

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MISUSE OF DRUGS

(97th Meeting)

Wednesday 6th March 2023 2.00pm MS Teams

PART A

In attendance –

[Redacted]	Chief Probation Officer, and Chair
[Redacted]	Chief Pharmacist
[Redacted]	Head of Public Health
[Redacted]	Official Analyst
[Redacted]	pharmacist.
[Redacted]	Director of Customs, and Immigration.
[Redacted]	Legal Adviser.
[Redacted]	Consultant Psychiatrist HSS
[Redacted]	States of Jersey Police
[Redacted]	Clerk

Note: The minutes of this meeting comprise of Part A and Part B

Declaration of interests.

A1. No further declarations were made.

Minutes.

A2. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 were accepted.

Apologies.

A3. Apologies were received from all members not present.

[Redacted]

PART B

Matters Arising

The chair wrote to the former Health Minister in relation to the Council's concern over the cannabis prescription audit presented by [Redacted] but had no response. The Council agreed that [Redacted] should write to the new minister with a very similar letter.

[Redacted] informed the Council that the changes to legislation agreed at the last meeting were now complete and were with the Health Minister for consideration.

asked whether letters had been sent to the Health Minister regarding the Cannabis Agency. The Chair stated had included that in letter to the former Minister, with no response, and would include it in letter to the new Health Minister. The Chair asked if there had been any development regarding the Cannabis Agency.

stated there hadn't but the former Minister concluded that it should consist of the Chief Pharmacist, someone from Customs and someone from the SoJP and contingent on compliance officers in support of this group. added that ultimately it was a Ministerial decision as to how these licensing decisions are made,

added that the new Health Minister had not reached any conclusions as to what the licensing process should be and was talking appropriate advice. In response to , who asked where the resources for compliance officers would come from, passed on that was given assurance by Economic Development that funding would be available. explained that there were two funding resource issues, the one for policy officers had been agreed in the Government Plan, and the other for compliance officers which remained unclear.

asked how many cannabis licences had been issued and what enforcement was in place. updated with the information gave at the previous meeting.

B1. Ministerial Cannabis Policy Group update

informed the Council that the Cannabis Ministerial Policy Group would be going ahead which included ministers from Health (as lead), Home Affairs, Economy, and Environment. They will meet within the month to confirm the terms of reference. Once established they will proceed to publish the results of the prescribing audit and organise a debate on the decriminalisation of cannabis.

B2. Cannabis Consensus Statement

[REDACTED]

asked what the purpose of a Consensus Statement was. stated that it was a guidance statement intended for the general public, although the document might be incorporated into

legislation in the future. It would be used to outline the government stance and to clarify legal issues and dispel some of the myths. [redacted] expressed concerns as to the Council's role in producing this statement if it was a government document.

[redacted] agreed with [redacted] and added that from HCS perspective, unlicensed CBPMs were not available and only supplied privately, and so making that clear would be useful. [redacted] added that Nabilone (a licensed CBPM) was no longer available, and therefore should not be named. The concerns were about where the statement was coming from and who should be approving it. [redacted] suggested that now the Cannabis Policy Group had been established they would take ownership and the Council would advise.

[redacted] asked how government policy dovetails with the presumptive figure of 7-10 thousand people being prescribed medicinal cannabis. [redacted]

[redacted] added that policy needed to be formulated regarding hospital patients who were prescribed CBPMs. [redacted] suggested that we might need a series of policy documents rather than a single consensus statement and added that we might also need a follow up research to establish how the prescribing details had changed.

The Chair summarised the issues into two points: firstly, who does the consensus statement go to and who is it from, [redacted]

The Council agreed that more work needed to be done on the Consensus Statement and so formed a sub-group consisting of [redacted]. [redacted] would email the group with the latest version of the statement.

B3. CBD products and imports.

[redacted]

FOI 7272388457

The Council agreed that the Chair would include these concerns in his letter to the Health Minister and make the salient points expressed.

B5. Shipman 25 years later.



Shipman - 25 years later.doc

referred to the paper produced for the last meeting which included recommendations considered by the Council several years ago and amendments made to the legislation (section 1.4). However, noted that there still remained issues which had not been addressed

asked

what role of the Council had in determining such policy considerations. The Chair suggested that we might follow the stance of the UK's Care Quality Commission (CQC) in having a self-assessment with regard to best practice and the Council would then be better placed to advise on the basis of the evidence obtained. reminded the Council of the work done by Imperial college (Responding to Drug Use in Jersey findings and outcomes from a multimethod rapid assessment 2009 - below) and suggested that external assessors might be more useful in getting information given the reluctance to talk to local assessors. said that funding for this cam from the Drug Trafficking Confiscation Fund now the Crime Offences Confiscation Fund. suggested that this was the perfect way to utilise these funds.



Responding to Drug Use in Jersey 1

The Chair suggested that there might be reciprocal work with Guernsey and the Isle of Man. thought this could be a possibility but emphasised that this concerned diversion of legitimate rather than illicit drugs. suggested that this research could be part of a wider look at drug use in Jersey to fit in with the work of Building a Safer Community.

The Council agreed to form a sub-group of the Chair, [redacted] and [redacted] and report back to the Council.

B6. Update from British Irish Council Ministerial meeting (Nitazenes and Forward Workplan)



ACMD 6th
March.pptx

[redacted] present a PowerPoint of a recent meeting of the British and Irish Council Forward workplan. [redacted] noted that Jersey, along with Scotland, would be leading on “Health-led approaches to sanctions for people in possession of drugs for personal use”. He noted the issues arising from synthetic opiates (nitazenes/benzimidazole opioids) including a plan for the outbreak of such drugs. The Chair asked if [redacted] would deal with the operational side of this to which [redacted] agreed. [redacted]

[redacted] The Chair agreed to alert the Minister to this issue and that a legislative proposal would be forthcoming from the Chief Pharmacist.

A4. AOB



A5. Date of next meeting. 13th June 2.30pm via Teams.

