

Grainne X. Jones

From: Peter X. Jones
Sent: Thursday 11 February 2021 11:32
To: Bernadette X. Phelan
Subject: RE: Drugs,

Hi Bernie,

We had four weed related PQs in from Gino, three have which have been transferred to the Department of Health. The fourth, on why are the Gardaí persecuting weed shop owners, is up for disallowance.

I would agree that this correspondence is properly for the Department of Health.

Peter

Peter Jones

*Príomhoifigeach Cúnta | Coireacht agus Póilíneacht | Ábhar agus Imeachtaí Ceartais Choiriúil | Trédhearcacht
Assistant Principal | Crime and Policing | Criminal Justice Content and Events | Transparency*

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

7 Piás Íle, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52
7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

T +353 (0)1 602 8215 M [REDACTED] Internal VOIP 60 8215
E pxjones@justice.ie W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL

From: Bernadette X. Phelan
Sent: Thursday 11 February 2021 11:21
To: Peter X. Jones
Subject: Drugs,

Good morning Peter,
I know you guys were dealing with some CBD related PQs this week?
I assume that the attached is a matter for D/Health to address?
Bernie

Drugs are illegal because they are dangerous - They are not
dangerous because they are illegal
Prevent - Don't promote(UNODC)

A chara,
The recent Bill introduced to the Dáil by PBP Deputy Gino Kenny for
assisted dying neatly used the opportunity to tie in the legalisation
of cannabis.
Gino Kenny and People Before Profit Party have been long-time
crusaders for normalising the use of this drug, as has the partner of
the [REDACTED] When interviewed on TV, he spoke of

its supposed benefits. The Green Party, of course, are notorious in defence of the weed. Their drug policy calls for Dutch style coffee shops in Ireland. Fortunately, medicine is not passed as fit for purpose based on opinion. It is science-based for our own safety. Remember Thalidomide?

Our FF Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly also has shown his lack of knowledge in this area by pronouncing his view that cannabis should be legalised when he was appointed (a worrying appointment by any standards). However, for the sake of public health let's hope the minister's highly-paid advisers, with the help of Civil Servants, will educate him accordingly. We can all learn more, but please not at the expense of sick people.

I am forwarding with respect to your offices a letter by my colleague [REDACTED] and ask that you and your advisers study the contents. Any attempt to sneak through a change in the law relating to normalising cannabis use by claiming that it has medical benefits in the Bill on Assisting Dying (or at any future time) must be exposed for what it is.

I am a trained counsellor (retired) who has worked for many years with families adversely affected by this drug, and am now [REDACTED]. I am advising in the strongest language: Do not attempt to use those of us who are sick and vulnerable to promote the lie that this drug would be beneficial. There are scientifically-proven safe medicines available..... including cannabis derivatives. A national referendum in New Zealand has to-day announced the people there voted NOT to legalise/decriminalise cannabis (see attached). I fully appreciate the government is grappling with BREXIT and Covid-19 as are all of us, but the drug 'normalisation' movement is equally engaged in promoting the normalisation of cannabis and other drugs and we must be watchful. If you want to smoke dope there is always the option of relocating to the Netherlands. While not legal the police turn a blind eye, resulting in our drug dealers locating there. The Netherlands has the reputation of being Europe's drug capital. Be careful what you wish for.

[REDACTED] letter to Drink and Drug News says it all. You as elected politicians have a duty of care to the electorate.*
Is mise

[REDACTED]

Women of Europe Award – Médaille de Maire de Strasbourg – Médaille de Maire de Paris – Swedish Parent Award – Lord Mayor's Award Dublin – EURAD Awards –(2004 – 2008) Dr Mareesevan Swinderen fonds (Netherlands) Award – Excelency Diploma International Centre for Anti Drugs and Human Rights (ICHR) Romania Co founder Hon President EURAD - Drug Free Nation Pakistan Advisory Board - PREDA Foundation Philippines Board; PADDI Foundation, Lagos; cannabis skunk sense UK; DB Recovery

To the editor:

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is in response to the article written by Nick Goldstein
about 'Medical Marijuana' in the last edition of Drink and Drug News.

There is no such thing as 'Medical Marijuana'. To use the term is not
only wrong but dangerous as it refers to the whole drug, consisting
of hundreds of different compounds. However two of the extracts of
cannabis, THC and CBD, purified and having undergone mandatory
clinical testing have been passed for medical use.

THC in the synthetic form of Nabilone (Dronabinol Cesamet, Marinol,
Syndros) increases the appetite of cancer patients, is an anti-emetic
and a sleep-apnea reliever.

