & Customer Support
Mrs Siân Taylor	DVLA Panel Coordinator/PA to Senior DVLA Doctor

Important: These advisory notes represent the balanced judgement of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel as a whole. If they are quoted, they should be reproduced as such and not as the views of individual Panel members.



SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from,

Dr Sue Stannard	Chief Medical Advisor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Dr Ed Bebb	Professional Head of Health and Wellbeing Rail Safety and Standards Board

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed panel members and advised attendees regarding the etiquette of digital meetings. Panel members introduced themselves and the panel chair welcomed two new panel members, the meeting commenced.

3. Actions of the previous meeting

- i. **Persistent Alcohol Misuse**
Currently ongoing (discussed under agenda item 6).
- ii. **Medicinal Cannabis / Recreational Cannabis**
An illustrative case was discussed.

SECTION B: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Department for Transport (DfT) Update

DfT provided an update on the Road Safety Strategic Framework, Roads Policing Review Call for Evidence Government Response, and a Call for Evidence on Motoring Offences which are going through the Government approval process. The Motoring Offences Call for Evidence is likely to include issues around drink and drug driving, failing to stop collisions amongst other matters. The Roads Policing Review is a 4-year examination of policing the roads involving DfT, Home Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

The Government response to last year's Drug Driving Call for Evidence will be included in the Government response to the Motoring Offences Call for Evidence.

DfT outlined recent work on dealing with Nitrous Oxide from a roads policing perspective and work on the next generation of drink driving evidential breath testing instruments. The panel chair requested an update in the Autumn panel regarding trends in drug driving offences from DFT and a representative from the Irish Bureau of Road Safety.

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5. Carbohydrate-Deficient Transferrin (CDT) Testing

DVLA asked panel to advise:

- What is the single most appropriate blood marker of alcohol consumption when used as an isolated analysis?

When the result of a CDT test is challenged what analysis would be considered to provide acceptable alternative evidence (either used singly or in combination)? A panel member provided a brief overview of biomarkers of alcohol.

Panel thanked Dr Morley for the presentation. Panel discussed the need to consider other forms of biochemical marker available to DVLA and advised that the current guidance should be reviewed. Panel recommended that a working party should be convened to review processes for the future, including business considerations.

DVLA thanked panel and will review the process and provide an update in the next panel meeting.

6. Persistent Alcohol Misuse

DVLA provided an update on the progress made since the panel meeting in Autumn 2022. A DVLA group has reviewed the data and considered suggestions made at the previous meeting. This work will continue and DVLA will seek advice and guidance from panel members as the work progresses. An update will be provided in the Autumn 2023 meeting.

SECTION C: ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

7. Case Discussion

A case was discussed.

Panel discussed the use of naltrexone in the treatment of alcohol dependence. Panel confirmed this medication is used to maintain abstinence when treating alcohol dependence. Panel members confirmed it is not their usual practice to use this medication to support ongoing alcohol consumption when treating alcohol dependence. It was also confirmed naltrexone is not licensed in the UK to support and control ongoing consumption. There is no evidence to support using naltrexone in this way.

8. Appeals Data

Between 21st September and 10th February, the 193 appeals were received; of these 96 cases were Alcohol and Drug related with 1 appeal being upheld.

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9. AOB

The panel chair meeting will be held in Great Minister House, London on the 8th of June 2023.

10. Tests, Horizon Scanning, Research and Literature

DVLA reminded all panel members as part of the Terms and Conditions and of their obligation to update panel about any information/tests/research that could impact on standards or existing processes.

11. Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2023

Original draft minutes prepared by:

**Sian Taylor
Note Taker
Date: 24th March 2023**

Final minutes signed off by:

**Professor E Gilvarry
Panel Chair
Date: 5th May 2023**

**THE DVLA WILL CONSIDER THE ADVICE PROVIDED BY THE PANEL
AND NO CHANGES TO STANDARDS WILL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE
IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND ROAD SAFETY IS FULLY ASSESSED.**

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