

ACTION PLAN: Stewart Dimech, Napier Road Approved Premises, Luton, on 13 September 21016

No	Recommendation	Accepted / Not accepted	Response	Target date for completion and function responsible	Progress (to be updated after 6 months)
1	The National Probation Service should review its drug testing arrangements in approved premises and take steps to enable staff to identify NPS use.	Accepted	<p>NOMS recognises that psychoactive substances (PS) are a growing problem in custody and in Approved Premises. While possession of PS in custody is an offence, it is not in APs. The most immediate issue for APs is the effects of PS on users, who can become aggressive and unpredictable. However, staff do not need to know definitively whether such behaviour is caused by PS in order to deal with it. In addition, since the available testing methods do not return results immediately, testing is unlikely greatly to help APs with enforcement.</p> <p>NOMS is gathering evidence about the extent of the problems with the availability of PS and its effects, and about ways of addressing their use. Testing capacity for both prisons and APs will be built up to support any resulting interventions and/or treatment pathways.</p>	This work is the subject of a major project across the whole of NOMS, whose delivery plan is currently being developed.	