



Introduction

On 22nd September, the GDSC team sent the following letter to all candidates for States of Guernsey 2020 Election.

We have compiled all responses to date below the letter, for your viewing ,

Document Control

Date	Changes / Additions
30/09/2020	Initial release
01/10/2020	<p>Added: Pierre Ehmann Aidan Matthews</p> <p>Also added “Document Control” section as a quick reference for any new additions to this document.</p>
01/10/2020	<p>Added: John Dyke</p>
01/10/2020	<p>Added: Lindsay de Sausmarez Yvonne Burford</p>
02/10/2020	<p>Added: Jennifer Merrett Heidi Soulsby David Albert Inglis Diane Mitchell Victoria Russell Rob Prow Nick Moakes Mark Dorey</p>
03/10/2020	<p>Added: John Robilliard Sarah Breton Victoria Oliver</p>
04/10/2020	<p>Added: Guilhem Chêne Rhian Helen Tooley</p>

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Letter to all candidates for States of Guernsey 2020 Election

Dear Candidate for States of Guernsey 2020 Election

The Guernsey Drug Strategy Campaign have canvassed the views of persons running for election in prior years and are aiming to serve their community again in the run up to this 2020 election. Our community are seeking to engage with you about your views on the following report:

The Committee for Health and Social Care commissioned a report from Professor Harry Sumnall of the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, <https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=127702&p=0>. This report contains his findings on reviewing the interaction between Health and Justice in relation to the possession of drugs for personal use. The report speaks candidly regarding the unintended harms to a community that are caused by jurisdictions, such as Guernsey (and countries with comparative drugs policies) by existing drugs policy.

Please let us have your comments, which will be passed on to our community for their considerations. Questions have been prepared for you below:

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?
2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?
3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?
4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?
5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

For those of you with a bit more time, who may enjoy wider reading regarding the position the following have also been linked for you:

The Police Annual Report for 2019 indicates significant operational commitment to importation of cannabis in its Border Agency efforts to protect the community from harm. (notably pages 12 and 26)

<https://www.guernsey.police.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=127363&p=0>

Further to the Police Annual Report, the recent Justice Review <https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=123927&p=0> received significant response from the States of Deliberation with calls for amendments, followed by a successful Sursis Motive <https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=128389&p=0> requiring evidence based proposals to be returned to the States within specific timeframes. The Justice Review (pages 38 and 41) indicates that in 2017, strategic response for the Drug and Alcohol strategy moved from the Committee for Home Affairs to the Committee for Health and Social Care, in recognition that overall substance use/misuse are more ably considered by Health when caring for the community, than Law Enforcement.



It is also the position in Guernsey that the committee for Health and Social care have indicated that there is scientific evidence to support the use of Cannabis to relieve several conditions as listed on the GOV.GG website <https://www.gov.gg/mhc>.

Many users have declared their use of the drug as alleviating medical and mental health conditions, which now has increased scientific support. Yet further information suggests that other members of the community fear to declare their use in case it affects their employment, or they receive a criminal sanction.

We would like to bring to your attention the results of a Change.org [petition](#) which closed recently, and have attached the resulting list of signatories.

The text attaching to the petition was as follows:

Bring an end to the draconian prohibition of cannabis, to allow personal use and personal cultivation.

The HSC report, plus many open minded Deputies agree that harsh punishment, such as 10 year prison sentences, are totally unacceptable and must end.

The cost to human life and dignity is totally out of proportion, as is the huge cost to the taxpayer of enforcing the prohibition.

Over 40 countries have legalized cannabis for medical and recreational use, we must stand up and ensure that our Island joins that group of progressive countries.

The attached list of 2,111 signatures clearly shows the strength of feeling by local residents as well as people from overseas with a connection to, or an interest in Guernsey, 1,567 are local and 544 are overseas.

We believe that with around 3,000 cannabis users on the island, plus many non users who support change, there would have been even more local signatories had it not been for their fear of police action.

We urge you all to consider the ending of the prohibition of cannabis as a matter of urgency. There is more than enough evidence to support this.

Further reading available at these links:

<https://drugscience.org.uk/tag/cannabis/>

<https://myaccessclinics.co.uk/>

Sincerely

The Guernsey Drug Strategy Campaign



Candidate Responses

Please find below all responses from candidates.

Note: If a candidate is not listed please assume there has been no response to date. If a response is received at a later date, we will endeavour to update this document as soon as practically possible.

Tony Walkington



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Sir.

In my opinion the future drug strategy should bear in mind and be adjusted in the near future so that the cultivation of Cannabis for medicinal uses can become a great forward and ongoing source of income for the Island as well as a benefit to local sufferers of a variety of ailments. Personal and social use should be legalised, controlled, taxed and monitored but made available as is alcohol once advice on costs and social effects has been taken from governments in jurisdictions that have chosen this approach. Class A drug use/addiction should be treated as a health issue and not a criminal one BUT the illegal importation and sale/distribution of class A drugs should be treated as a serious crime as it is in all other jurisdictions.

Kind regards.
Tony Walkington

Jonathan Le Tocq



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Yes

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear GDSC Campaigners,

I think you know my views on these issues, but I've responded as briefly as I can to your questions below.

Very best,

Jon

Jeremy Smithies



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

People are only criminalised if they commit a crime and are found guilty.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

The illegal use of cannabis is not a health issue.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Irrelevant. No one disputes that tobacco is harmful to health and excessive consumption of alcohol is dangerous (and, incidentally, illegal and leads to criminalisation). What you seem to advocate is adding to human misery by extending the list of harmful substances to be consumed.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Are we talking about recreational use or medically prescribed cannabis derivatives? Regulation for the latter already exists; the former is illegal.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Totally illogical to declare an amnesty for an illegal activity before the strategy has been debated. The question is prejudiced in its assumption that an amnesty will "protect from harm". The harm is being done by persisting in breaking the law.

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Who exactly are you and who is funding your campaign?

Your web site gives no information about your constitution or governing body.

