



Department of Health & Social Care

Minutes – Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances

11 and 12 March 2024 | By teleconference

Attendees:

Alison Smith (AS) – Chair	Stewart Larkin (SL)
Rosemary Stennett (RS)	[REDACTED]
Andrea Hilton (AH)	Amit Arora (AA)
Emma Emmerson (EM)	Ghazala Yousuf (GY)
Sarah Britton (SB)	Ian White (IW)
Natalie Yerlett (NY)	Stephen Lewis (SL)
Clare Denning (CD)	Emilie Walters (EW)
Charlotte Ellerton (CE)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	Anne Daly (AD)

Apologies:

Una Cuthbert (UC)

1. Introductions and apologies

There were apologies from Una Cuthbert. [REDACTED] was introduced as the new lead for the Nutrition Legislation Team at DHSC.

2. Declaration of interests

AS read out the declaration of interests. The interests declared are at appendix A.

3. Minutes of the 11 November 2023 meeting

The minutes were agreed and ratified.

4. Business

a. Goodbyes (Alison Smith)

Emma Emmerson and Natalie Yerlett are both leaving the committee. Emma has served on the committee since 2016. Natalie is leaving to undertake a PhD. Emma and Natalie were thanked for their time and supporting the committee.

[Post-meeting note: Una Cuthbert has also decided to leave the committee following a relocation to Ireland. Una has served on the committee for 10 years.]

b. Patient Safety Audit (Alison Smith)

AS mentioned that she and [REDACTED] had met with [REDACTED] (Patient Safety Lead at NHSE) to discuss the patient safety concerns that had been linked to LASA errors which were raised in the ONS consultation response. It has been agreed that NHSE and the BDA will lead work to conduct short-term a period prevalence study to better understand these safety risks. The intention is to report back on this work in the autumn.

Additionally, [REDACTED] mentioned that the ONS consultation response had finally been completed and sent to the minister.

c. BNF Categorisation (Alison Smith)

AS informed the group that the BNF has started work to recategorise nutritional borderline substances to align with the work already completed by NHS Business Services Authority. The changes are being made incrementally and will take a year before being fully implemented by the end of 2024.

d. Meeting for March 2025 [REDACTED]

The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting for 10 and 11 March 2025.

e. Changing the way, we work [REDACTED]

At the last ACBS meeting in November 2023, [REDACTED] put a proposal to the committee that ACBS might want to consider a different operating model so that the committee is more effective in achieving our long term aims. The committee agreed in principle at that meeting that a new model could focus more on providing advice and guidance to the system.

[REDACTED] presented an updated proposal to the committee. The model proposes that ACBS stops or significantly reduces its operational functions of reviewing individual applications for products. This change aims to create capacity so ACBS can focus on producing advice and guidance to the system. The aim of the advice and guidance should be to resolve policy issues and improve the consistency of products and their route to market. [REDACTED] clarified that the remit of the committee in policy-making would only be to advise the department, and the department would likely need to seek other expertise before putting recommendations to ministers. To achieve these outputs, the model also proposes to broaden the skillset of the committee and emphasises collaboration with other committees, the NHS and external stakeholders.

The committee broadly agreed with this model. However, they felt there was still a need to review some products. These would likely be type 1 products.

❖ [REDACTED] to further develop a new operating model in time for the July ACBS meeting.

5. Product submissions

Product submissions were discussed. A record of this conversation is at appendix B.

6. Application form amendments

No amendments were proposed.

7. Submissions processed mid-term

Appendix 2 of the meeting papers provided detail on the submissions processed mid-term. No amendments or comments were raised.

Table of actions

Action	Responsible
❖ Further develop a new operating model in time for the July ACBS meeting.	█

Appendix A – Declarations of interest

Name	Name of organisation	Nature of interest
Emily Walters	BDA	Professional Committee (Chair)
Emily Walters	BAPEN	Malnutrition Officer – this is a voluntary role with expenses provided to attend meetings including BAPEN conference in November 2024.

* Resubmission