

Drugs Classification

THE LAW Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – Maximum Penalties (including the Misuse of Drugs regulations 2001)		
	Possession	Supply & Production
Class A Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth)	7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
Class B Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (e.g. mephedrone, methoxetamine), ketamine	5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
Class C Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat	2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
<p>Under the Misuse of Drugs Act, it is an offence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to unlawfully possess a controlled drug • to possess a controlled drug with intent to supply it • to unlawfully supply (sell/give/share) a controlled drug • to allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for the smoking or use of drugs <p>A conviction for any Misuse of Drugs Act offence can affect future employment.</p> <p>Many other countries such as USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand may refuse visas to people with drugs convictions.</p> <p>A conviction for misuse of drugs will often invalidate insurance policies, including holiday, vehicle and health cover.</p>		

Information correct as at 19.02.2019

Drugs and duty to inform the Police

a) Members of the Public

Knowledge that a criminal offence is taking place does not mean you have to inform the Police. The private citizen cannot be prosecuted under the criminal law for failing to report an offence.

b) Professional Staff

This will be dependant upon the nature of employment and employer's policy, but the duty to take action and report offences to the Police may extend beyond the duty of a private citizen, although the criminal law will not be involved. The decision to call in the Police may depend upon the relationship between staff/agency and the Police.

Seeking out information about possible drug taking may cause problems. Unconfirmed suspicions are easier to deal with from both a legal and welfare point of view.

c) Parents

Parents often want to report their child's drug use to the Police. This can have unforeseen difficulties and many parents are unhappy with the consequences. Police sometimes prosecute dependent upon circumstances.