

Minutes

Cannabis Coordination Meeting No. 31

Date	Monday 22 November 2021
Time	1130-1230hrs
Location	Microsoft Teams

Attendees	
Name	Role
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dan Houseago (DH)	Group Director, Economy
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Paul McCabe (PMcC)	Chief Pharmacist, Health & Social Services
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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A. Standing items

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1. [redacted] gave apologies on behalf of [redacted], George Pearmain, [redacted], and [redacted]

2. Approve key points from meeting of Monday 18 October 2021

- 2.1 [redacted] thanked [redacted] and declared the minutes from the last meeting as approved.
- 2.2 DH noted that it is likely this Group will continue to provide meeting minutes to the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel.
- 2.3 [redacted] noted an action from the last meeting re. the redaction of minutes was to obtain and circulate current guidelines on FOI requests and on the redaction of minutes. [redacted] approached [redacted] for guidance who said that there are no guidelines as such for FOI or any general guidance around redactions.
- 2.4 [redacted] asked DH if this could be taken up with [redacted] to future proof any further redaction requests not just in the cannabis arena but to the wider Economy Department.
- 2.5 [redacted] noted that Article 35 (Formulation and development of policies) of the [Freedom of Information \(Jersey\) Law 2011](#) (FOI Law) specifically allows information to be qualified as exempt '*if it relates to the formulation or development of any proposed policy by a public authority*'.
- 2.6 [redacted] stated that the FOI Law is the minimum benchmark. Sensitive information that might be treated as redactable under FOI may not be suitable as redactable for scrutiny and this is the question that hasn't been answered. [redacted] suggested a formal request is put to both [redacted] and scrutiny to ensure and state that this Group is not trying to avoid providing information but that we don't have information / guidelines to carry out redactions effectively.
- 2.7 DH also suggested minutes are separated into Part A and B items.

Action 1: DH to put in a formal request to scrutiny and [redacted] asking for guidance on redactions.

Action 2: [redacted] to affirm with DH the structure of meetings going forward.

B. Business Arising

1. States Members briefing (ALL)

- 1.1 ■ referred to the States briefing held on 18 November, noting it engaged, raised awareness and engendered discussion between States Members on the emerging cannabis industry. ■ asked what the takeaways from the briefing were.
- 1.2 DH applauded ■ on organising the briefing and said feedback was positive. The briefing was held at the Oules Room in the Museum and on Teams. Four States Members were present in person including Senator Farnham with approximately 20 Members attending online.
- 1.3 DH mentioned the notion of a global cannabis conference, allowing for Jersey to capitalise on the huge corporation investment potential in this area ahead of other jurisdictions. It was noted however that there are a lack of structures which are independent to government to engage effectively and that the private sector has an important role to play. DH commented that he had a very positive meeting with ■ in this regard.
- 1.4 DH said that a fully-fledged conference is not required but he needs to:
- look at the tone of the conference
 - put structures in place (which mimic financial services sector e.g., Jersey Finance Limited and Jersey Financial Services Commission) and;
 - look into a piece on research and development.
- 1.5 DH is also cognisant of the fact that there is a lot of legislative work to bring things up to speed. DH has asked ■ to turn this into a project and monitor and ensure we have a timeline against this.

Action 3: ■ to pull together a delivery plan that highlights timelines and resource requirements for legislation that either needs to be amended or replaced as part of a robust regulatory framework for Jersey's medicinal cannabis industry.

1.6

1.7

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[REDACTED]

1.8 PMcC gave a quick update on the Medicines Law and provisions that are required. PMcC has spoken to Tom Walker and Paul Wylie of SPPP re. resurrecting the overhaul of the entire Medicines Law. There is potential scope in looking at critical fixes. PMcC will be looking at what areas might need revision with a view to getting this completed in 2022, after which the Medicines Law will be reviewed in the longer term.

1.9 [REDACTED]

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1.10 [REDACTED]

1.11 PMcC did mention to SPPP that he is looking to replicate / point to the UK legislation.

1.12 [REDACTED]

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1.13 [REDACTED] noted that States Members recognise the value of medicinal cannabis in particular but is there some form of recognition of the planning issues individuals raised in scrutiny and in the States briefing? It is also worthwhile determining the purpose of a conference: this would help shape what it looks like and what we are trying to deliver.

