

LINNELL PUBLICATIONS PRESENT

# THE PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT



*BIFFO THE CLOWN'S GUIDE TO THE ZANY NEW DRUG LAW*

*BIFFO THE CLOWN'S GUIDE TO  
THE PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT*



*MR. PASTRY HAS MADE UP A NEW LAW. IT IS ILLEGAL TO PRODUCE OR SUPPLY ANY SUBSTANCE IF IT IS LIKELY TO BE USED TO GET HIGH, APART FROM . . .*

Biffo the Clown was busy making custard pies when his doorbell rang. It was Mr. Pastry from the Ministry of Silly Laws.

*“Oh Biffo, I keep trying to ban all these legal highs, but that naughty Legal High Man just makes another one”,* he said.

*“But I’ll show him. I’ve made up a new law. It is now an offence to make, sell or even give away anything that is likely to be used to get high”.*

*“I’ve called my new law . . . **The Psychoactive Substances Act**”,* said Mr. Pastry proudly.

*“What’s a psychoactive substance?”,* asked Biffo.

Mr. Pastry said that a psychoactive substance is something that has an effect on your brain.

*“Like tea and coffee”,* said Biffo.

Mr. Pastry said that **caffeine**, found in tea and coffee is a psychoactive substance but wasn’t included in his new law because he liked a cup of tea in the morning.

*“What about booze and fags?”,* asked Biffo. *“They kill lots of people”.*

Mr. Pastry said that **alcohol** and **nicotine** were psychoactive substances, but were not included in his new law as Mrs. Pastry chain smokes Benson and Hedges and likes a drop of gin.

*“Is a psychoactive substance a medicine, like the doctor gives to sad clowns?”,* asked Biffo.

Mr. Pastry said that **medicines** can be psychoactive substances, but he had not included those in his new law either.



*IT IS LEGAL TO SUPPLY NITROUS OXIDE TO MAKE CUSTARD PIES, BUT IS ILLEGAL TO SUPPLY NITROUS OXIDE IF IT IS LIKELY TO BE USED TO GET HIGH.*

*"Is a psychoactive substance a drug, like cannabis?"*, said Biffo.

Mr. Pastry said that **cannabis** was a psychoactive substance, but was not included in his new law as cannabis and other **illegal drugs** were already covered by another law called **The Misuse of Drugs Act**.

*"Illegal drugs like cannabis are still illegal. That law will stay the same"*, said Mr. Pastry.

*"What about **poppers**?"*, said Biffo.

*"They are **not included** in my new law"*, said Mr. Pastry.

*"Rumpy Pumpy and Mr. Sausage will be pleased"*, said Biffo. *"They like to take poppers and . . ."*

*"That's quite enough of that"*, said Mr. Pastry.

Professor Smarty Pants had told Mr. Pastry that poppers didn't really count as psychoactive substances.

*"They can get you high . . . but it is the 'wrong sort' of getting high. My new law will **not** apply to poppers"*, said Mr. Pastry.

Biffo was quite confused, so he took a puff from his balloon full of laughing gas. Which probably didn't help that much.

*"Biffo, 'laughing gas' is **nitrous oxide** and it is included in my new law"*, said Mr. Pastry.

*"No"*, cried Biffo. *"You can't ban laughing gas. How can I make custard pies without nitrous oxide for whipped cream?"*

*"Ah, that's different"*, said Mr. Pastry. *"You can still sell nitrous oxide to make whipped cream, but you can not sell it if it is likely to be used to get high."*

This new law sounded very silly to Biffo. How was the shop supposed to know what he was going to use it for?



*POSSESSION OF A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE IS NOT AN OFFENCE, UNLESS YOU ARE IN PRISON. BILL THE CUSTARD PIE THIEF IS NOT HAPPY!*

*"My new law will close down all the shops and websites in the country that sell legal highs like Spice", said Mr. Pastry.*

*"Well what's to stop me jumping in my clown car and driving to another country or buying them from a foreign website", said Biffo.*

But Mr. Pastry had thought of that. **Importing a psychoactive substance** or buying it from a **foreign website** will also be an offence. *"You would be committing a crime if you import a psychoactive substance",* he said.