Regards

Jeremy Smithies

Jane Stephens



Responses to questions

- Not provided

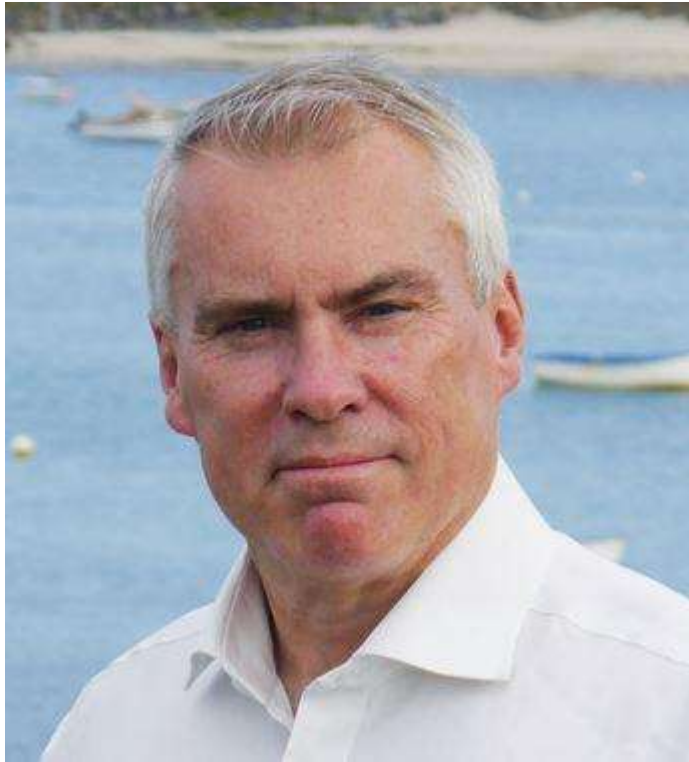
Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Good afternoon,

I have read all the excellent questions but in waiting for the HSC and HA reports and comments I cannot answer them other than to say this is a good time for an open debate both in the States and with the community on the preferred way forward.

Jane Stephens

Scott Ogier



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree with the continued criminalisation of users. I believe it is time our jurisdiction has a proper conversation on how to handle cannabis, especially bearing in mind actions in the larger nations which have moved from this policy. There should be an immediate amnesty while we sort this issue out.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I do think the modern high THC level hybrids which have been created have a stronger effect than historical marijuana users would recognise. Used to excess this can result in mental health issues quicker and for more casual users than alcohol. I don't think it is more harmful overall than tobacco. Perhaps we should have a better balance of CBD and other Cannabinoids to THC to prevent some of the more intense psycho-active effects of high THC strains in order to mitigate this issue.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I think the use of cannabis for medicinal reasons is beyond disagreement given the science and research and it should be available locally, prescribed locally and be inexpensive for those whose symptoms would be alleviated by its use. For recreational, I think it's inevitable that it becomes legalised/decriminalised/regulated so let's have the public debate on where we go from here.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I agree in the aims of an immediate amnesty.

Clint Ian Peter Gardner



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Guernsey Drug Strategy Team

I am all for legalising Cannabis as there is more than enough evidence, also I legalised it on the isle of wight.

Now in saying this what I would love for you guys to do is to provide money figures :) As a lot of business minded people love to see this :)

This is what I did in a letter to bob seriley (current mp for iow) so if you can do this then we are onto a winner and I'm happy to debate with this (If im voted in) Warm Regards

Clint Gardner

Andy Cameron



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

DISAGREE

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

AGREE

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

DISAGREE

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

AGREE

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Sorry, the last question I would have to disagree on, I don't think it's legally possible.

Al Brouard



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Hi

Thank you for your email

I have no issue and in fact the medical use of cannabis

With regard to recreational use I have not come to a strong position and will listen to the evidence.

Best Regards

Al Brouard

Shane Langlois



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

A difficult one, because it would set a precedent. HA & HSC should bring their strategy to the States asap.



Ray McLean



Responses to questions

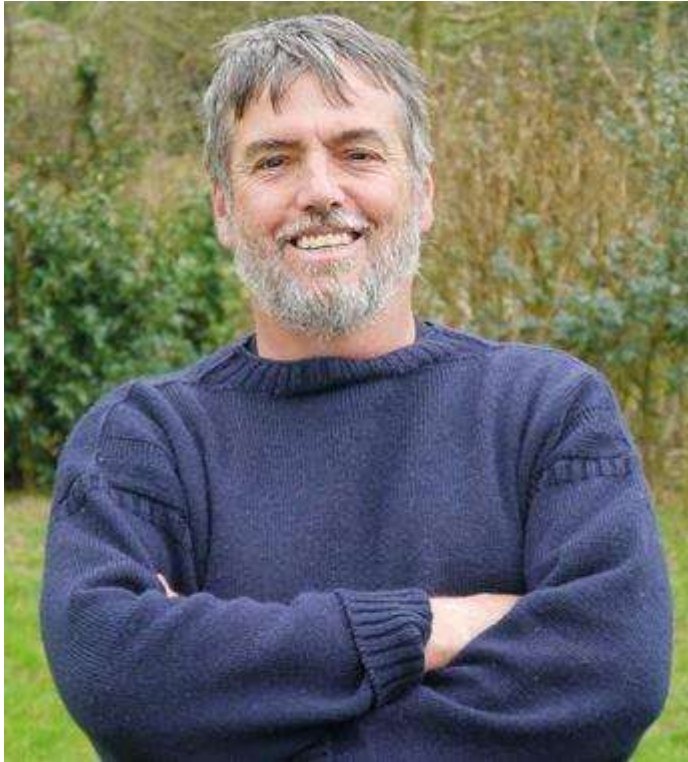
- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Hi folks,

You can count on me, i'm with you on this.

Peter Roffey



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree. I tried to address this as long ago as 1982 when I brought a motion to the States proposing that nobody should be able to be given a prison sentences for possessing a modest amount of cannabis. Sadly I lost - heavily - but I believe the times and attitudes have now changed.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree. I tried to address this in the noughties when I brought a proposal as HSSD minister to reclassify cannabis. I didn't succeed.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I am not quite sure what the term "amnesty" means in this context. If it means discretionary policing then that is not something I am in favour of. While it might be to my taste in this particular case once the principle is established that law enforcement agencies can pick and chose which democratically approved laws to enforce then the whole political oversight of justice is undermined. On the other hand if the idea is that the States should debate and approve the terms of an amnesty then surely in the same timeframe they could debate and approve reforms to the relevant laws thus rendering an amnesty unnecessary?

