



Home Office

Sarah Newton MP
Minister for Vulnerability,
Safeguarding and Countering
Extremism

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Dr Owen Bowden Jones
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
2 Marsham Street
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3rd February 2017

Dear Owen,

ACMD further advice on U47,700 and the designer benzodiazepines including etizolam

I am grateful for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' latest advice on the appropriate classification and scheduling for U47,700 and the designer benzodiazepines, which I accept in full. I do however ask that you keep the scheduling of the designer benzodiazepines under close review given that etizolam has been identified to demonstrate some therapeutic benefits in other countries, including Italy.

I remain concerned about the harms associated with these substances both in the community and custodial settings and the Home Office will prioritise work to permanently control these substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Whilst permanent control is coming into effect, these substances will remain captured under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA). We will continue to ensure that law enforcement have prompt access to the necessary evidence on these substances to support any prosecutions under the PSA.

In addition, Home Office officials circulated information on the harms associated with these substances to key partners before the Christmas period, including the police; Public Health England (PHE); the Drugs Early Warning System Network; and forensic providers. We will continue to review the feedback received and if necessary will circulate further information to the relevant networks.

I look forward to working with you to continue to tackle the harms caused by drugs including new psychoactive substances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Newton MP