

# **New Psychoactive Substances**

Laura Jamieson

Policy and Improvement Manager  
Trading Standards Scotland



COSLA

# Trading Standards Scotland

- Trading Standards Scotland's strategic vision is to reduce consumer detriment by undertaking cross border and national consumer casework and coordinating activity in relation to national enforcement priorities in Scotland.
- TSS is also responsible for establishing national enforcement priorities and coordination activity in relation to them.
- We do this via three strands:
- Enforcement.
- Intelligence
- Prevention



# Background

- Often inaccurately known as legal highs;
- Dangerous products sold to consumers with the object of mimicking illegal drugs;
- Openly sold predominantly, although not exclusively, in high street establishments known as 'head shops' as well as through online retailers;
- Labelled as 'not for human consumption' and marked as research chemicals, room deodoriser etc;
- Full knowledge that the products are being consumed for their psychoactive effect and have no utility as per their false descriptions.

# Harms

- 203 deaths between 2009 and 2013 where NPS was present in the bloodstream.
- Wide and concerning array of harms including kidney failure, heart and lung problems, hyperthermia, aggressive and unpredictable behaviour, memory loss and psychosis.
- Addictive and requiring intensive rehabilitation programmes.
- Longer term impacts not fully known.



# But Why?

- Packaging
- Curiosity
- Ease of Access
- Cheap
- Perception of Legality

# Pinterest



new x

psychoactive x

substances x



Laura



from The Huffington Post UK

**New Psychoactive Substances Ban Won't Even Achieve Its Aims**

4



from Motherboard

**Can a Low Dose Go a Long Way?**

The Motherboard Guide to New Psychoactive Substances



Global emergence of new psychoactive substances

2



Nepeta cataria (catnip) is to be banned in the UK under the new Psychoactive Substances Bill.



from Motherboard

**The Motherboard Guide to New Psychoactive Substances**

The Motherboard Guide to New Psychoactive Substances | Motherboard

1 2



from the Guardian

**Forty per cent of drug users trying new psychoactive substances, study shows**

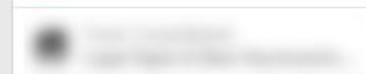
Forty per cent of drug users trying



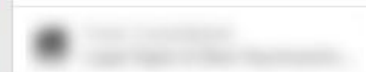
PLAY

New Psychoactive Substances & Early Warning Systems - YouTube

by exchangesupplies.org



New psychoactive substances inquiry announced - UK Parliament



from BBC News

**Legal highs: Psychoactive drugs policy 'rushed', say MPs**

Legislation to ban new psychoactive substances in the UK is being rushed amid a lack of clarity over whether it could actually work, MPs warn.

1



from Motherboard

**The Motherboard Guide to New Psychoactive Substances**





# Psychoactive Substances Bill

- Scottish Government Expert Review Group;
- All-Party Parliamentary Group for Drug Policy Reform;
- Home Office Expert Review Panel

# Psychoactive Substances Bill

The Bill will:

Make it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import or export psychoactive substances; that is, any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

The maximum sentence will be 7 years imprisonment.



# NPS Strategic Working Group

- Scottish Government Expert Review Group
- Established to provide advice to Ministers on the powers available to tackle the sale and supply of NPS
- Acknowledged powers that Trading Standards have that could be considered, in particular the General Product Safety Regulations (2005)
- Recommended that a toolkit providing operational guidance to assist frontline Trading Standards staff in tackling NPS be produced to ensure consistency of enforcement action.

# Guidance for Trading Standards


- Covers applicable laws, partnership working and focusses primarily on GPSRs.
- Launched on 15 September 2015.



# Intelligence

- Beginning to establish a clearer intelligence picture.
- However key intelligence gaps remain.
- Seeking to overcome this by carrying out a joint project between the national team and Trading Standards services across Scotland.

# Online Availability

 ACCOUNT

 CART

Search for legal highs...



Legal Highs with Free Delivery over £30.

HERBAL INCENSE

RESEARCH CHEMICALS

LEGAL PELLETS

LIQUIDS

SALVIA

BULK

NEW

PODCAST

**FREE DELIVERY**  
FOR ALL ORDERS OVER £30

**GUARANTEED  
NEXT DAY**  
AVAILABLE BEFORE 3PM

**FULLY SECURE**

HOME / HERBAL INCENSE / CLOCKWORK ORANGE



**CLOCKWORK ORANGE** £7.99

★★★★★

When a cool, crisp scent is called for, Clockwork Orange answers. So potent a fragrance it can really relax you. Free your time with incense that takes control on impact. Clockwork Orange brings introspection, enhanced thought, and energised motivation. Best to get to grips with this soothing stimulation in a social circle, and talk the night away without the drowsiness other herbal incenses may bring, or employ it as part of your meditation routine.

Weight\*

Choose an Option...

Qty:

1

ADD TO CART



# Reviews

CUSTOMER REVIEWS 18 ITEM(S)

## GUARANTEED RESULTS TIME AND TIME AGAIN :)

hits you right in the sweet spot :) always reliable, short lived leaving you mellowed and sociable :) enjoy :)

★★★★★

Review by midnightblue / (Posted on 22/07/2015)

## BARBARIC

u only need a little

★★★★★

Review by me / (Posted on 19/07/2015)

## BOTH NICE I LOVE THE ORIGINAL

Next day delivery made things easy

★★★★★

Review by daniel / (Posted on 12/02/2015)

## GOOOOOD

got me going for 76hrs staight!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

★★★★★



# Prevention

Two main strands:

- Residential and Secure Care Sector
- Colleges



# Contact Details

Laura Jamieson

Policy and Improvement Manager

[laura@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:laura@cosla.gov.uk)

0141 577 3364

0778 598 7275