Yves Lenormand



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree with the current drugs policy.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Agree

Adam Martel



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree - The existing drug policies are by far outdated, not fit for purpose and do not work in our island and community. Our current judicial system has many flaws and inconsistencies. We must review and make significant improvements moving forward.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree (not in all cases where dealers are making significant gains and profiteering) - There is a vast amount of fact based evidence to suggest that dealing with under mental health has a far better output for individuals as opposed to going through a criminal justice system. I have been to over half a dozen conferences in the US (Florida and Atlanta in the last 4 years) to see how they are dealing under mental health provisions works when combatting mainly the opiate pandemic they have.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I disagree - I believe alcohol and tobacco have more life threatening health risks than cannabis as a whole. Cannabis can be great for health and well-being, also be an aid to combat alcoholism and is used for widely for lifesaving medical conditions, therefore how can it be classed as more dangerous, it does not make any sense.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I agree (as also part of my full manifesto, attached part of law/legislation section) - With the right thought out approach for Guernsey we should consider all possibilities of introducing regulation and give islanders the right to choice. We do not have to promote it, market it, allow it to be used in public places, but we should have the right to access with the correct regulation and guidance put in place. We do not want to be the next Amsterdam so to speak, we need to look into what is fundamentally right for our island. The benefits for our economy are endless once new policies and regulation have been debated and introduced. This subject is not going away, it will continue to get stronger as many wake up to the many opportunities that are there for the taking.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I agree - Yes the public (islanders and community members) should be protected from the harm caused by our existing policies in place. Yes we need an amnesty now as we wait for wait for the topic to be debated again in 2021 by the newly elected States. No more delays, if you are caught with a small personal amount first time, warning and have the drug(s) confiscated. If caught a second time, fine imposed. Third time and depending on amount and time period caught with a banned substance, then potentially court appearance and officially go through the judicial system.

Elis Bebb



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear sirs,

I note a number of questions that you pose concerning drug strategy, but fear that I can't answer your questions directly as I have a more nuanced view on the matter. Your questions do refer to two policies of mine, available on my website, that state the following:

[Justice Reform](#)

We have a high number of young people who are given short term sentences by our courts. These are usually for minor infractions of the law, as evidenced by the brevity of their sentence. Having been sentenced for less than six months, the prison service don't have enough time to engage with them, their cases aren't passed to the probation service so we have no engagement with the professional services for any reform of character. The individual is then left usually without a job, homeless and dependent on the state; they're also far more likely to re-offend, but for a greater offence next time.

Evidence shows that non custodial sentences are for more effective than short term custodial sentences. This therefore requires deputies to finally grasp the difficult issue of sentencing guidelines. Obviously this is an area that would require extensive consultation with both the Royal Court and the Magistrates Court, but if we don't, we're saying that as a community we're content to see our young, who get caught making minor mistakes, consigned to the scrap heap of humanity. I don't believe we, as a society, hold such a belief, and I'd therefore suggest a reform of the criminal justice system to reflect the values we hold dear.

[Cannabis](#)

There is a growing clamour for liberalisation of our drug laws in relation to cannabis, and it would be easy to present a black and white view of whether we should embark on such an experiment within an election campaign. Unfortunately I don't believe we're in full receipt of all the information of what liberalisation would involve.

Personally I could never support the decriminalisation of drug use, as this would remove the police from enforcing the law whilst allowing criminal gangs to line their pockets.

Legalisation would be an option, but what are the issues concerning full regulation of the supply line, licencing of traders? Given card companies may prohibit the use of cards for the purchase of cannabis, would a cash based economy be something that could attract its own problems of theft, and what police resource would be required to deal with this issue? Would a cash based economy be open to abuse as money launderers, which in turn could be detrimental to our finance industry? What are our international obligations and are these discharged through Her Majesty's Government, and if so, what view would they have



of Guernsey causing them to be in breach of such international treaties? What is the view of our health and law enforcement professionals?

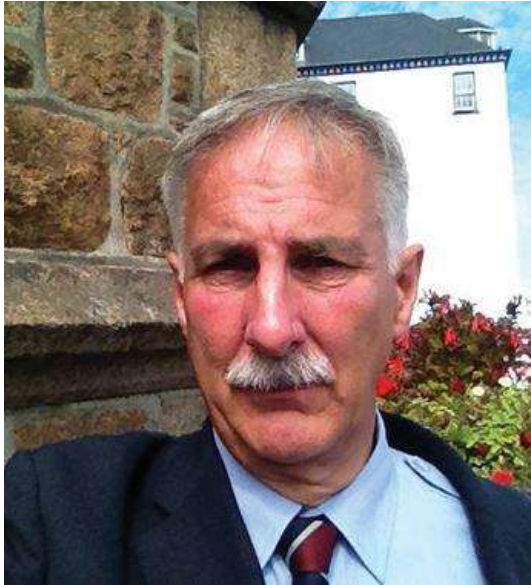
It is these questions that we would need to answer before we could embark on legalisation, as well as the question of taxation and cost. I would be supportive of a comprehensive review to answer all of these questions, and then be open to the findings of such a review.

Whilst I'm sure you'd prefer a straight response of yes or no, I believe the only way to reform illegal drug policy in Guernsey is to gather the evidence the review would provide, and then persuade the assembly to vote for a fully legalised system when in full receipt of the facts.

I hope this response is of assistance to you in determining your view on my policies.

Yours faithfully,
Elis Bebb.

David (Syd) Bowscher



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I believe there is merit in changing regulations to decriminalise the use of drugs currently classified as illegal.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Dealing with drug use as a health issue makes sense to me.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I equate the harm from alcohol, tobacco and cannabis use are very similar.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I agree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by Substance Use. To have an amnesty without the support networks put in place could prove foolhardy. The courts could be instructed to delay the cases before them to avoid individuals being criminalised until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have implemented their strategy for substance use?

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear GDSC,

Thank you for your letter canvassing my thoughts on illegal drugs.

I took an hour and a half reading Professor Sumnall's report and a further couple of hours doing research to help me research and draft my reply.

Illegal Drugs



Quote; "The HSC report, plus many open minded Deputies agree that harsh punishment, such as 10 year prison sentences, are totally unacceptable and must end." This quote would seem to be incorrect.

The Introduction to the report says "the report does not make specific recommendations " This report does not say that harsh punishments "must end". It is a comprehensive report that lists alternative approaches to dealing with users of what are, at this moment, illegal drugs. It mentions in its conclusion that there is "some evidence for public support for adopting less punitive approaches for possession offences" and that changes could be controversial and will have resource implications.

It would appear that the report does not differentiate between classes of illegal drugs therefore making no specific recommendations for cannabis. It does however report that many jurisdictions have much less harsh penalties for cannabis possession and use.

I note after decriminalisation of Illegal Drugs that there can be cost savings with introducing care and counselling.

Use of Cannabis

I believe that the use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis causes significant harm to individuals.

I believe that all three should be produced by regulated producers, so that quality can be controlled, taxed so that their use is discouraged and sold by appropriate means. The tax money collected allows authorities to have funds to provide alternatives like counselling, CDAT, GAAS, Afc, YPSMS.

Therefore, I am happy that cannabis use should not be illegal.

