

Correspondent 2

Memo

From : Alison Finnegan <Alison.Finnegan@oireachtas.ie>

To: "info@justice.ie" <info@justice.ie>,

cc:

Date : 24/07/2020

Subject: FW: My daughter

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 July 2020 01:40

To: Helen McEntee <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>

Subject: My daughter

Hi Helen my name is [REDACTED] I'm living in [REDACTED] I'm writing for you to help me in a couple of things.. 4 yrs ago just before my daughter was born me and my ex had a drink problem but thankfully I've not touched a drink in 3 yrs but I smoke a small bit of cbd weed for help with my sleeping I lost that total after the drink they had given me tablets but I was drossie the following day. There was 2 attempts of my ex partner of violence towards me and id made tulsa aware I was sure she was a danger to my baby I had given the drink up by then but my ex was violent after drink but anyway on the 2nd attack I had placed my daughter with a neighbour to keep her safe i struggled with her that night with my neighbour helping to fend her off gaurds arrived prosumed that we had been fighting tulsa from the start never asked the neighbour what had happened in the house.. they just took my baby into care and I haven't been able to get her home since. Over the last few years they haven't supported my relationship they go to court for care orders like there noting and maken lies up.. the last court order was up last April I had full open acsess and she was back in my life.. I had to sign my home over so I went homeless they said I get my child back if I did.. they said give up the drink they said the same I did a 12 month programme in [REDACTED] which I graduated from last November they said get your mental health in order I did and I'm taken my tablets all the time so Helen then 14 weeks ago my ex drank again they had ignored me and over 5 complaints about her drinking they still kept me to a side and let my ex take the child even tho her relapses where still going on.. last week I was in court they had my daughter again and the judge was having none of it tulsa was god again and she listen to all the lies they said about me even tho I had all reports from the professionals saying I was in great order and doing so well.. they then attacked me about my smoke at night for medical reason for my mental health that is helping me sleep even tho addiction concillers said they have no more to add that I'm doing so well was never mentioned my reports from my counciler was hid under a counter.. my daughter turns 4 in December by the injustice of tulsa I've never put my child to bed.. I've never had a holiday birthday Xmas the usual.. What tulsa have me now doing as of the court maken me out to be the worst in the world they got a care order saying I had a relapse which I did once but I was sexual abused as a child while tulsa ignored at the time

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is now under garda investigation I had two small vodkas as given a statement was devastating I hated the taste I rang my addiction counciler the following day and I never touched a drop since.. they have me now out of my home no relationship with my child even tho every access she asks daddy when can i come to yours next and also in the court the social worker that spoke so bad about me and her team leader are not even [REDACTED] social workers how I ask are they allowed to be getting away with this it has totally destroyed me as a person I have changed so much about me and it's all there that I'm a great father and [REDACTED] loves me but others are allowed to keep us apart this has had a huge impact on us both.. I would accept it..if I was on heroin snoring cocaine or a huge danger to the child and her views not been heard by the court.. before my ex relapsed me and [REDACTED] seen each other everyday this was because she was out of care we went to parks.. walks down to my house etc but then over the relapse she was sent off to my sister we don't talk or do I to my family so I've no contact with my daughter i wasn't even viewed or asked to care for [REDACTED] even tho im her legal guardian tula taught different im traveling 80 miles now to [REDACTED] for 1hr a week access supervised with two people behind a 2 way mirror watching us.. like im a sexual predator or a mass murderer even tho all the evidence is there I'm a caring loving parent [REDACTED] should be with me I didn't relapse why should our relationship be torn apart.. tula are destroying not only [REDACTED] they are making things so hard it's not one bit easy without your child and more so when I've turned my life around but there's no hope when tula open their mouth in court they are gods to the judges we don't have a chance my daughter is now in care for another 6 months which is so so wrong it should never of happen in the first place with not the right social team there given false evidence to the court and my parenting of [REDACTED] should of been presented more it would be best for the long run having a home here that ive sat in for 2yrs alone with no one helped by tula thinking this is the best way for [REDACTED] so wrong :-(:-(thank you for your time [REDACTED]

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<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

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do thoil, agus scrios an t-ábhar as aon ríomhaire. Is é beartas na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, na nOifigí agus na nGníomhaireachtaí a úsáideann seirbhísí TF na Roinne seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú.

Más rud é go measann tú gur ábhar colúil atá san ábhar atá sa teachtaireacht seo is ceart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus le mailminder[ag]justice.ie chomh maith.

