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U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
FOI/Records Management Section
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Case Number: 16-00672-F

AUG 08 2016

Subject: Intelligence Products

John Greenewald, Jr.



Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOI/PA) request dated June 13, 2016, addressed to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit (SARF), seeking a copy of BUL-089-14-Cannabis Toxicity Death year 2014. The processing of your request identified two (2) pages that are being released to you in its entirety.

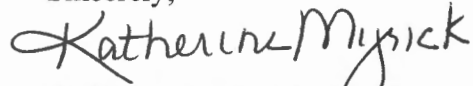
The rules and regulations of the Drug Enforcement Administration applicable to Freedom of Information Act requests are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28, Part 16, as amended. They are published in the Federal Register and are available for inspection by members of the public.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 60 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you have any questions regarding this letter, you may contact Government Information Specialist Mrs. Wallace on 202-307-4264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Myrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Katherine L. Myrick, Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
FOI/Records Management Section



DEA BULLETIN



(U) Cannabis Toxicity Death

(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

DEA-EAF-BUL-089-14
MARCH 2014

(U) Event

(U//FOUO) In late October 2013, a 31-year-old British national woman reportedly died as a result of cannabis toxicity. Although a recent review confirmed the coroner's findings, the exact cause of death remains unclear and several outside organizations dispute claims that the woman's death was caused by cannabis toxicity.

(U) Significance

(U//FOUO) Death from cannabis toxicity is highly unusual and this is only the second documented case of this kind to occur in the United Kingdom (UK). In 2004, a 36-year-old man from Wales also is believed to have died as a result of cannabis toxicity. While the woman's official cause of death is disputed by several marijuana advocacy groups and other medical experts, the coroner found no evidence of any serious medical condition or natural cause of death and, therefore, concluded that cannabis toxicity was the most likely cause.

(U//DSEN) Although very few deaths have been attributed to cannabis toxicity, marijuana has a wide range of toxic health effects and is potentially fatal, even when used in small doses. For example, studies have shown that marijuana increases the heart rate and blood pressure shortly after use, which can result in cardiac arrest, stroke, and other acute pulmonary or cardiovascular reactions, especially in individuals with pre-existing conditions. Although increasing cannabis consumption and the introduction of more potent varieties of the drug could result in other health

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issues, fatal overdoses will likely remain rare. A greater concern is that users will combine marijuana with other substances and/or drive a vehicle while under the influence of the drug.

(U) Details

(U//FOUO) The woman died on October 28, 2013, in Bournemouth, England, a coastal city in the southern part of the country. She was found unresponsive in her bed alongside a partially smoked joint and a small amount of cannabis. She reportedly suffered from anxiety and depression and was known to smoke marijuana every night to treat insomnia. A post-mortem examination and toxicology report provided by Her Majesty's Coroner for Bournemouth Poole and the Eastern District of Dorset County found "moderate to heavy" levels of cannabinoids in her system, and concluded that it is more likely that she died from the effects of cannabis.

(U//DSEN) Cannabis remains the most commonly used drug in the UK, with approximately 6.4 percent of adults aged 16- to 59-years-old who admitted using it in 2012/2013. The UK National Crime Agency (NCA) estimates that approximately 270 metric tons of cannabis is needed to satisfy annual consumer demand. The estimated value of the wholesale cannabis market is £842 billion (\$1.4 billion). Notably, in 2009, the UK government reclassified cannabis from a Class C to a Class B controlled drug under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act, ending a four-year social experiment in which cannabis was classified as a Class C drug. Possession of a Class B drug can result in a five-year prison sentence, an unlimited fine, or both.

(U) This product was prepared by the DEA Brussels Country Office – Europe/Africa Region. Comments and questions may be addressed to the Chief, Analysis and Production Section at DEAIntelPublications@usdoj.gov.