Personal Cultivation

"Bring an end to the draconian prohibition of cannabis, and personal cultivation. "

Quote "Different plants of the genus Cannabis contain different and often unpredictable concentrations of THC and other cannabinoids and hundreds of other molecules that have a pharmacological effect, so that the final net effect cannot reliably be foreseen."

Therefore, I believe that cultivation should be regulated and licensed.

The Effects of Cannabis

The effects of cannabis use are a concern for me. Issues like driving while under the influence, long term psychotic effects etc. (See below). Quote; "If you drive while under the influence of cannabis, you're more likely to be involved in an accident. This is one reason why drug driving, like drink driving, is illegal"

Conclusion

I found the time spent researching my answers was time well spent.

Yours truly

Syd Bowsher

2020 Election Candidate

Gavin St. Pier



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Yes, firmly.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Yes

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Um. I'd like to fully and better understand the consequences (including any unintended) of a wholesale 'amnesty.' It's a big step.

Sasha Kazantseva-Miller



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I believe this needs to be reviewed as seems to go too far.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I think it's critical to recognise use for medical purposes which I fully support but separate to recreational use which is different.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I would welcome a review of that.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I would welcome that as part of the review.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I think it's important we have the right strategy in place to ensure we have taken evidence and all arguments into account so at this stage I would favour to see the Strategy first but am flexible and can change my mind.

Peter Ferbrache



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Agree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Disagree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Disagree

Phil Smith



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Agree. Decriminalising the demand side without addressing the supply side creates further problems as demand increases.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Disagree. Drugs, including alcohol & tobacco are not solely a health issue. The criminal justice system is responsible for protecting our society from harm and therefore it is imperative that they are involved with the decision making.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

My early conclusion of the evidence is I disagree.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Not at this time.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

No. Such an amnesty is legalisation through the back door. We should be brave enough to confront these difficult topics and choose what is right for our society.

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear GDSC

Thank you for your email. My responses are below but first please find a brief overview of my position.

I do not support legalising recreational drug use at this time as there are still many people who worry about its impacts on our society. I believe the current Enforcement Strategy is heavy handed and I will encourage the future Home Affairs committee to review this. As for the longer term I believe we should wait for the longer term trends from US/Canada on crime, health and the economy before considering decriminalisation.

Simon De La Mare



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Thank you for your email.

I am happy for the medicinal use of cannabis extracts to be promoted. I would need to see more evidence that there are no long term health risks before accepting recreational use.

Having said this, I would be willing to investigate a change in the level of sentence for the possession of a small amount of cannabis, as I do not wish to see people losing jobs and livelihoods because of it.

I hope this answers most of your questions.

Kind regards,

Simon De La Mare
Candidate

Rob Gibson



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I do not agree with the current policies, criminalisation isn't the way to go and never should have been allowed to continue as such, but the court system is literally a law unto itself and must never be challenged.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree these policies need to change and not tomorrow but asap, the buzzword of mental health is being overused and misunderstood and the fact that the hssd say medicinal cannabis is legal but have you seen many who have been able to access it? At 2k per month the quoted figure to me by the pain team(now if you read into where they might have got that number from?) its just another barrier to block the average person and i believe that's their plan to keep blocking every and anything so they can say its legal but they don't meet the criteria! wanting to get into a pain free state mentally or physically isn't meeting the criteria? But as a deputy you can have a licence to grow it and send it off island!!! stuff the locals who pay taxes its this kind of hypocrisy that is disgusting and needs to change NOW.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I disagree with the statement of current drug policies in they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol, this is typical of someone that has only listened to the media hype and had no proper introduction to the debate, I would imagine these people would probably agree its a gateway drug too but cant see that alcohol is!

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I agree guernsey should make policy for the regulated distribution of medicinal and recreational asap, but unfortunately this is guernsey and i think unless there are a certain number of deputies committed to the cause then it may fall by the wayside and that will happen if the numbers aren't there.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes absolutely there should be an amnesty until the legislation has been passed, but it seems there are some that wont stray from their Methodist ideals and will do anything to keep their moral compass pointing inward.



Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Good afternoon

Thanks for the email,

I am fully aware of the ridiculous nature of the guernsey courts and the antiquated sentencing, I have put in my manifesto that the justice review the island needs isn't just how long the sentences are for but also why the courts feel the need to literally hammer the apparent offenders, and then years later when the person has put their life onto a straight track they get hit again because of the criminal record gained when they were younger.

whether it be employment related or travel or whatever this is not acceptable in this day and age, they all talk of discrimination but only where it suits

I do feel that this is a form of discrimination but it seems because it's not trending it's not what people want to hear.

thanks for the questions, i could waffle for a while on this subject but i'm sure you have better things to do 😊

Rosie Henderson



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I do not believe that smoking cannabis is a health issue, but if dealing with possession of it helps de-criminalise the drug I would not have an objection.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Totally disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I am unsure of the purpose of this question

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

If this will help de-criminalise cannabis ok.

Lucia Faith



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No. Our current drugs policy is outdated, unscientific, harmful and is no longer fit for purpose.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree, and the GDSC successfully had drug and alcohol policy moved to health in 2017 but the current Home committee refused to work with them to progress this further.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Cannabis is safer than alcohol and tobacco. We must educate and regulate far better than we did with alcohol and tobacco.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree, and a regulated cannabis market would really help boost the economy right now, as well as take the pressure off the health system.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Agree. We cannot claim Cannabis is a medicine, that drug use is a health issue but continue to criminalise people.

Martyn Roussel



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree with current strategy

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree, drug policies have to change

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I disagree that cannabis is more harmful. I believe alcohol and tobacco are more harmful

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I want legalisation which would bring in controls and ensure revenue is raised for Government

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I had not thought about an amnesty. On reflection, that sounds like a good idea.

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Please note that I wrote a blog about this a while ago. Link here <https://www.martynroussel.co.uk/post/cannabis-decriminalise-legalise-or-put-it-in-the-too-difficult-pile>

Many thanks, and great to see you (briefly!) last night at the library

Martyn

Nicola Young



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No I disagree with the current policy

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree, I don't think someone caught with a small amount of cannabis should be dealt with as a criminal issue. But I also don't think a small amount is a health issue either for the majority of people and a total waste of resources. Most people do not need rehab and services, obviously with anything people who abuse cannabis maybe it should be dealt with as health issue

For example, smoking a few joints in my eyes is not abuse, just like if I have a few drinks it is not abuse, drinking a bottle of vodka a day then yes I see that as abuse. I don't think people should get arrested in the first place'

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No I totally disagree. There is so much evidence to support that alcohol and tobacco are far more harmful than cannabis. With cannabis there is also more evidence that is better than both alcohol and tobacco

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes totally agree. For me it is freedom of choice, if I can buy alcohol and tobacco why as an adult why do I not have the right to choose to use cannabis.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes amnesty now

Craig Bougourd



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree with the current drugs policies,

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree drug policies need to be changed to be health issues.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree Alcohol & tobacco are more harmful.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes I agree Guernsey should implement a strategy to include a regulated cannabis market.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes I believe an amnesty should be in play to protect the community against cannabis possession, this should include cultivation of up to 4 plants.

