

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Clarke Considers Cannabis Change

Former home secretary David Blunkett downgraded cannabis from Class B to Class C.....the PPP responded ...in our Aims and objectives (Drink & Drugs) over 2 years ago we stated...

‘The health problems arising from such a policy will obviously be long term and very significant. The long-term health consequences of Cannabis are only just becoming clear’.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke has asked his independent advisers to reassess the dangers of cannabis **in the light of new medical research**, it has been revealed. **The effect of Blunkett’s change was not researched as the reports were available then! Maybe his American girlfriend was a user!**

Mr Clarke asked for particular guidance on the Dutch government's plans to introduce a higher classification for more potent types of dope.

He also highlighted recent studies which suggested a link between cannabis use and mental illness. Former home secretary David Blunkett downgraded the drug from Class B to Class C - placing it alongside steroids and some prescription anti-depressants - in January last year. The move made most cases of cannabis possession a non-arrestable offence.

In a letter to the chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, *Mr Clarke said: "I think there is merit in the Advisory Council assessing whether their position is at all changed by the emerging evidence."*

Asked if the letter's reference to the Dutch proposals indicated Mr Clarke was considering a two-level classification system for cannabis in this country, Home Office spokeswoman said: *"That will be a matter for the review to report on."*

The PPP comments.....The Police can't control cannabis abuse now. A TWO level system would be UNWORKABLE and nonsensical. Maybe Brunstrom should extend his drug testing to Politicians

*"Depending on what comes up they will discuss that with **the Association of Chief Police Officers**. At this stage there is nothing to inform them."*

In the House of Commons earlier this month Mr Clarke resisted demands from Tory spokeswoman Cheryl Gillan to re-think cannabis policy. His letter, released by the Home Office, referred to a New Zealand study which considered how regular cannabis use increased the risk of developing psychotic symptoms later in life.

It also highlighted a report from Maastricht University which concluded use of the drug **"moderately increases" the risk of psychotic symptoms in young people but has "a much stronger effect in those with evidence of predisposition for psychosis"**.

Mr Clarke went on: *"I want to be clear what influence the evidence presented within these studies has on the overall assessment of the classification of cannabis. I would also welcome advice on claims of increased prevalence of cannabis with high levels of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)."*

"Typically these are grown hydroponically and are known as 'skunk' varieties of cannabis. I am aware the Dutch Government are taking a particular interest in very high-strength strains and are considering whether cannabis above a certain strength should be a higher classification."

The PPP comments... how could any Police officer in the street tell one sort of Cannabis from the other, what is he suggesting that they smoke it!? The key point is that cannabis use leads on to hard drug use AND lung cancer. Tobacco and Alcohol abuse are also major problems far greater than cannabis BUT that is no reason to ignore cannabis or encourage it's use by it's classification.

The drug is used to change the users perception of reality (for the better they hope!). Why should we be surprised that it damages the unbelievably beautiful and intricate network of neurons that defines both who and where we are!!

Similarly for tobacco.... tars and crap destroy the amazingly effective oxygen/blood interchange process in the lung.....would you stick your head over a bonfire and take a deep breath!!