

police drug strategies and tactics: some unresolved critical issues

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all agree?

- Harm reduction good, zero tolerance bad!
- Not sure?

zero tolerance: definitions

- Zero Tolerance = 'eradication of drugs'

Source: Albrecht, H-J., (1995) *Drug Policies and National Plans to Combat Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse. A Comparative Analysis of Policies of Co-ordination and Co-operation* in (Ed. Estievenart, G.) **Policies and Strategies to Combat Drugs in Europe** The Treaty on European Union: Framework for a New European Strategy to Combat Drugs?, Kluwer, Netherlands, p. 189

- [Zero tolerance is] synonymous with an aggressive law enforcement approach to policing, where no exceptions are made for the type of offences being committed or the circumstances in which they occur

Source: Hyde, M. (August 1998) Commissioner's Comments SAPol, Issue No. 5

zero tolerance: definitions

- While [zero tolerance] does include ‘positive action’ by police, it does not necessarily equate to automatic arrest for trivial offences

Marshall, J. (March 1999) *Zero Tolerance Policing* Information Bulletin, Issue No. 9. p. 10

zero tolerance: 'good' or 'bad'?

- Depends on the definition

evidence informed/ based drug policy

- Good idea?
- Bad idea?
- Not sure?

evidence informed/ based drug policy

A Counterblaste to Tobacco

- A custome lothsome to the eye, hatefull to the Nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and in the blacke stinking fume thereof, neerest resembling the horrible Stigian smoke of the pit that is bottomelesse.

Source: King James VI of Scotland and I of England (1604)

A Counterblaste to Tobacco

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Counterblaste_to_Tobacco

evidence informed/ based drug policy

British Doctors Study

- In 1954, Doll and Hill provided convincing statistical evidence that tobacco smoking increased the risk of lung cancer

Doll, R. and Hill, A.B. (1954) *The Mortality Of Doctors In Relation To Their Smoking Habits A Preliminary Report* British Medical Journal, London Saturday June 26 1954, pp. 1451-1455

evidence informed/ based drug policy

Is UK drug policy evidence informed/ based?

- There are many factors that influence the generation of policy and it is unrealistic, and perhaps disingenuous, to suggest in relation to drugs policy, that evidence is its primary focus

Source: Bennett, T. and Holloway, K. (2010) *Is UK drug policy evidence based?* International Journal of Drug Policy, Volume 21, Issue 5, pp. 411-417

sound recommendation?

- We recommend that the Government reviews Section 9A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, with a view to repealing it, to allow for the provision of drugs paraphernalia which reduces the harm caused by drugs (paragraph 252).

The Government's Drug Policy: Is It Working? Third Report of Session 2001-02, Volume I, House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, HC318-I, The Stationary Office, Recommendation 20, p. 64

no!

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No. 1653

DANGEROUS DRUGS

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2003

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>26th June 2003</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>8th July 2003</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>		<i>1st August 2003</i>

In pursuance of sections 10, 22 and 31(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971^(a), after consultation with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, the Secretary of State hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2003 and shall come into force on 1st August 2003.

Amendment of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001

- 2.—(1) The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 **(b)** shall be amended as follows.
(2) After regulation 6 there shall be inserted—

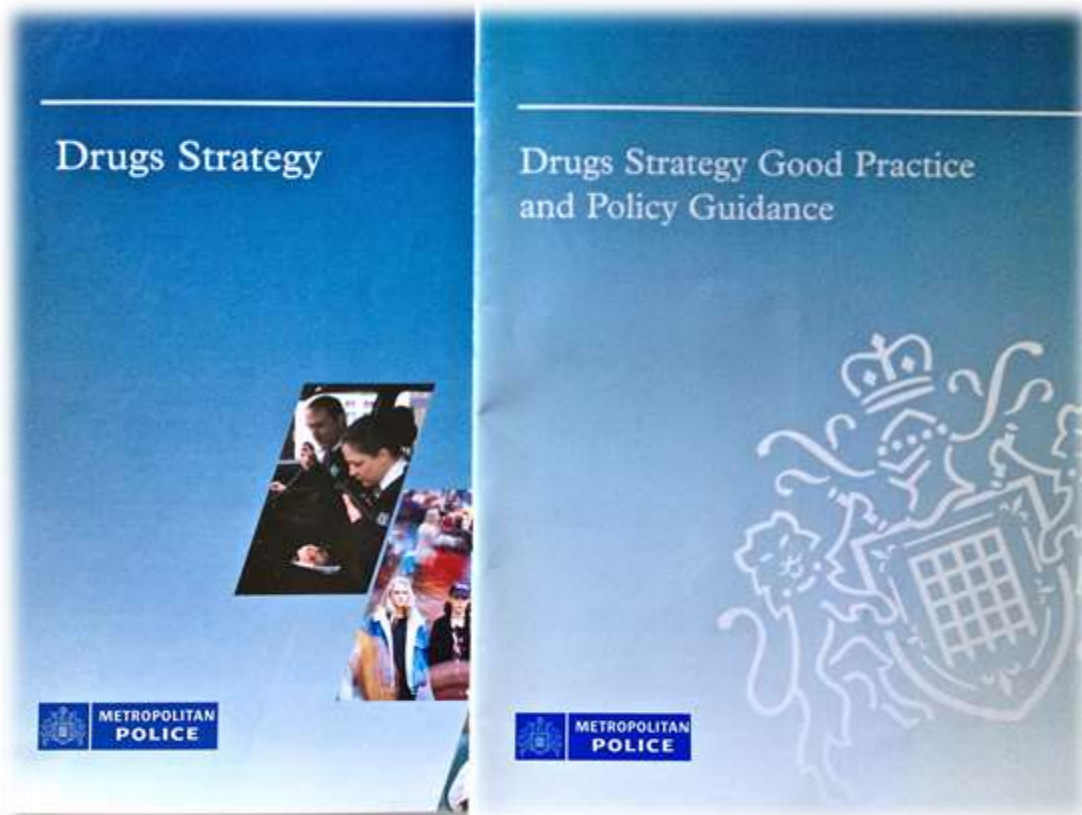
“Supply of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs

