

TAXI SERVICES — CAMERAS UPGRADE

3226. Hon Ken Travers to the minister representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to question No. 957 in relation to funding options to assist the taxi industry with the upgrade of cameras, and I ask —

- (1) Can the Minister guarantee that taxi drivers will not have to pay for the cost of new cameras through increased lease payments to the owners of the vehicles?
- (2) Can the Minister guarantee that taxi passengers will not have to pay for the new cameras through any form of levy on taxi fares?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(2) Where an existing taxi camera is replaced by a Taxi Camera Surveillance Unit (TCSU) that meets the new TCSU standard approved by the Director General, the Department of Transport will fund 80 per cent of the cost of each unit through the Taxi Industry Development Account

The 20 per cent 'gap' will be met through a modest fare increase, with the additional revenue being passed back to the vehicle owner through a modest increase in the shift-lease rate.