

Dr Polly Taylor
European Veterinary specialist in Anaesthesia

Home Secretary [REDACTED]

Home Office [REDACTED]

2 Marsham Street [REDACTED]

London SW1P 4AA [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary of State [REDACTED]

I am writing to resign my position as independent scientific adviser on the Misuse of Drugs [REDACTED]

When you met with the ACMD [REDACTED] in November 2009, many of us [REDACTED] were present, and our joint concerns over actions by the Government culminated in a letter from our chairman, Professor David Nutt. Professor Nutt was asked to withdraw his content of a lecture he gave on his area of expertise and what the Government had given on the appropriate classification of cannabis [REDACTED] which he had rejected. Two of our members, Dr Les Wilson and Dr [REDACTED] pre-empted.

At that meeting, you were unable to give us the necessary assurances [REDACTED] that no科學 advice would be given in future and three further members [REDACTED] Dr Jetta Marsden and Dr Jani Kagan resigned. Others of us on the ACMD [REDACTED] the Government's response to the principles for the development of scientific advice [REDACTED] been drawn up by the scientific [REDACTED] community and endorsed by several ACMD members [REDACTED]

The Government's first response, published [REDACTED] December, was rightly [REDACTED] appeared to justify ministers' appointment and dismissal of independent scientific advisers according to 'trust' which is an arbitrary [REDACTED] objective [REDACTED] matter. The requirement [REDACTED] as advisers [REDACTED] was to comply [REDACTED] with the Code of Practice for Advisory Committees, and not to make up the [REDACTED] in favour of [REDACTED] ministers and its communication. Several of us who have written to ministers and advisers [REDACTED] did the ACMD's contribution [REDACTED] to the Government's [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] points will be made by the Science and Technology Select Committee in [REDACTED] Government.

I am therefore giving you notice of my resignation from the ACMD [REDACTED] three months from the publication [REDACTED] this week of a final [REDACTED] requirement that 'independent' [REDACTED] backed up by [REDACTED] against [REDACTED] Irrespective of whether the code of practice has been complied with.

I feel that there is [REDACTED] more we can do to describe the importance of ensuring that advice is not subject to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to please [REDACTED] ministers or the mood of [REDACTED]

I am very [REDACTED] proud of the high standard of work achieved by [REDACTED] The ACMD [REDACTED] confidence in my colleagues [REDACTED] and Prof. Charles Easton, Prof. Les Ivenson, and [REDACTED] regret that I feel [REDACTED] need to express my lack of confidence in the way that [REDACTED]

I feel that there [REDACTED] is little more we can do to describe the importance of ensuring that advice is not subject to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to please [REDACTED] ministers or the mood of [REDACTED]

I am very [REDACTED] professional [REDACTED] and I have always had the highest regard for the [REDACTED] confidence in my colleagues on the ACMD [REDACTED] and its chairman [REDACTED] so it is with regret that I feel [REDACTED] need to express my lack of confidence in the way that [REDACTED] Government [REDACTED] its advice and thereafter its communication to the [REDACTED] Select Committee.

Yours sincerely



Dr Polly Taylor [REDACTED]