



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Drug Trend Bulletin – Issue 9 May 2016

Update on Issue 8 - Blotter art - Identified as NBOMe

The picture below was shown in Issue 8 of the Drug Trend Bulletin and at that time the forensic analysis was not available. The 'tabs' have now been examined and the presence of Nbome identified.



Ecstasy

There are currently a number of well made 'cut out' style ecstasy tablets in circulation. Whilst there is no guarantee of what any tablet may contain, there are indications of a higher than normal MDMA content in some of the better made pills. Some of these tablets are three times the strength of an average round shaped ecstasy 'pill' increasing the potential for adverse effects and serious or fatal overdose.

The tablets shown in the pictures below may fall into this category. In particular, some 'Superman' logo ecstasy pills have been found to contain PMA and PMMA which has been directly connected to a number of serious overdose incidents and fatalities across the UK.

Superman



Lego bricks



Burger King



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Peace – Love – Rock
& Roll



Hello Kitty



Ying and Yang



Various mobile phone logos'



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Further seizures of yellow tablets containing U – 47700



It was reported in Issue 8 of the Drug Trend Bulletin that yellow and white tablets similar in appearance to diazepam seized by Police Scotland had been found to contain U-47700. There have been further seizures of similar tablets and others with the COX DC logo raising concerns that whilst perceived as yellow 5mg diazepam they actually contain a non controlled opioid analgesic derived from AH-7921 which was controlled as a Class 'A' drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in 2015.

Etizolam

Etizolam use continues to rise with an increasing prevalence in the Ayrshire and Inverclyde areas. The drug is most commonly encountered in small blue pills very similar in appearance to a blue 10mg diazepam tablet. The pills have the letters NTZ over a half score mark and the figure 1.0 stamped on one side and are blank on the other. Both tablets shown in the picture below contain etizolam, the MA –D10 logo tablet would most certainly be perceived to contain diazepam. Etizolam is not currently controlled however there are offences that may arise from its supply. Etizolam is similar to the benzodiazepine family of drugs however it is much stronger and many of the tablets circulating in Scotland are illicitly made with no science involved in measuring the tablet dose.



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New Psychoactive Substances

The UK Government has advised they expect to introduce the Psychoactive Substances Act in 2016. Police Scotland is prepared for the new legislation and will continue to work with the Home Office, Scottish Government and other partners as we move towards implementation. The date has still to be confirmed and when information becomes available it will be circulated.

Ecstasy powder – blue colour

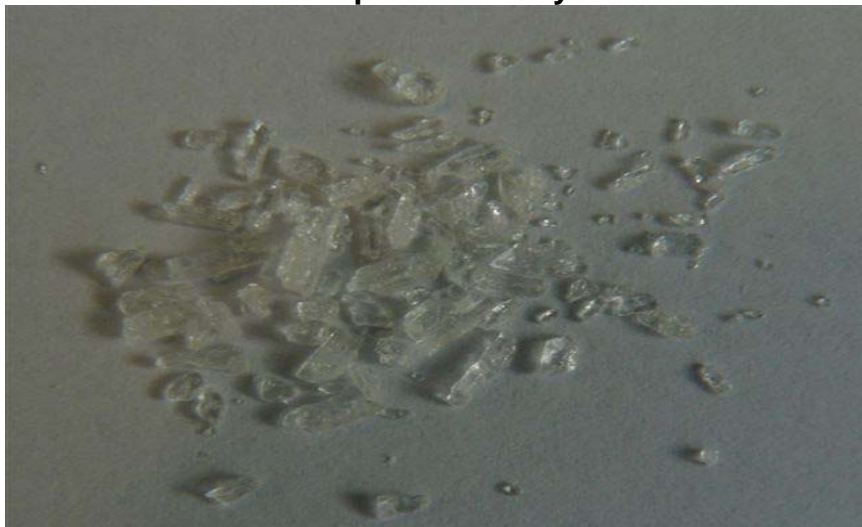
The picture below shows capsules used for MDMA powder which was blue in colour. The capsules were recovered during a recent dance event in the Edinburgh area.



Update on Issue 8 - Methamphetamine crystals

This recovery in Bellshill from 2015 was reported in Issue 8 but not quantified. There is no presumptive test available for crystals and the drug has now been confirmed by the Laboratory. The amount seized was very small consisting of two quantities weighing 100mg and 130mg.

Methamphetamine crystals



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