It also is effective for HIV/AIDS induced anorexia and
chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting only.

CBD as Epidiolex is used for 2 types of severe epilepsy.

[REDACTED]

The whole truth of the harms of cannabis use is still not publicised
fully. It has been proved to cause psychosis, brain damage, cancers,
dependence and addiction. It adversely affects the immune, heart and
reproductivesystems. It causes,depression aggression, violence,
suicides, respiratory and cognitive problems.

Today's cannabis is many times stronger than that used in the past.
It is a truly dangerous drug.

[REDACTED]

www.cannabisskunksense.co.uk <<http://www.cannabisskunksense.co.uk>>)

Regards,
Bernadette Phelan
Assistant Principal Officer | Criminal Transparency

An Roinn Dlí and Cirt agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice and Equality

Elv Place, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

M [REDACTED]

E bxphelan@justice.ie W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

Grainne X. Jones

From: Hannah X. Barron
Sent: Thursday 11 February 2021 19:25
To: Cormac X. Flood
Subject: FW: PQ 8083/21, for answer 17/02/2021, Written from - Gino Kenny
Attachments: 20210211 Note to DJustice re CBD PQ.docx

Hi Cormac,

Please see contribution attached from D/Health.

Kind regards,
Hannah

Hannah Barron
PQ Co-ordinator | Transparency Co-ordination

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

E hxbarron@justice.ie W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL

From: PQMail
Sent: Thursday 11 February 2021 18:34
To: Hannah X. Barron ; PQMail
Subject: RE: PQ 8083/21, for answer 17/02/2021, Written from - Gino Kenny

Please see attached

Kind regards,

Conor / Danny / Josh / Ciara

Secretary General's Office

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Bloc 1, Plaza Miesach, 50 - 58 Sráid Bhagóid Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 XW14
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, D02 XW14

Email: pqmail@health.gov.ie
Phone No: 01 635 4327

From: Hannah X. Barron <HXBarron@justice.ie>
Sent: Thursday 11 February 2021 14:25
To: PQMail <PQMail@health.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: PQ 8083/21, for answer 17/02/2021, Written from - Gino Kenny

Hi all,

Can your department assist in providing some general information regarding CBD products and the licencing of them for the PQ below please?

Kind regards,
Hannah

Hannah Barron
PQ Co-ordinator | Transparency Co-ordination

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

E hxbarron@justice.ie W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL

From: PQMail <PQMail@health.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 10 February 2021 12:07
To: Hannah X. Barron <HXBarron@justice.ie>
Cc: PQMail <PQMail@health.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: PQ 8083/21, for answer 17/02/2021, Written from - Gino Kenny

Hi Hannah,

We cannot accept this PQ.

Kind regards,

Ciara / Conor / Danny / Josh /

Secretary General's Office

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Bloc 1, Plaza Miesach, 50 - 58 Sráid Bhagóid Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 XW14
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, D02 XW14

Email: pqmail@health.gov.ie

All PQ queries should be directed to mail to: pqmail@health.gov.ie

From: Hannah X. Barron <HXBarron@justice.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 10 February 2021 09:45
To: PQMail <PQMail@health.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: PQ 8083/21, for answer 17/02/2021, Written from - Gino Kenny

Hi all,

Can you accept the below question on transfer as the Misuse of Drugs Act is primarily the responsibility of D/Health and the question refers to regulations of certain products regulated under this Act and the legal ramification of EU legal decisions on the Irish legislation.

Kind regards,
Hannah

Hannah Barron
PQ Co-ordinator | Transparency Co-ordination

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

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Dail Question No:

To ask the Minister for Justice the reason CBD shops in Ireland are currently having their stock seized and business owners criminalised when the CBD products in question are legal in the EU; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Gino Kenny.

* For Written answer on 17/02/2021
Ref No: 8083/21

Reply

Minister for Justice (Helen McEntee):

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. Toirmisctear 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 scríos 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@justice.ie chomh maith.

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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 scríos 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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For draft reply

Mary Martin

Oifigeach Cléireachais Oifig Phríobháideach an Aire | Tredhearacht

Clerical Officer | Minister's Private Office | Transparency

I am currently working from home.

*An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice*

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R/E MEMartin@justice.ie G/W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL

From: Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday 12 February 2021 15:04
To: Ministers Diary Mail In <diary@justice.ie>
Subject: Re: FW: FW: End the stigma - what is your stance on cannabis prohibition?

