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ANNUAL REPORT
OF AN GARDÁ SÍOCHÁNA



Annual Report 1998
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 1998

1998

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COMPILED BY AN GARDÁ SÍOCHÁNA,
GARDA HEADQUARTERS, PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN 8.

CURTHA LE CHÉILE AG AN GARDÁ SÍOCHÁNA
CEANNCHEATHIRÚ NA nGARDAÍ, PÁIRC NA FHIONNUISCE
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8

A Aire Uasail,

Tá sé de phribhléid agam mo thuairisc bhliantúil faoin nGarda Síochána don bhliain 1998 a chur i láthair.

Lean an titim i ráta coiriúlachta i rith na bliana. Tuairiscíoch 85,627 coireanna i mbliana, bíshin titim 6% ar fhigiúirí 1997 (90,875) agus bhí na figiúirí seo 10% síos iad féin ar fhigiúirí 1996 (100,785). Tá an dul chun cinn seo de thoradh an obair iontach a rinne an fhoireann shibhialtach, baill an Gharda Síochána, gníomhachtaí stáit eile agus tacaíocht an phobail. Táimid buíoch astu go léir.

Tá sé deacair comhsheasmhacht a chinntiú sa tslí ina bhfuil coir cláraithe, mar gheall ar sin táim i mbun scrúdaithe faoi láthair ar shlite chun ár modheolaíocht a fheabhsú. Beidh sé seo tábhachtach i gcásanna ina bhfuil gné suibíochtúil sa rangú, mar shampla, ag cinneadh ar ionsaí nó gabhadh a chur san áireamh maidir le "eachtra teaghlaigh". Chomh maith leis seo cabhróidh go mór an fhorbairt atá déanta ar ár gCóras Teicneolaíochta Eolais nua sa mhodheolaíocht seo.

Cuirimid fáilte roimh an titim seo i ráta coiriúlachta maraon leis an méadú i ráta bratha atá anois ar 44%. Aithním fós ámh gur beag an sólas a thugann na staitisticí feabhsaithe seo do na hÍobartaigh aonair nó do na pobail atá ag deileáil le méadú in iompar coiriúil.

Lean an riachtanas i rith na bliana acmhainní a chur chuig aonaid saineolaithe chun deileáil go héifeachtach le ranna cinnte i gcoireanna troma. Chuir sé seo srian ar na hacmhainní a bhí ag teastail le haghaidh dualgaisí ginearálta. Is í aidhm na Mílaoise ná chun bheith eagraithe i gcóir éilimh leanúnach i bpóilíneacht.

Mar bhuille scoir ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil don Rialtas, duit féin go pearsanta agus dífhoireann na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí as ucht a dtacaíocht leanúnach i rith na bliana.

Is mise le meas.



M.P. O BROIN
COIMISINÉIR



Dear Minister,

It is my privilege to present my annual report on An Garda Síochána for 1998.

During the year, the downward trend in crime continued, with the total of 85,627 crimes reported being 6% down on the 1997 figures, which had decreased by 10% on 1996. Success achieved was due to the excellent work of civilian staff and members of An Garda Síochána, other State Agencies and public support which is deeply appreciated.

As it is difficult to ensure consistency in the way crime is recorded, I am examining ways to improve our methodology, particularly where there is a subjective element involved in classification, e.g. in deciding whether to include an assault or arrest as related to a "domestic incident". The development of our new Information Technology systems will also help in this regard.

The overall decrease in crime, coupled with increased detection rates – now at 44% - is welcome, though I recognise that improved statistics per se are little consolation to individual victims or communities experiencing an increase in criminal behaviour.

During the year, the necessity continued to commit resources to specialist units in order to deal effectively with specific categories of serious crime, thus putting a strain on resources required for general duties. The challenge for the new Millennium is to be prepared to meet competing policing requirements.

Finally, I would like to thank the Government, and the personnel of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, for their continued support during the year.

Yours faithfully,



M.P. BYRNE
COMMISSIONER



CONTENTS

CLÁR

Foreward (Irish)	i
Foreward (English)	ii
OFFICE OF THE GARDA COMMISSIONER	1
Garda Press Office	1
Garda Museum	2
Band of An Garda Síochána	2
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, ADMINISTRATION	3
Organisation Development Unit	3
Quality Bureau	4
'A' BRANCH	4
Housing	5
Barrack Master's Section	5
Telecommunications Section	6
Finance Section	6
Transport Section	7
Information Technology Section	7
Garda National Traffic Policy Bureau	8
Services (Technical Bureau)	10
'B' BRANCH	14
Personnel Issues	14
Deaths in Garda Custody	17
Employment NOW Programme	18
Overseas Service	19
Garda Training	21
Strategic Management Initiative Implementation Team	23
FEATURE – Launch of the Garda Mounted Unit.	23
OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, OPERATIONS.	25
Garda Air Support Unit	25
Garda Underwater Unit	27
Garda Dog Unit	28
REGIONAL REVIEW	29
Eastern Region	30
Dublin Region	31
Northern Region	32
South Eastern Region	33
Southern Region	34
Western Region	35
'C' BRANCH	36
Security Section	36
Crime Section	37
International Liaison Office	37
Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation	38
National Bureau of Criminal Investigation	40
Garda National Drugs Unit	43
Criminal Assets Bureau	43
Garda Community Relations Section	44
FEATURE – Le Tour de France en Irlande.	46
Indictable Offences	
Indictable offences which became known to Gardaí during 1998	51
Indictable offences for 15 year period 1984 to 1998	55
Indictable offences detected 1989 to 1998	56
Indictable offences 1997 and 1998	56
Summary of Indictable offences 1996 to 1998	58

Analysis of Indictable Offences

Indictable offences by Garda regions and five principal city areas	60
Indictable offences per 1,000 of population	62
Homicide offences by region and gender of victims	63
Murders per 100,000 of population	64
Age & gender of homicide victims	64
Indictable assault and sexual offence victims by gender	65
Armed robberies & armed aggravated burglaries where firearms were used	67
Analysis of aggravated burglaries where firearms were used and armed robberies	68
Armed robberies & aggravated burglaries at financial institutions	70
Robberies and aggravated burglaries where syringes were used 1994 to 1998	70
Burglaries	73
Value of property stolen and recovered in burglaries, robberies and larcenies	76
Indictable offences where tourists are injured parties	77

Juvenile Offences

Disposal of 1998 referrals	78
Details of cautions by region (1998 referrals)	79
Juvenile offenders cautioned per 1,000 of population	80
Details of prosecutions by region (1998 referrals)	81
Activities of juvenile liaison officers	82
Age of juvenile offenders	82
Juvenile criminal activity: Time of occurrence	83
Summary of offences in respect of which juvenile offenders were referred	84
Principal offences comparison by regions	86

Non-Indictable Offences

Non-Indictable offences in which proceedings were taken (Drugs offences excluded)	87
Non-indictable offences per 1,000 of population	88
Non-indictable offences - proceedings and persons convicted in 1997 (Drugs offences excluded)	88

Drug Offences

Offences where proceedings commenced by division and drug type	92
Particulars of drugs seized	93
Nationality of persons against whom proceedings were commenced	93
Miscellaneous drug offences	93
Possession/supply, obstruction and other offences	94
Persons prosecuted for drug offences by age and gender	95
Persons prosecuted per 100,000 of population	96
Drug lectures by division	96

Traffic Offences

Unauthorised taking and larceny of mechanically propelled vehicles 1984 to 1998	97
Unauthorised takings per 1,000 vehicles licensed	98
Vehicles stolen and recovered 1998	99
Fines on the spot issued	99
Road traffic offences by division	101
Road traffic offences per 1,000 vehicles licensed	101
Drink & driving offences, breath tests, blood/urine tests, arrests etc.	103
Drinking & driving offences: age and gender of persons convicted 1998	105

Additional Information

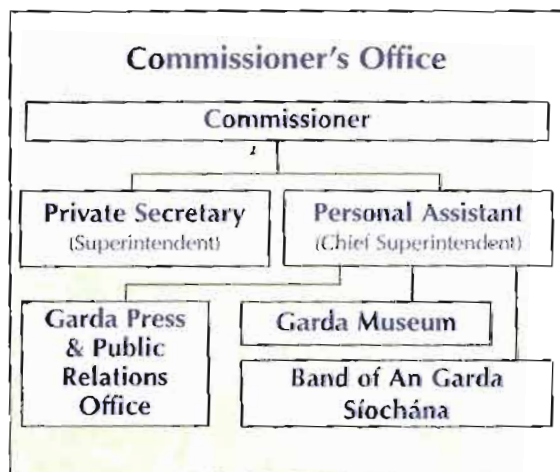
Domestic Violence	106
Missing Persons	107
Detected indictable offences committed by persons on bail	108
Firearms, ammunition and explosives seized by Gardaí during 1998	109
Appendices	
An Garda Síochána Organisational Structure - Appendix (1)	110
Descriptions used in the table which summarise indictable offences - Appendix (2)	111
Index	112

OFFICE OF THE GARDA COMMISSIONER OIFIG AN CHOIMISINÉARA



The Garda Commissioner has his offices at Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin. He is assisted by two Deputy Commissioners, one directs all

administrative activity and the other directs all operational matters.



The Commissioner also relies on the services of a Personal Assistant (Chief Superintendent) and a small administrative staff. A Superintendent acts in the capacity of Private Secretary to the Commissioner

Three sections of An Garda Síochána report directly to the Commissioner, through the Personal Assistant, namely: the Garda Press and Public Relations Office; the Garda Museum and the Band of An Garda Síochána.

