

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY S.Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER SOUTH
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2022
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2022**

Question

Will the Minister advise –

- (a) how many prosecutions there have been for possession of cannabis over the last 5 years, and the financial cost to the States of Jersey Police of processing these cases; and
- (b) what sentences were imposed in respect of these prosecutions; and what the financial cost was of administering these sentences?

Answer

- a) Please find a table detailing the number of prosecutions for possession of cannabis over the last five years and the sentences imposed below:

Year	Written caution	Fine	Probation	Bound over	Imprisonment	Words of advice	Community service	Other - no separate penalty	Total no. of sanctions
2017 Total	65	19	11	6	5	3	1	3	113
2018 Total	72	26	7	8	3	3	1	2	122
2019 Total	67	21	11	5	7		1	2	114
2020 Total	45	11	13	14	2	1			86
2021 Total	36	8	8	9	2	1	1	1	66
2022 (Up to 28/09/2022) Total	9	7	3	2		1	1		23
Grand Total	294	92	53	44	19	9	5	8	524

- b) Unfortunately, it is not possible to accurately determine the exact cost of above sanctions. Responsible agencies vary depending on the severity of the case, with some simple personal possession offences dealt with via Parish Hall enquiry, while more serious offences alongside other charges or repeat offences are typically dealt with by court. Costs would have to be calculated across the various involved agencies in the prosecution process, including Police time, administration time, Parish Hall administration, States Analyst services, Court costs, etc. For this reason, coupled with the fact that all cases vary in complexity so much, we are unable to accurately provide cost estimates.