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ACTION	

Reply to: Ed Le Quesne,
Chairman
16, Millais Park
St. Helier
JE2 4RU
29 / 6 / 04

Deputy Jerry Dorey
17, St. James St.

Dear Jerry,

We are very glad that your scrutiny panel is looking into Jersey's policy re drugs. We were very pleased to read that recently the court had sentenced a drug courier to a probation order rather than a long prison sentence. From the facts reported in the J.E.P. her life had been a catalogue of misery and this sentence gives her some hope of changing things round. Sister Hilary Brown, who is part of the chaplaincy team at the prison, told us that she found the couriers were more often victims than villains, especially the females. We want the court will continue to look for more creative and compassionate sentences for those who are victims without reducing the generally strong line against drugs importers.

We also want more resources put into the support of people who wish to end their drug habit. An article in the J.E.P. about a mother whose son committed suicide after getting no support following detox shows there is a clear need.

The initiative of publishing drugs sentences in local papers in Manchester, Liverpool etc is one creative idea. We would like others to be tried so that couriers don't spend several years in Jersey prison or in UK prison's at Jersey's expense.

Yours sincerely

Ed Le Quesne

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