

Public Consultation on the New National Drugs Strategy

A new National Drugs Strategy is being developed by the Department of Health and will set out Government policy on tackling the drug problem from **2017 onwards**. This new strategy is important for all of us; service users, individuals, families, communities and our society as a whole.

A public consultation will run between **6th September and 18th October 2016**. We are seeking your views on the drugs issue in Ireland to help inform the new Strategy.

At the end of the public consultation, we will gather the views received in a report. The report will be provided to the National Drugs Strategy Steering Committee to help inform the new Strategy.

You can tell us what you think, by **5pm on 18th October 2016**, in one of the following ways:

Using this **questionnaire**: Complete online at the website address provided below.

Or: Complete and return to the P.O. Box address provided below



Visit our page: www.health.gov.ie/drugs-strategy



Call us: 1890 10 00 53



Write to us: National Drugs Strategy,
PO Box 12778, Glenageary, Co. Dublin



Email us: yourviews@drugsstrategy.ie

The National Drugs Strategy aims to tackle the harm caused to individuals and our society by the misuse of drugs.

For the purposes of this questionnaire, drug misuse is the use of any drug, legal or illegal, which harms or threatens to harm some aspect of an individual's life, be it physical, mental or social well-being, or other individuals or society at large.

When we say "drug" we include the following substances.

- **Illicit (or illegal) drugs** – for example cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, cocaine, new psychoactive substances, magic mushrooms, LSD and heroin.
- **Prescription medicines** – Legitimate (or legal) medicines which are ordinarily prescribed by a doctor, dentist or nurse, which may have the potential for misuse e.g. medicines prescribed for the relief of pain, to aid sleep, anxiety or depression. It includes the harmful use of prescribed medicines by exceeding the recommended prescribed dose or duration of use, or using such medicines when they have not been prescribed for you.
- **Over the Counter Medicines (OTCs)** - Legitimate (or legal) medicines which do not ordinarily require a prescription and includes the harmful use of such medicines by exceeding the recommended dose or duration of use e.g. painkillers containing codeine.
- **Solvents** – for example aerosols, glues and gas lighter refills.
- **Alcohol** – for example beer, cider, spirits, wine and alcopop drinks.

To help **you** think about the issues that you feel are important for the new Strategy, this questionnaire uses the pillars of the existing National Drugs Strategy of 2009-2016: **Supply Reduction, Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Research**.

Did you know that Ireland has a National Drugs Strategy for the years 2009 to 2016?

If Yes Tell us **your views** on the existing strategy. _____

Tell us what **you think** about the five pillars of the existing National Drugs Strategy. _____

If No Tell us what **you think** are important issues to be considered in the new National Drugs Strategy. _____

What do **you think** are the most harmful drugs in your community? _____

Supply Reduction: This area of the existing strategy aims to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and addresses underage drinking.

1 Tell us your views on the availability of drugs in Ireland. _____

2 Do you think the availability of illicit drugs in Ireland has reduced or increased? _____

3 Who in your community plays a role in reducing availability of drugs? _____

4 What do you think should be done to reduce the supply of illicit drugs in Ireland? _____

If you have more comments on supply reduction in Ireland, please tell us here.

You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

Prevention: This area of the existing strategy aims to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the dangers of drug misuse in society. It also promotes healthier lifestyle choices.

5 Describe how well informed you think you are about the dangers of drug use. _____

6 Give us your views on the actions taken to prevent drug misuse in Ireland.
(a) Did these actions influence your attitudes towards drugs and/or drug misuse? _____

(b) Did these actions influence your behaviour around drugs? _____

7 What more can be done to inform people of the dangers of drug misuse? _____

8 What age should we start educating and informing our children about drugs? _____

9 What kinds of support / materials do you think parents would find useful in educating their children about drugs? _____

If you have more comments on drug prevention in Ireland, please tell us here.

You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

Treatment: This area in the existing strategy aims to help people with drug problems access treatment and supports and reduce the harm caused by drug misuse to them, their families, and communities.

10 Tell us your views on how easy it is to get treatment for drug and alcohol problems in Ireland. _____

11 Tell us your views on the quality of treatment available for drug and alcohol problems in Ireland.

12 Describe how we should support those who continue to misuse drugs. _____

If you have more comments about treatment in Ireland, please tell us here.

You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

Rehabilitation: This area of the existing strategy aims to support those dealing with drug misuse problems to maximise their quality of life, and to re-integrate into their communities.

13 How do you think people can be assisted to lead a drug free lifestyle? _____

14 What more do you think we can do to improve our treatment and rehabilitation services in Ireland?

If you have more comments about rehabilitation in Ireland, please tell us here

You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

Research: This area of the existing strategy aims to have valid, timely, and comparable information on the extent and nature of drug misuse in Ireland.

15 What research would you like to see carried out in Ireland in the future? _____

If you have more comments on the research and monitoring of drug and alcohol use in Ireland, please tell us here. You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

If there are any other issues you think are important for the new National Drugs Strategy, you are welcome to submit your views on additional pages if necessary.

Please tick the relevant tick boxes that best describe you:

I am responding as:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> An Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Person | <input type="checkbox"/> On Behalf of an Organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (a) under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Carer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b) 18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service User | |

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. All views received during the public consultation will be presented in a report to the National Drugs Strategy Steering Committee to help them inform the new policy.



Optional : If you would like to provide us with your details, you can do so here.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Submissions received from individuals who provide us with their details will be reported anonymously in the Public Consultation Report, while feedback from organisations will be attributed to them.

While submissions will not be individually responded to, relevant feedback will be considered by the National Drugs Strategy Steering Committee in the context of framing the new National Drugs Strategy.

You can use the following ways to find out more about the National Drugs Strategy and this public consultation.



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