



## **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Déardaoin, 7 Márta, 2019*  
*Thursday, 7th March, 2019*

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**RIAR NA hOIBRE**  
**ORDER PAPER**



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*Thursday, 7th March, 2019*

10.30 a.m.

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**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA**  
**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

- 211.** (l) Tairiscint *maidir le* Tascfhórsaí Áitiúla Drugaí agus Alcóil.  
(a) Motion *re* Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Forces.

**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA**  
**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

*Fógraí Tairisceana:*

*Notices of Motions:*

**211.** “That Dail Eireann:

notes that:

- global opium production jumped by 65 per cent from 2016 to 2017, the highest ever recorded by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and global cocaine manufacture rose by 56 per cent between 2013 and 2016, reaching its highest level ever in 2016;
- illicit drugs like opium and cocaine are booming and new drugs like fentanyl are emerging as a major drug problem;
- the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction’s Early Warning System for new drugs monitored 670 new psychoactive substances by the end of 2017, up from 300 in 2013;
- cannabis remains the world’s most commonly used drug, with 192 million people using it in 2018;
- in the European Union (EU), over 92 million people have used illicit drugs; and
- drug markets continue to be the most significant illegal market in the EU, with over 33 per cent of organised criminal groups involved in the production, trafficking and supply of illicit drugs;

further notes that:

- over 26 per cent (more than one in four) of the Irish population have used illicit drugs, with cannabis the most widely used;
- our communities are now coping with an increasingly complex and chaotic drug problem that includes prescription drugs, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances, high-strength cannabis, crack cocaine, crystal meth and ketamine, and widespread availability and misuse of alcohol continues to be a core part of the polydrug problem;
- 695 people died from drug-related causes in 2015, and there has been a 61 per cent increase in drug-related deaths between 2004 and 2015 and drug-related deaths are 3.5 times higher than road deaths; and
- insidious, ongoing day-to-day related intimidation is being experienced in our communities, and in 2015 less than ten per cent of people experiencing intimidation reported it to An Garda Síochána for fear of reprisal;

calls on the Taoiseach’s department to appoint a senior official to the National Drugs Strategy’s (NDS) national structures to ensure direct accountability of all agencies at national, regional and local level for their active participation in implementing the new NDS; and

calls on the Government to:

- implement its own Programme for Government commitment through the immediate allocation of an emerging needs fund to the task forces to support community drug projects in the delivery of services that can respond to current and emerging service gaps in communities;
- commit to a clear timetable for prompt implementation of the Public Health (Alcohol)

Act 2018 without further delay;

- accelerate the work of the Garda asset profilers targeting people making significant sums of money from the drug trade living in our communities;
- ensure that the new scheme proposed in the NDS for young people is developed through a partnership approach involving youth services, schools, and community drug projects;
- conclude the work of the working group on alternative approaches to criminalisation and end the criminalisation for personal use;
- strengthen the community voice across all levels of the NDS and make immediate investment in community leadership and participation programmes;
- acknowledge the relationship between addiction and mental health and commit to greater co-operation between the relevant agencies, as considered in ‘A Vision for Change’ and the NDS; and
- cease the Health Service Executive reviews of drug and alcohol task forces, with immediate effect, as these reviews are being carried out without any discussion or consultation with the national NDS committees that are responsible for supporting and monitoring the task forces, and it is incompatible with the interagency partnership approach that underlies the NDS for one agency to carry out a review and present it as *a fait accompli*.” — *Joan Collins, Maureen O’Sullivan, Thomas P. Broughan, Thomas Pringle, Catherine Connolly, Clare Daly, Mick Wallace.*

[5 March, 2019]

*Leasuithe:*

*Amendments:*

1. (a) To insert the following after “polydrug problem;”:

“— core funding for drugs task forces has been static for the past five years;”

(b) to insert the following after “fear of reprisal;”:

“calls for the Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy to appear at the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health to review the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy;” and

(c) to insert the following after “gaps in communities;”:

