



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Drug Trend Bulletin – Issue 1 July 2015

This is the first of the new Police Scotland national drug trend bulletins. It is designed to be informative and a simple method of sharing drug trend information.

This bulletin will evolve through time and some publications will have a limited circulation and be marked 'restricted' due to its focus on internal police matters relating to drugs. Other bulletins such as this one, will be 'not protectively marked' in order to share drug trend information with external partners. The bulletins will be issued as and when required to allow the immediate distribution of drug related information.

This issue highlights some of the current drugs trends identified at recent music festivals in Scotland and other parts of the UK.

Police Scotland operates a 'zero tolerance' drug policy at music festivals and it will be business as usual in relation to the recovery of drugs. The message is clear, if you are found in possession of a controlled drug action will be taken and you will not be allowed entry to the event.

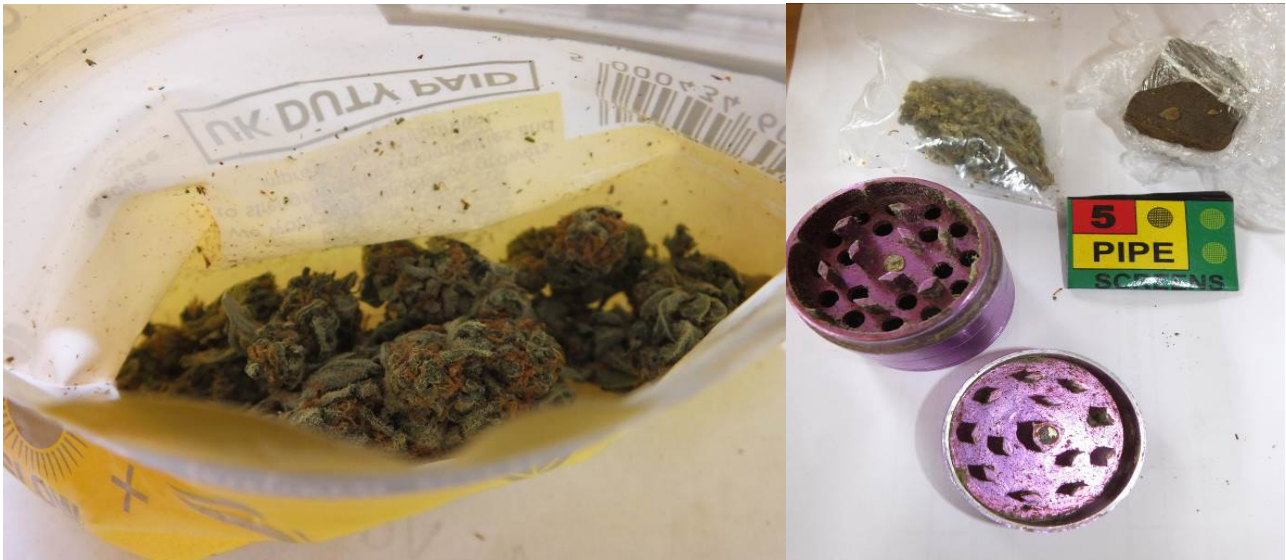
Cannabis / Cannabis Resin

Cannabis is currently one of the most widely used controlled drugs in Scotland. It is commonly recovered in one and two gram deals contained within 'smelly proof' or 'self-seal' bags in an effort to hide the smell from the police drug dogs. It is of note that whilst still available there appears to be less cannabis resin in circulation. The pictures below show small amounts of cannabis.



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The round device in the picture below is a 'grinder' used to break up cannabis into small pieces before it is spread into a hand rolled cigarette to be smoked.



Ecstasy Tablets

There were two types of Ecstasy tablets identified at a recent Scottish music festival:

Yellow colour 'U.P.S' logo.



The UPS shield is a "cut out" tablet marked with the "United Parcel Service" (UPS) logo.

The tablet was presumptively tested and found to contain Methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA). It is widely reported that the original versions of these tablets contained a stronger than normal dose of MDMA. There is a 'half score' line on the rear of the tablet to assist breaking it in half.