Dear Mary,

I put the question to the Minister for Justice because of the raids against CBD dispensary over the last week. I wonder if you have read this email yet, it was my first to be addressed to the Minister.

As it is my understanding that the Garda Síochána are in no way working under the Minister for Health, I put the question back to Minister McEntee, why are garda resources being used to raid shops which are legal under EU law?

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 2:49 PM Ministers Diary Mail In <diary@justice.ie> wrote:

Dear Mr Kerin

Thank you for your email. As the subject of more appropriate for the Department of Health, we have transferred it there for direct reply .

Kind regards
Mary Martin

Mary Martin

Oifigeach Cléireachais Oifig Phríobháideach an Aire | Tredhearacht

Clerical Officer | Minister's Private Office | Transparency

I am currently working from home.

*An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice*

23

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R/E MEMartin@justice.ie G /W www.justice.ie twitter.com/DeptJusticeIRL

From: INFO <info@justice.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 10 February 2021 14:45
To: Ministers Diary Mail In <diary@justice.ie>
Subject: Fw: FW: End the stigma - what is your stance on cannabis prohibition?

Memo

From : Alison Finnegan <Alison.Finnegan@oireachtas.ie>
To: "Minister of Justice (Phone Listing)" <info@justice.ie>, **cc:**
Date : 10/02/2021
Subject: FW: End the stigma - what is your stance on cannabis prohibition?

From: Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>
Sent: 10 February 2021 14:39
To: Helen McEntee <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>; Helen McEntee <Helen.McEntee@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: End the stigma - what is your stance on cannabis prohibition?

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

I am writing to discuss your position on the criminalization of cannabis. As has been reported recently, Ireland has some of the **highest cannabis use in Europe**. Don't you agree that a regulated legal market would make things safer for the 17% of Irish people using cannabis?

I'd like to arrange a quick call to discuss your most pressing reasons for continuing to criminalize cannabis use, could you kindly acknowledge this matter and revert with a time that suits you?

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

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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](mailto: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 : 15/02/2021

Subject: FW: Raid on CBD dispensary today

From: Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

Sent: 15 February 2021 14:11

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

Subject: Re: Raid on CBD dispensary today

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

I have received a response to later correspondence, but I don't believe these emails have been acknowledged.

Could you kindly acknowledge receipt of the same and respond with an explanation of the continued raids of this business?

EU law supersedes whatever we have in our own legislation, and because the EU law says CBD products (with THC < 0.1%) are legal - we cannot use An Garda Siochana to raid this premises, nor should we be seizing their products. Even in the face of this information, the Garda were provided with lab reports that show the products are within legal guidelines. It is utter insanity that they went ahead with the raids.

I would appreciate your prompt response on this matter.

Regards,
Thomas Kerin

On Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 11:19 PM Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

https://twitter.com/little_cbd/status/1358800548204535810

I wish to call to your attention that the raids against CBD dispensary are to be continued? I call on you to act and stop the raids and allow the judicial review to come out next week.

https://twitter.com/little_cbd/status/1358802957467324417

The family behind the dispensary have suffered a miscarriage since the raid on the weekend. This is heartbreaking.

I hope you will respond with acknowledgement of this matter.

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 5:15 PM Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

I wish to raise a serious matter with you. Today I learned the Little Collins CBD Dispensary was raided by An Gardaí Siochána. I understand they are selling CBD products which are not restricted by the misuse of drugs act. I would also call your attention to a recent EU ruling saying 'CBD is not a narcotic'
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/19/cbd-is-not-a-narcotic-says-eu-court-french-ban>

It is utterly appalling for the gardai to be involved. The company has lab testing of their products to ensure THC levels are below the threshold of 0.2% which would class the material as 'THC containing'.

Since these lab results were also shared with the Gardai I find it hard to accept there was a convincing reason for the raid to take place. This should not be a matter for the Department of Justice.

Even pharmacies are selling CBD containing products in this day and age - there can't be this much of a double standard that warrants a garda raid.

I would love to discuss matter this with you further if you have some time.

Kind regards,
Thomas Kerin

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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 : 18/02/2021

Subject: FW: Malta to permit responsible cannabis use

From: Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

Sent: 18 February 2021 17:23

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

Subject: Malta to permit responsible cannabis use

Dear Minister, a chara,

Yet another EU country leading the way with a bill for responsible cannabis use while Ireland is sitting on it's hands

<https://twitter.com/VoltefaceHub/status/1362359494680928258>

The European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction has a policy overview document I wish to present for your consideration:

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/topic-overviews/cannabis-policy/html_en

It speaks to different models for regulated supply of cannabis within the EU, and other models taken outside the EU.

