



Professor Les Iversen  
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs  
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30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Professor Iversen,

Thank you for your letter to the Home Secretary of 29 May with the Advisory Council's advice on the "benzofury" and the "NBOMe" compounds.

Your letter provides a careful consideration of the available evidence concerning the use and physical harms of these substances for the purpose of advice on temporary control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. May I thank you for acknowledging the contribution made by our Drugs Early Warning System and our Forensic Early Warning System.

I am pleased to accept the ACMD's recommendations and confirm that a temporary class drug order for the 4 "benzofury" substances including 5- and 6- APB and the 4 "NBOMe" compounds including 25I-NBOMe will be made shortly. The advice regarding the NBOMe substances which you describe as highly potent hallucinogens with the associated risk of overdose, especially with in powder or liquid form, is of particular concern.

Together with the Department of Health we will update public health information available on FRANK in relation to these substances to raise health warnings and awareness messages on their harms. In addition, the Department of Health and Public Health England will communicate the health risks through appropriate NHS and DH channels to NHS staff and other local healthcare professionals.

The next step in this process is for the ACMD to undertake a full assessment of harms of these substances for consideration in relation to permanent control under the 1971 Act. I ask that the ACMD now undertake that review. I am conscious that further advice should be provided in a timescale that, if appropriate, will enable us to have completed the parliamentary process for permanent control within the 12 months from the making of the current order. My officials will be happy to guide you further on these timings.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Browne MP  
Minister of State