

UK Anti-Doping submission of 6 October 2023

PE2024/D: Create a national, public information programme to raise awareness of the impacts of steroids, selective androgen receptor modulators, and other performance enhancing drugs

Thank you for your letter of 7 September asking UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) for our views on tackling the use of IPEDs.

UKAD is the UK Government's mandated organisation to prevent doping in sport and maintain public confidence in clean sport. UKAD is responsible for ensuring sports bodies in the UK are compliant with the [World Anti-Doping Code](#) through implementation and management of the UK's National Anti-Doping Policy and Anti-Doping Rules, with a focus on more than 40 Olympic, Paralympic and professional sports in the UK. With offices in Edinburgh, Loughborough, and East Croydon, we work with sport national governing bodies across the UK and home country sports councils.

As set out in UKAD's 2019 report¹ on Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs (IPEDs), such as anabolic androgenic steroids, IPEDs have been a subject of growing concern over recent years, both in and out of the sporting environment.

In the context of sport IPEDs are substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), as per WADA's Prohibited List. It is important to state that the use of IPEDs in sport is not the norm. However, elite and amateur sport are vulnerable to the use of IPEDs for a variety of reasons, primarily the pressure and motivation to win but also concern over body image. It is important to understand who in elite sport are most vulnerable to IPED use, and the best way to reach them in order to support, educate and inform. To that end, UKAD's 2019 report was intended to provide a concise picture of IPEDs in the UK. Drawing on a range of sources the report sets out the nature of IPED use, where they come from and who is taking them.

¹ <https://www.ukad.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/UKAD%20IPED%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

Our report showed that the use of IPEDs extends beyond cheating in sport. It is a significant public health issue. It concluded that the response to the threat from IPED use therefore sits with a range of organisations and there is an imperative to ensure better information sharing, and coordination of activity.

UKAD already works with health regulators and different law enforcement partners, including the National Crime Agency (NCA), UK Border Force (UKBF), Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) and other police partners. A key focus of our intelligence work is to promote and engage in inter-agency information sharing about doping in sport. Also, we have opened our education online to all, via UKAD's Clean Sport Hub. This is a free education platform that anyone can sign up to and provides information about the effects of doping and how to protect clean sport. Internationally the establishment of 'clean fitness centres' have been introduced, for example in Norway, in response to public health concerns about IPEDs.

As stated in our report, our view remains that structural arrangements to establish cross-agency working is needed to tackle the wider public health concerns relating to IPED use. Tackling the wider public health concerns within amateur sport and gyms requires a conscious Public Health effort, and cross-agency collaboration to share information and coordinate activity. The Public Health concerns relating to the growing use of IPEDs is a shared responsibility. We will continue to work together with other stakeholders to address the issue and would be happy to contribute to any future discussions on this matter.