

Judicial Inconsistency - or what?

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In October 2013 this website published an article "[Justice - truth in action](#)"

It made the point that the public needs to have absolute confidence in our system of justice and referred to an inconsistency of approach in the Isle of Man.

Generally our police respond to drug offending with some vehemence as we are reminded this week via a [report from EnergyFM](#) :

"A 60-year-old man from Douglas has pleaded guilty to possessing and cultivating cannabis. Joseph Crook appeared at Douglas Courthouse yesterday charged with two offences. He was stopped on Victoria Road by police on August 23rd who found he had a small amount of cannabis bush in his possession. In court Mr Crook also entered a guilty plea for cultivating four plants at a property in Douglas which were found on the same day. The case has now been adjourned for two weeks to allow the prosecutor to compile more evidence - Mr Crook will next appear in court on October 21st."

But a year ago IoMToday carried an article with the headline "[I stumbled upon 'a jungle of cannabis'](#)". A retired detective inspector discovered around 60 cannabis plants being cultivated in a disused quarry in Maughold - he said "It looked like a jungle". A man detained in connection with the find received only a caution after being arrested by the police. The decision not to prosecute was taken on advice from the Attorney General's Chambers.

The earlier incident, on the face of it, seems far more serious than being in possession of 'a small amount of cannabis' and 'cultivating four plants'.

Why is Mr Crook brought to Court and the earlier unnamed cultivator only cautioned?

Such inconsistency undermines confidence in our judicial system.