I feel this is a surprisingly frank remark given the agencies tasking: "In Europe, since the late 1990s, decriminalisation and harm reduction policies had less negative impact than had been feared."

I understand you are receiving daily contact from those affected, directly or indirectly, by the prohibition of cannabis in Ireland. We are hoping you will finally engage the citizens of Ireland instead of ignoring our emails and phone calls.

I look forward to your acknowledgement of this, and your comments on the matters mentioned above.

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

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Memo

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

To: "Minister of Justice (Phone Listing)" <info@justice.ie>,

cc:

Date : 04/02/2021

Subject: FW: Raid on CBD dispensary today

From: Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

Sent: 04 February 2021 17:15

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

Subject: Raid on CBD dispensary today

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

I wish to raise a serious matter with you. Today I learned the Little Collins CBD Dispensary was raided by An Gardaí Síochána. I understand they are selling CBD products which are not restricted by the misuse of drugs act. I would also call your attention to a recent EU ruling saying 'CBD is not a narcotic'
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/19/cbd-is-not-a-narcotic-says-eu-court-french-ban>

It is utterly appalling for the gardai to be involved. The company has lab testing of their products to ensure THC levels are below the threshold of 0.2% which would class the material as 'THC containing'.

Since these lab results were also shared with the Gardai I find it hard to accept there was a convincing reason for the raid to take place. This should not be a matter for the Department of Justice.

Even pharmacies are selling CBD containing products in this day and age - there can't be this much of a double standard that warrants a garda raid.

I would love to discuss matter this with you further if you have some time.

Kind regards,
Thomas Kerin

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Oireachtas email policy and disclaimer. oireachtas.ie/en/email-policy/

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Memo

From : Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

To: helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie, helen.mcentee@oir.ie, info@justice.ie,
cc:

Date : 22/02/2021

Subject: Cannabis prohibition has failed

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

Cannabis prohibition has failed.

It has failed at reducing the number of cannabis users. In a recent poll, 17% of those surveyed had used cannabis in the past year. In the face of illegal supply, and even lockdown restrictions, drugs are being consumed as always.

Further to this, the health-lead refrain from Irish government seems to ignore the data at its disposal: Despite 17% having a casual relationship with cannabis, we haven't seen cases of mental illness or any disease arise in a correlated fashion.

The arguments made for prohibition are mostly centred around the negatives of ILLEGAL supply:
Drug dealers, violence, debt, overdoses through dodgy supply..

I hope you'll appreciate where I'm coming from with this, and be a part of Ireland repealing another repressive part of legislation.

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

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.

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Memo

From : Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

To: ciaran.cuffe@greenparty.ie, MinisterFeighan_Office@health.gov.ie,
Ministers_office@health.gov.ie, stephen.donnely@oireachtas.ie,
frank.feighan@oireachtas.ie, info@justice.ie,
helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie,

cc:

Date : 25/02/2021

Subject: Ireland falling behind it's EU obligations

Dear Ciarán, a chara, and Ministers,

I am writing to you as one of my local MEP's. I live in Stoneybatter.

I'm writing to highlight the recent communication from the EU Commission centred around CBD. This issue has been highlighted recently by the raids of the Little Collins CBD dispensary, and more recently the ReLeaf CBD dispensary, whose premises - and the owners home residence's - have been raided and products seized.

For Little Collins CBD dispensary, I know they double tested their products to ensure they met EU regulations. I've become very active on this issue because the EU has declared CBD products to be food, and that also includes products containing up to 0.2% THC. Since this is in EU law, Ireland must respect this and stop raiding these businesses.

More distressing, is the double standard taking place - It's not just these dispensaries, it's also Boots that sell it, Holland and Barrett's, and honestly, most pharmacies in Ireland are selling it. Arguably these companies would present a much greater violation of the law, but instead the Gardai are focussing on shops selling hemp flowers.

