Sir, what I find really ironic is that it’s been common practice in Guernsey for many years now to quite happily dish out prescription drugs like Trammadol, Gabapentin, Diazepam, Nitrazepam, Bupamorphine, Suboxone, Subutex, Fentynol – life taking drugs. But we won’t fund those life giving drugs on the NICE list.

GP’s dish out pharmies like sweets on a daily basis. Some of these, mainly opiate based drugs, are then sold, and some are traded for other drugs. These drugs have become a currency on their own. This process is happening today and it will happen again tomorrow. Until we do something about this, the problem will just keep on growing, and more and more vulnerable members of our society will become addicted to the opiates that we fund, and that we supply. Sir the States is the biggest drug dealer in the island, but unlike other dealers we don’t want to make any money out of it, we’re quite happy to fund the growth of this killer drug problem.

Sir, the point I am getting at is that we are already spending millions on drugs each year, and the prescription and circulation of these drugs is out of control, and needs to be reined in. To refuse to fund the lifesaving drugs on the NICE list whist continuing to fund and feed the underground pharmaceutical market is just preposterous. We have got the balance completely wrong. I’m not saying that supporting these proposals will completely redress that balance but what it will do is focus us on the medication that our society needs – the lifesaving drugs – and hopefully the Committee for Health & Social Care will consider looking at ways to curb the problems associated with the prescription of the life taking drugs, such as those I mentioned earlier in my speech.

Sir, some members may not agree with me that the prescription drug black market is as large and dangerous as I say it is. Well Sir they are clearly completely out of touch with the reality for many people within our society. The young children being raised by parents who are zoned out on opiates from when they wake until when they go to sleep – the unfortunate children whose parents one day won’t wake up. The number of people in Guernsey who have been killed by prescription drugs during the last ten years or so is totally unacceptable – and what have we done about it? Sweet F A. Let’s stop procrastinating and complaining about the cost and give this Requete, as amended, our full support.