

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MISUSE OF DRUGS

(98th Meeting)

14 June 2024 2.30 pm MS Teams

PART A

In attendance –

- Chief Probation Officer, and Chair
- Chief Pharmacist
- Public Health
- Acting Official Analyst
- pharmacist.
- Director of Customs, and Immigration.
- Legal Adviser
- Legal Adviser
- Consultant Psychiatrist HSS
- Hospital Consultant

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 6 March 2024 were accepted.

Apologies.

A3. Apologies were received from all members not present.

join

PART B

Matters Arising

The chair informed the Council he had written to the Minister about the prescribed cannabis audit, the Cannabis Agency and psilocybin governance. No response forthcoming yet although acknowledgement that letter had been received.

reported that he will share an invitation to attend a British Irish Council webinar on novel synthetic opioids. It is on 4th July

B1. Council membership

The Chair stated that the Bailiff would be looking to formalise appointments shortly. confirmed he would be happy to be proposed. Other names mentioned were and . Chair will write to them.

B2. Cannabis Decriminalisation proposition

The Council discussed the proposition that will be discussed later in the month. There was overall concern that not all the ramifications had been considered including:

- The proposition excluded children
- Importation and supply would still be illegal- could be counterproductive and confusing.
- Relationships with other countries
- Legal responsibilities under international law
- Effects on mental health

In summary, the Chair agreed to write to the Minister urging that more reflection was needed before the proposition was accepted or otherwise.

B3.Cannabis Consensus statement .

There has been ongoing work on this. The point was raised as to whether it should be referred to as a consensus statement or a statement from public health. It was agreed that public health and health policy officers would agree it, share it with the Council for endorsement before being signed off by the Ministerial Cannabis group.

B4. Managing controlled drugs

The Council agreed that the Chair should write to [redacted] policy officer, to discuss policy considerations for introducing policy in relation to controlled drugs, [redacted]

Date of next meeting. 7th October 2.30pm Official Analyst's Office