

Vape shop in legal limbo as laws unclear on sale of CBD products

Darragh Murphy

The proprietors of a local store, Good Vibes on Parnell Street, appeared once again in Waterford Courthouse last week as the “very, very difficult case” into the store’s sale of CBD products continues.

The store, which has been operating in the city for several years, sells smoking and vape products, confectionary, and CBD items.

In July 2024, a warrant was issued by gardai to search the premises. €2,500 worth of cannabis

products were seized.

The proprietors of the store, Olivia Crosse and Jasan Singh, also had a search warrant issued at their home at The Vee, Cork Road, Waterford.

More cannabis products were found at the residence, along with €16,495 in cash, which gardai believe is the proceeds of selling the products.

THE LAW

The legality of certain CBD products fall into a grey area, and the matter is considered a live issue.

Defence for both parties, Hilary Delahunty,

said that the Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture both take differing views on the substance.

The Department of Justice say that if THC is present at all in a CBD product, it is considered a controlled drug and is illegal. THC is the main psychoactive ingredient found in cannabis.

The Department of Agriculture, however, say that if a CBD product has less than 0.2% of THC content, the product is legal.

With the laws unclear, Mr Delahunty described the case as “very, very

difficult.”

“This is an issue which is ongoing...the Irish government doesn’t know what to do,” he said.

Mr Delahunty told the court that his clients did not intend to sell controlled drugs, but that they were reckless in doing so because of the complicated legal position of the substances.

He said his clients had no other choice but to plead guilty.

GARDA EVIDENCE

During their court appearance last week, investigating garda officer Sean Dunne provided de-

tail on the searches.

He said that a targeted search was carried out at the store because it is located on a main thoroughfare in the city.

The products seized were contained within black and gold packaging. There is a smell of cannabis from the products, but it is not very strong, the court was told.

Hilary Delahunty, acting in defence of both Mr Singh and Ms Crosse, asked the garda if he was aware that similar shops are located all over Ireland and that some have been searched and some



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have not.

The investigating officer agreed.

WHAT NEXT?

Another recent search of the store has been carried out, an investigating garda member told the court last week.

Products seized were analysed and the results of these tests are pending.

In light of this, Judge John Cheatele said he will wait on the results of those tests before proceeding the case further.

If the results are clear, it will be positive for the two defendants, he said.

The case will be raised again in November.

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RSA’s ‘check it fits’ initiative returning

Brendan Keane

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has announced that’s returning to Waterford with its free ‘Check it Fits’ service which is specifically aimed at ensuring child car seats are correctly fitted.

According to the RSA over half of child car seats (54%) are incorrectly fitted nationwide and almost a third seats fitted incorrectly needed major adjustments.

If a child’s car seat isn’t fitted correctly, it could lead to a serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision.

A spokesperson for the RSA said the face-to-face seat checking service, ‘Check It Fits’ - will visit different areas around the country and will be in Waterford on June 3, 4 and 5.

“Car seats may seem simple to install, but the installation is often easy to get wrong,” said the spokesperson.

“We know parents are not intentionally putting children in danger and it is an education issue,” she added.

Ron Richardson, Check it Fits Lead Checker for the RSA also commented on the matter and said: “While the RSA’s experience with its Check it Fits service shows that half of child car seats are fitted incorrectly, worryingly, it found that 30% of these needed a major adjustment to fix them.”

The Check It Fits service in Waterford will take place at Garvey’s SuperValu, Dungarvan on June 3, at Smyth’s Toys, Ivory Retail Park on June 4 and at Waterford Retail Park on June 5.

What’s in a ‘herb’? Charges struck out

Caroline Spencer

A Waterford Judge threw out two drug possession charges because of incorrect wording on the charge sheet.

At Waterford District Court, Judge Mark O’Connell struck out the cases of two men who were found with small quantities of cannabis. One man was found in possession of €60 worth of cannabis by an on-duty Garda in Waterford City.

