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Kennedy calls for urgent legislation on sunbeds
Use of sunbeds needs to be restricted to adults

DUBLIN NORTH'S Fianna Fail TD Michael Kennedy has called for the Government to bring forward legislation restricting the use of sunbeds by teenagers and launch an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of over-using tanning salons.

Deputy Kennedy said: "Although it's incredible to believe, there is currently no restrictions on the use of tanning beds by teenagers, and so far I have heard anecdotal evidence of young teenagers as young as 13 being let use them."

"Since no legislation exists at the moment, there is also no way of enforcing tanning salons to restrict use to adults only and nor are warning notices required at this time."

"The Government is currently planning on introducing a bill which will restrict the use of sunbeds to adults only. I am urging the Government cabinet to expedite the introduction on this bill, to allow some genuine debate on this matter and to begin the process of protecting our young teenagers from early contraction of cancer."

"Sunbeds may be harmless if used occasionally in a responsible manner by an adult. Unfortunately some teenagers are getting away with using them before it is appropriate and it is the Government's job to provide salons with the tools to turn them away."

"I have also requested that the Minister for Health Mary Harney investigate the feasibility of launching a public awareness campaign based around the dangers associated with the overuse of tanning beds," concluded Deputy Kennedy.