

**MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 13TH JULY, 2026.**

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask the Mayor at the next Meeting, in light of the significant disparity in CCTV coverage across the three Metropolitan Districts, with Limerick City West accounting for just 12% of CCTV coverage compared to 34% in Limerick City East and 51% in Limerick City North, and noting that a portion of the 2025 Mayoral Budget was allocated towards the expansion of CCTV infrastructure, will the Mayor outline whether there is a plan to ensure that future CCTV investment is distributed equitably across all Metropolitan Districts, with particular regard to addressing the current shortfall in Limerick City West.

Response:

It is worth remembering that CCTV across all of Limerick was at serious risk of being shut-down for 2026 due to lack of funding. The service was saved only through the intervention of the Mayor and the re-allocation of Mayoral Fund funding for 2026 to CCTV. However, this is not a sustainable solution and will not be available for 2027. The Government needs to come up in Budget 2027 with a multi-annual funding source for this critical service for Limerick. However, despite the Mayor and others raising this issue at all available opportunities, there has yet been no commitment from government that this funding will be made available. The Councillor is therefore encouraged along with others to continue to push government for this issue to be resolved expeditiously to secure not just these critical services but the jobs which will otherwise be put at risk in the monitoring station in Moyross.

It is important to note that the Mayoral Fund allocation referred to was not provided for the expansion of the CCTV network. It was reallocated to extend and maintain the existing CCTV service during 2026.

The rollout of Community CCTV in Limerick has not historically been planned according to Metropolitan District or Local Electoral Area boundaries. Rather, the network has developed over approximately thirty years in response to specific and evidenced public-safety concerns, particularly the sustained organised crime and gang feuding experienced in Limerick City from the late 1990s into the 2000s.

During that period, serious and violent crime was heavily concentrated in particular parts of the city. CCTV systems were consequently installed in the areas where the level of criminal

activity and associated public-safety risk was greatest. Many of those locations now fall within the Limerick City North and Limerick City East areas.

The systems were installed by Limerick City and County Council in close cooperation with An Garda Síochána and local communities. Each scheme was authorised by the Garda Commissioner and continues to play an important role in supporting Garda investigations. The current distribution of cameras therefore reflects historic, targeted responses to sustained organised criminal activity rather than a recent policy of allocating CCTV infrastructure by geographical area.

Future proposals for CCTV installations must likewise be considered primarily on the basis of identified risks, patterns of criminal behaviour and demonstrated public-safety need, rather than geographical location alone. Any proposal must:

- satisfy the requirements of necessity, justification and proportionality under Part 5, section 28 of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023;
- have the support of the relevant community, local councillors and An Garda Síochána; and
- have sufficient funding for both the installation of the system and its ongoing operation and maintenance.

The application and approval process is resource-intensive and can take a considerable period to complete, with final approval required from the Garda Commissioner.

A recent example in Limerick City West is the new CCTV scheme for the People's Park. This proposal was developed in response to clear, evidence-based public-safety concerns, including consistent reports of drug dealing and violent incidents in and around the area. The application took approximately ten months to prepare, was submitted in October 2024 and received the approval of the Garda Commissioner in February 2026.

While there is a clear disparity in the present number of CCTV cameras across the metropolitan areas, this did not result from a planned or inequitable allocation of CCTV infrastructure based on geographical boundaries. It arose from the targeted development of the network over time in response to the locations experiencing the highest levels of serious and organised crime.

Any future investment should continue to be directed towards proposals supported by objective evidence of public-safety need and developed in cooperation with communities,

elected members and An Garda Síochána. However, the capacity to maintain the existing service or develop additional schemes—including schemes in Limerick City West—will depend on the availability of sustainable, multi-annual Government funding.

John Moran,
Mayor of Limerick,
10th July 2026