

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

CCTV helps solve just ONE crime per 1,000

Daily Mail on 25th August 2009

Only one crime is solved a year for every 1,000 CCTV cameras, police admitted yesterday. The startling figure comes in a Scotland Yard report which warns that a network that can capture individuals as many as 300 times a day is failing to improve public safety.

Officers found that the million cameras covering London have helped clear up barely 1,000 crimes. Critics say the revelation should lead to a wholesale shake-up of the hugely costly CCTV system.

The senior Metropolitan Police officer behind the report warned of a crisis in public confidence over the use of surveillance cameras. **Detective Chief Inspector Mick Neville** said: '*£500million has been spent by the Government on cameras. Despite this, in 2008 less than 1,000 crimes were solved using CCTV despite there being in excess of one million cameras in London.*'

He said that of the 269 robberies reported in one month only eight were solved with the help of CCTV footage.

The study, part of a drive to make better use of the network, follows warnings from senior Scotland Yard officers that criminals are not deterred by cameras because they assume them not to be working.

Detectives are thought to be reluctant to scour hours of recorded footage '**because it's hard work**'.

Although the UK has an estimated 4.2million cameras - giving it the world's biggest surveillance network - **a Home Office report** conceded earlier this year that camera schemes have had only a modest impact on crime.

The PPP comments **We have always believed what this report confirms, that CCTV is an expensive con to convince us we are being protected. It has generated the hoody youth culture and abused our freedoms and privacy. At best it is reactive and records a crime that could be prevented by intelligence led community policing which is missing the funds invested in cameras. The Home Offices own report came to the same conclusions but their spokesman and ministers are in denial. The record for speed cameras' contribution to road casualty reduction shows an even greater failure and the Dft and ministers continue to lie about the reality. Both these systems were regularly praised and lied about by Brunstrom.**