

IN KEYS

26th February 2008

FOR WRITTEN ANSWER (1)

The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Henderson) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

Can you confirm, or otherwise -

- (a) if every prison cell in the new prison is fitted with a 15 inch colour LCD flat screen television, with digital reception facilities enabling approximately 40 channels reception;
- (b) if they are handset operated, or specify if there is a different television facility, and if there are at least two larger LCD televisions installed for the benefit of residents -
 - (i) what was the total bill for televisions for the new prison and the fitout price; and
 - (ii) is there a satellite television facility for residents to enjoy, and, if so, what was the cost?

Mr Speaker

Every cell is cabled to receive TV signals, but not every prisoner will necessarily be issued with, or have access to a TV. In-cell TV will be linked to the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme meaning that prisoners must earn the right to this and other benefits. The scheme is linked to sentence plans and includes weekly monitoring of prisoners for good behaviour, work, and education. Prisoners who have earned the privilege of having an in-cell TV can, and will lose it should they not continue to perform at an acceptable level.

An adequate number of small (15inch) TFT (flat screen) TV's have been ordered to provide enough for all prisoners to have access (if earned), and a small number of spares to cover breakdowns, etc have also been ordered.

The TVs may have a capacity to receive approximately 40 channels but they will not be able to do so due to the management system installed at the prison.

The prison will operate a "head end" system which will control which channels can be viewed. Prisoners will, using a remote control, only have access to BBC 1 and 2, ITV 1 and 2, Channel 4, Channel 5 and 2 prison information channels.

There are a number of other TVs and TV/DVD combined units installed in group rooms on the residential wings, which will be used for various activities including education and group work sessions which will assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

- (i) The total cost for all TVs and TV/DVD (with spares) is £36,568. This cost includes all carriage, delivery to site, un-packaging, installation and testing, and environmental disposal of the packaging. The TV's are all digital to avoid the need to replace the sets when the Island goes digital in 2009.
- (ii) There is no satellite TV facility for prisoners or staff, and therefore no cost in this regard.