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Correspondent 3

Memo

From : Alison Finnegan <Alison.Finnegan@oireachtas.ie>
To: "Minister of Justice (Phone Listing)" <info@justice.ie>,
cc:
Date : 12/01/2021
Subject: FW: Day 27, and Little Collins CBD cafe was raided again
yesterday

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2020 11:46
To: Helen McEntee <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: Day 27, and Little Collins CBD cafe was raided again yesterday

Dear Helen,

Today is day 27 of my online campaign highlighting to you, Micheál Martin, Frank Feighan and Stephen Donnelly the damage that is being caused by cannabis prohibition in Ireland.

I am writing this morning because I am tired of writing these emails, I am tired of phone calls, I have no interest in social media. I am tired of wanting to leave Ireland for good.

Little Collins CBD dispensary was raided again yesterday by Gardaí, as well as representatives from the HSE and HPRA. Little Collins sells many CBD products, of excellent quality and have a massive client base who are helped by and who enjoy their natural products.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 is in direct violation of EU law which states that any product with below 0.2% THC is permissible to be sold in stores, as well as the ruling made by the United Nations declaring that CBD is not a narcotic and should not be controlled by any government or legal authority.

Over €30,000 worth of product (mainly hemp tea) was seized, as well as flower and other products.

I have been calling Frank Feighan's office for weeks and it says it's closed due to level 5 restrictions. I have emailed countless times and have received no response whatsoever.

Why are our government doing this? Why won't you all acknowledge that we need cannabis and hemp in our society? Why are we still criminalising people for this? You have the power to change this and bring happiness and health to so many people, why would you not want to take charge and make this happen? Speaking frankly, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are not looking

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good right now. Please stop harming Irish people. Please help our country. Start by updating the law. CBD is not something that the Gardai should be targeting. No one deserves to be criminalised for any form of cannabis whatsoever.

Coffee and alcohol are psychoactive drugs. They are legal recreational drugs.

Pubs and coffee shops are legal, designated recreational drug rooms. This is the reality of the matter.

I choose to consume cannabis because it makes me feel better. For me, it is safer than legal drugs (alcohol makes me sick, caffeine makes me shaky and ill, prescription pain killers also make me very ill), and has really helped get me through this pandemic as I live alone, suffer from several health challenges and most recently I lost a friend. Cannabis allows me to meditate, calm my mind and pay attention to my emotions.

I am not a criminal, just like [REDACTED] isn't a criminal. Just like every other child and adult who consumes cannabis for whatever reason is not.

I am calling on the Irish government to act now. Before the end of 2020. This could be done within a few days.

Please Helen, as Minister for Justice, please act on this. It's 2020, and cannabis prohibition is continuing to needlessly destroy lives. This is a conversation that is long overdue. This may not affect you directly, but consider the hundreds of thousands of Irish people that this does affect, every single day.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ending the Stigma. Sharing the Facts.

Advocating for access to safe, legal cannabis for medical and wellness purposes, and responsible adult use in Ireland.

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Más rud é go measann tú gur ábhar colúil atá san ábhar atá sa teachtaireacht seo is ceart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus le mailminder[ag]justice.ie chomh maith.

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Memo

From : Alison Finnegan <Alison.Finnegan@oireachtas.ie>
To: "Minister of Justice (Phone Listing)" <info@justice.ie>,
cc:
Date : 05/02/2021
Subject: FW: URGENT: Violation of European Court of Justice ruling

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2021 15:52
To: Minister of Justice (Phone Listing) <info@justice.ie>; Helen McEntee <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: Re: URGENT: Violation of European Court of Justice ruling

Correcting typo in previous mail: Location is Kilkenny, not Galway.

On Thu, 4 Feb 2021 at 20:49, [REDACTED] wrote:
[REDACTED] Minister Helen McEntee,

I am writing to you today to inform you that Little Collins CBD dispensary in Galway was raided yet again today (04/02/2021).

This came just hours after the owner went on KCLR FM to talk about he and his wife's business, CBD and cannabis.

These continued unlawful raids are a direct violation of the ruling made by the European Court of Justice on November 19th 2020:
"A Member State may not prohibit the marketing of cannabidiol (CBD) lawfully produced in another Member State when it is extracted from the Cannabis sativa plant in its entirety and not solely from its fibre and seeds"

This case ruled that CBD products should not be contained within illegal narcotic legislation of member states, in our case, CBD products should not be contained in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. I would like to highlight a few statements of the ruling that may be of interest to you in your role as Minister for Justice.

