



Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

Assistant Commissioner Justin Kelly
Organised & Serious Crime

April 2023

Introduction



- Justin Kelly, Assistant Commissioner, Organised & Serious Crime (OSC)
- Strategic responsibility for all organised and serious crime
- OSC is made up of a number of specialist National bureaux
 - *Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation*
 - *Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau*
 - *Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau*
 - *Garda National Economic Crime Bureau*
 - *Garda National Immigration Bureau*
 - *Garda National Protective Service Bureau*
 - *Garda Technical Bureau*
 - *Operational Support Services*

Role of An Garda Síochána

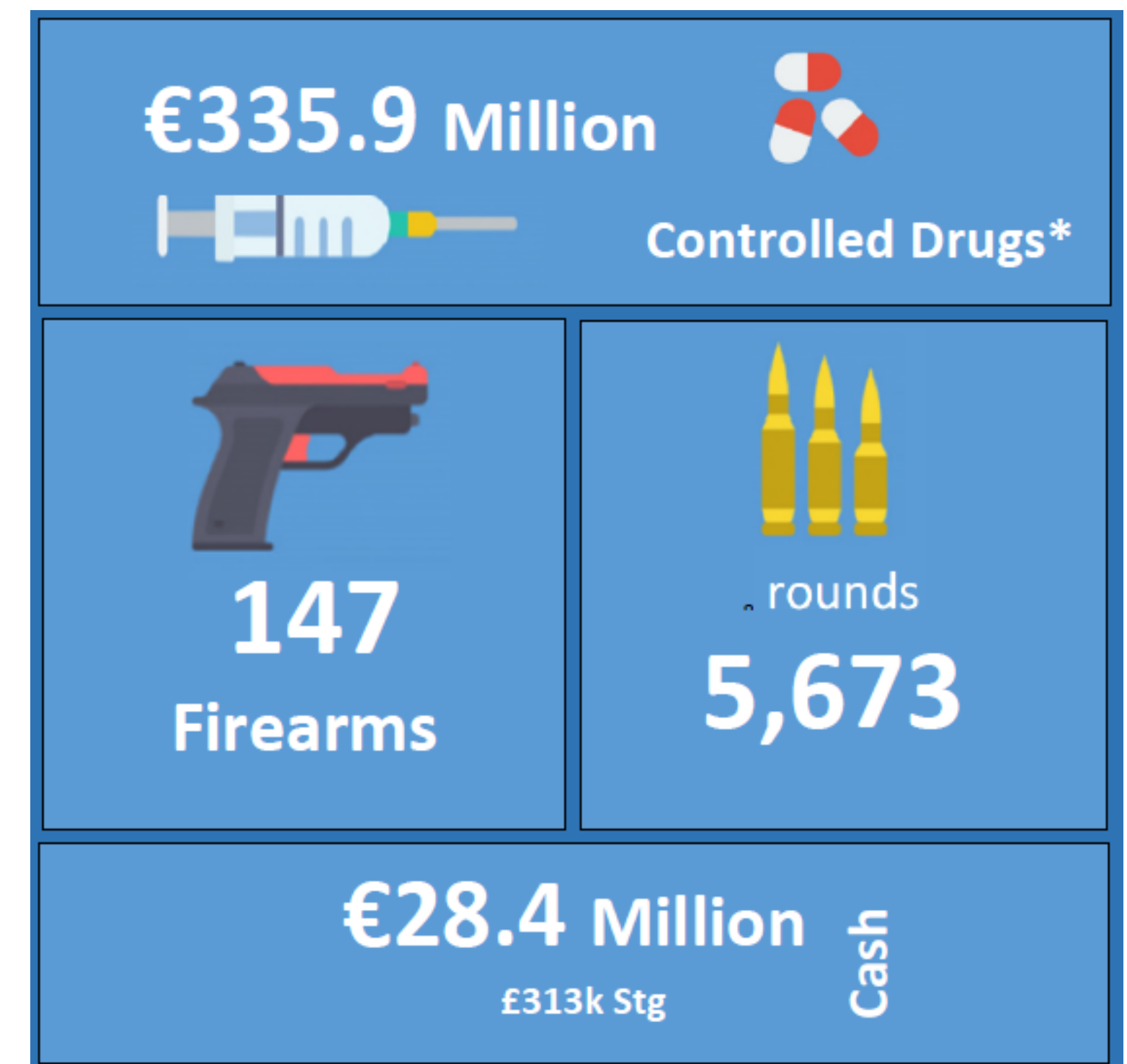


- Our mission is “Keeping People Safe”
- Section 7 Garda Síochána Act, 2005
 - *Preserve Peace and public order*
 - *Protect life and property*
 - *Prevent crime ... by detecting and investigating it*
- We work closely with our health and criminal justice partners, and other stakeholders to reduce harm and ensure safety (health-led approach)

Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau



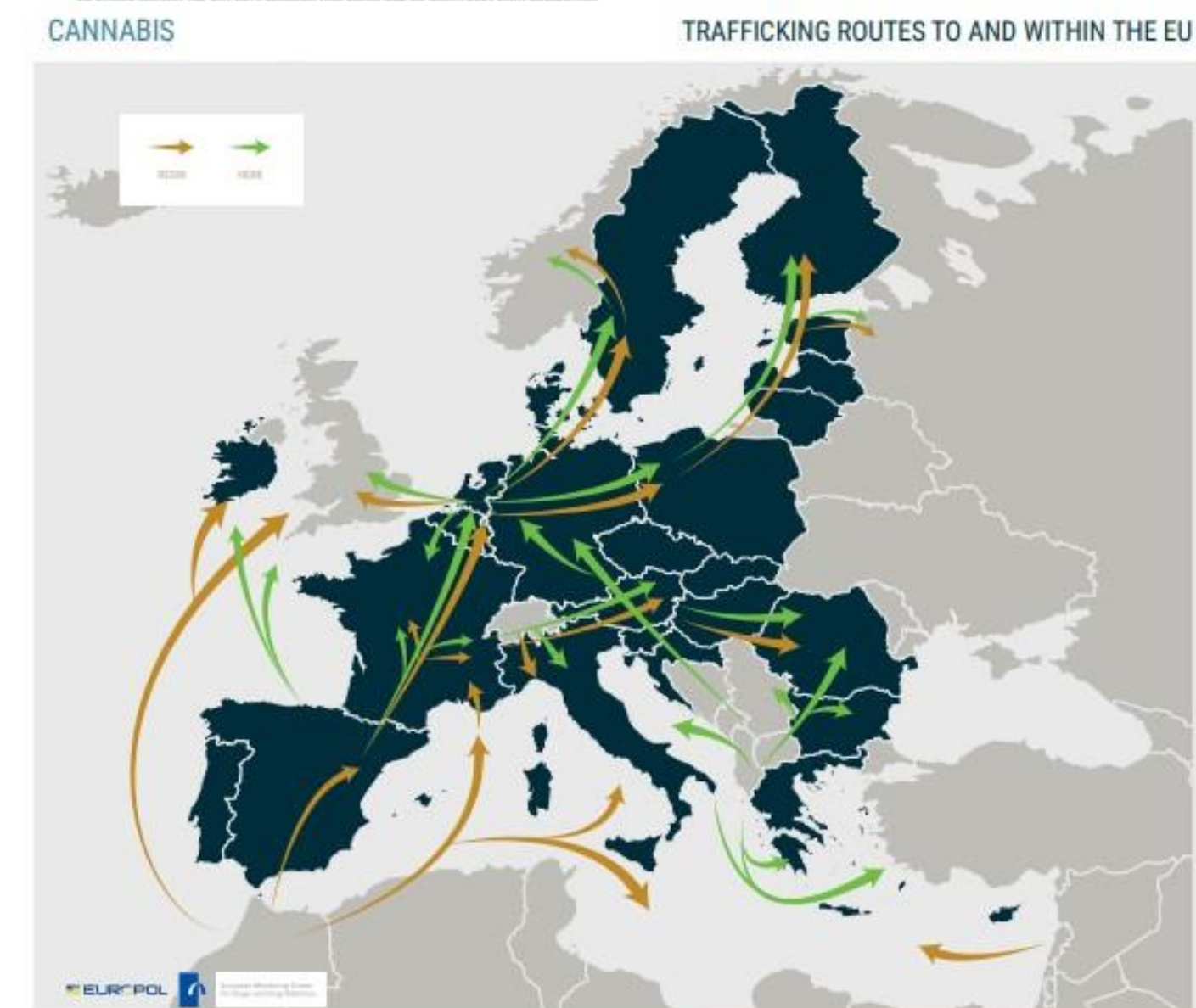
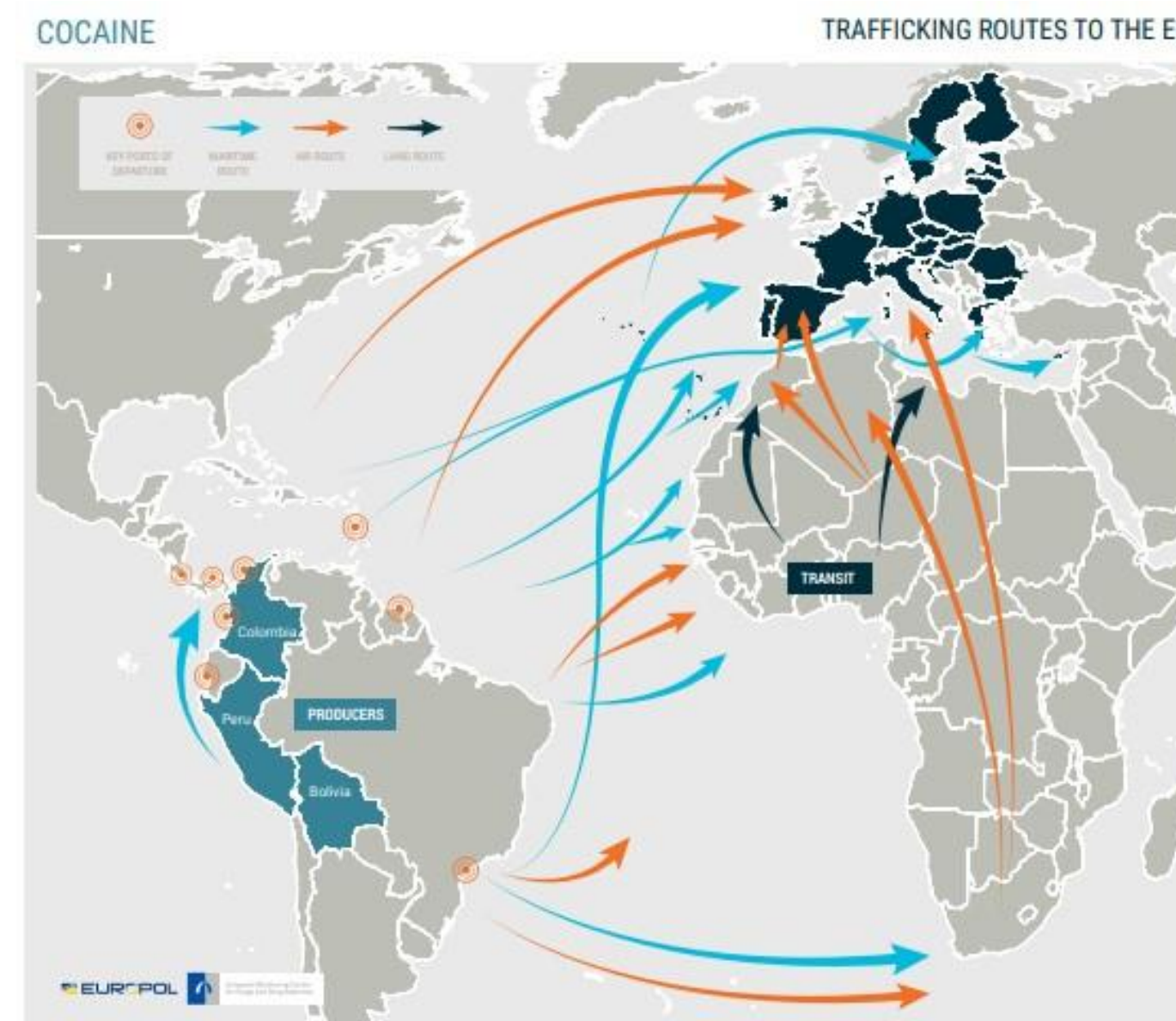
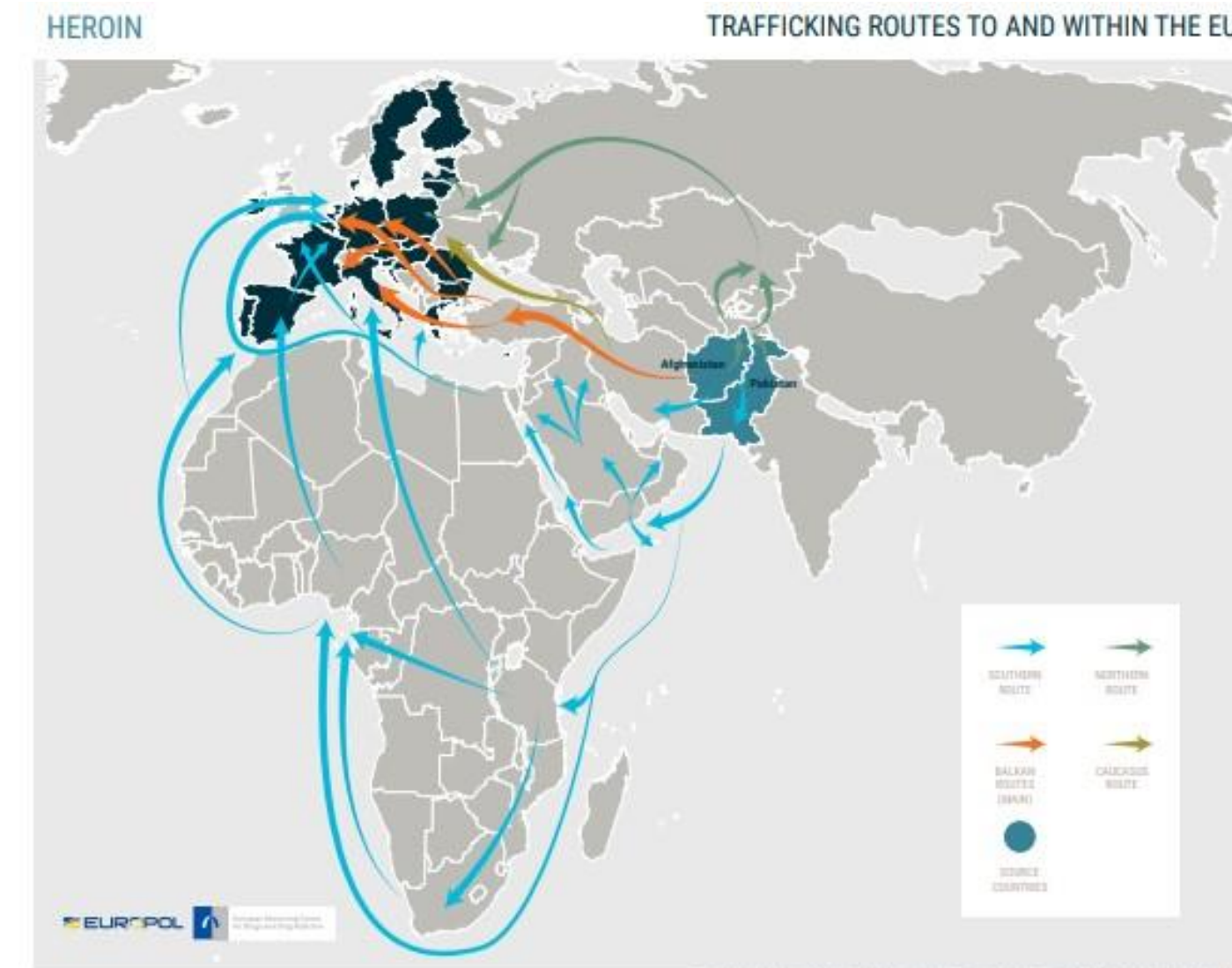
- *Disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute offenders, and focus on organised crime networks and individuals involved in serious criminal activity*
- International cooperation & collaboration
- Liaise with local drug units (Operation TARA – An Garda Síochána’s coordinated approach to tackling drug related issues impacting on communities throughout Ireland, community focused problem solving).
- National-level community harm prevention (9 May 2015 to 31 May 2023)
 - *€336 million worth of drugs did not reach our communities*
 - *OCGs deprived of €28.4 million in cash, 147 firearms*
 - *Threat to life operations - 80*



Drug Supply in Ireland



- Global / international level
 - *drug production*
 - *international trafficking*
 - *world-wide phenomenon & outreach*
- National Level or the 'Middle Market'
 - *Importation*
 - *wholesale distribution*
- Local or 'Street' Level
 - *Retail distribution*
- Possession / Use



Ireland cannot address the drugs issue in isolation



- Drug Trafficking is a priority at European and International level
- 40% of criminal networks operating in the EU are involved in drug trafficking
- 60% of criminal networks operating in the EU use violence



An Garda Síochána's experience with drug-related criminality



- Murder
- Robbery
- Theft
- Assault
- Burglary
- Criminal Damage
- Firearms
- Drug Driving (causing death)
- Public Order and Anti-social Behaviour
- Drug Related Intimidation



An Garda Síochána supports the current health-led approach but has grave concerns around the implications of any potential legalisation of drugs