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Various colours of tablets with a 'UFO' logo.



These tablets are known as 'U.F.O's' or 'Flying Saucers'.

They have the letters 'UFO' printed round the outside edge and on the reverse side they are stamped with circular markings. They were seized in blue, red, yellow, green and orange colours.

The tablets were presumptively tested and found to contain Methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA).

Crystal MDMA

Crystal MDMA is commonly recovered within paper wraps, small self-seal polythene bags and capsules. MDMA in both crystal and tablet form is a Class 'A' controlled drug.



Any controlled drug in a crystal form is likely to be particularly strong. It's important to remember that in capsule form, it's not a pharmacist who fills them up and they can be potentially dangerous if consumed in a single dose. The risks increase considerably when MDMA is consumed with alcohol. Police Scotland has identified a number of recent incidents where the consumption of MDMA in crystal form has resulted in the user having a serious adverse reaction.

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Diazepam



It's an offence to unlawfully possess, supply and offer to supply diazepam which is a Class 'C' controlled drug. There are an increasing number of diazepam tablets available on the illicit drugs market.

Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) – Laughing Gas

Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) is a colourless, sweet-tasting gas. It is also known as 'Laughing Gas', 'Nos' and 'Hippy Crack'.

Nitrous oxide has legitimate medical, dental and veterinary uses, it is also used in the catering business in whipped cream dispensers.

Inhaling Nitrous Oxide in large quantities can cause oxygen deprivation.

Despite the fact it's not controlled and because of the potential dangers associated with its misuse, particularly at a busy public event, anyone found in possession of Nitrous oxide will be refused entry.

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Nitrous oxide canisters and dispensers.



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The items above were seized from festival patrons attempting to inhale Nitrous Oxide.

A common source of nitrous oxide is 'whip it' canisters that contain pressurized nitrous oxide (green 'whip – it' canisters and silver canisters with no markings on them).