The Court noted at Para 75, upon the Court's interpretation of international law and the objective and spirit of the Single Convention, the court stated that "it would be contrary to the purpose and general spirit of the Single Convention to include it (CBD) under the definition of 'drugs' within the meaning of that convention as a cannabis extract." This establishes that cannabidiol (CBD) is not a drug.

The Court at para 80-82 considered the Free Movement of Goods principle, which is a fundamental principle of the EU and the cornerstone of the single market contained in Article 34 TFEU. The Court noted that

restrictions of goods from other member states may be a Measure Equivalent to a Quantitative Restriction (MEQR). These measures are ones that are capable of hindering, directly or indirectly, actually or potentially, inter-union trade, as noted in the case of *Austria v Germany*, C-591/17.

Again at Para 82 of the judgment, the court noted that any "prohibition on marketing CBD lawfully produced in another Member State – when it is extracted from the Cannabis sativa plant in its entirety and not solely from its fibre and seeds – constitutes a measure having equivalent effect to quantitative restrictions within the meaning of Article 34 TFEU."

As I'm sure you are aware, these MEQR's can be justified on grounds of public health which are subject to a narrow interpretation by the Court. On this issue, the Court stated at Para 34 that CBD has no "recognized psychoactive effects", and it had "little to no effect on the central nervous system". The Court determined that "the public health objective appears to be already taken into consideration in Regulation No 1308/2013 in so far as that regulation limits the scope to varieties providing safeguards to be determined in respect of the content of intoxicating substances and adopts, first, a restriction regarding seeds, and second, a level of 0.2% in respect of THC content of hemp".

To summarise all of the above:

"Articles 34 and 36 TFEU must be interpreted as precluding national legislation which prohibits the marketing of cannabidiol (CBD) lawfully produced in another Member State when it is extracted from the Cannabis sativa plant in its entirety and not solely from its fibre and seeds, unless that legislation is appropriate for securing the attainment of the objective of protecting public health and does not go beyond what is necessary for that purpose. Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 must be interpreted as not applying to such legislation."

I'm sure as Minister for Justice you are well aware that EU law does enjoy supremacy over our own Laws and Constitution. The current restriction of CBD products in Ireland is in direct conflict with the above EU ruling. The recent raiding of Little Collins shop in Kilkenny is therefore unjustified, in direct conflict with EU law, and frankly unconstitutional.

I would urge you to remove CBD products from the Misuse of Drugs Act Schedule, as the inclusion of CBD products is having a detrimental effect not only on people's livelihoods but also has the effect of suppressing substantial business opportunities and business growth in Ireland.

I would appreciate your attention on this urgent matter, and acknowledgement of this correspondence.

Sincerely

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Advocating for access to safe, legal cannabis for medical and wellness purposes, and responsible adult use in Ireland.

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Memo

From : [REDACTED]
To: info@justice.ie, helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie,
stephen.donnelly@oireachtas.ie, Ministers Office
<ministers_office@health.gov.ie>,
cc:
Date : 08/02/2021
Subject: URGENT: Unlawful raids by Gardai on CBD businesses have now
cost a life.

Stephen and Helen,

I have contacted your office multiple times since July of 2020 in relation
to this issue.

The Gardai have been unlawfully targeting CBD businesses that sell CBD
flower.

The ruling made by the European Court of Justice clearly states:

"A Member State may not prohibit the marketing of cannabidiol (CBD)
lawfully produced in another member state when it is extracted from the
Cannabis sativa plant in its entirety and not solely from its fibre and
seeds."

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-11/cp200141en.pdf>

Little Collins in Kilkenny was raided again today, as well as last weekend.

These raids have caused such stress to JP's wife that she suffered a
miscarriage over the weekend:

https://twitter.com/little_cbd/status/1358802957467324417?s=20

I am formally demanding immediate intervention regarding this serious
matter.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ending the Stigma. Sharing the Facts.

Advocating for access to safe, legal cannabis for medical and wellness
purposes, and responsible adult use in Ireland.

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From: Ministers Office <info@justice.ie>

Sent: 16 March 2021 12:30

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: DJE-MO-04637-2020

[REDACTED]
Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-04637-2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee TD. The Minister has requested that I respond to you on her behalf.

