



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



Our Ref: 5192/15

21 August 2015

Dear

Re: Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request for information, which was received by the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 29 July 2015.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. What position do you take in terms of your force's approach to investigating and prosecuting users of cannabis and those who have a small amount of plants at home for personal use?
2. Have you adapted your force's approach to personal cannabis use and growing since being appointed? If so please give details.
3. Do you have any intention of following the position set out by the Durham PCC in future?
4. If you have decided not to prioritise this type of offending, please state what action is generally taken instead of prosecution? Why have you taken this course?

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

1. What position do you take in terms of your force's approach to investigating and prosecuting users of cannabis and those who have a small amount of plants at home for personal use?

All intelligence received by the Force is graded accordingly, and decisions made about finite resources based upon the principles of Threat, Harm and Risk. Cannabis remains a Controlled Drug, and those found in possession of it will be prosecuted or cautioned in line with ACPO guidelines. This is exactly the same for production offences, with consideration given to the scale of the criminality, the background of the suspect and any wider aggravating factors. Like many other similar sized Police Forces, we receive a great deal of intelligence relating to Controlled Drugs, both in relation to its cultivation and supply. Prioritisation will always be given to cultivation that is linked to organised criminality or of particular concern to a community. Nottinghamshire Police has the only full time dedicated Cannabis Dismantling Team in the region. Set up to provide a cost effective and highly trained response to Cannabis grows.

The Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU

T 0115 844 5998 F 0115 844 5081

E nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk W www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

2. Have you adapted your force's approach to personal cannabis use and growing since being appointed? If so please give details.

No.

3. Do you have any intention of following the position set out by the Durham PCC in future?

All aspects of Substance Misuse, be it Alcohol or Controlled Drugs have the potential to cause significant harm to communities, particularly in relation to Violent Crime. These are causal factors that we cannot ignore, and need to address in a considered and structured way. Throughout the County we have a number of initiatives currently working, where we are prioritising the effects of cocaine and other class A drugs, particularly in relation to the night time economy.

4. If you have decided not to prioritise this type of offending, please state what action is generally taken instead of prosecution? Why have you taken this course?

Prosecution has many permutations, and we seek to divert as many people, particularly the young, from a criminal record and all that involves, as possible. The use of Cannabis Warnings and Cautions are important tools, particularly when we want to divert as many people into drug treatment services as possible. Nottinghamshire has recommissioned its substance misuse treatment services over the past two years. I am extremely cognisant that when considering cannabis, its use as a "gateway drug" to other more serious drugs, should not be overlooked.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 8445998 or e-mail nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk.

Yours sincerely



**Lisa Gilmour
Business Support Manager
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**