

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th APRIL 2016**

Question

Will the Minister state –

- (i) how many individuals have been cautioned for Cannabis possession in the past 5 years;
- (ii) how many of those were prosecuted, and
- (iii) what the outcome of the prosecutions were; including, in each case, how many of those individuals claimed to be ‘medicinal users’?

What has the estimated cost been, over the last five years, for dealing with Cannabis enforcement, including Police time, Customs, Crown Officers, Court costs and prison accommodation?

Answer

- (i) 665 individuals have been arrested by the police for cannabis possession in the past 5 years (1 April 2011 – 31 March 2016). It has not been possible to distinguish if the same individual has been arrested more than once, at different times over the 5 year period.
- (ii) These individuals accounted for 714 cases of cannabis possession being referred to the Courts or Parish Hall for disposal.
- (iii) Details of the outcomes of these prosecutions are overleaf. It is not possible to distinguish how many of these individuals claimed to be ‘medicinal users’.

It is, unfortunately, not possible for the services listed in the question to accurately estimate the cost of cannabis enforcement. For example, the prosecution of an individual for being in possession of cannabis can take different routes through the criminal justice system depending on the circumstances of the case. An individual might be dealt with by the Centenier at a Parish Hall enquiry, or charged for a court hearing which may result in a brief appearance or a case that goes to trial with a number of direction hearings. It should also be noted that the Prison Service is unable to attribute costs to the management of a specific category of offender.

The States of Jersey Police has, in recent years, reviewed and implemented new procedures for dealing with an individual found in possession of cannabis, with the aim of making the process more expeditious. This negates the need for the drugs to be officially analysed by the States Analyst, and allows the case to be processed through the judicial system quicker and more efficiently.

CANNABIS POSSESSION: APRIL 2011 - MARCH 2016

	Apr- Dec 2011	Jan- Dec 2012	Jan- Dec 2013	Jan- Dec 2014	Jan- Dec 2015	Jan- Mar 2016
COURT DISPOSALS						
Binding Over	9	10	14	5	6	3
Community Service	5	11	13	8	3	0
Exclusion Order	2	0	0	1	0	0
Fine OR Imprisonment	40	30	20	19	25	4
Imprisonment	15	15	19	7	9	1
Probation Order	14	16	23	13	14	3
Probation Order AND Community Service	0	0	0	0	0	3
Absolute discharge	0	0	0	0	0	1
No evidence offered (case dismissed)	1	5	7	7	4	0
Case withdrawn	3	6	5	6	4	1
No separate penalty awarded	5	13	4	8	3	0
Bound Over to Leave the Island	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lie on file	0	0	1	0	0	1
Arrest ordered	9	2	4	3	2	1
Failed to appear	0	3	1	3	0	0
Sub Total	103	111	111	81	70	18
PARISH HALL DISPOSALS						
Written Caution	22	29	22	25	29	5
Written Caution (as a result of a deferred decision)	10	16	13	16	21	5
Words of advice	1	0	0	0	0	1
No further action taken	0	1	2	0	2	0
Sub Total	33	46	37	41	52	11
Overall Total						
	136	157	148	122	122	29
Total last 5 years (April 2011 - March 2016)						714