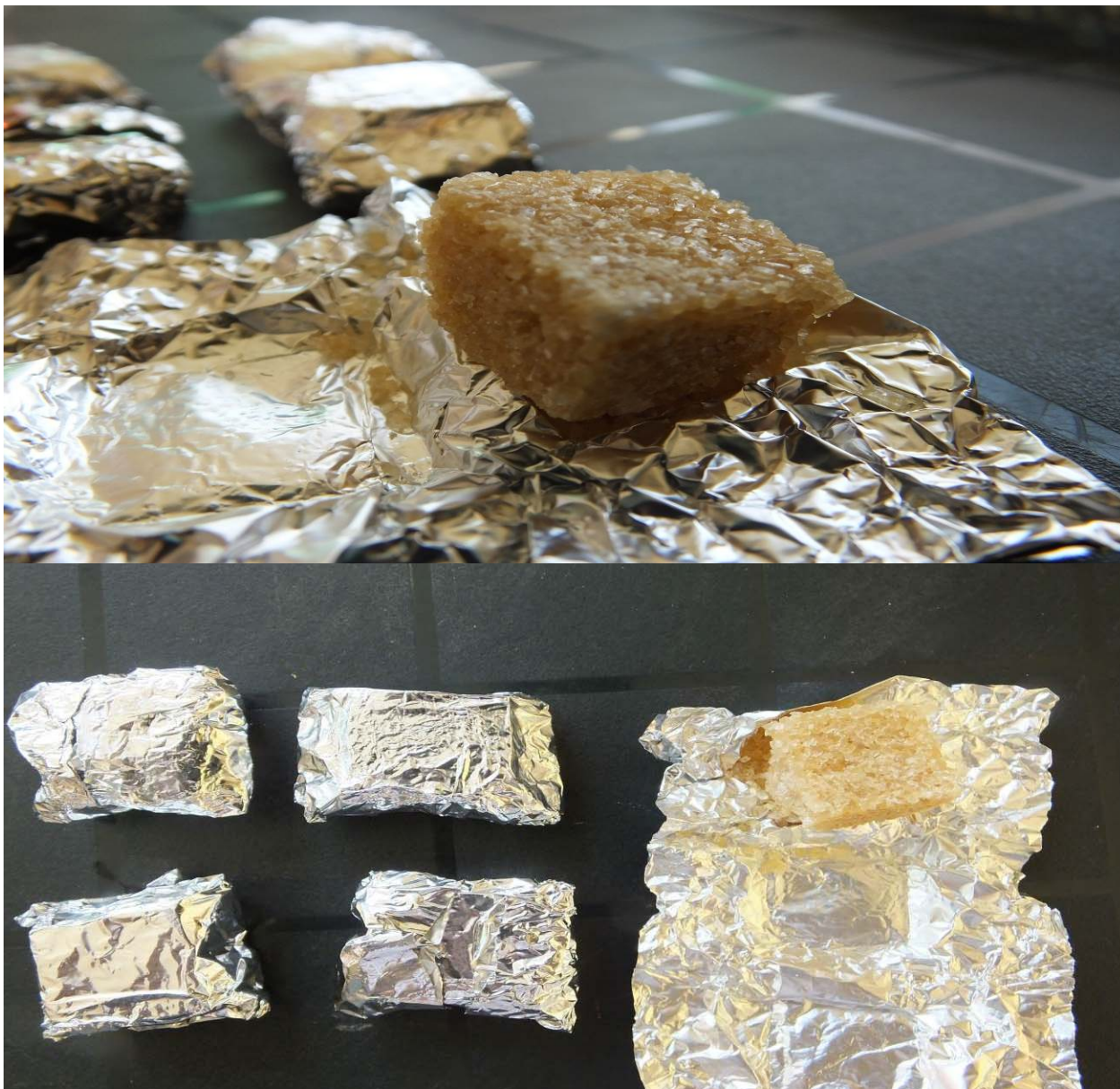
These are normally used in custom made whipped cream dispensers (the black, red and silver items shown above).

A balloon is placed over the dispensing end of the device. The canisters are screwed into the device to puncture their seal. The Nitrous Oxide is then passed through the device and the balloon fills with gas.

The content of the balloon is then inhaled.

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Item of Note



The photographs above show individual sugar cubes wrapped in silver foil. The sugar cubes have been impregnated with a solution of L.S.D or similar type of drug.

Recent Music Festival Trends in England

Thanks to Mr Steve Dorans and his team from Avon and Somerset for the following images of drugs recovered from a recent music festival in the south of England. A total of 27 different tablets designs were identified and presumptive testing identified they contained the Class 'A' controlled drug MDMA (ecstasy).

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Some of the tablet logos are:

Gold bullion



Silver



Dutch Lion (see page 10)



Louis Vitton



Unnamed



Tesla



Dom Perignon



\$100



Turtle



Mushroom



TMNT



Audemars Piquet



UFO / Flying Saucer



Ice Cream



Monster Energy



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Yellow Lion



Cream



Purple Toad



UPS



Unnamed



Parental Guidance



Warner Brothers



Negative / Positive



Yellow Grenade



Lego Man



Shaun The Sheep



Android



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Lion Logo Ecstasy Tablets

The blue tablet shown below was recently recovered in the Police Scotland area and found to contain MDMA. The logo is described in an open source forum on the Internet (Pill Report) as the 'Lion' or 'Dutch Lion' (see the image of the peach coloured tablet below), however it may be the Scottish Lion Rampant as there are clear similarities.



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Unusual Form of Cannabis



Police Scotland has made a small number of seizures of cannabis in the enclosed form which is a toffee like substance adhering to greaseproof paper. The scientific analysis of the substance has still to be completed.

Information provides the substance can be use in the same way as cannabis with the effects described as being stronger. It is also reported this type of cannabis is becoming more available on the illicit drugs market. In certain areas this substance is referred to as 'Shatter' because of its brittle consistency.

Acknowledgements

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