“— increase annual core funding for drugs task forces;” — *John Curran, Bobby Aylward, John Brassil, Declan Breathnach, James Browne, Mary Butler, Thomas Byrne, Jackie Cahill, Dara Calleary, Pat Casey, Shane Cassells, Jack Chambers, Lisa M. Chambers, Niall Collins, Barry Cowen, Stephen S. Donnelly, Timmy Dooley, Sean Fleming, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Seán Haughey, Billy Kelleher, John Lahart, James Lawless, Marc MacSharry, Micheál Martin, Charlie McConalogue, Michael McGrath, John McGuinness, Aindrias Moynihan, Michael Moynihan, Eugene Murphy, Margaret Murphy O’Mahony, Darragh O’Brien, Jim O’Callaghan, Éamon Ó Cuív, Willie O’Dea, Kevin O’Keeffe, Fiona O’Loughlin, Frank O’Rourke, Anne Rabbitte, Eamon Scanlon, Brendan Smith, Niamh Smyth, Robert Troy.*

2. To insert the following after “as a *fait accompli*.”:

- “— reinstate funding for local and regional drug and alcohol task forces to 2008 levels, with a comparative increase in funding to reflect the additional remit of alcohol; and
- increase funding for community-based drug projects to allow for wage restoration.”
- *Dessie Ellis, Gerry Adams, John Brady, Pat Buckley, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pearse Doherty, Martin J. Ferris, Kathleen Funchion, Martin Kenny, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Jonathan O'Brien, Eoin Ó Broin, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Louise O'Reilly, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Maurice Quinlivan, Brian Stanley.*
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## 3. (a) To insert the following after “polydrug problem;”:

- “— while addiction to drugs is a problem across all of the country, neighbourhoods with a concentration of social and economic disadvantage are more seriously affected by drugs than other areas and merit a more substantive response from the State to address the underlying causes of drug addiction;”;

## (b) to insert the following after “community leadership and participation programmes;”:

- “— increase the level of funding available in the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas for youth work, family supports and community development services, and for training, education and employment supports, to help address the underlying causes of drug addiction;” — *Brendan Howlin, Joan Burton, Alan Kelly, Jan O'Sullivan, Willie Penrose, Brendan Ryan, Sean Sherlock.*
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## 4. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann:” and replace with the following:

“notes that:

- the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach (United Nations General Assembly);
- in the European Union (EU) over 92 million people have tried an illicit drug in their lifetime (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction);
- 14 per cent of young Europeans (15–34 years) used cannabis in the last year;
- the EU early warning system for new drugs monitored 670 new psychoactive substances by the end of 2017, up from 300 in 2013;
- in Ireland 26 per cent of the population aged 15 years or over reported using an illegal drug in their lifetime, with cannabis the most widely used (Drug Prevalence Survey);
- there was a 75 per cent reduction in the use of new psychoactive substances by young adults between 2010/2011 and 2014/2015;
- the annual number of poisoning deaths (overdose) by alcohol and/or other drugs was 348 in 2015, a four per cent decrease from 2014, and that alcohol was implicated in a third of those deaths;
- 30 new proceeds-of-crime proceedings were brought before the High Court in 2018, up from 13 in 2016, the majority of which arise from drug trafficking;

- 184 asset profiles were submitted to the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) in 2018, a 178 per cent increase from 2016;
- €5.67 million was returned to the State under CAB activities in 2018; and
- there were 16 formal reported incidents and 76 informal reported incidents of the use of violence or the threat of violence to enforce debts nationally in 2017;

acknowledges:

- the implementation of the whole-of-Government strategy to address drug and alcohol misuse, *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025*, and the active engagement with all stakeholders, especially at the community level;
- the robust monitoring and accountability structures for the National Drugs Strategy (NDS), which involve the Minister of State, relevant Government departments, State agencies, drug and alcohol task forces, voluntary organisations and community representatives at national, regional and local level;
- the further reporting of progress on the strategy to Cabinet Committee B (Social Policy and Public Services) chaired by the Taoiseach and the associated senior officials group;
- the funding of almost €100 million provided annually by the Department of Health to the Health Service Executive (HSE) for the provision of addiction services; and
- the funding of €28 million provided annually by the Department of Health to the drug and alcohol task forces; and

welcomes the Government's commitment to:

