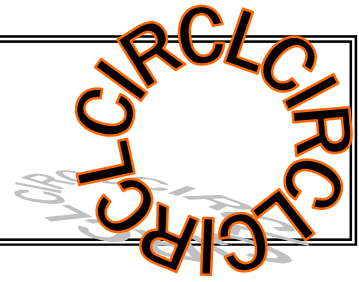


Dr C. Ian Ragan  
CIR Consulting Ltd  
Registered Office: 51 Slaidburn Street, Chelsea, London, SW10 0JW  
Tel: +44 (0)7793 314727  
[ian.ragan1@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.ragan1@btinternet.com)



16th November 2010

The Rt. Hon Alan Johnson MP  
House of Commons

Dear Mr Johnson

I believe I am required to give you official notice of my intention to resign from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. I did not resign immediately following the sacking of David Nutt because we were all asked to stay on in the hope that you would be prepared to come and speak to us at our next meeting. While I was pleased that you did so, nothing you said gave me any confidence in this government's understanding of the issues or their willingness to meet our requests. Your refusal to accept that the Statement of Principles should apply equally to all members of the council, made it clear to me and others that you or your successors would continue to apply arbitrary and illogical restrictions on the freedom of speech of the Chair. This, coupled with the contempt for the Council's work shown by the government's ill-considered decisions on cannabis and ecstasy, and your refusal to apologise to or reinstate David Nutt, made my resignation inevitable.

I regret intensely not being able to work in such a valuable cause and with such dedicated colleagues

Yours sincerely

C. Ian Ragan