As stated to you in previous emails dated 13 August 2020, 26 November 2020 and 12 January 2021, the licensing of controlled drugs is a matter for the Minister for Health under the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2016 and regulations made thereunder. The matter of changing the law as it currently stands, and introducing new legislation and drug policy related to cannabis lies with the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan.

The Minister would encourage you to make contact with the Department of Health in relation to this matter. The Department can be contacted by email at info@health.gov.ie or by post at Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street, D02 XW14.

I hope you will appreciate that the role of An Garda Síochána is to implement the law as it stands.

Under Irish law, criminal investigations can only be carried out by An Garda Síochána, who then submit a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The DPP, who operates independently of the Minister and the Department of Justice, then decides whether or not someone should be prosecuted and for what crime. The Minister is unable to intervene in this independent process.

If the owners of Little Collins CBD Dispensary are not satisfied with how their concerns were dealt with by An Garda Síochána, it is open to them to contact the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Office (GSOC). GSOC is the independent body charged with receiving complaints from the public concerning members of An Garda Síochána.

Contact can be made with GSOC at their offices at: 150 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1 and by telephone on Lo-Call Tel: 1890 600 800. Further information is also available on GSOC's "Get in Touch" page, accessible via the following link: <https://www.gardaombudsman.ie/site-pages/get-in-touch/>.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice
51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52
51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

Correspondent 6

From: Ministers Office <info@justice.ie>**Sent:** 12 February 2021 15:37**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** DJE-MO-07963-2020

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-07963-2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D. The Minister has requested that I respond to you on her behalf.

[REDACTED]

As stated to you previously, the licensing of controlled drugs is a matter for the Minister for Health under the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2016 and regulations made thereunder. The matter of changing the law as it currently stands, and introducing new legislation and drug policy related to cannabis, lies with the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan.

The Minister would encourage you to make contact with the Department of Health in relation to this matter. The Department can be contacted by email at info@health.gov.ie or by post at Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street, D02 XW14.

Likewise, questions with regard to the Government's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic should also be directed to the Department of Health.

I hope you will appreciate that the role of An Garda Síochána is to implement the law as it stands.

Under Irish law, criminal investigations can only be carried out by An Garda Síochána, who then submit a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The DPP, who operates independently of the Minister and the Department of Justice, then decides whether or not someone should be prosecuted and for what crime. The Minister is unable to intervene in this independent process.

If the owners of Little Collins CBD Dispensary are not satisfied with how their concerns were dealt with by An Garda Síochána, it is open to them to contact the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Office (GSOC). GSOC is the independent body charged with receiving complaints from the public concerning members of An Garda Síochána.

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Contact can be made with GSOC at their offices at: 150 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1 and by telephone on Lo-Call Tel: 1890 600 800. Further information is also available on GSOC's "Get in Touch" page, accessible via the following link: <https://www.gardaombudsman.ie/site-pages/get-in-touch/>.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Department of Justice

51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52

51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

Memo

From : [REDACTED]
To: "helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie" <helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie>,
"info@justice.ie" <info@justice.ie>,
cc:
Date : 09/02/2021
Subject: Little Collins CBD Dispensary & Covid-19

Dear Helen & team,

I am writing to you in regards to the consistent raiding that has been occurring in "Little Collins CBD Dispensary" in co. Kilkenny.

As the minister for justice, I'm sure you're aware of the EU legislation that was brought in on November 19th, 2020.

If there was any possibility that you were not aware of this law, then please read below:

"A Member State may not prohibit the marketing of cannabidiol (CBD) lawfully produced in another Member State when it is extracted from the Cannabis sativa plant in its entirety and not solely from its fibre and seeds".

This law is a European standard & in my opinion, it should be obeyed.

Here is the PDF of said law from the Court of Justice of the European Union:

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-11/cp200141en.pdf>

Not only am I extremely disappointed with the actions of An Garda Síochána, I am also dramatically disheartened with the development & reform of cannabis laws in our country.

Little Collins CBD Dispensary was raided yet again by An Garda Síochána over the weekend. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The tension, stress & hassle that the Gardaí have brought to these peoples lives is repulsive.

[REDACTED] They have a fantastic shop in Kilkenny, & another in Galway. People love them & their products. These actions from An Gardaí Síochána are classified as harassment. How are these hard-working entrepreneurs suppose to make a living with harassment like this?

