

# CCTV for Dun Laoghaire and Bray

**Councillor Eoin Costello has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Justice that Dun Laoghaire and Bray are to receive immediate funding for CCTV in their towns.**

Councillor Costello wrote an 80-page report in May 1999 supporting the introduction of CCTV in Bray. The report found that the introduction of CCTV in city centre locations had reduced on-street crime by as much as 50%.

According to the Department of Justice "Tackling Crime" discussion paper (1997), "the cost of crime at a conservative estimate is in the region of £1 billion per annum". Costello's report found that on the basis of evidence from the UK for every £1 spent on CCTV the cost incurred by crime on the community would fall by £10.

The publication of this report co-incided with a number of violent incidents in Bray at the time. Within a month of publication of the report the Minister for Justice announced that Bray would be placed on the short list of sites for funding.

In 1998 the Department of Justice had a budget of £752 million. Just 0.0016% of this was spent on CCTV systems (£800,000). Costello's report found that if the Minister was serious about

tackling crime he would need to increase the annual budget for CCTV nationally to 1% of his department's budget. "In the Minister's announcement of November 21st his is only increasing the budget to £12 million over three years when the budget that is really required would be in excess of twice this amount", said Costello.

An ongoing point of concern is who will run and monitor the systems when they are in place. The maintenance costs of a comprehensive system can be substantial and unless maintenance is carried out the systems can quickly fall into disrepair.

"Now that Dun Laoghaire and Bray have been guaranteed funding it is essential that the difficult work on planning permission for the infrastructure involved in a comprehensive CCTV system is progressed as quickly as possible. In Tralee, one of the first towns in Ireland to receive the go ahead for CCTV, it took over three years to get the system up and running." Councillor Costello stated.