

MISUSE OF DRUGS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(45<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

13<sup>th</sup> April 2006

**PART B**

In attendance –

[redacted], Committee Clerk

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

**Confidential exemption 3.2 (a)(xiv)**  
Matters arising

- B1. The Committee noted the following matters arising from its meeting held on 18th September 2003.
- a. **Educating young people on the health risks of cannabis, and the Health Promotion Unit's drug awareness programmes** - The Assistant Director of Public Health, [redacted], informed the Council of the continuing range of activities which are being undertaken to educate young people of the risks of using cannabis. These include the AWARE campaign; the whatabout.je website which clarifies the law and highlights dangers; general information through personal and social health articles; teachers trained to a national standard; and leaflets given to parents. Council noted that the Alcohol and Drug Service sees around 60 young persons a year where the issues are reinforced and it is believed that most are aware that cannabis remains a class B drug in Jersey.
  - b. **The Supply of certain items of drug paraphernalia to drug users** - The Council noted that legislation was now in place regarding this issue. It was further noted that needle sharing had dropped from 90% to 50% in the last five years.
  - c. [redacted]
  - d. **The use and monitoring of drugs in the community** - The Council noted that pharmaceutical recommendations were not the same as the recommendations made by the Shipman Inquiry. [redacted], Pharmacist, informed Council of the report by Liam Donaldson, in the form of advice to ministers, regarding this issue. The Council agreed that the issue would be better addressed in the presence of the Chief Pharmacist at the next meeting.
  - e. **The control of Ketamine on importation** - It was agreed that the Director of the Alcohol & Drug Service would report the issue to the Chief Pharmacist for further clarification at the next meeting.

**Confidential exemption 3.2 (a)(xiv)**  
Re-classification of cannabis

B2. [REDACTED]

The Council agreed to maintain the status quo and retain the classification of cannabis as a class B controlled drug. A formal letter would be sent to Senator Wendy Kinnard (copied to Health and Social Services) regarding this decision.

**Confidential exemption 3.2 (a)(xiv)**  
Clarification of the law regarding computer generated prescriptions in light of the UK legislation

B3. The Council received a request from [REDACTED] (GP) for a clarification of the law regarding computer generated prescriptions in light of the UK legislation. The Council was advised that almost all GP practices in Jersey were now computerised, and yet the legal requirement remained for prescriptions to remain handwritten.

The Council agreed to make the following recommendations to the Health and Social Services Committee:

- a) Controlled drug prescribing must be recorded on an approved (i.e. backed up) computer system in order to maintain a tamper free audit trail.
- b) To allow GPs to write prescriptions on computer.

**Confidential exemption 3.2 (a)(xiv)**  
[REDACTED]

B4. [REDACTED]

**Confidential exemption 3.2 (a)(xiv)**  
Issue of "Doctor shopping"

B5. The Council received an oral report from the [REDACTED] (Assistant Director of Public Health) regarding the issue of "doctor shopping" in Jersey. [REDACTED]

The Council noted that a meeting of concerned professionals had been held to address the issue. Concerns were raised as to whether the Pink List, containing the names of registered drug addicts, was Human Rights compliant. It was suggested that individual registration with GPs might be one solution, although this was not favoured by the profession.

The Council agreed to monitor the situation, and the Chief Pharmacist should advise the Medical Officer of Health of her responsibility to intervene with errant GPs.

**Any other Business**

1. [redacted] expressed his concerns to the Council over the increased abuse of the drug fentanyl. He asked whether it could be added to the Misuse of Drugs (Addicts) (Jersey) Order 1980. The Council agreed, but felt it should first be brought to the attention of the Chief Pharmacist.

[redacted] further voiced concerns over the prescribing patterns of the drug. After discussing the best way to address the problem it was agreed that [redacted] would highlight the problem to Social Security, who provide the statistics, and that they should make enquiries.

2. The Council confirmed that GHB was now classified as a class C drug in under Jersey Law.

3. [redacted] asked whether an increase in the amount of buprenorphine that can be imported into Jersey without a licence could be increased from 18mg to 140mg. Council agreed that this should be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

4. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]