



Philip Barlow, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17 February 2023

Dear Mr Barlow,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2022 in relation to the prevention for future deaths report following the inquest of Jack Knapman.

I am very concerned about the tragic deaths being caused by the consumption of DNP as a dieting aid. To this end, I have recently met with two bereaved families whose children tragically died from the consumption of DNP and have listened closely to their testimony. I have carefully noted the contents of your prevention of future deaths report and agree that we must do as much as possible to safeguard those who may be vulnerable to harmful sales of DNP.

As you note in your report, the Home Office has now laid legislation to regulate DNP as a poison under the Poisons Act 1972. This will mean that, from 1st October 2023, DNP can only legally be sold to a member of the public by a registered pharmacist, and then only to a member of the public with a valid explosives precursors and poisons (EPP) licence issued by the Home Office. We are not aware of any legitimate uses of DNP by the general public, and therefore this would act as an effective ban on sales to that group.

The police are responsible for enforcing the Poisons Act 1972, and therefore will be responsible for investigating unlawful sales of DNP from 1st October 2023. However, we recognise that some sellers, including those overseas, will do everything they can to flout regulations. To this end, work will remain ongoing in the Home Office and across Government to do everything we can to crack down on the unlawful sale and use of DNP by working holistically to consider all aspects of the problem.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MBE VR MP
Security Minister