Cannabis should be legalised in Ireland & at the very least, possession should be decriminalized.

The people of Ireland are crying out for reformation of laws that were created in a poverty stricken, catholicised country. We are not the same country anymore.

The average age of the current government is 49 years of age. A fair majority of these people would have been raised by parents who lived through poverty & would have lived in a country where the Catholic Church had huge influence on politics. These people were taught that, "all drugs are bad", & cannabis being one of them. Can this government with a mean age of 49 overcome the age old stigmatisation of cannabis being classified as a dangerous drug?

People that are afraid to speak up about the topic of cannabis due to previous media-inflicted stigma (or people with ridiculous convictions for cannabis related issues) would have the option of purchasing appropriately taxed cannabis & not have to worry about getting caught or dealing with criminals who control the market & use potentially harmful product. They would happily stay at home enjoying cannabis safely & the government could benefit greatly from the tax. Is that not a win-win situation?

If you look at the incredible health benefits (and not to mention the fantastic tax revenue) in countries like The USA, Canada, Australia, Czech Republic, (the list goes on), then you would clearly see the need for Ireland to follow suit. We could drastically boost the economy & stop using tax payers money for the defense forces chasing "criminals".

Most people would prefer real criminals to be sought after. Legalizing cannabis would take this market out of the hands of potential criminals & provide the population with an option to receive quality assured, safe cannabis that can be consumed in a safe environment whether it be for medicinal or recreational purposes.

Also, I am very unhappy with the handling of the pandemic by this current government (and I think I speak on behalf of a vast majority of the population for that matter).

From what I can see, the government of Ireland are using state media to act as a mouthpiece to advocate their regime's ideologies.

I recently read an article on RTÉ News stating that individuals who do not comply with quarantine restrictions could face a fine of up €2,500 or 6 months in prison. Could an individual end up in prison for needing food from the supermarket? How does every guard in the country define an essential journey? Does every guard just use their best judgement for each situation? These laws are too loosely written & passed too quickly. Could reformed cannabis laws be written as quickly & loosely as this?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems that the state media only reported this legislation after it became law to stifle any debate among the nation. This is happening way too often & it really sickens me.

As an Irish citizen, I am extremely disappointed with how the current government are running the country. On average, I would say 90% of people I speak with have a similar opinion. The other 10% are usually above the age

of 60, have conservative outlooks & maintain their religious beliefs (which is 100% ok. Live & let live). The older generation are so afraid of this virus because a vast majority of them only have 2/3 data sources (those being RTÉ & other state owned media companies). No wonder they're all afraid to open their front doors.

The nana's & grandads of Ireland, for the most part, don't watch Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, YouTube etc.. All they have is RTÉ News & they only receive a completely one-sided view of Covid-19, political opinions & other economic matters. Nothing positive has ever been reported about Donald Trump either. He achieved some great things while in power. I am fully aware that he frequently made costly mistakes & was not a fantastic president, but the citizens of Ireland should have had the option of making up their own minds on the matter.

It's clear to the younger generation that Irish media is extremely biased & doesn't give an option for people to question things themselves. TD Michael McNamara mentioned in the Dáil last week that the media is doing the governments bidding, they're driving a narrative & they attack those who question what is going on. This government wants to control every minute detail of Irish society, which is rather preposterous & is a huge issue at present & will be in the future.

As the minister for justice, do you think this is a fair democracy? Do you consider Irish laws on cannabis & Irish media to be just or unjust?

I'd appreciate a response on both of these matters.

Kind regards,

Is le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis ar a bhfuil sí dírithe, agus le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis sin amháin, a bheartaítear an fhaisnéis a tarchuireadh agus féadfaidh sé go bhfuil ábhar faoi rún agus/nó faoi phribhléid inti. Toirmiscítear aon athbhreithniú, atarchur nó leathadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfaisnéis seo, aon úsáid eile a bhaint aisti nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh ar a hiontaoibh, ag daoine nó ag eintitis seachas an faighteoir beartaithe. Má fuair tú é seo trí dhearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir, le do thoil, agus scrios an t-ábhar as aon ríomhaire. Is é beartas na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, na nOifigí agus na nGníomhaireachtaí a úsáideann seirbhísí TF na Roinne seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú.
Más rud é go measann tú gur ábhar colúil atá san ábhar atá sa teachtaireacht seo is ceart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus le mailminder[at]justice.ie chomh maith.

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