

MISUSE OF DRUGS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(80th Meeting)

Tuesday 12th December 2017 held [REDACTED]

PART B

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

B1 .Matters arising from Part B:

The Council noted the matters arising from its meeting held on 21st July 2017 would be dealt with at the next meeting, and today they would be focusing solely on the issue of medicinal cannabis.

B2. Medicinal Cannabis

The Chair informed the Council that following its initial advice to the Minister, a further request was made regarding which medicinal cannabis products should be rescheduled. [REDACTED] stated that he had tried to source medicinal products, and while there were very many products available on the market only two manufacturers met with GMP standards: [REDACTED] produces a variety of formulations in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] company. He approached both companies to enquire whether they would export their products to Jersey, but only received a response from [REDACTED] who are able to do so. [REDACTED] also suggested that [REDACTED] might be setting up production in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] had applied for a licence for a new product in [REDACTED] and he stated he would ask if they would supply to Jersey; they would be the preferred option as they produce licenced products.

(Post meeting note – a response has now been received from [REDACTED] who have indicated that they could supply their products subject to the necessary import/export authorisations)

[REDACTED] confirmed that this was the latest situation, but that Sativex and Nabilone were currently licensed for specific conditions, and that there was an argument that that these should be used before any unlicensed product as there would be no need to change the law. However, the patient would still have to pay. He suggested that the HSS department would need to consider whether they would consider funding such drugs.

[REDACTED] asked whether [REDACTED] products were licenced anywhere. [REDACTED] stated that they were not, but they were considered to be medicines because they are being used for a medicinal purpose.

[REDACTED] added that he had received a list of questions from the UK's Drugs and Firearms Licencing group regarding importation into Jersey, but could not respond until a decision had been made. They also suggested that we import into Jersey without going via the UK as they would not be keen to be a transit point.

[REDACTED] explained that the legal position regarding medicinal cannabis had changed a couple of years ago whereby Sativex can be legally prescribed under a private prescription. Regarding these new formulations she suggested they could be handled similarly and legalisation could be achieved quickly by order of the Minister.

[REDACTED] asked who should be permitted to prescribe and import medicinal cannabis. The Council agreed that importation should be limited to the Hospital Pharmacy, and prescription restricted to Hospital Consultants.

■ expressed concerns over those people who had been prescribed medicinal cannabis in other jurisdictions and who might travel to Jersey, and the potential for diversion. ■ explained that there was a limit on the quantity of controlled drugs prescribed in other jurisdictions which can be imported into Jersey by individual travelling to the Island (under the Open General Licence) except for methadone and buprenorphine which required a special licence to import into Jersey. ■ explained that the OGL only covered personal importation and not importation via the post, and Jersey people would be stopped on entry to the UK if carrying Jersey prescribed medicinal cannabis.

The Council discussed whether medicinal cannabis should be prescribed for specific conditions, but left the matter open for further discussion. It did, however, recommend that the use of licenced product should be exhausted before off-licence products were used.

■ suggested the Council go through the questions posed by the Home Office, but no conclusive answers could be given until the Minister had made his decision.