

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT'S HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES MISUSE AND DRIVING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th JANUARY 2009 AT 11.00 AM IN ROOM H2, GREAT MINSTER HOUSE, 76 MARSHAM STREET, LONDON

Present: Dr E Gilvarry (Chairperson)
Dr K Checinski
Dr N Sheron
Dr K Wolff

Observer Dr D C Beattie, Medical Adviser, Northern Ireland
Dr P Collins Howgill, Head of Aeromedical Certification, CAA
Dr M Prunty, SMA, Department of Health

Ex Officio Mr A Burr, Road User Safety Division, DfT
Dr T Crayford, Chief Medical Adviser, DfT
Dr H G Major, Senior Medical Adviser & Head of Medical Policy, DVLA
Dr B E Boyd, Panel Secretary, MA

Section A:

1. Introductions

Dr Gilvarry welcomed Dr Tim Crayford, Chief Medical Adviser, DfT.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from; Professor A R W Forrest, Dr A Lowe, Dr P Rice, Dr N Seivewright, Dr A Brind, Mrs P Moberley (Lay member).

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th October 2008

The Minutes of the meeting from the 15th October 2008 were confirmed as being accurate.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Important: These advisory notes represent the balanced judgement of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel as a whole. If they are quoted, they should be reproduced as such and not as the views of individual Panel members.

4.4. Redesigned Forms DG1/DG2

Dr Boyd advised the Panel that the changes recommended at the last meeting had been initiated.

Section B: Ongoing Discussion Topics

5. Discussion of Road Safety Compliance Consultation

5.1. A copy of the consultation document had been circulated previously to all Panel members.

5.2. Mr A Burr made a presentation to the Panel providing an overview of the consultation, with more detailed reference to section 3, Drink Driving and to section 5, Drug Driving. Dr Crayford and Mr Burr left the meeting and the Panel then discussed the proposals raised in the document in some detail. Several Panel members who were unable to attend the meeting in person had contributed comments in writing; these were read out to the meeting and will be reflected in the draft response.

5.3. The Panel will prepare a reply addressing in particular the issues of drink and drug driving. A draft copy will be sent to all Panel members and the agreed final response in the name of the Panel will be submitted before the consultation closes.

6. "The Role of CDT as an alternative to GGT as a marker of continuous drinking" (Update)

The report of this study is at final preparation stage.

Panel will consider its findings further at the next meeting in order to provide informed opinion regarding the potential role of CDT in identifying persistent alcohol misuse relevant to licensing fitness. Panel opinion will be given as to whether CDT measurement would be a useful adjuvant to the current blood parameters (LFTs/MCV measurement), particularly in High Risk Offender cases.

Section C:

7. National Treatment Agency (NTA) Meeting update

Dr Gilvarry reported that there is an agreement with the NTA of the need for a further consensus meeting. This will take place, hopefully, in the Spring of 2009.

Section D:

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Dr Checinski advised the Panel of developments in Undergraduate Medical Education. He planned to bring the “At A Glance Guide” to a meeting of the “Expert Group in Substance Misuse Education in the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum”. This is a Department of Health funded programme hosted by the International Centre for Drug Policy at St George’s University of London. The Panel thanked Dr Checinski for this and asked him to bring the At A Glance Guide to the attention of the trainers and recommended its inclusion in the Undergraduate Curriculum.

8.2. Dr Major will forward a paper on Hepatic Encephalopathy and its possible relationship to road traffic accidents to the expert Panel member for review, ahead of its possible consideration at the next meeting.

8.3 Panel discussed its current complement and range of expertise and considered the benefits of appointing an expert in ethics to enhance its deliberations. Panel members were asked to forward the names of possible nominees to the secretariat or chair.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd September 2009.

DR B E BOYD MB BAO BCh DMRT
Panel Secretary