Marc Leadbeater



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

No

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Yes

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes

Neil Forman



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I do not agree with people caught with personal amounts have their lives ruined with a conviction.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I would agree.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Smoking and drinking are both addictive and harmful to health, I have tried both but have never tried cannabis. I think there is a discussion to be had in relation to the effects on all three on health. I would not agree or disagree at the moment, I am open minded on this issue.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Again, I am open minded. I think this is a policy that needs to be addressed by the next assembly.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I would agree with an amnesty for people caught with small personal amounts.

Jennifer Tasker



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Thank you, no response.

Dawn Tindall



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Guernsey Drug Strategy Campaign

In answer to your questions, I can confirm that I agree with the need to review the way in which we deal with people caught with small amounts of illegal substances but I cannot answer the five questions you have set out in the binary way you request. Your questions incorporate wider matters than just the treatment of those with small amounts of illegal substances for personal use. I do agree that people caught with small amounts of illegal substances should not necessarily go through the criminal justice system - that of course depends on whether they have been charged with other offences and the way in which the offences are to be dealt with. The Sumnall report details the options available.. I most definitely know of the harm caused by the abuse of legal substances and we need to address this as one Combined Substance Use Strategy which HSC are progressing.

I would be grateful if you could provide more detail on the 10 year prison sentence you refer to and what that was for.

Regards
Dawn

Jonathan Crossan



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I agree, but there is scope for depenalisation for particularly low-level offending with small amounts. Decriminalisation could be considered as part of a public consultation.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

No, but as part of depenalisation and possible eventual decriminalisation a health-based approach could be used as an alternative to or in conjunction with punishment.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I agree with current policy, but this harm may be associated with the criminal and unregulated nature of the market, although I am not clear that the mental health effects and risks are yet fully understood. In a legal regulated market the product should only be licensed for use if certificated as medically safe and the risks and warnings made clear to the prospective consumer.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I agree that if legal use is to be permitted, such a strategy should be pursued, but that would only follow consultation.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I disagree. The market is not legal, not clean and not regulated, so that would be to "put the cart before the horse".



Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Sirs

Thank you for your email and the opportunity to answer the letter attached thereto.

My general position is that I would favour legalisation for approved legitimate medical purposes, but not for recreational purposes until it can be proven safe to use (mental health impacts) and under a strict regulatory framework (licensing, market controls). I appreciate that current policy can be perceived to put particular resource pressure on the criminal justice system and have consequences for the life chances of those convicted.

I answer your questions, as follows. Please note that I have been unable to do more than give a cursory reading to the executive summary in the Sumnall Report as linked in your letter. As you will understand it has been a busy time for candidate and voter alike. My answers therefore are based on my limited understanding and personal opinion and observation.

I hope I have given satisfactory answers to your questions, but do please say if you would like me to clarify or explain.

Kind regards

Jonathan Crossan

Garry Michael Collins



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree, something needs to change.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Undecided, we need a full review, I haven't seen all the evidence that current members have, but agree it seems wrong sending people to prison for this.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Agree

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

NO, I do not agree that those caught with small amounts should be criminalised

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

YES, agree it should be dealt with as a health problem.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No, don't agree with current policy. Would like to see the evidence around age and effect on the developing brain, but it should be treated in a similar way to alcohol and tobacco with age restrictions.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes agree.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I would like to understand the implications of an amnesty, but would be supportive of this approach.

Ann Robilliard



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

As yet there is insufficient evidence and evaluation of the long-term merits of providing pathways to remedy drug misuse behaviour but we have the opportunity to use our strong support network to encourage drug offenders to change their attitudes. Acceptance and tolerance from the community during rehabilitation is an important tool.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Drugs possession is often closely linked with mental health and community issues. We need to work on the root causes rather than the ultimate result. Criminality in itself often relates to poor community structure.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Consequences of any alcohol, tobacco and drug-related behaviours harm our individual health (and society as a whole) which is probably why the first two are taxed so highly. Cannabis may be received on prescription which the other two may not be; however recreational use of cannabis should not be encouraged. Scientific evidence points to continued use of cannabis generating long-term medical issues and there is the consideration that more harmful drug addiction to 'harder' drugs may ensue.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes, I believe that cannabis should be on prescription only.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

No, I don't think that there should be an amnesty but the issue needs to be clarified as soon as possible. Diversionary referrals and behavioural contracts should be used wherever appropriate in cases of drug possession for personal use.

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your email.

It is not possible for me to give a 'yes' or 'no' answer to the first three questions as numerous factors need to be taken into account.

Tina Bury



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree with this when in relation to an individual and small amounts. The only reason I didn't say outright 'agree' is that I'm wary to not unintentionally create a loophole for larger scale dealers of dangerous drugs/those taking advantage of people with health issues. I'm sure that's not what you meant by the question but I am being careful how I interpret things.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree, in due course

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I'd need to get up to speed on this but I definitely agree that if it's passed that the law should change then there should be some sort of interim suspension while the new law is drawn up, especially as we know these things can take a long time. I don't know what the mechanics of this would be but that's exactly the kind of thing we need to be looking to overcome, not just stopping at barriers that make it easy to say 'oh we can't do that'

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)



Hi,

many thanks for sending this over and giving me the opportunity to engage. I'm afraid, despite my best efforts, I haven't been able to read the report yet, I am still working full time and single parenting on top of campaigning so it's proving difficult to knuckle down to the sort of reading I'd like to be doing. It will remain on my list though, I was just conscious of coming back to you by the deadline. In an effort to inform myself more on justice I did meet with a Senior Probation Officer on Friday to get a view from someone on the front line of this, which was really enlightening.....I also came away from that with lots to read! I just wanted you to know that I haven't read the report in case my answers don't seem informed, I am answering with my gut instinct, values and knowledge gained up to now. I know there is more for me to learn on this subject though.

I look forward to hopefully working with you further and learning much more about this. The thought of reviewing our justice system in this and other areas really fills me with hope and positivity. A society that looks to the root of a problem, and how to address it, is one I'd be much prouder to live in.