- implement and report on progress on the 50 strategic actions in the NDS on an annual basis through the national oversight structures and to develop an evaluation framework for a mid-term review of the strategy in 2020;
- provide new funding of over €1 million in 2019 (rising to over €2 million on an annual basis) for an integrated mental health and addiction programme in the HSE national service plan;
- better support people facing addiction and mental health issues in the refresh of *A Vision for Change*;
- prioritise the expansion of community-based healthcare services to minimise the harms from the misuse of substances and strengthen governance structures, in the HSE National Service Plan 2019;
- provide new funding of €1 million on an annual basis from 2019 for the implementation of the NDS, in conjunction with drug and alcohol task forces and the HSE;
- develop a new scheme with a fund of €250,000 on an annual basis from 2019, to provide targeted, appropriate and effective services for young people at risk of substance abuse, focused on disadvantaged communities;
- further implement the Mulvey Report on the north east inner city to address the drug-related issues which are affecting the community, under the leadership of the programme implementation board;
- publish and oversee the implementation of a code of governance for task forces in line with best practice in the community, voluntary and charitable sectors;
- ensure that Ireland makes an active contribution to the forthcoming UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in cooperation with other EU member states;
- establish Ireland's first supervised injecting facility, in conjunction with Merchants Quay Ireland, to reduce the harms caused by injecting drugs and the prevalence of drug-related litter on our streets and communities;

- support HSE monitoring and oversight responsibilities of drug and alcohol task forces under its section 39 governance framework to ensure that service provision is meeting identified needs and there is accountability and transparency for public monies provided by the Department of Health;
- treat substance abuse and drug addiction as a public health issue, informed by the forthcoming report of the working group on alternative approaches to the possession of drugs for personal use;
- strengthen the effectiveness and the public awareness of the drug-related intimidation reporting programme developed by An Garda Síochána and the National Family Support Network;
- enhance the profile of Garda asset seizure activity in local communities, through proactive profiling and investigation of local criminals;
- continue to support, promote and resource community participation in all local, regional and national structures; and
- implement the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018, by prohibiting, from November 2019, alcohol advertising in or on public service vehicles, at public transport stops or stations and within 200 metres of a school, early years centre or a local authority playground, and by prohibiting alcohol advertising around films with an under-18 classification in a cinema and children’s clothing that promotes alcohol.”— *Caitríona Uí Bhroin, Aire Stáit ag an Roinn Sláinte.*

## SCRÍBHINNÍ A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID NA dTITHE

### DOCUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE HOUSES<sup>1</sup>

#### *Reachtúil*

#### *Statutory*

*Tairiscint Ceadaithe ag Teastáil*

*Requiring Motion of Approval*

*Níl aon scríbhinn á leagan faoin gCatagóir seo*

*None*

*In-neamhnithe le Tairiscint*

*Open to Motion to Annul*

Na Rialacháin fán Acht um Pá agus Pinsin Seirbhíse Poiblí, 2017 (Íocaíochtaí i leith Deimhniúchán agus Tuarascálacha Liachta Áirithe faoin Acht Comhdhlúite Leasa Shóisialaigh, 2005), 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 73 de 2019).

Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 (Payments in respect of Certain Medical Certification and Reports under the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 73 of 2019).

#### *Eile*

#### *Other*

Togra le haghaidh Rialachán ón gComhairle maidir le bearta i leith buiséad ginearálta an Aontais a chur i gníomh agus a mhaoiniú in 2019 i ndáil le tarraingt siar na Ríochta Aontaithe as an Aontas mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin.

Proposal for a Council Regulation on measures concerning the implementation and financing of the general budget of the Union in 2019 in relation to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union together with explanatory information note.

<sup>1</sup> I gcás nach leagtar scríbhinn ach faoi bhráid aon Teach amháin, cuirfear (D) – Dáil nó (S) – Seanad ina diaidh dá réir sin.

Where a document is laid before one House only it will be appended with (D) – Dáil or (S) – Seanad accordingly.

COM (2019) 64.

Togra le haghaidh Cinneadh ón gComhairle maidir leis an seasamh a bheidh le glacadh, thar ceann an Aontais Eorpaigh, sa dóú seisiún is seasca den Choimisiún um Dhrugaí Támhshuanacha maidir le cur leis an liosta substaintí i dTáblaí Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe i gcoinne Gáinneáil Aindleathach Drugaí Támhshuanacha agus Substaintí Síceatrópacha mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin.

COM (2019) 77.

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna. An Plean Forfheidhmithe Earnála

***Neamhrechtúil***

Tithe an Oireachtais. An Coiste um Fhormhaoirsiú Buiséid. Tuarascáil Iar-Bhuiséid, 2019.

COM (2019) 64.

Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the addition to the list of substances in the Tables of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances together with explanatory information note.

COM (2019) 77.

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna. An Plean Forfheidhmithe Earnála

***Non-Statutory***

Houses of the Oireachtas. Committee on Budgetary Oversight. Post-Budget 2019 Report.