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## **Time to re-examine UK drug policy and take a different approach to decision making**

The news of the toxicology tests showing that the two teenage deaths in Scunthorpe (March 2010) were not linked to mephedrone, provides more evidence to support recent calls by the UK Drug Policy Commission for a fresh look at different ways of formulating drug policy.

**Professor Colin Blakemore, member of the UK Drug Policy Commission, said:**

“The only good that might emerge from this fiasco is a long-overdue review of drug control policy.”

The independent Commission together with think-tank **Demos** have joined forces to examine whether there may be different ways of controlling newly emerging drugs.

Over the next 18 months, the UK Drug Policy Commission is also conducting a separate review of drug policy governance and stewardship in the UK to strengthen the overall governance of drug policy, including rebuilding the processes, structures, and practices surrounding drug policy development and decision making.

**Roger Howard, chief executive of the UK Drug Policy Commission, said:**  
**"We believe the new Government has an opportunity to both better protect the public and save money by reshaping the architecture for decision making. Getting the governance right will lead to better outcomes for every community in Britain, and rebuild trust between experts and politicians.**

“The commission hopes to help formulate potential new drug control processes that are 'fit for our time', so the strategic capacity of the system to react to new threats is improved and public, professional and scientific confidence is renewed.”

The Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Society of Arts and the UK Drug Policy Commission have all argued over the past four years for a reappraisal of the drug classification system, and the ways policy makers respond to the challenge of controlling harmful substances.

Ends

### **Notes to editors**

For further information and media interview requests contact the press office on 020 7812 3792 / 07866 757 389 or vsilver@ukdpc.org.uk

**About the UK Drug Policy Commission** - The Commission (UKDPC) is an independent, registered charity providing objective analysis of UK drug policies. The UKDPC has 12 Commissioners who bring together a broad range of expertise from the fields of drug treatment, medical research, public policy and the media. For more information please visit [www.ukdpc.org.uk](http://www.ukdpc.org.uk)