

Memorandum from Addaction to the Health and Social Care Select Committee

To: Jeremy Hunt, Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee

Date: 17 February 2020

Subject: Omission in the evidence Addaction submitted to the Drugs Policy Inquiry 2019

This memorandum is from Addaction, a national public health charity providing free and confidential support to people experiencing issues with drugs, alcohol or mental health.

It was brought to our attention that there was an important omission in the evidence Addaction submitted to the Health and Social Care Select Committee's Drugs Policy Inquiry in 2019. The evidence we submitted can be found [here](#).

The omission was to paragraph 49 of our submission, regarding a Home Office licensed drug-checking service that was conducted in North Somerset in February/March 2019. The evidence Addaction submitted failed to appropriately mention the role of the University of Hertfordshire and Dr Amira Guiguis. The pilot service was funded, co-led and co-designed by the University of Hertfordshire, who led on the drug-checking process. Dr Amira Guirguis was the Principal Investigator and was responsible for overseeing the entire drug checking process which was used to inform the multi-disciplinary approach for triaging interventions. This pilot was unique in that it was the first Pharmacist led drug checking service.

As the Committee's report has already been published and we have been informed that evidence cannot be updated to a closed inquiry, we are using this memorandum to inform the new Committee that an omission was made and to rectify the error made by Addaction in the evidence it submitted.

Yours Sincerely,

Robin Pollard

Addaction