

Press Briefing



No embargo – immediate release

New Commissioner brings leading expertise in health economics

The UK Drug Policy Commission (UKDPC) is pleased to announce the appointment of leading health economist Professor Alan Maynard as a Commissioner.

Professor Maynard joins the existing group of 11 Commissioners and will bring top-level economic expertise at a time when the Government spends nearly £1.5 billion a year on the drug strategy (England and Wales).

Professor Maynard is Professor of Health Economics at the University of York and holds a number of other important positions in the healthcare and academic fields. His experience and long-standing support for evidence-based policy and an interest in substance misuse made him the ideal choice for the Commission.

Professor Maynard said:

“I have always thought there is only one way to reach policy conclusions and that is by analysing the facts - anything else is likely to be wishful thinking. I am sure I will be in good company at the UK Drug Policy Commission.”

Dame Ruth Runciman, Chair of the UKDPC, said:

“We are delighted that Alan has agreed to be a Commissioner. He will bring so much to the Commission and will complement the broad range of expertise we have around the table.”

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Notes to Editors

About Professor Maynard

Professor Alan Maynard has many important roles including:

- Professor of Health Economics at the University of York
- Chair of the York Hospitals Foundation Trust
- Chair of the drug treatment services charity Compass UK
- Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on Health
- Member of the Department of Health's 'Payment by Results' Programme Board and External Reference Group.
- Founding editor of the journal *Health Economics*.

About UKDPC

The **UK Drug Policy Commission** (UKDPC) is an independent body providing objective analysis of evidence related to UK drug policy. We aim to improve political, media and public understanding of drug policy issues and the options for achieving an effective, evidence-led response to the problems caused by illegal drugs.

Launched in April 2007, initially for three years, the UKDPC is a registered charity and is grateful for support from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

The 11 existing commissioners are:

Dame Ruth Runciman (Chair): Chair of the Central & NW London NHS Foundation Trust & previously Chair of the Independent Inquiry into the Misuse of Drugs Act and member of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Professor Baroness Haleh Afshar OBE: Professor of Politics & Women's Studies, University of York

Professor Colin Blakemore FRS: Waynflete Professor of Physiology at the University of Oxford and Chair of the Food Standard Agency's General Advisory Committee on Science.

David Blakey CBE: QPM formerly HM Inspector of Constabulary, President of ACPO and Chief Constable of West Mercia

Annette Dale-Perera: Director of Quality at the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: Professor of Palliative Care, University of Wales Cardiff & President of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Daniel Finkelstein OBE: Comment Editor at "The Times"

Jeremy Hardie CBE: Trustee of Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel OBE: Head of the Centre for Ethnicity & Health at University of Central Lancashire & Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission

Adam Sampson: Chief Executive of Shelter.

Professor John Strang: Director of the National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London

For more information visit www.ukdpc.org.uk