GARDA PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OIFIG PHREASA AGUS CHAIDRIMH PHOIBLÍ AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Originally established in 1971 to provide facilities and material to journalists writing features on An Garda Síochána, the Garda Press and Public Relations Office has developed considerably since then.

The Office operates all year round, providing a comprehensive service to journalists, media, students and the public. As the number of media outlets continue to grow, so too do the various requests for information and assistance which the office handles.

On an average day, staff at the Garda Press and Public Relations Office deal with up to 200 enquiries ranging from calls for information on crime, traffic accidents and incidents, missing persons and requests for spokespersons or statements on items of national and local interest.

The office staff also assist foreign journalists working in Ireland on international issues and provide career information presentations to second level schools.

Gardaí appearing on the Crimeline television programme have undergone training by the Garda Press and Public Relations Office and media courses for Gardaí speaking regularly on local radio are also a feature of their work.

In late 1998, the office commenced Regional Media Liaison Courses for selected Gardaí with the aim of delivering a consistent, effective and professional approach to media relations, particularly in relation to major incidents and events.



GARDA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES IARSMMLANN AGUS CARTLANN NA nGARDAÍ

The Garda Museum permanent exhibition is housed at the Record Tower, Dublin Castle. During the year under review the exhibition attracted a large number of visitors primarily through the Office of Public Works Guided Tours programme. The exhibition has been enhanced with the addition of further acquisitions previously held in storage and these will be put on display over time.

The obligations of An Garda Síochána under the National Archives Act 1986, particularly in relation to the archival functions relating to records management, are co-ordinated out by the archivist at the Garda Museum, working closely with the Director of the National Archives and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.



BAND OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA BANNA CEOIL AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Under the administrative and musical baton of its Director, the Band of An Garda Síochána continued its busy schedule during 1998 appearing on 193 occasions throughout the country.

The thirty members of the Band appeared in thirteen of the twenty five Garda Divisions, performing at a diverse range of events including summer projects, Christmas parties, concerts, parades, TV shows, sporting events, school concerts, festivals, arts weeks and official Garda engagements.



During 1998, the Band of An Garda Síochána performed at the Waterfront Theatre, Belfast, jointly with the Band of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in a Peace Concert which also incorporated Choirs from all over Ireland and abroad. The event was organised by the Peace Institute, Limerick University and was an outstanding success.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, ADMINISTRATION LEAS CHOIMISINÉIR, RIARACHÁIN



The Deputy Commissioner, Administration, directs management and administrative activity within An Garda Síochána. Three Assistant Commissioners who head 'A' Branch (Finance & Services); 'B' Branch (Personnel, Training & Research) and the Strategic Management Initiative (SMI) Implementation Team report directly to the Deputy Commissioner.

Administration policy and planning, budgetary determination, the inspectorate and organisation development are priority tasks of Administration. Key achievements during the year include the introduction of An Garda Síochána Policing Plean increasing effectiveness of many different Garda sections; establishment of a Garda National Quality Service Bureau and National Customer Service Action Plan; increasing the Garda profile in international peacekeeping missions; introducing notional devolved budgeting and working hand-in-hand with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Operations fine-tuning Garda management to face the challenges of the new millennium.

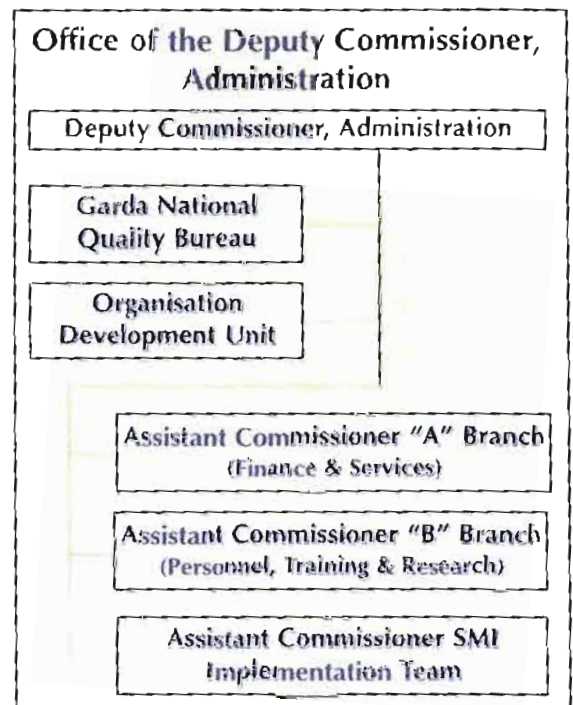
A Superintendent and an Executive Officer supported by a small clerical staff, are responsible for the effective administration of the office of the Deputy Commissioner.

Many internationally based programmes are administered through the office including Memoranda of Understanding between An Garda Síochána and other police services and the McCabe Fellowship Exchange.

The EU Co-ordination Unit, based at Administration, services Garda participation in EU Working Groups, prepares funding applications under the EU Oisín and Falcone programmes and contributes to Garda input into bilateral international agreements.

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT UNIT AONAD FORBARTHA EAGRAÍOCHTA

Garda Corporate Strategy states that excellence in the organisation is to be reached through the development of effective quality management. The process of organisation development assists local and national Garda management to form, achieve and evaluate goals and targets. The Organisation Development Unit was established to support this process with an internal consultancy support service.



Established in 1994 and reporting directly to the Deputy Commissioner, Administration, the Unit consists of a staff of five, all with a broad range of operational police experience and a good understanding of the systems and mechanics of the organisation. All staff possess post-graduate degrees in a diverse range of disciplines, including strategic planning, statistics, managing quality, economics, organisational psychology and management.

Among other things, the Unit is responsible for formulating plans for new initiatives taken by senior management and recommending changes based on research findings from both home and abroad. Organisation development provides the planned development and reinforcement of organisational strategies, structures and processes for improving the organisation's effectiveness. The focus is on improving the organisation's ability to assess and to solve its own problems.

GARDA NATIONAL QUALITY SERVICE BUREAU GARDA BIÚRÓ FIÚNTAIS

In September, 1998, the Garda National Quality Service Bureau was established and located at the Garda College, Templemore. The Bureau was set up as a consequence of the Strategic Management Initiative in An Garda Síochána and in fulfilment of An Garda Síochána Policing Plan 1998-1999.

The aim of the Garda National Quality Service Bureau is to increase the quality of service provided by An Garda Síochána to both internal and external customers. The Bureau is headed by a Chief Superintendent who is the National Director of Quality. There is also a National Manager who is a Superintendent. There are two full time staff at Garda and Sergeant rank.

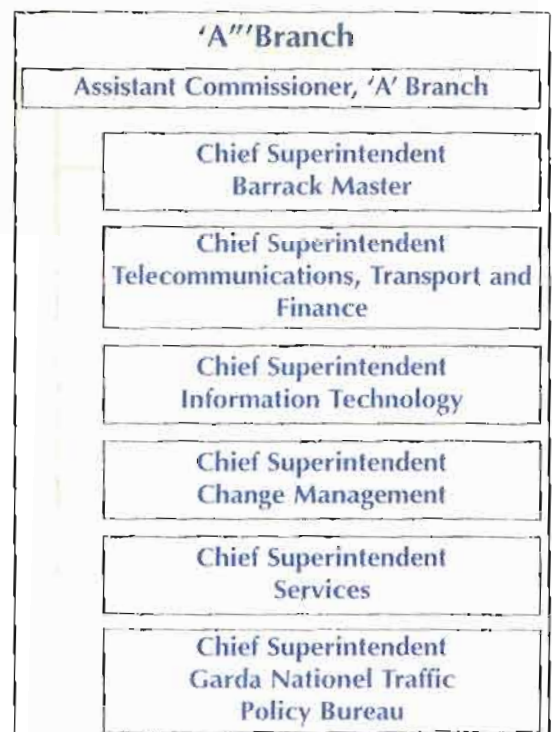
As part of the consultation aspect of the quality service initiative a Garda National Customer Panel has been established. This group of 12 people is reflective of the diverse customer base of An Garda Síochána. A series of Divisional customer panels along the lines of the National Customer Panel is also being established nationwide.

'A' BRANCH BRAINSE 'A' (FINANCE AND SERVICES) (AIRGEADAIS AGUS SEIRBHÍSÍ)



Based at Garda Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner, 'A' Branch is responsible for delivery of the major support services required for the maintenance of a modern and effective police service.

Supported by a small office staff and reporting to Deputy Commissioner, Administration, Assistant Commissioner, 'A' Branch co-ordinates a diverse range of sections, ensuring that a cost effective service to An Garda Síochána is achieved. The role also involves close liaison with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on all expenditure and investment matters.



HOUSING SECTION RANNÓG TITHÍOCHTA

An Garda Síochána operate 705 Garda Stations throughout the country, in addition to occupying a number of large complexes at Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park and St. Johns Rd., Dublin; the Garda College, Templemore and the former Talbot Complex at Santry, Dublin.

The management of existing, and development of further, accommodation units is a critical function and is undertaken by the Garda Housing Section, headed by a Superintendent and forming part of 'A' Branch. The primary role of the Section is ensuring that all projects in the Garda Building Programme are completed both on target and within budget.

The Garda Building Programme encompasses New Stations/Buildings; Minor Works (up to IR£.5m); Major Maintenance (up to IR£.2m); General Maintenance and Sites Acquisition. Expenditure between the Building Programme and Maintenance budgets are almost evenly split, with both incurring expenditure of just above IR£7m (€8.9m) each for 1998.

BARRACK MASTER'S SECTION

RANNÓG MHÁISTIR AN BHEAIRIC

The strategic changes being undertaken at present by An Garda Síochána through PULSE and SMI have heralded the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Study Groups Report on the Purchasing and Supplies Management functions of An Garda Síochána – with the Barrack Master's Section being the primary focus.



The recommended changes impact on structures and business processes by centralising all the purchasing activities of the organisation under the direct control of the Barrack Master. These changes will be supported by training in computer related skills and professional training programmes to identify best practice and enhance efficiency in work practices.

Staff changes are taking place in tandem with the structure and process changes. To ensure consistency throughout the procurement function, a Procedural Manual, containing all procedures and business processes is being compiled. The key elements of these changes are the upgrading of the computerised purchasing and stores management system (Mapics) and the introduction of a computerised Asset Tracking System.

The culmination of these changes will enhance the Garda service and provide a firm foundation for the Commissioner's role as Accounting Officer. Through a partnership approach, An Garda Síochána, will continue to develop the procurement function into the millennium.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION RANNÓG TELECHUMARSÁIDE

The Telecommunications Section, both Operations and Planning, continues to provide vital support for the operational aspects of policing for An Garda Síochána.

Technical support was provided with the acquirement and installation of mission specific equipment across a range of Garda units in addition to the provision of resources and technology to support the PULSE Data Network and Terrestrial Trunked Radio system (TETRA).

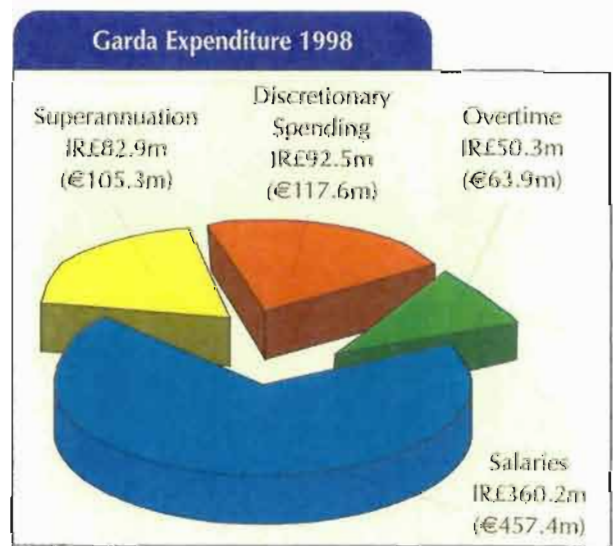


FINANCE SECTION RANNÓG AIRGEADAIS

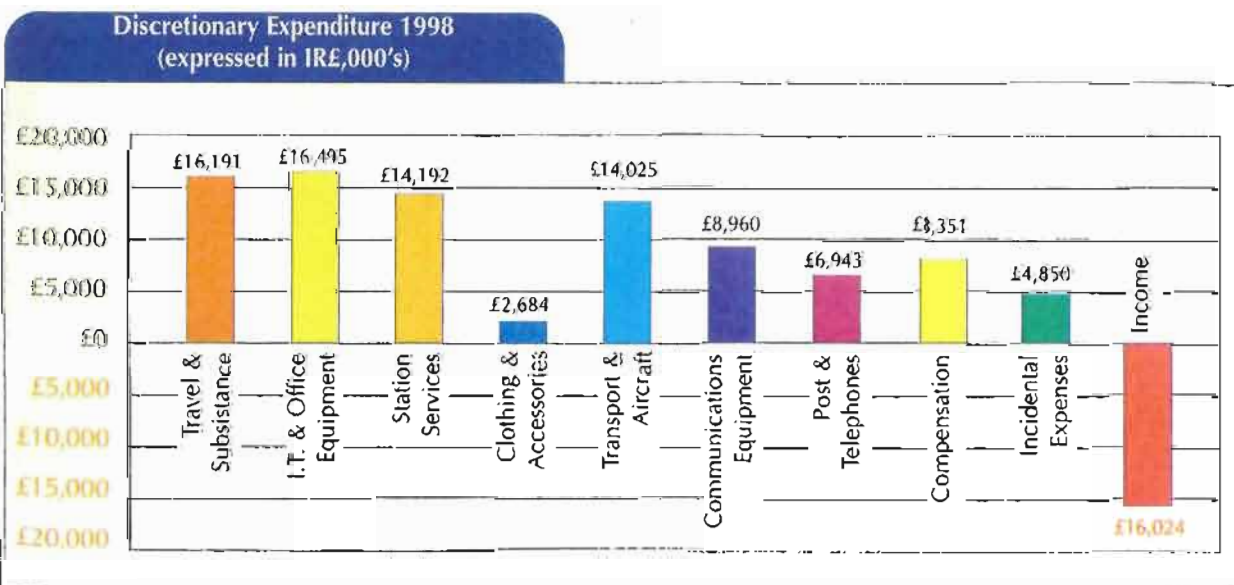
In 1998, An Garda Síochána incurred gross expenditure of IR£586M (€744m). When adjusted for Appropriation-in-Aid (IR£16.8m or €21.3m), the net expenditure figure is IR£569 or €722.5m.

Salaries, Wages and Allowances including Overtime and Superannuation accounted for slightly over 84% of total expenditure with Discretionary Spending accounting for the remaining 16%. The staging of the Tour de France en Irlande in July incurred expenditure in excess of IR2m (€2.5m).

Discretionary Expenditure (IR£92.6m or €117.6m) was incurred under the general headings, as indicated in the table below.



New procedures and financial policies are being introduced at the Finance Section, 'A' Branch, in an endeavour to provide more timely and accurate information to senior management at both Headquarters and Regional/Divisional centres throughout the country.

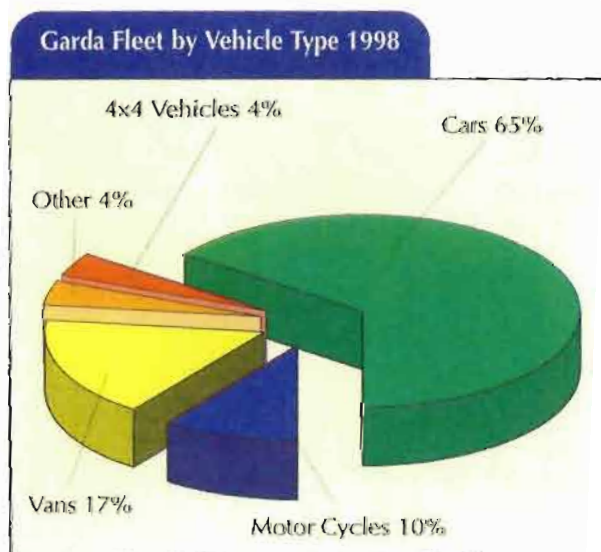


TRANSPORT SECTION RANNÓG IOMPAIR

The main objective of the Garda Transport Section is to provide the most effective resources in terms of vehicles to meet the operational needs of An Garda Síochána. A computerised fleet management system has been installed which assists the Fleet Managers in decision making in relation to Garda Transport and will aid in meeting their objectives within economic constraints which exist.



Imposing a 100,000 mile ceiling on Garda vehicles continues to be a firm objective of the Fleet Manager. However, achieving this across the entire fleet is hampered due to the high level of capital costs required.



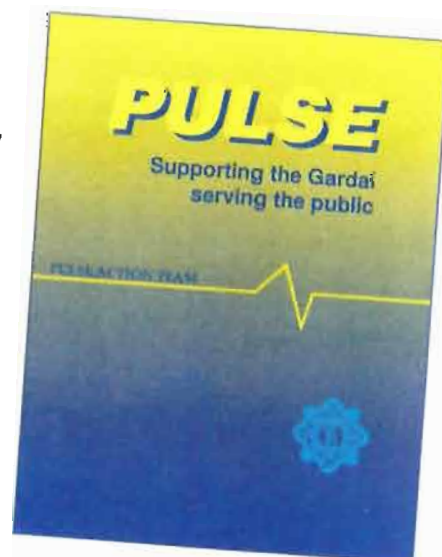
While containing the motorcycle content to recommended levels, a fleet of new traffic motorcycles were delivered during the year. Twenty five Honda 1100 Pan European Police Specials were put into service during the Tour de France and are operated daily by the Dublin Region Traffic Division.

The current vehicle mix of the operational fleet, which stood at 1,860 vehicles at years end, is as indicated in the chart on the left, with saloon cars naturally accounting for the highest proportion.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION RANNÓG TEICNEOLAÍOCHT AN EOLAIS

The continued development and implementation of the PULSE Project (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) was the primary focus of the Garda Information Technology Section during 1998.

Testing of the Collating and Intelligence system was almost completed by year's end, as had the build of Release 1B systems (Incident Response, Firearms, Interim Court Outcomes, Photographs, etc.). Following the completion of the build and test stages, the systems will go into pilot operation. The design of Release 1C (Charges, Summons, Bail, Prisoner Log, Full Court Outcomes) commenced during the year and will be built during 1999.



The procurement process for the computer hardware to support the PULSE system was completed and the draw down of the equipment commenced. The Local Area Network (LAN) infrastructure and the equipment to support the Wide Area Network (WAN) requirements are now in place and arrangements are in place with Telecom Eireann to connect the relevant Garda Stations and offices to the PULSE system.



Change Management activities included various strategies to ensure that personnel throughout the organisation are kept informed of progress. The Communications/Marketing Team and the PULSE Action Teams continued to advise personnel through printed Newsletters and the circulation of a video. The Action Teams completed briefings for all personnel in November, 1998.

GARDA NATIONAL TRAFFIC POLICY BUREAU BIÚRÓ NÁISIÚNTA PHOLASAÍ TRÁCHTA AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA

The introduction of the Government's National Strategy has produced a focused and programme orientated approach from An Garda Síochána and the other key agencies.

Activities will take place over a five year period ending in the year 2002 with the stated objectives of reducing Irish road fatalities by a minimum of 20% on the 1997 level and to produce a similar reduction in relation to the number of serious injury accidents.

To allow An Garda Síochána play it's vital road in these strategies, the Commissioner, in 1997, established a Garda National Traffic Policy Bureau, which co-ordinates all Garda policy and activity in relation to road traffic matters. The Bureau is headed by a Chief Superintendent and is based at Garda Headquarters.

During the course of the programme, An Garda Síochána will be tasked as follows:-

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
● Continue Operation Lifesaver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
● Deploy additional mobile speed detection units	✓				
● Deploy fixed speed cameras - pilot project in the Louth/Meath area - progressive extension countrywide		✓	✓	✓	✓
● Operate evidential breath testing - preparation and introduction - extension countrywide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
● Upgrade Garda and other IT systems relevant to enforcement	✓	✓	✓		



Law enforcement was enhanced with a substantial increase in hardware, including an additional speed detection units and a increase in laser and radar units now throughout the organisation.

1998 was a very significant year for the Garda National Traffic and Road Safety Division. It was the first full year of 'Operation Lifesaver' and in July, the Division launched the first ever National Road Safety - 'The Road to Safety'.



The Division implemented a very strong enforcement policy during the year, with a total of 131,931 fines on the spot issued and 8,707 detections for drink driving. This high detection profile was the corresponding beneficial downward movement in the road fatality figures. Four hundred and eighty eight people were killed in the course of the year.

Fatalities for the years 1997 and 1998 by type

Type	1997	1998	Total
Pedestrian	130	156	286
Driver	111	188	299
Passenger	99	109	208
Motorcyclist	60	30	90
Pedal cyclist	27	20	47
Total	472	458	930

Road accident patterns indicates that the highest number of fatalities occurred in the 16-25 age category with 153 people having been killed - a consistent pattern in recent years. This road safety issue requires targeted action by all road safety agencies. The worst times for fatalities were 08.00-10.00 hours with 64 killed, 20.00-22.00 hours with 56 killed and 16.00-18.00 hours with 55 killed. There was a fairly consistent trend in the monthly road deaths with September being the month with the highest number of fatalities and March the lowest.

Fatalities for the years 1997 and 1998 by month

Month	1997	1998	Total
Feb.	30	29	59
March	45	21	66
Apr.	29	46	75
May	53	33	86
June	36	42	78
July	41	38	79
Aug.	37	40	77
Sept.	42	47	89
Oct.	51	42	93
Nov.	41	41	82
Dec.	41	45	86
Total	472	458	930

One of the interesting developments was in the Louth/Meath Division, the initial 'pilot' area for the 'fine on the spot' system. This Division consistently recorded the highest fatality rates for a number of years, with 35 fatalities in 1994. Since then the number of fatalities has decreased each year, with 35 fatalities in 1998. The downward trend in this division is very welcome and the maintenance of this trend presents a significant challenge for 1999.

Several new initiatives were commenced in 1998 which will further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of An Garda Síochána in the area of road traffic law enforcement. Preparatory work has been completed in securing 'state of the art' technology capable of processing all fixed penalty notices (fines) electronically, providing the essential back office capability for an extending detection system. The project management of the selection and implementation of this system presents An Garda Síochána, and the GNTPB in particular, with a critical challenge for the future. Effective implementation of this system will enable the extension of the 'fine on the spot' system to many other road traffic law enforcement areas, resulting in higher detection rates and a more efficient use of Garda time and effort.

FORENSIC LIAISON OFFICE OIFIG CHEANGAIL FHÓIRÉINSEACH

The Forensic Liaison Office (FLO) is the centre for the acceptance and processing of exhibits of possible evidential value received for examination at the Technical Bureau and Forensic Science Laboratory. An identifier is allocated to all cases and when technical examination is completed items and findings are returned to the investigators.

All relevant details of services required are inputted on a Computerised Exhibit Tracking System which tracks exhibits as they are processed in different service areas within the Technical Bureau and Forensic Science Laboratory.

During 1998 a total 23,765 cases were processed in the Forensic Liaison Office, an increase of 2,377 cases over 1997.

FINGERPRINTS SECTION RANNÓG MÉARLORG

The Fingerprints Section provides a fingerprints identification service for An Garda Síochána with the objectives of:

- Proving the identity of specific persons by their criminal records;
- Authenticating criminal history data;
- Linking culprits to the scenes of crime;
- Identifying dead bodies;
- Technically examining crime scenes;
- Providing expert fingerprint evidence in court;
- Providing training in the science of Fingerprints to Garda personnel.



The installation of state of the art technology – Automated Fingerprints Identification System (AFIS) - with the capability of capturing fingerprint by electronic means has enhanced the work at the Fingerprints Section resulting in the rapid identification of culprits. The use of modern methods such as chemical and laser development of latent marks on exhibits/articles has further professionalised operations at the Fingerprints Section.

The introduction of an Electronic Scanning System – Livescan – allowing for the image capture and transmission of ten prints without intermediate ink or paper impressions is a further welcome development.

During 1998 the following cases were processed at the Fingerprints Section. Increases over 1997 figures are shown in brackets:

1.	Ten prints from prison	4,354	(+3%)
2.	Ten prints from Garda Stations	7,858	(+20%)
3.	Scenes of Crime Cases	13,138	(+18%)
4.	Exhibits received	33,031	(+15%)

A total of 1,150 identifications were made.

GARDA CRIMINAL RECORDS OFFICE OIFIG CHÁIPÉISÍ CHOIRIÚLACHTA NA NGARDAÍ

The function of the Garda Criminal Records Office (GCRO) is to receive and record particulars of convictions on computer where persons are convicted of indictable crime. The staff at GCRO also deal with matters such as checking of applicants for various appointments in An Garda Síochána, Army and Civil Service, PSV Applicants and Jury Panels.

DOCUMENTS/HANDWRITING DOICIMÉID/SCRÍOBHNÓIREACTH

The personnel at this Section are highly experienced and tasks carried out include the comparison of handwriting and signatures to establish authorship, determining whether entries have been altered, added or removed from documents and examination of documents for evidence of indentations by means of Electrostatic Detection Apparatus. Documents, including official documents, are also examined to determine their authenticity.

The staff in this Section have been involved in all the recent major tribunals and high profile investigations and during 1998 dealt with 664 cases.

MAPPING SECTION RANNÓG LÉARSCÁILÍOCHTA

The Mapping Section provides a comprehensive Mapping Service to An Garda Síochána. This service includes provision of administrative maps, surveying, preparing scaled drawings, and maps for serious crime investigation, fatal traffic accidents, security maps for major events, V.I.P visits etc. The main focus of the Mapping Section is criminal investigation where maps are produced to scale as exhibits for court purposes.



In a move from conventional techniques, the latest technology for surveying external scenes and the measurement of internal scenes is in use in the Mapping Section. 'Total Station', a standard for surveying outdoor scenes is a combination of electronic theodolite (ET) and electronic distance measure (EDM) whereby coding points are entered on a logger, downloaded to a desk top computer and edited on a computer aided drawing (CAD) software package.

During 1998, the Mapping Section assisted in the investigation of 231 crimes, as follows:

Murders and Suspicious Deaths	56
Rape and Sexual Assaults	47
Fatal Traffic Accidents	47
Robbery/Burglary and Firearms Offences	43
Other Incident Scenes	38

FÓGRA TÓRA

Fógra Tóra is published on the authority of the Commissioner and is a confidential publication. The Fógra Tóra Section issue Normal publications on a weekly basis and Supplements and Special Notices as required. Publications are circulated throughout An Garda Síochána, to police forces in Northern Ireland and also Europe via Interpol.

BALLISTICS SECTION RANNÓG BHAILISTÍOCHTA

The functions of the Ballistics Section include:

- the examination of all firearms and ammunition seized in relation to crime;
- the examination of all explosives and explosive devices seized;
- the technical examination of the scenes of murder, suspicious death and serious crime;
- the restoration of erased identification numbers on motor vehicles, pedal cycles, jewellery and electrical equipment;
- the inspection of firing ranges,
- providing assistance in the investigation of arson.

The Ballistics Data Reference Centre maintains records of discharged cartridge cases and spent bullets recovered from crime scenes. All firearms received by the section are examined and if possible, test fired. Bullets and cartridge cases test fired are microscopically compared with all previous shooting cases.

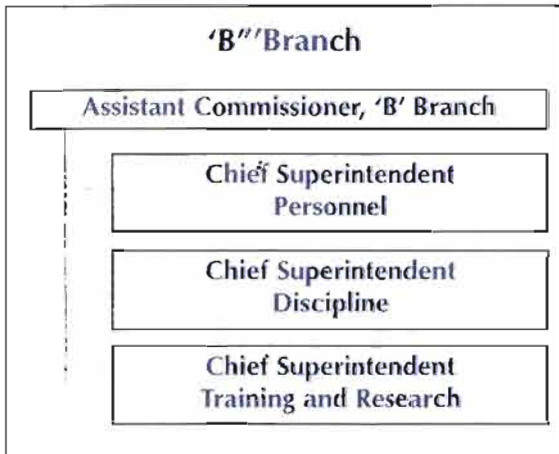
The section is equipped with microscope rooms, laboratory, firearms examination room, work room, firing range and bullet recovery facilities. There is also an extensive reference collection containing specimens of firearms, ammunition and explosive devices which have come into the possession of An Garda Síochána.



'B' BRANCH

BRAINSE 'B'

(PERSONNEL, TRAINING AND RESEARCH)
(PEARSANRA, TRAENÁIL AGUS TAIGHDE)



Assistant Commissioner, 'B' Branch, based at Garda

Headquarters is responsible for personnel issues relating to Gardaí and civilian staff. The Branch also incorporates Training and Research; Health and Safety and Overseas Service. Each Section is headed by a Chief Superintendent reporting to Assistant Commissioner, 'B' Branch.

PERSONNEL STRENGTH

NEART AN PHEARSANRA

The Personnel strength of An Garda Síochána at the end of 1998 was 11,235, all ranks, an increase of 267 (2.4%) over the strength as at 31/12/1997. The breakdown by rank is as shown in the table on the right.

Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	2
Assistant Commissioner	10
Chief Superintendent	46
Superintendent	168
Inspector	262
Sergeant	1866
Garda	8880
Total	11235

RECRUITMENT

EARCAÍOCHT

During 1998 a total of 550 trainees were admitted to the Garda College. Following Government approval to admit a further 550 trainees to An Garda Síochána in 1999, a recruitment competition commenced in November, 1998. A total of 8,950 application forms / information packs were issued by the Admissions and Appointments Office, 'B' Branch, of which 6,399 candidates lodged application forms with the Civil Service Commission.



TRANSFERS

AISTRITHE

There were 1,912 transfers of Garda personnel effected during the year, which included first allocations on completion of training, allocations of existing personnel on promotion and consequential transfers.

REDUCTIONS IN STRENGTH LAGHDÚ I LÁIDREACTH

A total of 321 members left the Garda Síochána during the year for the following reasons:

Retired:	264
Dismissed:	2
Discharged on Probation:	1
Resigned:	29
Incapacitated:	14
Death (Serving Member):	11



A total of 40 former members of An Garda Síochána died during the year.

CIVILIAN STAFF FOIREANN SHIBHIALTACH

At years end, there were 774.5 clerical and administrative staff serving in An Garda Síochána.

In addition, the following civilian staff are also serving with An Garda Síochána, bringing the total non-Garda staff to 1,739 part time and full time:

- 38.5 employed in specialist areas, such as information technology, teaching, accountancy, research, nursing, etc.
- 150 employed as full-time general operatives, services attendants, storemen and cleaners.
- 626 employed as part-time cleaners and services attendants.
- 150 employed as Traffic Wardens.

PROMOTION ARDÚ CÉIME

Promotion competitions were held during the year for promotion to the rank of Assistant Commissioner, Chief Superintendent, Superintendent, Inspector and Sergeant. The number of applicants and successful candidates are as follows:

Promotion to the rank of:	Applicants	Successful
Assistant Commissioner (March '98)	23	2
Assistant Commissioner (Nov. '98)	18	1
Chief Superintendent	71	8
Superintendent	143	24
Inspector	450	28
Sergeant	910	103

Eight Regional Interview Boards interviewed all candidates for promotion to the rank of Sergeant and selected a number for final interview by a Central Interview Board. Five Regional Boards acted likewise in respect of candidates for promotion to the rank of Inspector. Separate Boards sat in respect of candidates currently serving overseas on United Nations missions in Cyprus and the former Yugoslavia.

Promotion to the ranks of Assistant Commissioner, Chief Superintendent and Superintendent is decided by a Central Interview Board.

SAFETY HEALTH AND WELFARE SECTION RANNÓG NA SLÁINTE SÁBHÁLA AGUS LEASA

During the year under review, 36 Peer Supporters received additional training and a further 23 new Peer Supporters were appointed. A total of 78 Inspectors and Sergeants underwent Fire Warden Training.

The total number of accidents reported by An Garda Síochána to the Health and Safety Authority was 178, with assaults on Gardaí and Road Traffic Accidents accounting for the majority of these accidents.

Other initiatives and developments under the Health and Safety banner were the holding of the 2nd Annual Garda Safety Representative of the Year Award; the introduction of a 'No Smoking' policy within An Garda Síochána and the issuing to selected units of Ampel Probes (implements to assist in the searching of detained persons).



DISCIPLINE SMACHT

The procedures for dealing with breaches of discipline by members of An Garda Síochána are contained in the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations, 1989 (S.I. No. 94/1989).

During 1998, a total of 156 new cases were reported to the Discipline Section. Sixty one were dealt with formally through twelve Sworn Inquiries and forty nine were dealt with under Regulation 13 procedures. The remainder were dealt with informally or were cases where no formal disciplinary action was required.

There were 26 criminal cases involving members of An Garda Síochána disposed of in the Courts during 1998, of which 15 resulted in convictions and acquittals were recorded in eleven.

Convictions were recorded in respect of eight road traffic offences, including five drink driving offences; one case of assault, one criminal damage offence, one offence against public order and four cases involving members who were found to be on licensed premises after hours.

Two members of An Garda Síochána were dismissed during the year and another resigned involuntarily.

SWORN INQUIRIES FIOSRÚCHÁIN FAOI MHIONN

A Sworn Inquiry is a hearing established to determine whether any alleged breach(es) of discipline has/have been committed by a member of An Garda Síochána. The Sworn Inquiry Board consists of three Garda officers and information at a Sworn Inquiry is given on oath.

Where a member is found in breach, the Board may impose a penalty ranging from advice to reduction in pay. Alternatively, it may recommend to the

Commissioner that the member be reduced in rank, dismissed or be required to retire or resign as an alternative to dismissal.

Sworn Inquiries	No.
Found in breach	10
Found not in breach	0
Discontinued	2
Total	12
Total reduction in pay	£2,300

UNSWORN INQUIRIES FIOSRÚCHÁIN NACH FAOI MHIONN IAD

An Unsworn Inquiry is a hearing appointed by the Commissioner at which an officer not below the rank of Chief Superintendent presides. If a member is found in breach, the Presiding Officer may impose a penalty ranging from advice to reduction in pay. There were no Unsworn Inquiries held in 1998.

REGULATION 13 RIALACHÁN 13

The provisions of Regulation 13, allow for the member's Chief Superintendent to deal with alleged breach(es) of discipline where the member concerned admits the breach and opts for such a course of action.

The Chief Superintendent may deal with the breach(es) if he considers it appropriate to do so and can impose sanctions ranging from a reduction in pay amounting to one weeks pay, to caution, advice, etc.

Regulation 13	No.
Fines were imposed	31
Member cautioned, etc.	18
Total	49
Total reductions in pay	£4,200

Appeals:	
Appeals affirmed	4
Appeals where penalty mitigated	2
Appeals allowed	1

Suspensions:	
Members suspended during year	10
Members on suspension at year end	12

COMPLAINTS GEARÁIN

Complaints against members of An Garda Síochána are dealt with in accordance with the Garda Síochána (Complaints) Act, 1986 and statistics in this regard are published by way of annual report compiled by the Garda Síochána Complaints Board, a Statutory Body independent of An Garda Síochána.

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AN NÓS IMEACHTA SIBHIALTA

In 1998, there was a total of 91 cases where legal proceedings were initiated against the Commissioner and/or the State arising out of the discharge of duties by members of An Garda Síochána. This total does not include proposed proceedings arising from traffic accidents involving Garda vehicles or accidental injuries suffered by members of the public or An Garda Síochána.

DEATHS IN GARDA CUSTODY BÁS FAOI CHOIMÉAD GARDA

On the 10th January, 1998, at 12.50 a.m., a person in custody at Wexford Garda Station collapsed and was attended by a local doctor. He was pronounced dead at 1.05 a.m. An inquest has not yet been held.

On 8th September, 1998, at 3.20 a.m. a person in custody at Kilmainham Garda Station, Dublin, collapsed and was taken to hospital by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at 3.50 a.m. An inquest was held and a verdict of death by misadventure, arising from the ingestion of prescribed drugs was recorded.

On 18th September, 1998, at 7.30 a.m. a person in custody at Tallaght Garda Station, Dublin, collapsed and was taken to hospital by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at 8.20 a.m. An inquest has not yet been held.

EMPLOYMENT NOW 1998-1999 FOSTAÍOCHT NOW 1998-1999

An Garda Síochána is participating in a second Employment NOW (New Opportunities for Women) Project, entitled 'Creating an Equality Culture', which aims to promote equal opportunities for both men and women within An Garda Síochána.

The Project has six key target groups which include:- women in supervisory/management roles; the female support network; management at senior level; middle management assigned to monitoring equal opportunities; Garda Trainers and staff at Personnel Section, 'B' Branch.

To date, 80 women and 280 men have benefited from training under the Employment NOW Project, which covers topics including Effective Communication, Team Building, Leadership and Management.

Equal opportunities is about good management practice and managing diversity in a fair and impartial way that allows an organisation to achieve its strategic objectives. An Garda Síochána is the only police service in Europe participating in the Employment NOW Project.



OVERSEAS SERVICE SEIRBHÍS THAR LEAR

The UN Mission in Eastern Slavonia ended on the 15th October, 1998, and the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) took over the role of monitoring the region. A Garda Inspector was appointed as the OSCE Police Commissioner for Eastern Slavonia and four Gardaí transferred from the UNPSG mission to serve with OSCE.

An Garda Síochána continue to be recognised for the professional and dedicated manner in which they carry out their duties. They also remain fully committed to the establishment of peace and democracy in the countries where they serve.



CYPRUS - UNFICYP

The mandate of UNFICYP is to prevent the renewal of fighting between the different ethnic groups in Cyprus, by maintaining a peaceful atmosphere within which a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem can be found and to provide appropriate assistance for humanitarian agencies. There are currently 15 members of An Garda Síochána deployed in Cyprus drawn from stations in Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Louth, Cavan and Kerry.

The largest Irish contingent, comprising eight Garda members, is located at Pyla. Three members are stationed at Famagusta and two each at Nicosia and Athienou.

Following an assessment of the Mission by the UN in November, 1998, a restructuring of the Civilian Police was agreed with the Irish and Australian Contingents. When fully implemented, the CIVPOL Headquarters will be based in Nicosia and the UNCIVPOL Commander and Deputy Commander appointments will be on a rotating basis between the IRCIVPOL and AUSTCIVPOL Contingent Commanders.

Primarily within the Buffer Zone, the Garda contingent is responsible for the investigation of criminal offences committed by non-UN personnel, the preservation of public order, resolution of disputes, access control of civilians, assisting and monitoring CYPOL investigations, escorting of civilian officials, investigation and custody of defectors and supporting UNFICYP in policing demonstrations and disturbances.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - UNMIBH (IPTF)

There are 35 members of An Garda Síochána deployed on this Mission, drawn from Roscommon, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Meath, Donegal, Cavan, Wexford, Kildare and Cork.

The mandate for this Mission includes:

- Monitoring the local police force to ensure that they carry out their duties without discrimination against any person
- Ensuring that local police respect the human rights of all residents in the mission area
- Training law enforcement personnel and police forces
- Advising Government authorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina on the organisation of effective law enforcement agencies
- Ensuring proper conditions prevail for the holding of free and fair elections
- Providing appropriate assistance to UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and other recognised humanitarian agencies in support of their work to facilitate the return, in conditions of safety and security, of civilians who have been displaced by the conflict.

EASTERN SLAVONIA – UNTAES

There were 10 members of An Garda Síochána deployed on this mission. The UNTAES mandate ended on the 15th January, 1998 and was replaced by UNPSG (United Nations Police Support Group), with a mandate to provide guidance and support to the local police while monitoring their performance as necessary to ensure public safety and to guarantee universal human rights and seeking to gain the confidence of the local population. This mandate ended on the 15th of October 1998.

OSCE (ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE)

On the 15th of October 1998, the OSCE, took over the role of monitoring the Eastern Slavonia region, with a Garda Inspector appointed as the Police Commissioner for the region. A total of 180 civilian police monitors transferred from UNPSG to work with the OSCE, including four Gardai.

Their mandate includes:

1. Monitoring the activities of the police force, especially concerning their dealings with refugees, displaced persons and ethnic minorities.
2. Monitoring the activities of the police force at political, religious and other important events.
3. Developing good working relations with senior police officers to enable discussion on matters of mutual interest.
4. Carrying out research and preparing briefs on significant police issues.

GARDA TRAINING OILIÚINT NA nGARDAÍ

STUDENT/PROBATIONER TRAINING

A review of Student/Probationer Education/Training and Development Programme was completed in October, 1998. The report proposes a professional competency based approach to Student Garda education and training. The model strives to integrate development strategy with recruitment and selection strategy.

To help meet the ever increasing training demands of Student/Probationer Gardaí attached to training stations outside of the larger urban centres, an additional 118 Gardaí completed training as Tutor Gardaí during the year.



B.A. POLICE MANAGEMENT CÉIM I MBAINISTEOIREACHT PÓILÍNTEACHT

Building on the Diploma status award available to Student/Probationers, further academic progress was made in 1998 with the commencement of an N.C.E.A. approved Degree Programme in Police Management. Eighteen participants holding senior management positions commenced the programme which is a two and a half year modular programme conducted through distance learning and in-house tutorials at the Garda College.



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME CLÁR STAIDÉAR THAR LEAR

The McCabe Fellowship Programme continued to provide for the regular exchange of personnel from An Garda Síochána with students of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice; the City University of New York and the New York Police Department (NYPD). During 1998, seven Garda personnel completed short exchange programmes at the selected centres, with two participants completing Masters Degrees in Criminal Justice. An officer from the NYPD completed an exchange programme in Ireland in relation to crimes of violence against women and children.

GARDA SÍOCHÁNA POLICING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU AND OTHER POLICE FORCES

RANNPHÁIRTÍOCHT PÓILÍNEACHTA AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA CHUN AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH, AGUS FORSAÍ PÓILINÍ

- A Language Development Programme for European Police Officers took place at the Garda College during 1998, with the attendance of thirteen police officers representing Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden. In addition to developing operational language skills in a policing context, the course also develops participants knowledge of the police and criminal justice systems of Ireland and establishes contact between police forces throughout Europe.
- The Garda College continued its involvement in the implementation of the EU funded 'Oisín' Programme. The programme provided a forum for operational police officers to exchange best practice and develop closer professional liaisons between police services in the European Union.
- Following a request from the Minister for Public Security in El Salvador, a team of Garda personnel from the Garda College and the Carlow/Kildare Division, travelled to El Salvador to deliver a Traffic Accident Investigation Course to the Policia Nacional Civil.

PULSE TRAINING

OILÚINT PULSE

The Garda College has primary responsibility for the delivery of PULSE applications training. A team of Core Trainers was established at the Garda College during 1998 and communications courses for Divisional PULSE Action Teams were undertaken. Preparations were advanced for the delivery of PULSE Application Training through the Garda In-Service Training Schools network countrywide.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (SMI) IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

FOIREANN FHEIDHMITHE AN TIONSCNAIMH BAINISTÍOCHTA STRAITÉISÍ



The Report of the Steering Group on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of An Garda Síochána was published in June 1997 and accepted, in principle, by the Government. It presents a strategic framework for change and identifies key issues for further development within this framework.

The SMI process is a fundamental review into the operation of An Garda Síochána and will present many interesting challenges in the immediate future. An Garda Síochána is committed, in consultation with the Staff Associations, to availing of this opportunity to ensure that efficient and effective structures and operating systems are in place to meet policing demands in the new millennium.

The Garda SMI Implementation Steering Group, supported by the Bottom Up Review Group and a full time Implementation Team, has made significant progress in developing the wide-ranging recommendations contained in the SMI Report.

Working in close co-operation with senior management throughout the organisation, the SMI group contributed significantly to the establishment of a Quality Service Bureau; the development of a new Financial Management Framework; the appointment of a Director of Finance with specialist support staff; the development of a new roster system and invested substantially in the Change Management process.

The next phase of projects to be addressed will include a new Performance and Accountability Framework; reviews of the Human Resource Function, Management Development and In-Service Training, Structures and the Promotion System and a programme of civilianisation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GARDA MOUNTED UNIT AN TAONAD MARCACH

First mooted in 1932 by the then Garda Commissioner, General Eoin O'Duffy, An Garda Síochána eventually launched a Garda Mounted Unit in May, 1998. Following an in-depth analysis of the benefits of having a Mounted Unit, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform approved the Commissioner's proposal and in March six horses, a four horse transporter and all required equine equipment arrived in Dublin Port, having been purchased from the North Yorkshire Police.



Initially accommodated at the Army Equitation School at the Curragh, the Garda Mounted Unit have since relocated to ample stabling facilities at Áras an Uachtaráin, with the kind permission of the President.

Following an internal selection process, one Sergeant and seven Gardaí, were selected for allocation to the Garda Mounted Unit. In March, the Unit members, all of whom had varying levels in equine skills, underwent a training course covering subjects including horsemanship, stable management, veterinary care, equipment maintenance and general riding skills. Following the successful completion of that course, the members received intensive training from a leading mounted police instructor from the Lancashire Constabulary, culminating in all members receiving Certificates in Equitation and Operational Patrol Skills.



Two members underwent further training in the U.K. on an Advanced Equitation Certificate course to prepare for the future introduction and training of young horses. One other member underwent an Instructor's Course for the training of new and existing members.

The Unit became fully operational on the 17th May and since then have performed daily beats in Dublin City. Initially confined to city centre areas the unit now deploys throughout the city at the request of local officers, either on routine patrols or on specific tasks.

A number of successful crime detections and arrests have been made both by the Unit members themselves and while assisting other Garda units.

Their presence has resulted, directly and indirectly, in the apprehension of some 35 prisoners. Besides their crime prevention impact they have been well received by the public.

While based in Dublin, the Unit is deployed Nationally and has performed duty at events outside of Dublin on fourteen occasions, at the request of local Officers. Beyond patrolling the Dublin area, the Unit has been deployed at many special events, including:

- Slane Outdoor Concert.
- National Ploughing Championships.
- Kerrygold International Horse Show
- Visit of President of the United States.
- Tour de France (Dublin & Waterford).
- Tramore Races.
- The Tall Ships.
- Galway Races.

The Unit is also deployed at all major events at Croke Park, Lansdowne Road and Tolka Park. In November, 1998, two members and their mounts took part in the Fest der Pferde in Vienna, Austria.



