

## Ballot Paper 2 (A) Options within the current legal framework

For each statement below, please place an **X** in the box that represents your preferred answer, or leave blank if you do not wish to answer.

*Please answer each question from 2(A).1 through to 2(A).4, regardless of your answer to question 2(A).1.*

### 2(A).1 Retain the current legislative approach to possession of drugs for personal use

Retain the current legislative approach to possession of drugs for personal use.	Agree	Do Not Agree	Don't Know
<p>While there may be opportunities to tweak the current legislative approach to possession of drugs for personal use, the approach is essentially the correct one and should not be significantly altered.</p> <p>This means that the offence of possession of drugs for personal use, as legislated for under Section 3 of the 1977 Misuse of Drugs Act, should be retained as it currently is.</p>			

### 2(A).2 Expand the terms of the Adult Caution Scheme to all illicit drugs

Expand the terms of the Adult Caution Scheme to all illicit drugs.	Agree	Do Not Agree	Don't Know
<p>The Adult Caution Scheme is currently available for cannabis-related possession offences only. It should be made available to people found in possession of any illicit drug.</p>			

### 2(A).3 Expand the Adult Caution scheme to cover repeat offenders, up to a threshold number of offences.

The Adult Caution Scheme should be expanded to repeat offenders.	Agree	Do Not Agree	Don't Know
<p>The Adult Caution Scheme is currently available for first-time cannabis-related possession offences only.</p> <p>The scheme should be expanded to repeat offenders, up to a threshold number of offences to be determined by the Oireachtas.</p>			

### 2(A).4 Expand the availability and use of mechanisms for persons charged with possession of drugs for personal use to engage in health-led interventions.

The Courts should expand the availability of, and the judiciary should expand the use of, innovative approaches to divert people charged with possession of drugs for personal use to engage in health-led interventions.	Agree	Do Not Agree	Don't Know
<p>Such mechanisms serve multiple purposes, including supporting dissuasion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery, while reducing the likelihood of criminal conviction and/or prison sentences. One example considered by the Citizens' Assembly was the Cork Courts Referral Programme, operated by the District Court in conjunction with the HSE and Coolmine, which provides first-time offenders an opportunity to avoid a criminal conviction and possible prison sentence, by paying a fine and engaging with a Brief Intervention, with onward referral to addiction treatment, if appropriate. Revenues generated from fines imposed go to fund the health-led service.</p>			