1.14 DH stated we mustn't lose track of what we are trying to achieve. The aim of the conference is to show we are at a trajectory where people want to invest. Jersey's cannabis industry is not live, yet it is highly nascent, and we are speculating on orders of COM. To get economic benefit we need to be first and Jersey is being pursued by other jurisdictions that also want to be first. The reality is, we are well advanced in terms of licensing and there is a high bar in terms of substance regulation here. Jersey is open for business, but we do not necessarily have all of the policies and processes in the right place.

1.15 [REDACTED]

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1.16 DH noted that up until recently we were ahead of our next rival in this space by effectively creating our own cannabis agency and the ability to issue licences under our own auspices. There are two big markets - for domestic use and for export and to have a Jersey standard – high end, high value is a brand-new world we're having to speculate on and having to use companies and individuals that are close to these markets, whether it be the CBD market or the wellness function. If we want to maximise tax take, we need to push ourselves in uncharted territory.

1.17 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

2. Minutes to Scrutiny (DH)

2.1 [REDACTED] noted minutes to Scrutiny were covered off in Section A Item 2 of this meeting.

3. Scrutiny report – actions to be taken (DH)

3.1 DH stated that Scrutiny is delaying issuing their final report. The Scrutiny hearing was useful in that it was an opportunity to reiterate what is in place and what we've done to significantly move forward in spite of not having a project plan – this hopefully along with the minutes will provide Scrutiny with information to produce their report ASAP. It is still unclear where their recommendations are going to go.

4. Reporting suspicious activity (DH)

4.1 [REDACTED] noted an action from the previous meeting was for DH to refer back to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] position of [REDACTED], to connect up with management consultants with regards oversight of any criminal activity.

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4.2 DH explained that [REDACTED] has agreed to produce an advisory paper so that DH and officers can advise ministers in terms of resourcing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DH is still waiting for this report from [REDACTED]

Action 4: DH to chase advisory paper on resourcing from [REDACTED].

4.3 [REDACTED]

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4.4 [REDACTED]

4.5 [REDACTED] noted that Jersey has committed to carrying out further reviews of AML legislation. [REDACTED] is of the opinion that this action sits with the whole of Government i.e. with colleagues in Revenue Jersey etc. What action is due here – is it organisational-wide or specific to this project? [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

4.6 DH noted re. a gifts and hospitality register – the Economy Department have one of these.

[Redacted]

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Action 5: [Redacted] to check that there are gift and hospitality registers across the suite of departments that are represented at this Group.

5. Policy resource (DH)

5.1 Discussed earlier in the meeting – all acknowledged something needs to be done here.

6. [Redacted]

6.1 [Redacted]

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6.2 [Redacted]

6.3 [Redacted]

6.4 [Redacted]

7. New enquiries [Redacted]

7.1 PMcC has three applications pending which can be shared [Redacted]
PMcC is waiting on [Redacted] report and will likely look to review these applications in January 2022.

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8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 [redacted] noted that the States debate on the tax regulations is on the 22nd November.
- 8.2 [redacted] Article 41
- 8.3 [redacted] Article 31
- 8.4 [redacted]

Action 6: [redacted]

- 8.5 [redacted] Article 31
- 8.6 [redacted]

9. Date and time of next meeting

9.1 Meeting closed at 12.45hrs. Next meeting TBA.

Summary of New Actions

Action ID	Date Raised	Action	Owner	
1	22.11.21	Put in a formal request to scrutiny and [redacted] asking for guidance on redactions.	DH	
2	22.11.21	Affirm with DH the structure of meetings going forward.	[redacted]	
3	22.11.21	Piece together a delivery plan that highlights timelines and resource requirements for legislation that either needs to be amended or replaced as part of a robust regulatory framework for Jersey's medicinal cannabis industry.	[redacted]	
4	22.11.21	Chase advisory paper from [redacted].	DH	Article 37
5	22.11.21	Check that there are gift and hospitality registers across the suite of Government departments represented at this Group.	[redacted]	
6	22.11.21	[redacted]	[redacted] and [redacted]	Article 31

Rolling Action Points from workshop / previous meetings to be actioned at a later date

Action ID	Date Raised	Action	Owner
1	08.10.19	Meet to produce an annual return for cannabis growers – <i>a rolling action noted for approx. Q4 2021 once all internal administration and processes are in place.</i>	█ and PMcC

-Ends-