As solicitor Hilary Delahunty told the court that the man had no previous convictions, Judge O’Connell interjected

that he was striking out the case because the charge was written as possession of “cannabis herb”, instead of “cannabis”. The term “cannabis herb” does not appear in the Irish Statute Book.

Judge O’Connell said: “This has happened on another occasion.”

Inspector Niall Daly responded: “I can’t recall that case, but I do know of it.”

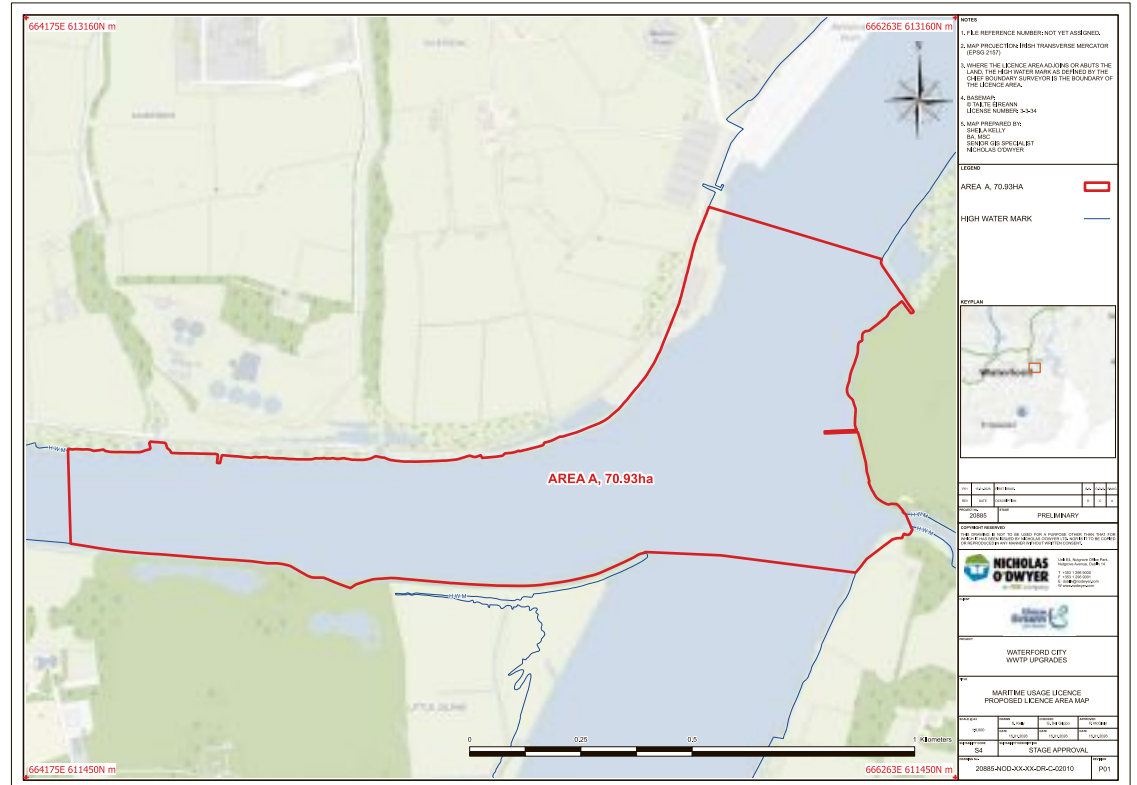
Incidentally, another man appearing in court for possession of €5 worth of “cannabis herb” had his matter thrown out as well.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 Invitation for Public Submissions on an Application for a Maritime Usage Licence and an Appropriate Assessment

Uisce Éireann has submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine site investigations in the River Suir Estuary to progress a Waterford City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) Upgrade. The duration requested in the licence application is for a period of 3 years.



A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA's website <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/application/7387/> and at the following address by appointment—

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting MUL250022 by email to licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to

Maritime Usage Licensing, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 08/07/2026.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated this 2nd day of June 2026.

Signed: Representative of Uisce Éireann

[Signature]