



Professor Owen Bowden-Jones
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)
Professor Simon Thomas
Chair, ACMD NPS Committee
C/o ACMD Secretariat
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By email only ACMD@homeoffice.gov.uk

18th October 2023

Dear Owen and Simon,

I thank the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), especially the Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Committee for its consideration of 2-benzyl benzimidazole ('nitazene') and other synthetic opioids. In February 2023 I accepted the recommendation to control these under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 ('the 1971 Act') and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 ('the 2001 Regulations').

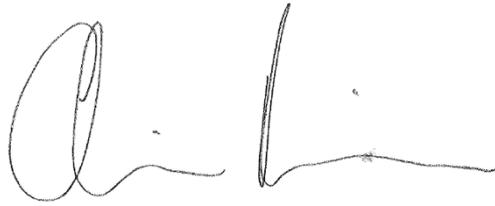
I would like to acknowledge the pace with which the ACMD has considered the detection of four new nitazenes in the UK and provided the revised recommendation for control on 6 October.

I formally accept the ACMD's recommendation to control the below four additional substances as Class A drugs under the 1971 Act and place them in Schedule 1 under the 2001 Regulations. I shall also designate them under the Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (England, Wales and Scotland) Order 2015:

- *N*-Pyrrolidino protonitazene
- Ethyleneoxynitazene
- *N*-Desethyl protonitazene
- *N*-Desethyl etonitazene

I would be grateful if the ACMD could continue to remain vigilant of other emerging synthetic opioids and advise as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'P' and a long horizontal stroke.

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire