

**Question on Notice
No.751
Asked on 23 May 2007**

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to traffic accidents which are an unfortunate regular occurrence, and the wrecked car bodies that are left on the side of the road from anywhere between days to weeks and, when good Samaritan drivers are unaware of the time the wreckage may have been there pull over to check out these quite potentially dangerous sites—

Will she implement an idea such as marking the boundary with police tape as soon as possible after the accident has occurred to let all drivers passing know that the site has been attended to?

ANSWER:

Police advise there is no evidence to suggest wrecked car bodies as a result of road crashes and accidents are left abandoned on the side of roads.

I am advised it is standard police practice to remove all vehicles involved in a crash from the incident site to prevent looting and reduce the possibility of the vehicle causing secondary crashes. Vehicles involved in major crashes are usually seized for mechanical inspection.

A vehicle would only be left at a crash location if it was requested by the vehicle's owner, the damage was minor, the vehicle was still roadworthy and its location would not be a source of danger to other road users.

Most vehicles seen unattended at the road side have not been involved in a crash but have been abandoned by the owner. Removal of such vehicles is the responsibility of either the Department of Main Roads in the case of a State controlled road or the relevant Council in the case of a road controlled by a local government authority.

Police crime scene tape is used to mark the boundaries of crime scenes and major incidents. Clear appropriate processes, as outlined above, are in place and as such there is no requirement to mark off vehicles which have been assessed as non dangerous.

Furthermore, in this era of heightened security, it would be unwise to leave such tape unattended as it may be stolen and later used for an unlawful purpose.