



Home Office

Karen Bradley MP
Minister for Preventing Abuse,
Exploitation and Crime

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Mike Freer MP
House of Commons
London SW1 SW1A 0AA

22 March 2016

Dear Mike,

I write to provide you with an update on the coverage of alkyl nitrites (poppers) under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

You may be aware that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has recently published advice to the Government on the harms and psychoactivity of “poppers” in the context of the Act, pursuant to our request. As indicated in my response to Professor Iversen, the Government position is aligned with that of the ACMD in considering that “poppers” do not fall within the definition of a psychoactive substance under the Act. I attach both the ACMD’s advice and the Government’s response.

This brings to an end the review process we were undertaking in parallel to consider the case for a bespoke exemption for the alkyl nitrites group under the Act on the basis of their beneficial health and relationship effects.

I am grateful for your contributions to the parliamentary debates as the Act progressed through Parliament and for your work to ensure that concerns voiced by our communities were heard and considered by both Government and Parliament.

For the convenience of both Houses, I have arranged for a copy of this letter be placed in both House Libraries.

Yours sincerely

Karen Bradley MP
Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime