

'Stop Making Sense'

Presentation on Cannabis to
NZDF by Jeremy Sare
19 February 2009



UK Cannabis Policy – forever changing



UK Drug Classification

"It is antiquated and reflects the prejudices and misconceptions of an era in which drugs were placed in arbitrary categories with notable, often illogical, consequences."

Professor Colin Blakemore, member of UK Drug Policy Commission and former head of Medical Research Council.

Controlled Drugs

Class	Drugs	Penalties
A	Heroin, Meth Cocaine, LSD, Ecstasy	Personal - 7 yrs Supply – Life
B	Amphetamines, Cannabis	Personal - 5 yrs Supply – 14 yrs
C	Benzos, GHB, Steroids, 'K'	Personal - 2 yrs Supply – 14 yrs

David Blunkett, Home Secretary 2001 - 4



Re-classification 2004 - Policy Aims

- Re-prioritise enforcement to Class A from Class B
- Fewer criminal records – young people
- Credible health messages

Reclassification 2009 – Policy Aims

- Helping police prioritisation on cannabis factories
- People trafficking
- Link to mental health problems

ACMD - ToR

Section 1 MDA 1971

“It shall be the duty of the Advisory Council to keep under review the situation in the United Kingdom with respect to drugs which are being or appear to them likely to be misused and of which the misuse is having or appears to them capable of having harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem.”

ACMD Membership

- David Nutt, Professor of Psychopharmacology, Bristol University
- Prof. Les Iversen, Oxford University
- Judge Justin Philips
- Chief Constable Howard Roberts, Notts
- Lord Adebowale, CEO TurningPoint
- Prof Ilana Crome, Addiction Psychiatry
- Eric Carlin, CEO Mentor UK

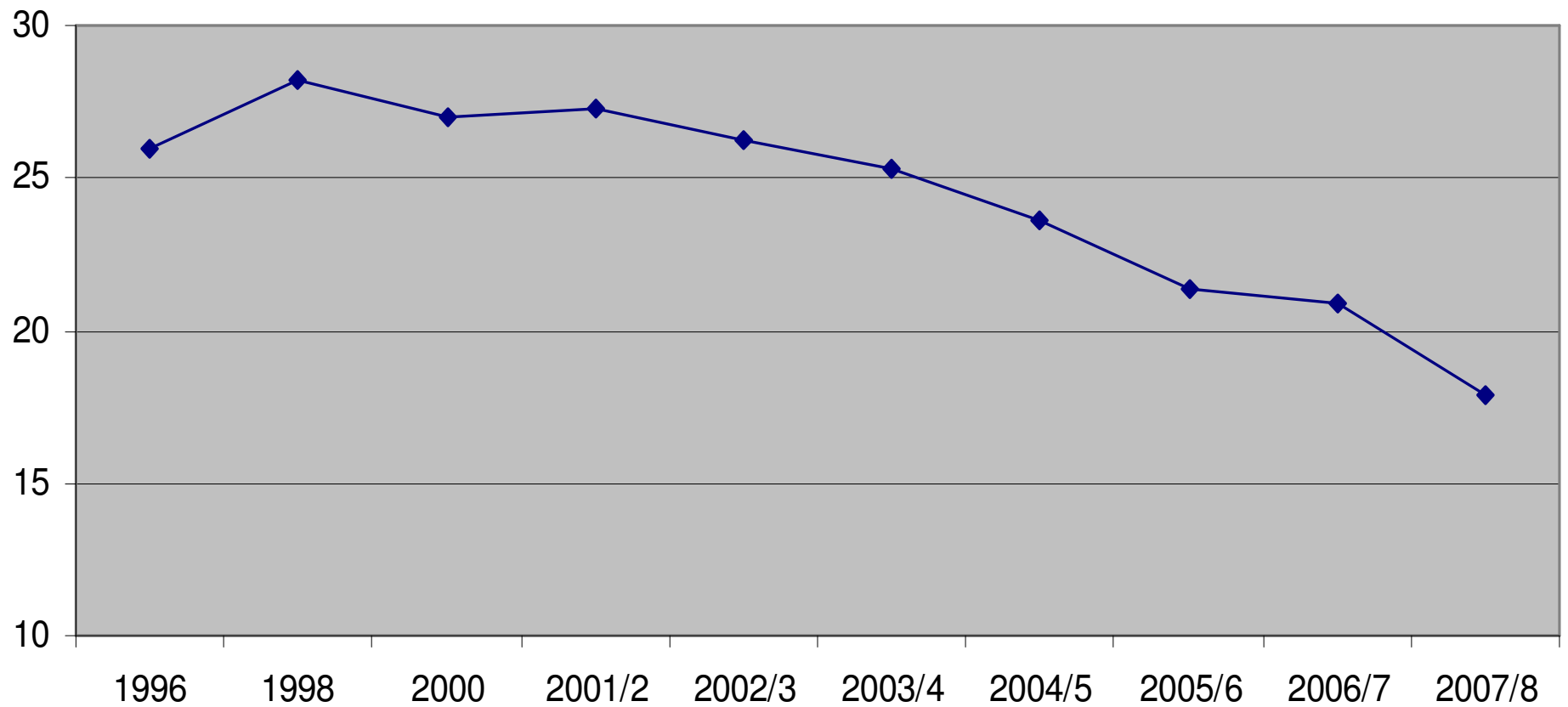
ACMD Membership (cont.)

- Dr Dima Abdulrahim, NTA
- Dr Clare Gerada, GP
- Dr John Marsden, Institute Psychiatry
- Caroline Healy, National adviser DoH
- Dr Margaret Birtwistle, GP, Forensics

Statutory Positions:-

Pharmacist, Veterinary Surgeon, Chemist,
Dentist, Pharmaceutical Industry

Percentage of Cannabis used by 16-24 YO's – British Crime Survey



Parliament

Prime Minister

OGDs

Home Secretary

OGDs

ACMD

Police

NGOs

Parliament

Prime Minister

OGDs

Home Secretary

OGDs

ACMD

Police

NGOs

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The End

