

Amendments to the Poisons Act 1972

Q1. Are you answering as:

A member of the public, professional user or association, or licence-holder.

Questionnaire – Members of the public, professional users and associations, and licence-holders.

Q2. Do you acquire, import, possess or use any currently regulated explosives precursors listed on pages 4 and 5 of the consultation document? Please tick all that apply:

None of these

Q3. Do you plan to acquire, import, possess or use any regulated explosives precursors in the next 3 years? Please tick all that apply

None of these

Q4. Which regulated explosives precursors do you already or intend to acquire, import, possess or use?

None of these

Q61. Do you acquire, import, possess or use any of the proposed regulated explosives precursors outlined in the consultation document? (Phosphoric acid, Hydrochloric acid, Hexamine, Ammonium Nitrate)

No

Q62. Do you plan to acquire, import, possess or use any of the proposed regulated explosives precursors in the next 3 years?

No

Q63. Which proposed regulated explosives precursors do you already or intend to acquire, import, possess or use, at what concentration and for what purpose?

None of these

Q96. Do you acquire, import, possess or use any of the proposed regulated poisons outlined in the consultation document?

No

Q97. Do you plan to acquire, import, possess or use any of the proposed regulated poisons in the next 3 years?

No

Q98. Which proposed regulated poisons do you already or intend to acquire, import, possess or use?

None of these

Q147. Would adding 2, 4 Dinitrophenol and derivatives including sodium dinitrophenolate to the Poisons Act as a regulated Poison have an impact on you?

Positive Impact

Please provide details:

We welcome the fact that DNP could be added to the poisons list and we have been calling for this since 2019. But this does not go far enough, and we believe that DNP should be completely banned and not supplied under any circumstances. There is no legitimate human or animal use for DNP and over the last 15 years 32 people have died from taking DNP, as well as several cases of serious harm caused. Between 2007 and 2020, the UK National Poisons Information Service recorded 138 cases of poisoning due to DNP. DNP has a high mortality rate; of those who presented at hospital between 2007 and 2019 with a history of having taken DNP, 18% died.

We would urge the Government to immediately ban DNP to reduce the risk of harm, to commit to prosecuting those seeking to profit from it, and to encourage other countries to do the same. Australia has already classified DNP as a substance of such a danger to health as to warrant prohibition of sale, supply and use and Russia has classified DNP as an illegal poisonous substance. We are concerned that DNP is still in circulation and often targeted to image conscious young people who may want to try quick fixes to improve the body image, particularly in the aftermath of lockdown.

However, should a complete ban not be possible, then legislation should be drafted and implemented that prohibits the compounding of DNP. This means that as there is no reason to compound DNP other than for illegal supply DNP will not be able to be compounded into sachets / capsules etc for human, animal or agricultural use. This would be an effective strategy to protect young people.

This would enable several layers of control to be enacted to prevent harm to people, should a complete ban not be possible:

- Ban on compounding of DNP for human, animal or agricultural use
- DNP added to the Poisons List to control its supply

Q148. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the benefits of the options described on page 3 in terms of regulation and security outweigh the limitations it places on you as a member of the public?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Option 1			X		
Option 2		X			
Option 3	X				

Q149. Please provide any other detail you would like us to consider that has not been covered by the questions above.

Option 3 is the option we would like to see implemented. This will ensure that access to these substances is better controlled. Pharmacists are regulated professionals and are able to deal with legitimate requests for these substances

About you

Q182. Please use this section to tell us about yourself.

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Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (for example, member of the public)	Practice and Policy Lead, England
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Q183. If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

We represent individual pharmacists across all areas of pharmacy practice.