



Worry... Browne

Shrinks shortage concern

By ADAM HIGGINS

A LACK of permanent psychiatrists in Ireland will lead to continuing struggles in Ireland's mental health services, it has been claimed.

New figures show more than a third of psychiatrist posts in Ireland are filled by temporary staff.

Numbers provided to Fianna Fail's James Browne show just 302 of the 456 psychiatrists posts at the HSE are filled on a permanent basis.

Fianna Fail has called for urgent action as Ireland currently has just half the EU average of consultant psychiatrists with six per 100,000 of population.

Deputy Browne said: "Unless the deficit in psychiatry is tackled, our mental health services will continue to struggle."

HAMBURGER & COKE

Customs officials in Germany have announced the country's largest ever cocaine haul – four tonnes – at Hamburg port.

€400k HAUL DITCHED ON MOTORWAY

HASH VAN WALLOPED

By ADAM HIGGINS

CANNABIS plants lie scattered on the side of a busy motorway after a van carrying a €400,000 drugs shipment was ditched by a gang who were attacked by a rival crime outfit.

Our photos show the damaged white van dumped on the hard shoulder of the M3 near Dunshaughlin in Co Meath yesterday morning.

It's understood the vehicle was carrying over 500 plants when it was attacked by a rival gang on the side of the road.

Our images show large holes gored into the vehicle with the illegal weed spilling out from the back onto the road.

The white Renault Trafic was found abandoned on the side of the M3 yesterday morning at around 9am with €400,000 worth of cannabis in the back.

Gardai have launched an investigation into the discovery but no arrests have yet been made.

A spokesperson said: "Gardai in Ashbourne are appealing for information following the discovery of cannabis plants with an estimated street value of €400,000 (analysis pending) in Co Meath.

"No arrests have been made in the case to date and enquires are ongoing. The van has since been removed for technical and forensic examinations."

Specialist gardai carried out initial forensic examinations on the van at the scene before removing it from the roadside.

Investigators are also asking anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity on the stretch of road on Friday night to get in contact.

They are particularly interested in speaking to people who may have travelled along the route and have dash cam footage of the van.

A spokesperson for An Garda Síochána said: "Anyone with information is asked to contact the incident room in Ashbourne Garda Station on 01 801 0600 or the Garda Confidential Line at 1800 666 111."

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HIGH WAY PATROL

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