

**IN KEYS**

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**FOR ORAL ANSWER (7)**

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

Does your Department accept the importance to public safety and crime detection that an adequate and appropriate CCTV system can provide in public areas?

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Mr Speaker,

The Department is aware of the significant effects that the proper installation and use of CCTV systems can have on crime and the fear of crime. The most reliable research on the matter was released by the Home Office in 2005. This showed an overall 28% reduction in crime, especially acquisitive crime, in areas covered by cameras during a lengthy study. A reduction in the fear of crime also occurred. Large reductions were recorded in acquisitive crime, whereas some categories of crime, notably public order offences, actually increased. It is probable that this happened because of the monitoring of images by trained operators.

However the development of systems need to be properly managed and effective monitoring needs to take place. It is also important to see CCTV systems as being part of an overall solution, which includes better architectural design, improved street lighting, better partnership working and visible neighbourhood policing. Indeed, better street lighting is actually much more effective at reducing crime than is CCTV.

**IN KEYS**

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**FOR ORAL ANSWER (8)**

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

What is your Department's current policy in regards to expanding a CCTV rollout programme for Douglas in the interest of public safety?

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Mr Speaker,

The Department is supportive of Local Authorities Island wide, but particularly in the Island's larger populated areas, providing CCTV. In this connection the Isle of Man Constabulary has been working closely in an advisory capacity in relation to the quality of the equipment being installed.