

MISUSE OF DRUGS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(84th Meeting)

Thursday 11th June 2020 2.30pm MS Teams

PART A

In attendance –

[redacted] Chief Probation Officer, and Chairperson
[redacted], Consultant Psychiatrist HSS
[redacted], Director Alcohol and Drug Service
[redacted], Legal Adviser
– Attorney General
[redacted], Chief Pharmacist
[redacted], Director Customs and Immigration
[redacted] A&E Consultant
– Official Analyst
[redacted], Detective Chief Inspector States of Jersey Police
[redacted], A/DI States of Jersey Police
[redacted], General Practitioner.
[redacted], Clerk

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

- Minutes. **A1.** The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2018 were accepted.
- Apologies. **A.** Apologies were received from the following [redacted] (arriving late), [redacted] and [redacted]
- Matters Arising. **A3.** [redacted] welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the new Chairperson. Given that the last meeting was in November 2018 there were no matters arising to be considered at this point.

A4. Non-Medical Prescribing of Controlled Drugs (Appendix 1).

[redacted] brought this proposition and stated that the Medicines Law had been amended last year to widen the list of prescribers, but this still required changes to the Misuse of Drugs Law to enable this to take effect with respect to controlled drugs. [redacted] reassured the Council that this was consistent with the view of the States Assembly, but questioned the suitability of these additional prescribers. [redacted] confirmed that they were required to undertake further training and required local registration, in addition to registration as a prescriber by the relevant UK professional regulatory body, and that these conditions were more stringent than in the UK. He also confirmed that they would be receiving all the information regarding the prevention of diversion.

The Council agreed to adopt the proposition unanimously

[redacted] arrives

B1. Proposal to remove Cannabis and related substances from the Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order 1989 (Appendix 2).

brought this proposition in light of the increasing evidence of the medicinal value of Cannabis and related substances. Currently controlled under the 1989 Order whereby activity is limited to authority of a licence issued by the Minister of Health and Social Services, and restricted to research or other special purpose. His proposal was to consider whether or not to remove it from control under the 1989 Order, and to further consider whether or not move it from Schedule 1 to a Schedule 2 substance under the Misuse of Drugs (General Provisions) (Order) 2009 given that Schedule 1 substance were generally recognised as having no therapeutic use.

expressed concerns about departing from the UK equivalent legislation without discussing the possible consequences of such a change. He also questioned whether, as Jersey was not a State and that under the Convention (Single convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961), we would be out of step with the UK. stated that we were already different to the UK in the GPs were allowed to prescribe cannabis in Jersey. also expressed concerns about departing from the UK standpoint stating that every time we did so we put our international obligations in doubt.

stated that by keeping these substances in Schedule 1 it would mean that all activities would remain unlawful other than in accordance with a licence and that therefore, in his view, the obligations under the UN convention to control the use of these substances would still be met; however, he expressed concerns over the ambiguous term “special purpose” which was not defined, and that the UK had only ever issued a licence for research purposes. agreed with the proposal stating that there was clear evidence of the medicinal use of cannabis.

reassured that there would be no change regarding the importation process. He also reassured that there would be no change to offences to activities which were not licenced.

He explained further that should the Council decide to retain control Schedule 1 of the 2009 Order he would request adopting the UK definition of cannabis based products for medicinal use (CBPMs) and placing them in Schedule 2.

CV

The Council agreed to remove Cannabis and related products from the control of the 1989 Order, but retain it in Schedule 1 of the 2009 Order and adopt the UK (CBPM) definition.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

AOB

1. [REDACTED] highlighted the constitution of the group and asked whether the Council's terms of reference should be reviewed given the passage of time since the last meeting. He stressed that the constitution may remain fit for purpose.
2. [REDACTED] suggested that the Council should maintain quarterly meetings with the option of an ad hoc meeting should the need arise. The Council agreed.

Next meeting: [REDACTED] thanked everyone and suggested a meeting in late September with a date to be confirmed.