

people news

Lack of drugs Minister 'disgraceful' – Connolly

Fine Gael's Cllr. Domnick Connolly has criticised the Taoiseach's decision not to appoint a new Junior Minister with special responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy in his recent reshuffle.

"Last week the Taoiseach appointed the former Junior Minister in this area, John Curran, as the new whip but failed to replace him, which has left the National Drugs Strategy without a minister to implement it," stated Cllr. Connolly.

"While the Government will argue that the issue of drugs will be the responsibility of Pat Carey, the new Minister for Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs, the reality is that with such a wide remit he cannot possibly devote the time needed to the National Drugs Strategy."

Cllr. Connolly added: "This is a very short-sighted decision by Brian Cowen and it highlights the scant regard that this Government has when it comes to the very serious issue of tackling drugs in this country. This was an important portfolio and it is nothing short of a disgrace that it was ignored in last week's excuse for a reshuffle."

"Communities in towns across the country who are uniting in the fight against head shops and the dangers associated with so-called legal highs have been badly let down by the decision not to replace Minister Curran."



Cllr. Domnick Connolly



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