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Siân Berry
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Dear Siân,

Solicitor General's Questions: Non-Violent Drug Offences

Thank you very much for your contribution to Solicitor General's Questions and raising the important issue of non-violent drug offences and, more specifically, how the Government may best help those afflicted with drug addiction get the crucial support they need to escape the harmful cycle of drug abuse.

You raised the trialling of safe drug consumption facilities in Scotland and I wanted to provide you with a fuller response than I did at Questions, informed by information which my officials have sought from the Home Office as the responsible department.

As you know, we are determined as a Government to reduce the number of drug-related deaths throughout the UK and we recognise the importance of evidence-based, high-quality treatment and the difficulties of engaging with drug users.

As I noted at Questions, Minister Johnson recently told the Scottish Affairs Committee that the Government do not have plans to amend the law to permit the introduction of drug-consumption facilities and will not facilitate their introduction. A range of offences (under the Misuse of Drug Act 1971 ("the 1971 Act")) would likely be committed by those using or running the facilities, such as possession of a controlled drug, production of a controlled drug, permitting premises to be used for the production of a controlled drug, provisions of paraphernalia and supply of a controlled drug. We would be particularly concerned about the organised crime involved in supplying the drugs that would be consumed in such a facility.

We fully appreciate the challenges of engaging and supporting drug users and we are proud to have supported the work of Project ADDER across the UK with its innovative harm reduction approach. We are also expanding access to naloxone, a lifesaving medicine that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose and remains effective with synthetic opioids.

The Department for Health and Social Care is working with partners across Government to respond to existing and new drug threats and to reduce and prevent the health harms. Local authorities are responsible for providing drug treatment services based on the needs of their local populations. In addition to the Public Health Grant, in 2025/26 the DHSC is providing a total of £310 million in additional targeted grants to improve drug and alcohol services and wider recovery support including housing and employment. Details are available at: [Drug and alcohol treatment and recovery funding allocations: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#). This will improve the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment services in England.

I hope this gives some reassurance that this Government will continue to take preventative public health measures to tackle the biggest killers in our society, including drug misuse, and better support people to live longer, healthier lives.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LR' or 'Lucy Rigby'.

**LUCY RIGBY KC MP
SOLICITOR GENERAL**