6A.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9A(1) and (3)(e) of the Act, any of the persons specified in paragraph (2) may, when acting in their capacity as such, supply or offer to supply the following articles—

- (a) a swab;
 - (b) utensils for the preparation of a controlled drug;
 - (c) citric acid;
 - (d) a filter;
 - (e) ampoules of water for injection, only when supplied or offered for supply in accordance with the Medicines Act 1968^(d) and of any instrument which is in force thereunder.
- (2) The persons referred to in paragraph (1) are—
- (a) a practitioner;
 - (b) a pharmacist;

^(a) 1971 c. 38.
^(b) S.I. 2001/3998.
^(c) Section 9A was inserted in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 by section 34(1) of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 (c.32).
^(d) 1968 c. 67.

it's the way you tell 'em



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it's the way you tell 'em

Must	May	Must Not
Have intelligence-led operations	Prioritise non Class A drugs	Deal with inappropriate drugs
Forward plan	Use private security	Keep moving up a tier
Measure drug-related crime	Employ an independent assessor	Focus on users
Conduct financial investigation	Use prevention techniques	Forget users are criminals

Source: *Drugs Strategy Good Practice and Policy Guidance* (March 1996) Metropolitan Police Service, Directorate of Public Affairs and Internal Communication p. 6

it's the way you tell 'em

- There will be a huge change in activity in respect of drugs.
- Drug markets will be actively dismantled, with strong intelligence, proactive enforcement and a focus on reducing demand led by a new Office for Drug Eradication.

Police and Crime Plan (March 2013) Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, p. 4

reliable data and information

- The answer lies in finding the right data, and the secret to finding the right data usually means finding the right person – more easily said than done

Levitt, S.D. and Dunbar, S.J. (2005) *Freakonomics*
A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything
Penguin Books, London

reliable data?

France: Heroin Purity Per Gram		
Year	No. 3 Heroin	No. 4 Heroin
1999	40% (Heroin)	
2002	2-10%	2-10%
2004	2-10%	2-10%
2005	2-10%	2-10%
2006	2-10%	2-10%
2007	2-10%	2-10%
2008	2-10%	2-10%

Sources: UNODC *World Drug Reports* and *Global Illicit Drug Trends*
NB: No information available for 2000, 2001 and 2003

all agree?

- Another area where evidence for effectiveness and value for money is lacking, is drug law enforcement. Part of the reason for this is that the traditional measures of enforcement activity - arrests and seizures - provide no information on the impact on drug problems.

***A Fresh Approach To Drugs** Final Report of the UK Drug Policy Commission* (October 2012) pp. 97-98 www.ukdpc.org.uk

all agree?

- All drug enforcement operations should be assessed to demonstrate their proven impact on communities, to allow for continuous improvements and better value for money.

***A Fresh Approach To Drugs** Final Report of the UK Drug Policy Commission* (October 2012) p.146 www.ukdpc.org.uk

ok: off you go...

Scenario

- Following numerous complaints from residents, small businesses, local councillors and MPs and a flurry of media reports, the Chief Constable of Dream Town Constabulary and the local Police and Crime Commissioner have decided to launch a 'crackdown' on open drug markets in and around the city centre. Their primary concern is over the heroin and crack markets but the supply of 'ecstasy' and ketamine in local clubs and pubs is also worrying.

ok – off you go...

Aim of Operation

- To eradicate the designated open drugs markets using intelligence-led enforcement tactics

ok – off you go...

Main Tactics

- Test purchasing ('buy-bust')
- Search warrants
- Stop and search

Equipment and facilities

- Pretty much whatever the operational teams ask for

operation Get it Right – off you go...

Scenario

- You've been asked to advise the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the evaluation of the operation – they want to know if it has been effective.



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