

HASC 2012 – Comments by David Raynes

The Committee makes two suggestions that stem from the legalisation/liberalisation lobby.

Firstly they recommend moving Cannabis back to Class C. They do this without evidence and with Keith Vaz the Chairman using a casting vote, reflecting the polarisation of the Committee.

Listeners may recall it was classified to C from B in the UK system by David Blunkett and moved back to B in 2008/9 after representations by many people, including the National Director of Mental Health, Professor Appleby.

This followed the work on mental illness and cannabis by Professor Robin Murray.

They suggest this move even against their own evidence of more people seeking treatment for cannabis, It is illogical, it casts doubt upon everything they say and damages any credibility the report has on other matters (prison/treatment etc). It shows the contortions and hoops the group went through.

Just why WOULD the UK want to revisit cannabis classification? Where is the “public good” in that? What is the point? What would be the effect? That battle is over in the UK. The chicken has had its neck broken yet still it runs around the yard.

The second suggestion is that of a Royal Commission to revisit the 1971 Act which is the vehicle for our UK conformity with the international drugs conventions. The best kept international agreements of all time

This Royal Commission idea is a constant cry from the legalisation lobby because they believe, they win, by legalisation keep being discussed, it changes the culture. It is humbug. The government should not fall for it.

States have a SHARED RESPONSIBILITY not to undermine each other. As a sophisticated first world nation we should take our responsibilities seriously.

A Royal Commission would take evidence from the same actors as the HASC, it would be hugely expensive, it would be no more likely to reach a conclusion that would satisfy the legalisation lobby, than the HASC itself was.

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