



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Drug Trend Bulletin – Issue 7 December 2015

Festive Season Safety

Police Scotland wants you to have a safe and enjoyable festive period.

Party Safely

If drinking alcohol, be sensible about how much you consume. A drunken person is an easier target for a criminal.

Don't leave drinks unattended.

Don't use drugs or New Psychoactive Substances, sometimes misleadingly called 'legal highs'. This may cause extremely harmful or unexpected reactions, particularly when consumed with alcohol. Don't put yourself in danger.

Pen stash

This permanent marker pen is professionally adapted into a 'stash' for drugs and snorting paraphernalia. They are commercially available and should be borne in mind by police and stewarding staff during searches.



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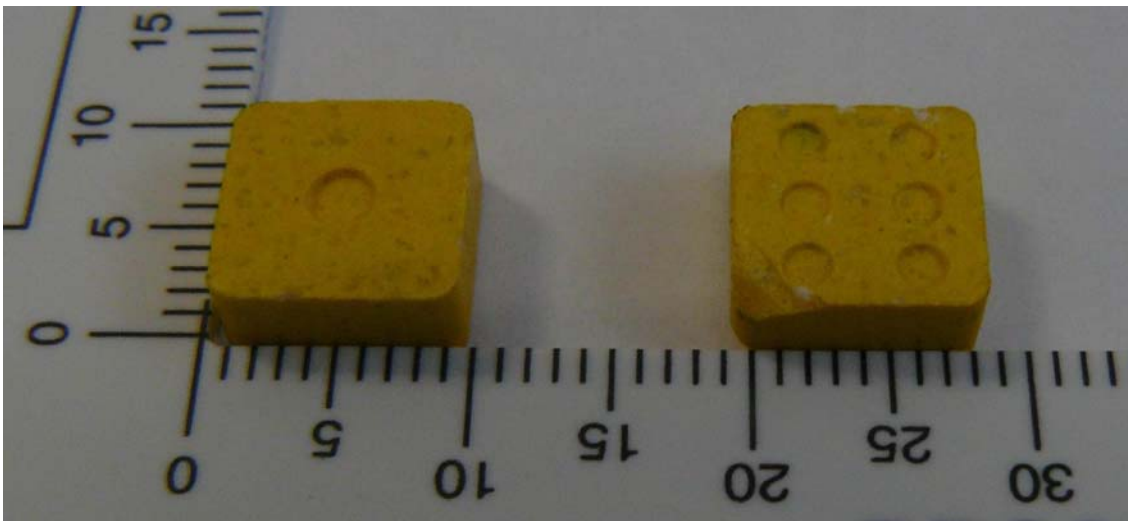
Class 'A' drug found in jelly squares

This recovery was made by Police Scotland in the North Area and consists of small gelatine squares which were found to be impregnated with the Class 'A' controlled drug 5-MeO-MiPT (5-Methoxy-N-methyl-N-isopropyltryptamine). The loose material adhering to the gelatine is assessed to be tobacco.



Yellow 'dice' ecstasy tablets

The tablets shown were analysed at the Scottish Police Authority Laboratory and found to contain MDMA. The dose of MDMA was not determined.



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More ecstasy seizures



The TESLA logo tablets are copies of the TESLA American motor car brand. The domino shaped tablet and the crystals also contain MDMA. The ecstasy market is currently populated with well made 'cut out' type tablets such as the TESLA badge logo and different shaped 'cut outs' such as domino and dice. There is an increase in ecstasy circulating in crystal form and the following picture is of individual deals of MDMA crystal weighing 0.1 grams.



The deals have been wrapped in cigarette papers. MDMA crystal is also being sold in clear or coloured gelatine capsules. It is common for capsules used in everyday cold remedies or medication to be emptied of their powder content and replaced with MDMA powder or crystals. Again, this should be borne in mind during drug searches. This recovery contained MDMA (ecstasy), however only a scientist can determine what drug if any is within crystals and there is no safe way of knowing the substance or the quality.

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The anonymous white powder market

Police Scotland has identified a market involving the supply and use of anonymous white powders. In some cases this involves Class 'B' drugs such as Alpha PVP being mixed with benzocaine which is a commonly used adulterant for cocaine. This mix is then being sold on to users at an inflated price. The Intelligence picture supports many drug dealers are being 'ripped off' by this method when they purchase large amounts of white powders they perceive to be cocaine when in fact it's benzocaine mixed with a variety of less expensive, cathinone type drugs.

This trend confirms there is no guarantee that drug users are getting what they pay for which may result in adverse or unanticipated reaction when the substance is taken.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



The pictures show a concerning development as the synthetic cannabis shown on the right and white powder on the left were both in similar New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) packaging. The synthetic cannabis on the right was found to contain the NPS 5F-AKB48 and the white powder on the left was identified as ethylphenidate, currently subject of a Temporary Class Drug Order. This highlights the danger of drugs packaged in a similar way which are of a totally different chemical structure.

The NPS - 5F-AKB48 used in some synthetic cannabis products has been identified mixed with E-cigarette oils in small 3 ml bottles branded 'Sweet Leaf'. The use of E-cigarettes is currently widespread and the introduction of NPS to some of the oils used is a concerning development. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2015 is due to be implemented in the first half of 2016 and will place controls on the supply of NPS.

The Police Scotland lead on NPS is through 'Operation Redwall' based within the Interventions Department at the Scottish Crime Campus in Gartcosh.

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NPS marketing

Thanks to Trading Standards for submitting the enclosed pictures of an NPS recovered in the Aberdeen area and assessed to be a synthetic cannabinoid. The packaging highlights the aggressive marketing techniques used by those involved in the supply of NPS.



Acknowledgements

- Police Scotland - DC Greig Baxter and DC Kenny Foy – West Area STOP Unit
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HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

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