



03 July 2014

Dear Colleague,

The National Assembly for Wales' Health and Social Care Committee is undertaking an **inquiry into new psychoactive substances ("legal highs")**.

The Committee will consider the following areas as part of its inquiry:

- How to raise awareness of the harms associated with the use of legal highs among the public and those working in the relevant public services.
- The capacity of local services across Wales to raise awareness of – and deal with the impact of – the harms associated with the use of legal highs.
- The effectiveness of data collection and reporting on the use of legal highs in Wales and their effects.
- The possible legislative approaches to tackling the issue of legal highs, at both Welsh Government and UK Government level.
- How effectively a partnership approach to tackling the issue of legal highs in Wales is being coordinated, both within Wales and between the Welsh and UK Governments.
- International evidence on approaches taken to legal highs in other countries.

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8403
E-bost / Email: HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

To note: New psychoactive substances (often referred to as “legal highs”) are drugs which have been synthesised to mimic the effects of illegal drugs and which are sought for intoxicant use. Because they are newly created, they are not automatically controlled under drugs legislation (in the UK, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971). The term may also include substances of herbal origin (“herbal highs”).

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

To inform the inquiry the Committee would welcome your views in relation to the terms of reference set out above. Responses will be collated and analysed, and will inform oral evidence sessions with relevant bodies and individuals, scheduled to take place in autumn 2014.

A list of those to whom this consultation has been sent is attached at the Annex to this letter. If you are aware of other individuals or organisations who may be interested in responding to this consultation, please do draw this letter to their attention.

The Committee welcomes evidence from both individuals and organisations. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

Generally, we ask for submissions to be made in writing, because it is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee on our internet site so that it becomes part of the public record. However, we are also able to accept evidence in audio or video format. The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh, and we ask organisations with Welsh Language policies / schemes to provide bilingual responses, where applicable, in line with their public information policies.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to **HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk**. Alternatively, you can write to: Committee Clerk, Health and Social Care Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by Friday 26 September 2014. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

Submissions should:

- be no longer than five sides of A4;
- contain numbered paragraphs;
- (if submitted electronically) should preferably be Word documents, not pdf files; and
- should focus on the terms of reference outlined above.

Disclosure of Information

You can find further details about how we will use your information at <http://www.assemblywales.org/help/privacy/help-inquiry-privacy.htm>.

Please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM
Chair

Annex

This consultation has been sent to the following individuals and organisations. If you are aware of other individuals or organisations who may be interested in responding to this consultation, please do draw this letter to their attention.

- Academy of Royal Colleges
- Angelus Foundation
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
- Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW)
- Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS)
- Association of School and College Leaders
- Auditor General for Wales
- British Medical Association Wales
- Cais
- Children's Commissioner for Wales
- College of Paramedics
- Community Health Councils
- Community Pharmacy Wales
- Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)
- DrugScope
- Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales
- General Medical Council
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Kaleidoscope
- Local authorities, to include:
 - Trading Standards representatives
 - Community Safety Partnerships;
 - Substance Misuse Action Teams
- Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales
- Nacro
- National Association of Head Teachers
- National Association of Probation Officers
- National Institute for Social Care and Health Research
- National Offender Management Service
- Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- Police Federation
- Public Health Wales
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine
- Royal College of GPs
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health

- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians of Glasgow
- Royal College of Physicians of London
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- The Minister for Health and Social Services
- UK Minister, Minister of State for Crime Prevention
- WEDINOS project
- Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care
- Welsh Local Government Association
- Welsh NHS Confederation
- Youth Justice Board
- Youth offending teams