The Garda Mounted Unit, in its short existence, has proved to be extremely popular with the public, very effective when deployed in special event policing operations and, on a daily basis, has been deployed with excellent results on regular, routine policing functions.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, OPERATIONS LEAS CHOIMISINÉIR, FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN



The Deputy Commissioner, Operations, reporting directly to the Commissioner, holds responsibility for all operational matters of An Garda Síochána. A total of seven Assistant Commissioners report to the Deputy Commissioner, Operations – each of the six Regional Assistant Commissioners and the Assistant Commissioner in charge of 'C' Branch (Crime & Security).

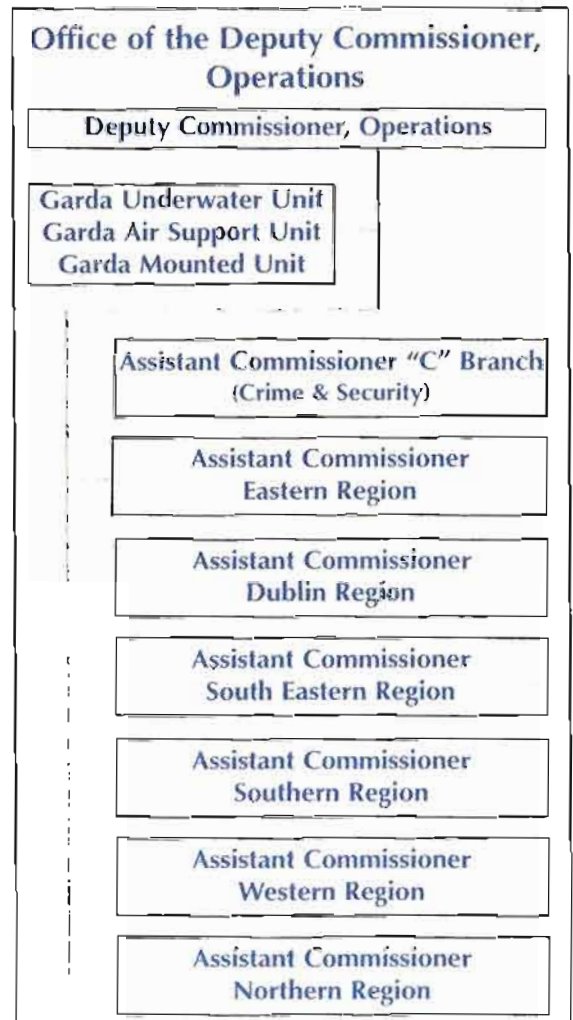
In addition to overseeing all serious crime investigations, the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, is also responsible for all special event policing operations.

The Deputy Commissioner also holds the Garda brief in respect of cross border co-operation.

All policy matters and procedural arrangements for operational matters are determined by the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, and where appropriate, he advises the Commissioner on such matters.

The Deputy Commissioner has a small administrative staff directly available to him, headed by a Superintendent.

Three national units providing specialist services to the organisation are attached to the Office of Deputy Commissioner, Operations – namely the Garda Underwater Unit; the Garda Air Support Unit and the recently formed Garda Mounted Unit. The latter two being under the direction of a Superintendent.



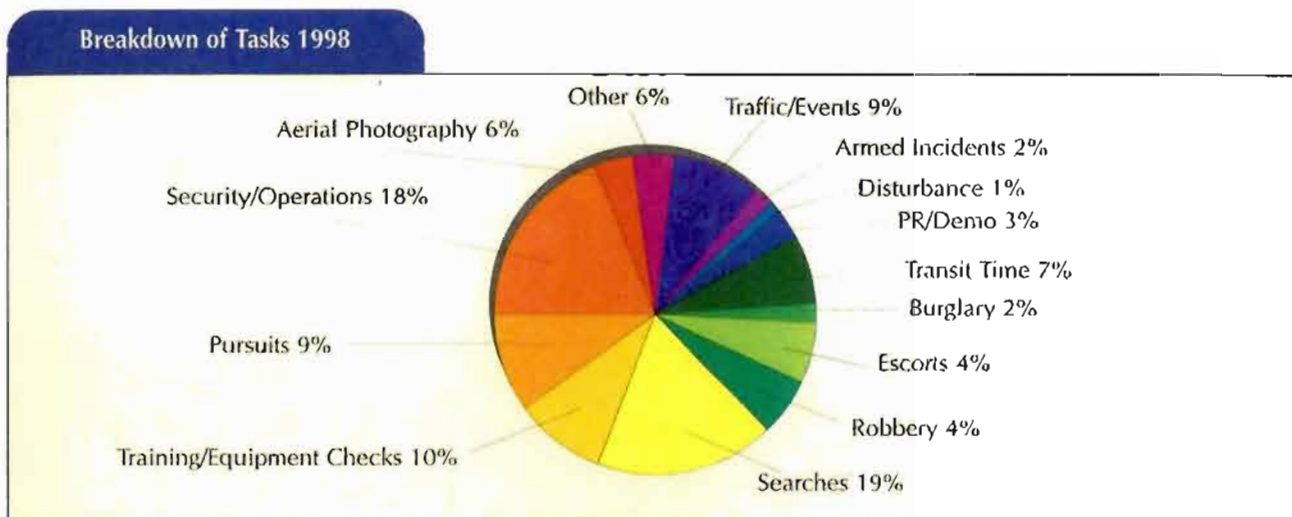
GARDA AIR SUPPORT UNIT AONAD TACAÍOCHT AEIR AN GHARDA

The year under review saw the first full year of operation of the Garda Air Support Unit. Established in September, 1997, with the acquisition of a Squirrel twin engine helicopter and a Defender 4000 fixed wing plane, the unit operates under the mission statement of:

"To provide a patrol / response / surveillance capability, both overt and covert, in the assistance of operational ground units of An Garda Síochána"

As operational Garda units became more aware of the valuable assistance that the unit can provide, the demand continued to grow throughout the period. For the full twelve month period, the Unit flew some 1,964 tasks accumulating almost 2,000 flying hours – a very busy schedule by police air support standards.

The Garda Air Support Unit assisted in almost every aspect of policing operations during the year and the chart below shows the diverse range of tasks on which the unit was deployed.



The Garda Air Support Unit is based at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, and is headed by a Superintendent. The Unit consists of four Sergeants and twelve Gardaí. Both aircraft are maintained by the Air Corps and Air Corps pilots seconded to GASU pilot the craft. The crew is completed by two Garda Observers on each aircraft.

GASU operations assisted, both directly and indirectly, in the arrest of 194 persons, the recovery of 100 stolen vehicles and the locating of six missing persons. However, these figures understate the contribution of the unit to the overall policing operation.

The Unit provided vital support at all major events and VIP visits during the year, including the President of the United States, the Tour de France and the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race. On an almost daily basis, the Unit provide air support to Operation Freeflow/Clearway in Dublin City and liaises closely with senior officers and local authorities in this regard.



In combatting crime generally, the Unit has proved invaluable. In one case, following an aggravated burglary the GASU plane located the two suspects in a densely wooded area. Due to the terrain, ground units found it practically impossible to get to the area where the suspects were. The GASU helicopter was tasked with collecting a Garda Dog Unit handler and dog and deploying them to the scene, following which both suspects were apprehended.

The addition of a microwave downlink to the GASU helicopter was completed during the year. This allows ground commanders to view a monitor to which real time video footage is relayed from the helicopter. This has proved particularly beneficial at special events attracting large numbers of people.

The ability to operate at night significantly enhances the service available to ground units, in particular the illumination of areas and the use of the thermal image equipment have proved very successful.

In order to inform the Force generally on the benefits and capabilities of the Garda Air Support Unit personnel undertake In-Service presentations. As this programme progresses, the demand for the services of GASU grows.



A very welcome development in December, 1998, was the Government announcement of approval to purchase a second helicopter. The addition of a second helicopter will significantly increase the capabilities of the Unit and enhance further the already excellent service it provides.

A tendering process has commenced and the second helicopter is expected to be in service before the end of the millennium. This will allow GASU expand its hours of operation from the current arrangement of 16 hours of availability, with an on-call facility thereafter, to a full 24 hour response and patrolling facility.

GARDA UNDERWATER UNIT AONAD AN GHARDA FAOI UISCE

The Garda Underwater Unit, based at Santry Garda Station, Dublin, continued to provide a professional and efficient support service to the policing function across a diverse range of activities. The Unit was deployed on ninety eight individual tasks during the year ranging from missing person and evidence searches, to security searches relating to VIP visits and special event policing operations.



The Unit also continued to maintain its high standards, participating in many training and development courses in their own right and in conjunction with other Garda Units. In July, having spent many hours assisting in the preparations, the Unit accompanied and supported Tracey Piggot in an underwater swim of Galway Bay, completed in nine hours and raising some IR£150,000 (€190,460) for the John Durkan Leukaemia Trust.

GARDA DOG UNIT AONAD MADRA AN GHARDA

The Garda Dog Unit is based at Kilmainham Garda Station, Dublin and is deployed throughout the entire country. The Unit consists of two Sergeants and 12 Gardai based at Kilmainham, with a further two Garda handlers based at Cork and Limerick.

The Unit has a total compliment of 16 dogs at Kilmainham and one each in Cork and Limerick. Dogs are trained in specific disciplines for General Purpose Work; Drug detection and Explosive detection and consists of a mix of Labradors, Springer Spaniels, English Flat Coated Retriever and German Shepherds.

In addition to deploying on drug and explosive searches, the Unit is also deployed on missing person searches, crime scenes searches, crowd control operations and general patrolling.

During the year under review the Unit was deployed in excess of 2,100 operations, including 793 drug detection searches and 760 explosive searches.

