

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO H.M. ATTORNEY GENERAL
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Question

Will H.M. Attorney General state how many people claiming to be medicinal users of cannabis were prosecuted in 2015, if any? What were the sentences in such cases and what was the total known cost of those cases?

Answer

Under the Misuse of Drugs (Jersey) Law 1978, an assertion made by an accused that he or she was in possession of a controlled drug solely for medicinal purposes would not provide them with a defence.

Information of the nature envisaged by the question is not formally recorded either by the Law Officers' Department or the States of Jersey Police. In the time available, we have been able to identify two cases prosecuted in 2015 in which the suspects, when interviewed by the police, asserted that they used cannabis for medicinal reasons. Both cases were dealt with in the Magistrate's Court. In one, the court imposed a Community Service Order; in the other a Probation Order.

It is not practical to provide an estimate of the costs of bringing these two cases to court.