



KETAMINE

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WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The slang names for ketamine include ket, vitamin k, special k and donkey dust. Typically, it is used as a horse tranquiliser by vets completely legally and is in liquid form so it can be injected. But illegal use of the drug is usually a white powder or a tablet.

HOW IS IT USED?

Ketamine is most commonly snorted or wrapped in rizla paper and swallowed (known as bombing). Less often but still a worrying trend, is users injecting this drug which adds more risks in terms of sharing equipment and catching viruses such as HIV.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS AND RISKS?

It can make you physically incapable of moving which is obviously not good if you need the toilet! You can feel completely detached from your body and surroundings, which has been compared to having a near-death experience or sometimes called entering the 'k-hole.' It can make you confused, agitated and delirious. Ketamine can cause very serious bladder problems needing to go to the toilet urgently and frequently. Some users have even had to have their bladder removed through surgery!

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Ketamine went from a class C to class B drug in June 2014 due to more and more evidence over its physical and psychological dangers. Now that it is a class B drug, this means it's against the law to have any in your possession, to give away or to sell it. The penalty is a maximum of 5 years for possession and up to 14 years in prison and an unlimited fine for supplying it whether money has been exchanged or not.