**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 1005**

**DATE OF QUESTION: 18 MARCH 2022**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04 APRIL 2022**

**Adv G Breytenbach (DA) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

What (a) was the total number of (a) cases that were (i) enrolled for possession and/or use of Cannabis in the period 1 January 2018 to 28 February 2022, (ii) withdrawn and (iii) finalised cases with convictions, (b) were the reasons for withdrawal in each case and (c) are the details of the sentences that were imposed?

**NW1252E**

**REPLY:**

I have been informed by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development that, currently, the Department does not have charges specific to cannabis. However, the Department gathers information in relation to four (4) charges relating to cannabis which was previously referred to as “dagga”. This is included under the umbrella of “other narcotics”, and the Department cannot drill down to charges relating to cannabis or dagga.

The current charge description is as follows: “Unlawfully receiving any document, intoxicating liquor, dagga, drug, opiate, money or any other article whilst in custody; unlawful supplying, conveying, hiding or placing for an offender’s use any document, intoxicating liquor, dagga, drug or opiate; bringing or introducing into a correctional centre or place of custody any document/ intoxicating liquor/ dagga/ drug/ opiate; Inmate – Arranging with a correctional/ custody official/ another person for a document/ liquor/ dagga/ drug/ opiate/ money/ article.”

It should also be noted that the National Director of Public Prosecutions indicated that the National Prosecuting Authority does not record the above requested information manually, and the electronic case management system allows for reporting on both possession of drugs as dealing in drugs which could be extracted in accordance with the relevant sections of the Act. However, information specific to ‘cannabis’ is not available.

**END**