PRISONS — CCTV COVERAGE

76.   Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to an article published in *The West Australian* of 11 February in which the Commissioner of Corrective Services is quoted as saying that it was "virtually impossible" to ensure blanket CCTV coverage inside prisons due to budgetary constraints. Why is the minister refusing to provide the necessary funding to ensure proper CCTV coverage in Western Australian prisons?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for that question. I note that reference was made by the commissioner during the Corruption and Crime Commission's open hearings just recently into the recommendations that it made to make a series of changes, which have virtually all been done, within the Department of Justice. If the member were to continue to read exactly what the commissioner said, he would see that he talked about exactly the cost involved in putting CCTV across the 17 prisons that we have in Western Australia, which is a significant amount of money. It would run into hundreds of millions of dollars. That is the reason why CCTV is in critical parts of our prison system and does a great job, particularly in those areas that are vulnerable for the purposes of bringing contraband or drugs into the prison system. For example, the visitors centre is always covered by CCTV, as well as physically covered by prison officers and other security arrangements that I will not go into. Wide and expansive CCTV coverage across all of our 17 prisons would cost a massive amount of money, and that is acknowledged by the commissioner himself. We will certainly be rolling out things like body-worn cameras for prison officers as and when we can budget for that. That is another critical part of the security and fair treatment of prisoners within our prison system. But CCTV and its use will always be put up by the department for budgetary approval as and when it is needed.