

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

Use of Laser Gun with Digital Image Capture

During the LegCo Panel on Transport Special Meeting held on 1st April 2008, the Administration was requested to provide information on the feasibility of deploying a laser gun which can capture and produce photographic evidence for submission to court and the estimated cost of such device.

Current Use of Laser Guns

2. Laser guns were first used by the Hong Kong Police (the Police) to conduct speed detection operations in 1993. The laser gun has been accepted by the courts in Hong Kong as a reliable instrument for detecting speed. Laser guns are also widely used by overseas law enforcement agencies.

Use of Digital Images in Court

3. The use of digital images as evidence in the courts in Hong Kong is a relatively new concept. Since 2004, digital images captured by the Fixed Site Speed Enforcement Camera System and Red Light Camera System have been accepted as evidence in court because of special security protocols which ensure the digital images cannot be tampered with.

Laser Gun with Digital Image Capture

4. Some of the major considerations in deciding the feasibility of using laser gun with a digital image capturing system include : -

- (a) whether the digital images captured by the laser gun can be used as evidence in court;
- (b) whether a laser gun with a digital image capturing system is produced by a reputable manufacturer who has a proven record working with law enforcement;
- (c) whether the manufacturer has an authorized agent in Hong Kong, to address the need for maintenance, training and provide technical and expert advice;
- (d) whether the digital images produced can be synchronized with the Laser Gun reading; and
- (e) whether the captured images are compatible with the existing networked information technology used by Police to ensure storage and processing of images occur within a secure and automated system.

5. We understand that laser guns with a digital image capturing system are available in the international market. The purchase prices range between HK\$0.35 million and HK\$0.45 million. The price does not include recurrent costs for maintenance, consumables and backend data processing which are currently unknown. The Police will seek to identify an appropriate model and examine the feasibility of its use for speed detection operations in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Police
Traffic Branch Headquarters
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