



Department of Health & Social Care

Minutes – Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances

10 and 11 November 2025 | By teleconference

Attendees:

Alison Smith (AS) - Chair
Amit Arora (AA)
Anne Daly (AD)
Clare Denning (CD)
Charlotte Ellerton (CE)
Charlotte Howard (CH)
Ghazala Yousuf (GY)

Ian White (IW)
Jas Khambh (JK)
Lauren McVeigh (LM)
Sarah Britton (SB)

Apologies:

Stephen Lewis (SL)
Emily Walters (EW)
Clare Denning (CD)

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies are listed above. SB, LM, JK left the meeting early on Monday.

AS announced the end of terms for SL, EW, and AA, noting this was their final meeting, and anticipated the upcoming recruitment campaign for their specialisms.

2. Declarations of Interest.

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

3. Minutes of the 15 July 2025 meeting

The minutes were agreed and ratified.

❖ Secretariat to redact and publish the minutes.

4. Business

a. ACBS Recruitment campaign

■ informed the Committee that ACBS will be launching a recruitment campaign this week to address upcoming vacancies and improve the committee's capacity. ■ reminded that current co-opted members should apply for full membership. ACBS is particularly interested in attracting applicants with expertise in gastroenterology, IMDs, general practice, ketogenic, and geriatrics.

- ❖ Secretariat to circulate the recruitment advert to Committee members once live.
- ❖ Committee members to share the recruitment advert within their professional networks and relevant dietetic groups.
- ❖ Co-opted members to apply for full Committee membership.

b. ACBS Application form revision

■ announced that work on revising the ACBS application form will commence shortly, with preparations in progress to establish collaborative working groups alongside industry partners. ■

Committee members are strongly encouraged to put themselves forward for these groups. AS underlined the necessity of strong ACBS representation in engagement with industry during this process. The Chair clarified that immediate volunteering is not required during the meeting and that those interested in participating are welcome to contact the Secretariat directly.

- ❖ Members wishing to volunteer should notify the Secretariat, who will confirm participation.
- ❖ Once volunteers are confirmed, the Secretariat will coordinate with BSNA to schedule the first working group meetings.

c. Position statement on protein and ONS (Sarah Britton)

The Secretariat provided an update on the position statement regarding the use of high-protein oral nutritional supplements (ONS) for adults. The statement is currently undergoing peer review ■

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■ ■ if any significant changes are suggested that would materially alter the committee's previously agreed content, the updated statement will be redistributed to the committee for further review. If no major modifications are required, the draft will move forward without additional committee consultation. The committee agreed to proceed this way. Prior to publication, the finalized statement will be shared with BSNA for industry input.

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- ❖ Chair and SB to review and address all feedback on the draft.
- ❖ BS to share the final version of the statement to BSNA for comments before publication.
- ❖ ■

d. ■

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[REDACTED]

e. **British Inherited Metabolic Disease Group (BIMDG) position statement (Alison Smith)**

AS reported that BIMDG had submitted a revised position statement to ACBS. The original position statement was agreed 2 years ago after recruitment challenges for acceptability studies of metabolic condition products were reviewed and BIMDG collaborated with ACBS to set realistic recruitment targets for these studies. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AD elaborated on the rationale behind the position statement, emphasising that conducting acceptability studies is a complex and resource-intensive process. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CE raised concerns regarding the lack of recruitment from adult centres, despite the products being indicated for both children and adults. It was noted that companies have tended to focus recruitment efforts on children's centres, potentially limiting the quality of research and suggesting insufficient effort to engage adult participants.

AS suggested convening a meeting with BIMDG representatives to further explore these concerns, specifically to assess whether companies are making sufficient efforts to recruit participants from adult centres. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- ❖ AD to share relevant contacts with the Secretariat to facilitate the meeting.
- ❖ Arrange a meeting with BIMDG representatives to discuss recruitment challenges and clarify company responsibilities.

f. **ACBS refresh presentation ([REDACTED])**

[REDACTED] highlighted that, with new members set to join and no prior formal induction having taken place, a dedicated induction presentation has been developed to ensure all members are fully briefed and aligned and working from the same understanding going forward.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

d. Meeting date for November 2026 [REDACTED]
 The committee agreed to set a meeting for 16 and 17 November 2026 and for 9 and 10 March 2026.

❖ Secretariat to put the meeting dates in diaries and update the schedule on Gov.UK

- 5. Product submissions**
 Product submissions were discussed. A record of this conversation is at appendix B.
- 6. 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
Secretariat to redact and publish the minutes	Secretariat
Secretariat to circulate the recruitment advert to Committee members once live	Secretariat
Committee members to share the recruitment advert within their professional networks and relevant dietetic groups	ACBS
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Meet with BIMDG representatives to discuss recruitment challenges and clarify company responsibilities	[REDACTED] & AS
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Appendix A – Declarations of interest

Name	Name of organisation	Nature of interest
Anne Daly	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Undertaken research / present at meetings Any funds are given to the hospital not kept in person
Clare Denning	[REDACTED]	Attending [REDACTED] to present a poster which has been created alongside [REDACTED] as part of our contract at [REDACTED]. They are also funding my conference fee and travel expenses
Alison Smith		No interests to declare
Charlotte Ellerton	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	I was asked to give a lecture regarding transition for the [REDACTED] Module 4 course. A speakers fee was paid for the lecture
Charlotte Howard	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] funded travel, accommodation and attendance fees for "[REDACTED] Conference in [REDACTED]". No money received personally.
Charlotte Ellerton	[REDACTED]	I was invited to give a presentation at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The honorarium payment for developing the presentation will be donated to a charity supporting individuals living with metabolic disorders
Charlotte Ellerton	[REDACTED]	I participated as a speaker in an international educational webinar discussing adult dietary management of urea cycle disorders. The honorarium payment for developing the webinar content will be donated to a charity supporting individuals

Appendix B – Product submissions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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