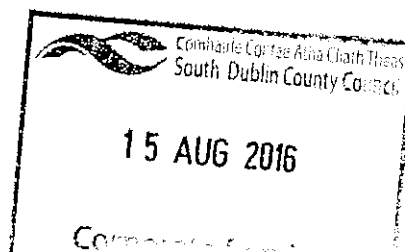




12 August 2016

Mr Tom O'Neill
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Mr. O'Neill

Thank you for your recent letter advising of the motion passed by South Dublin County Council relating to the decriminalisation of drug use and the treatment of drug use as a public health issue.

My Department is responsible for leading the development of a new National Drugs Strategy, which is to commence in January 2017. A Steering Committee with an independent chair has been established to advise on the development of the new Strategy.

The development of the new Strategy will involve an examination of the approach to drug policy in other jurisdictions, a review of international evidence on interventions to tackle the drug problem and a public consultation process. The public consultation process will be launched in September 2016.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to a health-led rather than a criminal justice approach to drugs use. It is envisaged that this approach will be among a range of issues that will be considered by the Steering Committee in the course of developing a new Strategy.

It is anticipated that the final report of the Steering Committee will be submitted to the Minister with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy by the end of the year.

I trust that this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health

Tús Áite do
Shábháilteacht **1** Othar
Patient Safety **1** First



Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

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