

Dr Polly Taylor - *European Veterinary Specialist in Anaesthesia*

Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EF

Dear Secretary of State,

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

When you met the ACMD in November 2009, many of us expressed our concern over the way you and your predecessor, Chairman Professor David Nutt, Professor Nutt's content of a letter he gave to his archivist, and the ACMD had given on the appropriate classification of certain substances had rejected. Two of our members, Dr Les Iverson and Dr [redacted] protest.

At that meeting, you were unable to give the necessary assurances and your scientific advice would be restricted in future and three further members, Dr [redacted] Marshall and Dr Ian Kagan resigned. Others of us of the Association of the Government's independence to the principles for the conduct of scientific work have been drawn up by the scientific community and endorsed by several ACMD members.

The Government's first response, published in December, was rightly appeared to justify ministers appointing and dismissing independent scientific advisers according to trust which is an arbitrary and subjective matter. A requirement for advisers to comply with the Code of Practice for Advisory Committees, and not to make any statement of advice or opinion in a ministerial and its communication. Several of us and others felt that the ACMD's decision to the Government's points were made by the Science and Technology Select Committee in Government.

I am therefore disappointed that the Government has indicated that these measures in the publication of this week of a requirement for advisers to comply with the Code of Practice, irrespective of whether the code of practice has been complied with. I feel that there is little more we can do to describe the importance of advice is not subject to the whims of ministers or the mood of the day.

I am very proud of the high standard of work achieved by the ACMD and the confidence in my colleagues on the ACMD and its Chairman, Prof. Les Iverson, and I regret that I feel the need to express my lack of confidence in the way that

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Yours sincerely,



Dr Polly Taylor