Thanks,
Tina

Alliance Party



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

ANSWER: The popular, vote getting answer, would be a resounding "no" but we are an honest Party and will not degrade our manifesto promises. Furthermore, if we answered "no" to the question we would then contradict our Social & Policing policy as it states we are only going to support the legalisation of medicinal cannabis, with the caveat being that within our four year term, if elected, we will conduct a serious, thoughtful and productive investigation and review into the de- criminalisation of small personal quantities of cannabis within Guernsey. It will be dependent on this exhaustive investigation, which will involve collaboration with a wide range of experts, individuals, pressure groups, local and national governments and our judicial system, that will ensure the de- criminalisation of individuals holding small quantities of personal use cannabis comes to fruition rather than another pipe dream.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

ANSWER: This is a complex, multifaceted issue. The Alliance Party Guernsey does believe that Guernsey drug policies need review so that drug related issues are dealt with more appropriately. This should involve being more health related than criminal related as we feel it is wrong for a person's life to be turned upside down whereby the individual will obtain a criminal conviction because they have been caught with a small quantity of cannabis. However, it is common knowledge that the Guernsey health system is at tipping point. Unless you are lucky enough to be insured, a visit to the doctor is too expensive for the majority of Guernsey citizens, we do not have a reciprocal health agreement with Jersey or the UK and there is a profound difficulty in recruiting and attracting health professionals to our island. To ensure that Guernsey drug policies becomes a health issue, which we would wholeheartedly support, there has to be a cohesive plan to sort out our health system. Luckily, the Alliance Party Guernsey has a health policy, which can be viewed at our webpage, which will then support the above. Once that plan is implemented it will then be the correct time to implement drugs reform into Guernsey as a health issue rather than a criminal issue.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

ANSWER: Hindsight is such a wonderful thing. In the 1950's- 1990's tobacco and cigarette companies convinced the general public that smoking their products was "cool" and "good for you." Marketing campaigns were huge showcasing the "benefits" of smoking and the most notable brands everyone knew by heart. In addition, alcohol was equally big fuelled by a drinking culture, rave culture of the 1990's, memorable marketing campaigns and cheap drink offers, both within supermarkets, clubs and on vacation, which are still going today. These addictive substances are allowed due to the vast quantities of revenue they provide governments around the world in form of taxes. This is why

government turn a blind eye to the health issues and anti- social behaviours attached to these substances and Guernsey is no different. Of course people get penalised and sent to jail for anti- social behaviour, but alcohol and tobacco will never become illegal due to the revenue created and the pressure certain companies apply to governments. The Alliance Party Guernsey disagrees that cannabis does more harm when compared to alcohol and tobacco. We would add that cannabis, compared to these other substances, does appear to do far less harm, does not appear to create a social or health issue and the evidence available would appear to support these claims.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?



ANSWER: As part of decriminalising own use Cannabis in Guernsey, which could be in the next five years, then this will obviously require suitable regulations. These regulations or controls must be created in conjunction with the legislation needed to enable small quantity cannabis possession to be decriminalised on our island, as this will avoid unnecessary transition anxiety and save money and time. There could be many different aspects to this regulation so it is difficult to surmise the finer details, but the Alliance Party Guernsey would anticipate similar controls to those applicable to alcohol.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

ANSWER: Our answer depends on the controls provided and in what context the amnesty would be granted. For example, if it was for a person being criminalised for possessing medicinal cannabis, even though they have a valid now acceptable reason or certificate, the Alliance Party would support the investigation of an amnesty for such individuals. However, if it was for an individual being convicted for importation of drugs, then we would not support an amnesty. Furthermore, the Alliance Party Guernsey would ask for transparent parameters to be provided so confusion is eliminated as to what act would be eligible for amnesty and what would not be eligible.

Chris Blin



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree as the "offenders" should not be criminalized for personal use.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree as cannabis is not more harmful than alcohol

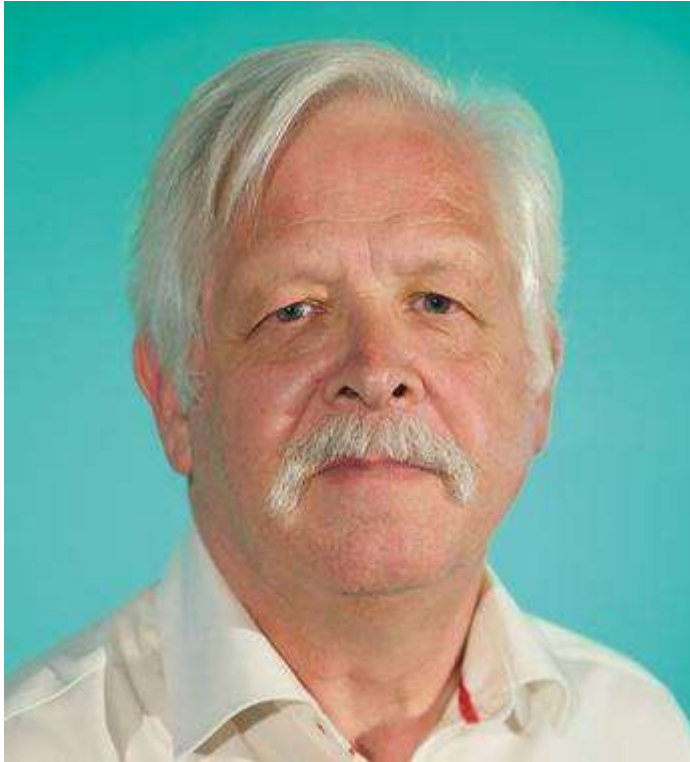
4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes and on the Canada model

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

this is not a question that I can answer as I do not know the processes.

Christopher Nicolle



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree and believe that this is an over-reaction unless the individual is supplying. It is also my considered belief that by legalising, growing and selling under licence, those who are interested in smoking or consuming the product currently, may be less inclined to because they are no longer being controversial and snubbing the law.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I am the former Head of Citizenship at SSHS and the individual who suggested to my second son, Nathan Miller, when he was in the employ of Drug Concern, that we needed to have two lessons for students on cannabis. It is my belief that this will be a strong enough response for you in support of such changes.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No, it is just that both alcohol and tobacco have been socially acceptable for millennia. The main concern is for control of cannabis strength and that its real benefit should be solely for medically prescribed reasons, that our lungs purpose is for breathing air to extract oxygen and nothing else. If eaten then perhaps we are in slightly safer territory?

