

30 Oct. 1996

## Alarm at surge in crime — survey

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PUBLIC concern over law and order has surged in the wake of a spate of armed robberies in the past few months, a government survey has revealed.

The poll of 877 people conducted by the City and New Territories Administration last month found that 11 per cent considered rising criminal activity as the territory's second most serious problem. The top of the list is still 1997.

In a similar survey in July, only two per cent gave crime the top rating.

The present survey also found that public rating of the Government's handling of criminal activities had dropped since July.

Eleven per cent thought the Government had handled the problem well and 23 per cent thought it had made a lot of effort to solve it. In July, the ratings were 17 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.

While 52 per cent of the respondents in the July survey described 1997 as their foremost concern, 43 per cent of those polled last month gave it the same ranking.

Other problems that were perceived as serious, included the economy (11 per cent), housing (nine per cent) and transport (seven per cent). Respondents also expected these issues to remain major problems in the next five years.

The Vietnamese refugee problem, which ranked fourth in July, dropped to the seventh position last month.

On specific aspects of the 1997 question, confidence remained the biggest concern (46 per cent), followed by the brain drain (35 per cent).

Of the people who talked about crime, 72 per cent said there were too many robberies, compared with 46 per cent in July.

Crime  
CNTA