

ices for prisoners,
partial, particularly
n said the problem
nd stemmed from a
the Central Mental
ne is deemed to be
bed, they are not
the person is kept
even though they

for those around them.
He added that there are many with
less serious illnesses who cannot
avail of the services either.
Fine Gael spokesman for justice
Charlie Flanagan said the prison
system is a failure as there is no
access to proper treatment and
rehabilitation.
"There are people in prison who
need not be," he said.
"But there are no viable alterna-

such as Cork and Mountjoy which
have been condemned international-
ly are operating, while the opening
date for new super-prison Thornton
Hall is in limbo.
There are 3,681 people in jail
compared with 3,345 last year and
the Irish Prison Service has
confirmed that the system is
"operating at, near or slightly in
excess" of bed capacity.
Currently, 361 prisoners are on

overcrowding would inevitably led
to tensions to violence.
"This problem has been going on
for some time now," he said.
"Mountjoy and Cork are particu-
larly bad for this and it is known that
overcrowding causes tensions."
He added that the policy for a
number of years has been to change
the bed capacity of the prison by
adding additional bunks to cells and
therefore masking the problem.



Charlie Flanagan: 'No rehabilitation.'



Cork City Hall environment department's undercover vehicle, which is being used to capture illegal dumping on CCTV.

Picture: Diane Cusack/Provision

MSI
 ntist is
 -month wait

agreement has also
 forged between the
 University Dental
 Hospital for all
 including North Lee and
 cases to be assessed at
 Wilton hospital.
 clinics will also be
 opened in County Kerry.
 ce assessment is com-
 children from Kerry
 receive their ongoing
 ment in a central Kerry
 from mid-2009.
 k is also ongoing on
 development of a per-
 clinic for orthodon-
 vices in the North Lee
 Health Office area.

Gael Senator in
 Jerry Buttimer wel-
 the appointment
 ing it as "coming af-
 long battle".
 s appointment needs
 recognised in the con-
 a chronic shortage in
 mber of orthodontic
 ants in the Cork
 The orthodontic
 s for children in Cork
 been deplorable and
 long children have
 left waiting for treat-
 he said.

existing consultant
 nist will continue
 d the orthodontic
 or west Cork and the
 Lee catchment area
 t Finbarr's Hospital.
 Cork will continue
 catered for by the
 University Dental
 and Hospital under
 nical governance of
 fessor of orthodon-



Cork City Hall environment department's undercover vehicle, which is being used to capture illegal dumping on CCTV.

Picture: Diana Cusack/Provision

Hi-tech sting to catch illegal waste dumping

by Eoin English

A HI-TECH undercover sting operation is under way in Cork city targeting unauthorised waste collectors and illegal dumping. Cork City Council's waste enforcement section is using hidden cameras installed in an unmarked vehicle as part of its war on litter.

Suspected illegal operators and known dumping hotspots will be closely monitored. The council is hoping to catch people flouting the law red-handed. The vehicle has been fitted with a forward and rear looking high-resolution long zoom camera system, installed by Cork-based Halo Security.

It will allow enforcement officers to monitor suspected illegal waste operators from a distance and record their activities. The video footage or stills can then be used as evidence in any future court proceedings that the council may decide to bring.

"It will provide irrefutable evidence that someone was responsible for illegal dumping," Halo's Greg McGarry said. The council is already using helicopters for aerial surveillance and is considering other remote surveillance techniques.

It is understood that Halo can provide long-life long record cameras — disguised as everyday objects including logs — which can be triggered to record by

laser beams. The move follows a spate of illegal dumping in recent months and difficulties experienced in securing convictions. Council officers have admitted that the practice of sifting through dumped rubbish bags to try to trace those responsible often proves difficult, making it impossible to build a court case.

The spokesman said they are hopeful the undercover vehicle will improve prosecution rates. "The council advises all busi-ness and members of the public to be vigilant regarding illegal waste collectors and advises that anyone giving waste to unper-mitted collectors is liable to be prosecuted," he said.

It is an offence to collect waste without a Waste Collection Permit. Any person who gives waste to an unpermitted collector is also guilty of an offence.

Offences under the Waste Management Act, 1996, carry penalties at district court level of up to €3,000 and or 12 months in prison. Fines of up to €15m and/or 10 years in prison can be imposed in the higher courts.

The council's waste enforcement section investigates over 200 incidents of illegal waste activities such as burning or dumping every year. Incidents can be reported to 021-4924299.

Meanwhile, the council has also issued a warning about bogus callers posing as officials from its water services section. The council said its staff carry official ID cards and authorisation cards in accordance with the Water Services Act, 2007.

"They must be produced upon request. The ID card also contains a telephone number people can contact to verify the details," a spokesman said. He advised people to ask to see these forms of ID before letting anyone on to their property or into their home. Anyone with concerns should contact the gardai, he added.

www.halosecurity.ie or lo-call Halo Security on 1890 882 999.

ns of cab drivers operating