Here's a summary of some of the findings reported back from the Hemp Foundation of Ireland, who contacted the EU Commission for it's views:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c726fecebf7fc0696ed92d/t/6037ab31d5eb13176dc7a57f/1614261042316/25_02+Statement_+Hemp+Federation+Ireland+\(1\).pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c726fecebf7fc0696ed92d/t/6037ab31d5eb13176dc7a57f/1614261042316/25_02+Statement_+Hemp+Federation+Ireland+(1).pdf)

"The Commission confirmed that CBD is a food and is regulated under EU food law; that natural CBD - which also contains trace amounts of THC - is also regulated as food by EU authorities"

"Miss Allen again stressed that the EU adopts a democratically unified position on the United Nations Single Convention and that Ireland had now deviated significantly from that united position. Miss Allen said; 'because the Convention protects human life and health, the EU Commission takes a very firm stance on deviant Member States. Only yesterday the Commission launched infringement proceedings against Hungary for it's noncompliance with the EU's position last December"

Hemp Federation Ireland has written to Irish Ministers for Health, Justice, Agriculture and Finance informing them of the EU Commission's further guidance on EU governance of the industry. Miss Allen said; 'the commission has once again been very clear; there is no valid reason for further inaccurate interpretations of European legislation and regulation by Irish authorities"

I would call on you to ensure Ireland meets it's obligations under EU law,

provisions adequately for CBD in Irish regulation, and most urgently, to call for the raids against these businesses to end.

Please join me in conveying this to the Ministers for Health Stephen Donnelly, the Minister of State for Public Health, Well-being and National Drugs Strategy Frank Feighan, and Minister of Justice Helen McEntee (CC'd) who have failed to act on this issue.

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

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. Toirmiscear 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 scríos 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.

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Memo

From : Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

To: info@justice.ie, helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie, helen.mcentee@oir.ie,
cc:

Date : 04/03/2021

Subject: CBD dispensary raids back-firing?

Dear Minister McEntee, a chara,

I found a clip of a CBD dispensary owner I thought you might be interested in - he explains why he setup the business

<https://twitter.com/nurtureCBD/status/1367070127171260416>

I almost missed the message at the top of the tweet, that they were unlawfully raided last week by Gardai!

I'll be honest, CBD isn't the hill I want to die on, but it's disgraceful to see government actively discriminating against a store the EU says is legal. It's a sign of what they'll do any other fringe area it doesn't understand. Ireland has repealed plenty of backwards laws, and cannabis criminalization is going to be one of them.

If anything, it's emboldened me to no longer sit in silence. It's not just me:

Since the Gardai started raiding CBD customers, they've started working for the CBD dispensaries

Since the Gardai started raiding CBD stores, cannabis users have bought CBD for solidarity.

Since the Gardai have started raiding CBD stores, they've fuelled the most organic anti-criminalization social media campaign Ireland has ever seen.

All this because Ireland is ignoring the EU position on CBD.

Best regards,
Thomas Kerin

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. Toirmiscear 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.

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From: Ministers Office <info@justice.ie>

Sent: 16 March 2021 12:32

To: Mr. Thomas Kerin <thomas.kerin@gmail.com>

Subject: DJE-MO-01305-2021

thomas.kerin@gmail.com

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-01305-2021

Dear Mr. Kerin,

Thank you for your emails dated 4th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 24th and 25th February 2021 to the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee TD. The Minister has requested that I respond to you on her behalf.

I hope you will appreciate that 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.

I note from your email dated 25th February 2021 that you have made contact with the Department of Health, and I would encourage you to continue to liaise with them on this matter.

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 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

Article**CBD store owner pleads for clarity**

The Irish Examiner, 15/02/2021, p.2, Ryan O'Rourke

The owner of a cannabidiol (CBD) store in Co Kilkenny had over €20,000 of his product seized by a Garda operation that targeted his shop. This is despite gardai confirming that it is "envisaged" that legislation will be amended so that these types of CBD-based products will not fall
Keyword : Garda

Grainne X. Jones

From: ePQ (Justice) <justice-epq-noreply@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 15 February 2021 09:24
Subject: PQ Assigned: 9112/21, for answer 18/02/2021, Written from - Catherine Connolly

PQ 9112/21 has been assigned to PQ Trsp Criminal Crime and Policing.

Please click on the link to view the question

<https://justice.cloud.gov.ie/apps/ePQ/Lists/ParliamentaryQuestions/2021/9112-21>.

To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to the recent raid of a shop (details supplied)] which sells legal hemp and cannabidiol products; the engagement she has had with the Minister for Health with regard to amending the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 to provide legal clarity for CBD business owners as well as An Garda Síochána with a view to preventing these damaging raids and confiscations of legal CBD products; and if she will make a statement on the matter. .

Please note that a member of the section must either accept ownership or notify the PQ Office with any request immediately in order to meet the strict deadlines set down by the Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas. A rejection of a PQ is only a request to the PQ Office and does not discharge a Section from responsibility in answering a question. The PQ Office will assess the request to determine a final decision on the matter and notify the Section of its results accordingly. To do this edit the PQ in the above link.

This email was sent to 32 other people.

25