*"Would I be committing a crime if I got caught with a psychoactive substance?"*, said Biffo.

"No", said Mr. Pastry. **"Possession of a psychoactive substance will not be an offence under my new law . . . unless you are in prison"**.

*"Oh, Bill the Custard Pie Thief is in prison. He won't be happy about that",* said Biffo.

*"But at least I won't be arrested if the police catch me with a psychoactive substance",* Biffo exclaimed with relief.

*"Not quite",* said Mr. Pastry.

Mr. Pastry explained that the police may still arrest Biffo, if for instance they caught him with a white powder and they didn't know what it was. They might test it, but unless it turned out to be an illegal drug they would let him go without charging him.

*"What if I bought lots of legal highs before the ban?"*, said Biffo.

Mr. Pastry explained that as long as he didn't have so much that the police thought he **intended to supply** them, that would be alright.



*EVEN PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES THAT HAVE YET TO BE INVENTED ARE ILLEGAL TO MAKE OR SUPPLY.*



*“What if they invent a brand new psychoactive substance?”*, said Biffo.

Mr. Pastry said he had a special test for new substances to tell if they were psychoactive or not.

*“If they test positive they will be included in my new law”*, said Mr. Pastry.

*“That means psychoactive substances that have yet to be invented are illegal”*, said Biffo.

*“Look Biffo, legal highs have killed people. My new law is designed to stop their sale or supply”*, said Mr. Pastry, who was getting quite cross with Biffo’s questions.

*“So a psychoactive substance is a substance that has an effect on your brain”*, said Biffo.

*“It is illegal to make, sell, supply, offer to sell or supply, import or export any psychoactive substance if it is likely to be used to get high”*, said Mr. Pastry.

*“Apart from booze, fags, caffeine and medicines”*, said Biffo.

*“Correct”*, said Mr. Pastry. *“And those drugs that are already illegal are still illegal”*.

*“But possession of a psychoactive substance is not an offence, unless you are in prison”*, said Biffo.

*“That’s right Biffo, I think you’ve got it”* said Mr. Pastry.

Biffo had heard enough by now. He understood all about the **Psychoactive Substances Act** . . . so he threw a custard pie in Mr. Pastry’s face and went to the pub.

THE PSYCHOACTIVE  
**SUBSTANCES**  
**ACT**



*THE PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT  
IS DUE TO START ON 26TH MAY 2016 . . .*

*SEARCH FOR PSA ON THE EXCHANGE SUPPLIES WEBSITE FOR UPDATES  
(SEE BACK PAGE).*



*IT IS ILLEGAL TO MAKE, SELL, SUPPLY, OFFER TO SUPPLY, IMPORT OR EXPORT ANY PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE IF IT IS LIKELY TO BE USED TO GET HIGH . . . APART FROM ALCOHOL, NICOTINE, CAFFEINE AND MEDICINES.*



*NITROUS OXIDE (LAUGHING GAS) IS INCLUDED IN THE PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, BUT POPPERS ARE NOT. (THEY CHANGED THEIR MIND ABOUT POPPERS)*



*IMPORTING A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE INCLUDES BUYING IT FROM A FOREIGN WEBSITE.*



*THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT REMAINS THE SAME. THOSE DRUGS THAT ARE ALREADY ILLEGAL ARE STILL ILLEGAL TO POSSESS.*



*POSSESSION OF A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE IS NOT AN OFFENCE . . . UNLESS YOU ARE IN PRISON.*

**[i]** code PSA1 | version 1.2  
Print date 05/2016

**[>]** aims  
To explain the Psychoactive Substances Act.

**[>]** audience  
Everybody.

**[∨]** content  
No swearing but custard pie throwing.

**[£]** funding  
Self financed.



**To re-order go to [exchangesupplies.org](http://exchangesupplies.org)**

Published by: Exchange Supplies, 1 Great Western Industrial Centre, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1RD.  
Text, design and illustrations: Michael Linnell.

At the time of writing the legal information in this booklet is correct  
– search for PSA on the Exchange Supplies website for version information, and updates.

**EXCHANGE**  
SUPPLIES