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes, I think that I have already addressed that.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes I do, sadly we are set to ruin so many lives, permanently, if we persist with current legislation, creating a significant and growing underclass for which The States will bear significant and ongoing outlay

Pierre Ehmann



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I do not agree with criminalisation for personal amounts.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I believe we need reform, we should view drug related issues as health matters, not criminal justice.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I think this is honestly insane.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Absolutely - it is costing us to investigate, raid and send people to prison when we should be regulating it.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

yes in principle - but I understand it that this is a matter for the police.

Aidan Matthews



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I do not agree with criminalising people for possession of cannabis. I would propose full legalisation, including for recreational use, along the lines of Canada (and others) possibly with a referendum as New Zealand currently has in progress.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Yes absolutely, and health issues are much more effectively dealt with inside a legalised environment, particularly for underage users who are more likely to conceal their usage of illegal drugs from parents and authority figures.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

No I do not agree that cannabis is more harmful than alcohol or tobacco, I largely agree with the results of research on harm from prof. David Nutt and others who have studied the harm caused using a methodical scientific approach,

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes there is enormous potential for Guernsey to gain from the legal cannabis market as demonstrated by the corporations currently operating in North America with billion dollar market capitalisation and predicted year-on-year annualised growth of 25% to 30% in the next few years. The time to act is now.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

An amnesty could be considered, esp. for medical use, but I would be cautious on agreeing to this across the board (esp. supply offences) and any proposal needs to be carefully thought through. To clarify: I'm in favour of full legalisation and moving cannabis to legitimate status (as opposed to decriminalisation) partly to break the link between users and the current criminal supply chain. This is bearing in mind that existing supply lines may seem harmless in Guernsey but further down the chain can fund organised crime and terrorism. Full legal status with local production is the only approach that breaks that funding link and instead funds local business and presents an opportunity for revenue collection through tax/duty. I would be in favour of reduced penalty for possession offences particularly removing criminal status esp. for first offenders. and rebalancing our approach to sentencing in general.

John Dyke



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Thank you for your email. Sorry for the delay

I am in favour of cannabis by prescription. That is slowly coming.

I would decriminalise personal possession. Convictions are disproportionately damaging.

I am nervous about full legalisation in terms of youngsters (and others) damaging their brains.

I come at this as an open minded libertarian.

I hope that helps

John Dyke

Lindsay de Sausmarez



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I think there is a very strong case for decriminalisation. The impacts of criminalisation can be disproportionately negative on young people in particular, which is something I think should be addressed.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I think drug policies should be largely health-centric - not least because the research I've done on the issue indicates that it is a more effective approach.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

It would be disingenuous to consider any of them risk-free, of course, but it's surprising cannabis is treated so differently given the evidence of harm caused by alcohol and tobacco!

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

There are various models of regulation that I think we should look into. It's important for any report to take a broad scope of factors into account, including healthcare and fiscal policies, for example. I don't think it's realistic to think we could just pluck another jurisdiction's regulatory model off the shelf and successfully implement it in Guernsey without making sure that those wider determinants are structured in a way that makes it likely to be successful.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

If by amnesty you mean the current law is not enforced, I can see why it's a compelling idea but sadly I can't see how that would work in practice: without any definitions around where lines are drawn it would rely too much on subjective decisions, and I think that situation could unwittingly create different inequities and injustices in its own right. I think we should focus on making a swift, evidence-based decision over the actual strategy without delay so the situation can be sorted out properly.

Yvonne Burford



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree. Prison and criminal justice procedures are expensive and a criminal record can prevent people from getting jobs putting a further burden on society and the individual.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I read the Sumnall Report and found it very interesting. I agree that this does pertain to health.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Alcohol certainly creates many problems that have significant impacts on individual and society. I do not know how this compares to cannabis but it is definitely a factor to consider when reviewing the law.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I agree that we should investigate this.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I would need more information about this to come to an informed decision.

Jennifer Merrett



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Evening Dan

Really struggling with IT this end ☹️

When I try to open the attachment it crashes my system ☹️

What I think is probably pertinent (and actually shows action over just words) is that successful (by majority!!) sursis motive to the justice review that I cosponsored.

Link and details below.

Suris motive (2020/54) (Justice review) - Debated at the 15th July Meeting <https://gov.gg/article/177148/States-Meeting-on-15-July-2020-Accounts-and-ordinary-business> The Justice Review and Voting Records are under the Propositions and Policy Letters dropdown (Article 16)

I co-sponsored the successful sursis motive which directed the following;

The Committee for Health & Social Care shall complete and present to the States, at the earliest possible opportunity, the Combined Substance Use Strategy; and

The Committee for Health & Social Care and the Committee for Home Affairs, informed by the results of the Combined Substance Use Strategy and no later than six months after it has been considered by the States, shall report back to the States with options for alternative and non-punitive approaches to the possession and use of small quantities of illegal drugs (including, but not limited, to cannabis), which take into account:

- i. the need to promote the health, wellbeing and safety of people who use drugs, and of the wider community;



- ii. the strategic principles of the Combined Substance Use Strategy and any evidence collected in its development, including the commissioned Independent Report on the Review of the interaction of health and justice system in relation to the possession of drugs for personal use;
- iii. the potential for moving from a regime governed by the criminal law towards a partly or wholly regulatory approach to all aspects of personal drug use; and
- iv. the results of consultation with the community and key stakeholders in respect of such alternative options.

Deputy Jennifer Merrett

Heidi Soulsby



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree as need to change

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree a health issue

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree although it is relative

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Undecided, happy to consider and debate

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Depends on the nature of the amnesty.

David Albert Inglis



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I disagree. Drugs policies to which we currently adhere are out of date. Personal amounts could indicate self-medication as cannabis can be used to treat a range of conditions associated with pain management, inflammation, neurological and mental disorders and sleep management. Should we view them as criminals?

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree. In the UK Around three and a half million people use cannabis medicinally. These are sufferers of many conditions including cancer, depression, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. There is so much research available now to show the health benefits of regulated use of cannabis. Guernsey drugs policies need to be reviewed and changed.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I disagree. While alcohol and tobacco have very few, if any, redeeming health values, marijuana seems to have a number of therapeutic benefits and patients currently use it for a wide range of pathologies. Cannabis also appears to be far less harmful and has not been directly linked to any fatalities unlike cigarettes and alcohol.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I agree. A well-regulated medical cannabis programme would result in many social benefits. By changing the current mindset from criminalisation to education and compassion, Guernsey will grow as a whole. Jobs created, tax revenue generated, cannabis cultivation regulated, reduced strain on justice system and eliminating the cost to tax payer through prosecution.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I agree in principal. We can't talk about cannabis health benefits and yet continue to criminalise people for personal use.



