

Ministry for Justice
Minister of Justice.

The original letter is not dated.

Mikkel Warming,
Mayor for Social Affairs,
Copenhagen City Council,
Social Affairs Committee,
Town Hall (Rådhuset)
1599 Copenhagen V

Dear Mikkel Warming,

Thank you for your letter of 10. February 2012 in which on behalf of Copenhagen City Council you apply for permission to introduce a pilot scheme for the regulation of a legal hash trade.

Legislation regarding illegal drugs is the responsibility of the Minister for Health and Prevention, and I have therefore discussed your approach with her.

The answer to your approach is no. At the same time I would like to emphasise that the government would like an increased input for the misusers of illegal drugs. It is important that the police continue to have a strong focus on combating the hash trade and other drugs crime. A pilot scheme of the proposed nature would therefore raise a series of questions relevant to police involvement in this area.

The background to the current illegal status of hash, amongst other substances, is first and foremost the assessment of the health profession that hash is linked to a series of unhealthy effects.

The simple intoxication involves for example a risk of anxiety and panic reactions as well as psychotic reactions, a reduction in learning abilities and an increase in the risk of traffic accidents etc. Long-term use involves for example an increased risk of so-called 'smoker's lung' and probably also lung cancer. In addition there is an increased risk of mental illness. Moreover, intellectual and practical functioning skills will be consistently reduced by daily use, and amongst other effects memory and concentration will be worsened through intensive use over several years. Children, young people and vulnerable adults are especially prone to these unhealthy effects.

The health service prepared a more detailed account of the negative effects in an April 1. 2009 minute, which is enclosed for your information.

As regards a pilot scheme to regulate a legalised hash trade, such a scheme would increase the availability of hash, which is most likely to lead to an increased use of this substance and as a result increased ill effects.

Given this background the government does not wish to open the possibility of such a pilot scheme.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the minister for health and prevention.

Best wishes