I would take a cautious approach to an interim 'amnesty' - it would be more appropriate in my view to continue with existing policy but taking a pragmatic and proportionate stance on the (potential) prosecution of cases where there are significant, mitigating medicinal circumstances.

I believe this is something that our Law Officers may be able to advise upon and facilitate should it be necessary to do so.

Diane Mitchell



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Restorative justice is my preference for small amounts of cannabis found plus other first time offences. My son fell foul of this when he was a youngster and the police were brilliant with him which of course de criminalised him and supported him at a time when he was young and foolish. I am in favour of restorative justice rather than criminalisation.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Difficult to answer this one as if there are large amounts of illegal drugs possessed other than for personal use and with intent to sell i think the police would regard this as illegal possession. the law needs to change in my view as in my answer to Q4

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful that alcohol or tobacco?

I think that cannabis for medical use will be legalised sooner than for recreational use. However I believe that the current consultations in New Zealand and Canada on both medicinal and recreational cannabis will have an impact alongside the relaxation of laws in some American States. ! If we could grow it over here in some of the abandoned glass houses I think it could help with the economy although I think we would need to change some laws in trying to export. I also fear for some youngsters who are exposed to other drugs because it is sold in an underworld where these are readily available.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I believe recreational cannabis should be regarded in the same way as alcohol and tobacco and could be sold alongside those items and regulated in the same way

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I think that the notion of an amnesty is one that would need to be agreed legally, probably take longer than the committee reports that are expected.

Victoria Russell



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear Sirs,

I believe that the legalisation of medicinal cannabis should go ahead but the evidence is still being assessed on the outcomes of legalisation in various jurisdictions around the world for recreational cannabis. Until this has been peer reviewed we should not go down this route in Guernsey. I am in close contact with leading UK Psychiatrists, who are monitoring the situation, and will send me data as it becomes available.

Kind Regards

Tory Russell

Rob Prow



Responses to questions

- Not provided

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Dear GDSC

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

My response is as follows.

Thank you for your question:-

With regard to drug policy, In my view we need to take a holistic view on tobacco, alcohol and substance use. Sadly this is still work in progress and HSC has not reported back on a joined up strategy this term.

Cannabis is a class B Drug. My views are informed by the UK NHS, the UK addiction Centre and NICE on these matters and I attach the relevant websites:-

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/cannabis-the-facts/>

<https://www.ukat.co.uk/cannabis-detox/>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng144/chapter/Recommendations>

These mainstream professional organisations warn about the harms of cannabis. I therefore do not support the recreational use of cannabis.

I do support medicinal cannabis as recommend under the NICE guidelines. I further support the regulated production of medicinal Cannabis products locally. HSC has contrary to the assertions of some, amended the necessary legislation to make this happen in this term and I hope that this continues next States continues to keep abreast of NICE approved cannabis products.



Whilst it is a myth that people with small amount of class B drugs are sent to prison, I would like to see an arrest referral scheme set up for all those who are taken into custody for drug, alcohol related and acquisitive crime offending, to assess whether treatment or other interventions could benefit their health and well-being. This could also be utilised to divert offenders away from the Criminal Justice system if they were found in possession of small amounts of class B drugs.

Thank you.

You have my permission to update your website with my views.
Kind regards

Rob Prow

Nick Moakes



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Generally disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

No, as per the above question, there needs to be regulation first.

Mark Dorey



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I will await the report from the Health & Social Care Committee on legal and illegal substances. In 2006 the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee reported on drug classification - their classification of drugs was based on the assessment of harm. This was divided into 3 categories: physical harm, dependence and social harms. Using their evidence based approach some Class A drugs were classified as less harmful than alcohol.

I dislike the criminality around illegal drugs and the uncontrolled market. There is no doubt there is a demand for such drugs and I would rather the quality and the strength is controlled and properly labelled and those supplying them pay taxes.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I will await the report from the Health & Social Care Committee on legal and illegal substances before making a decision.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I disagree with having the amnesty now as that will pre-empt the outcome of the report.

John Robilliard



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

DISAGREE. Users with personal amounts of cannabis should not be criminalised.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

AGREE.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

DISAGREE. Not all cannabis is the same. Some may be less harmful and some may be more harmful.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

AGREE. Especially in the area of medicinal cannabis. In respect of decriminalising recreational use we need a debate and public involvement in the decision on whether to just decriminalise it or to legalise and tax it.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

DISAGREE. That would be impossible to police without a law to follow - as we would be asking the police and our judicial system to make arbitrary assumptions about what is or is not a legal quantity and various other assumptions. However, we could make provision for an appeal process for those impacted during this transition period, so that they may appeal to have a conviction overturned that would have not been caught under any new law.

Sarah Breton



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Agree, but only small amounts

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

Disagree

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Agree

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Agree, but only for cannabis possession of small amounts

Victoria Oliver



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that 'offenders,' specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

Disagree, I don't like young people getting arrested for small amounts and putting them on a path that is not beneficial to our community.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I think the drug policy should be health centered.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I wouldn't say completely risk free to everyone. But certainly less risk than alcohol.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I think we should be looking into various models and frameworks. Restrict to over 21 only. However, overall yes.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I have given this a lot of thought and just can't figure out how it would work in practice. However very willing to listen and come up with a good solution.

Guilhem Chêne



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

It should be decriminalised.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

I agree the law needs a revamp.

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I do not think Cannabis is more harmful no.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

Yes and look into expanding the trade of it as this could help diversify the economy and is meant to be a multimillion market in the future.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

Yes

Other comments, feedback, or notes from their email response(s)

Here are my responses and a article I have produced on the matter

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wkwaRWkbt1CpmMtGf0be7wQ8urGaArPPA0bNaNV28k/edit?usp=sharing>

Rhian Helen Tooley



Responses to questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with current drugs policies that ‘offenders,’ specifically those caught with personal amounts, are criminalised?

I believe it is time for change.

2. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey drug policies need to change so that offences are actually dealt with as health issues and not criminal issues in relation to drugs possession?

Yes

3. Do you agree or disagree with current drug policies in that they rate cannabis more harmful than alcohol or tobacco?

I agree that they do this at present and think that there should be change.

4. Do you agree or disagree that Guernsey should implement a strategy of regulation to address the cannabis market?

I think the time has come for a full, medically informed, debate.

5. Do you agree or disagree that the public should be protected from the harm caused by existing policy with an amnesty until the Committee for Home Affairs and The Committee for Health and Social Care have published and implemented their strategy for Substance Use?

I think we need to consider substance use and misuse in the round. Decide on necessary changes and at that point should allow the resolved policy to be treated as though it were law by way of amnesty.