All dogs and handlers are subject to ongoing training and development, with two days per month solely dedicated to this. The Unit also underwent training with the Garda Air Support Unit during the year and have been transported to tasks by way of Garda Helicopter on a number of occasions.



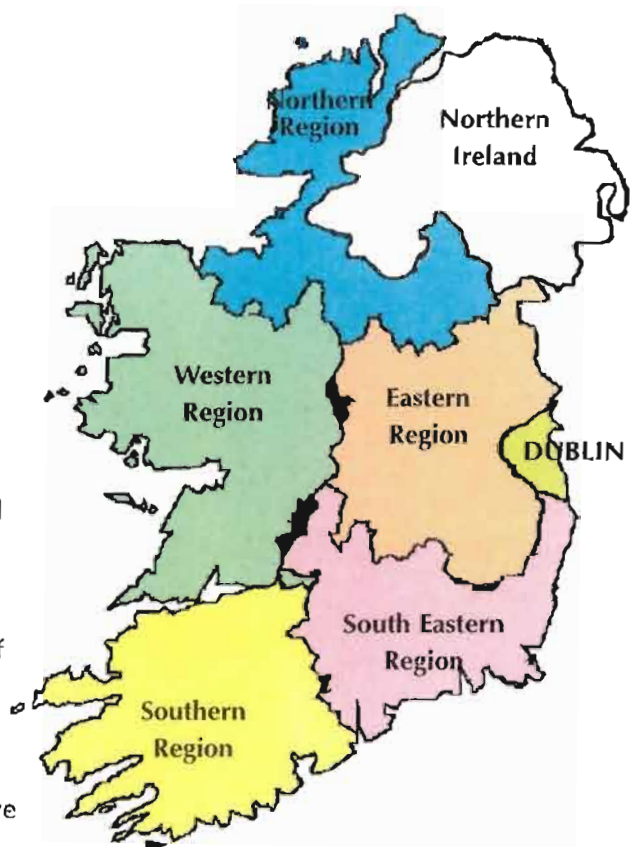
REGIONAL PROFILES PRÓIFÍL RÉIGIÚNACH

Since January, 1996, a Regional Command structure has been in place within An Garda Síochána, with the jurisdiction divided into six separate regions, each headed by an Assistant Commissioner.

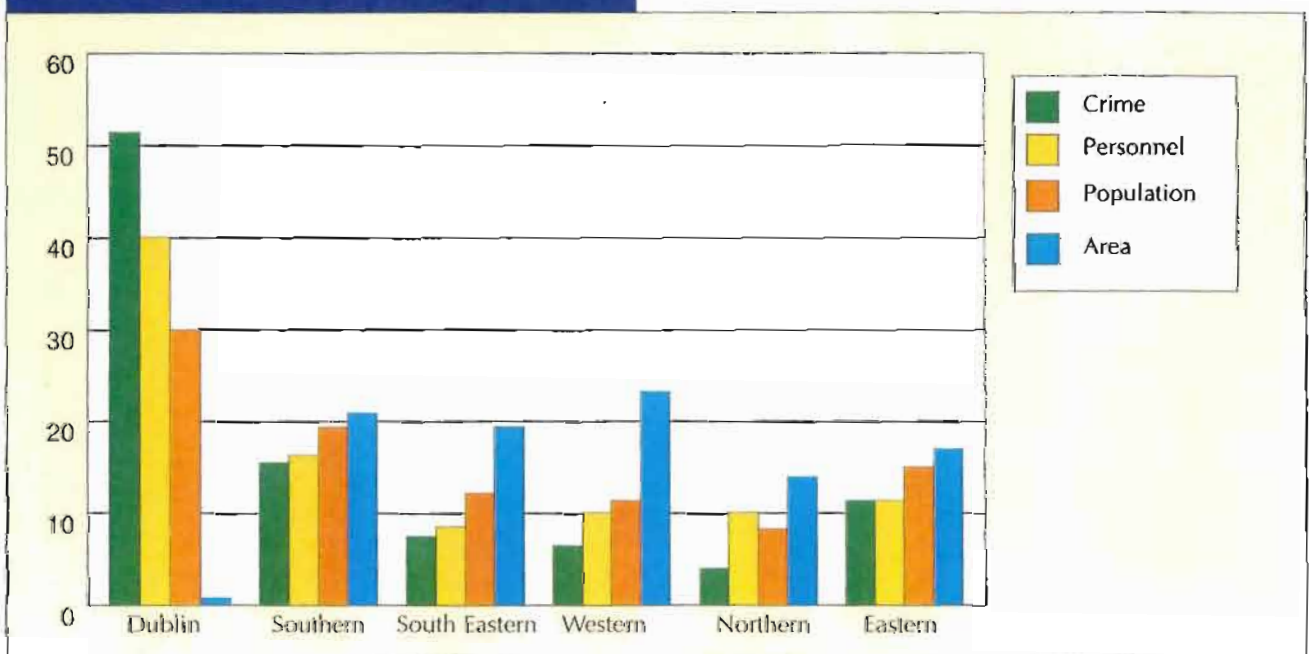
This management structure allows for a more effective and efficient delivery of the police service across and within regions.

A significant feature of regionalisation has been the establishment and development of 'target specific' policing operations, which operate within the defined target area often crossing district, divisional and regional boundaries.

The structure allows for more efficient and effective usage of resources. It also assists in the establishment of dedicated units on a regional basis to tackle specific policing problems. The ongoing development of the regional management structure, coupled with the successes of the various special policing operations, have contributed significantly to the reduction in reported crime of 10% in 1997 and a further reduction of 6% in recorded crime in 1998. The detection rate also improved from 43% in 1997 to 44% in 1998.



Percentage breakdown by region of Annual Crime, Garda Personnel, Population and Area





EASTERN REGION RÉIGIÚN AN OIRTHIR

Eastern Region in Figures	
Population:	614,854
Area:	12,864 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1,117.6 km
Regional Crime 1998:	11,379
Crime per 1,000 Population:	18.51
Regional Detections 1998:	5,325
Detection Rate:	47%
Road Traffic Offences:	33,444
Garda Strength:	1,321
Garda Vehicles:	189
Garda Stations:	126
Garda Districts:	19

Reporting to the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, the region is headed by a Regional Assistant Commissioner based at Mullingar with responsibility for the Garda Divisions of Longford/Westmeath; Louth/Meath; Laois/Offaly and Carlow/Kildare.

Crime recorded in the region for the year showed a decrease of 4% and the detection rate for the year stood at 47%.

The region hosted a number of large special events during the year, each of which necessitated significant policing commitments. The Tour de France passed through the region on Sunday, 12th July and while the distance travelled through the region was relatively small, it did include the stages through the Wicklow Gap, which brought large crowds, in a carnival atmosphere, to the area. Considerable road closures, diversions and traffic management was required to ensure the smooth passage of the race through the region.



The major event in the region during the year occurred on the 29th August, 1998, when the tenth outdoor concert staged at Slane Castle took place. Controlled from the 'Verve Nerve Centre', the Garda operation, in conjunction with many other agencies, was a most efficient operation, allowing the attendance, in excess of 80,000 people, to enjoy the splendid event in comfort and safety.

Towards the end of 1998, an imaginative initiative under the heading of 'Road Safety through Education' was launched in the Laois/Offaly Division by the Gardai, in conjunction with the Laois and Offaly County Councils and supported by the National Roads Authority. The project is aimed at Secondary School students, who are visited by Gardai and County Council Safety Officers. Relevant literature and armbands have also been distributed as part of the project.

The Assistant Commissioner, Eastern Region, also heads TRACE (Tracing, Reviewing And Collating Evidence), an operation established by the Commissioner to review the cases of six missing females in the general Leinster area. The objectives of the operation include tracing the missing persons, reviewing all investigations to identify any links between the cases, collating all available evidence and following up on any new leads coming to light. The operation is ongoing.



DUBLIN REGION RÉIGIÚN LIMISTÉAR CHATHAIR ÁTHA CLIATH

DUBLIN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	1,082,469
Area:	869 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	153.5 km
Regional Crime 1998:	45,592
Crime per 1,000 Population:	42.1
Regional Detections 1998:	18,527
Detection Rate:	41%
Road Traffic Offences:	113,478
Garda Strength:	3,842
Garda Vehicles:	583
Garda Stations:	44
Garda Districts:	18

The year under review was, by any standards, a demanding yet successful year in terms of policing in the Dublin Region. The Assistant Commissioner, based at Harcourt Square, is responsible for a total of six geographical divisions – Northern, North Central, Southern, South Central, Eastern and Western. The latter completing its first full year of existence having been established in mid 1997. He also has responsibility for the Dublin Region Traffic Division and the Special Detective Unit.

Following on from a 14% decrease in recorded crime in 1997, the region returned a further decrease of 10% in 1998, with the detection rate standing at 41%.

Dublin was the focus of a number of special events, all of which required detailed planning and significant commitments over the periods of the events. Considerable resources were deployed to satisfactorily police the Tour de France on Saturday, 11th and Sunday 12th July, followed closely by the final leg of the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race.

Large scale policing operations were also put in place on the occasion of the visits of the British Prime Minister and the US President. Other major sporting and social events placed a large burden on policing resources in the region. However, all passed off without serious incident.

A number of regular policing operations continued or were initiated during the year including:

- Operation Dóchas – anti drugs initiative.
- Operations Cleanstreet / Night Cap – target specific drug investigation operations.
- Operation Freeflow/Clearway – traffic relieving measures.
- Operations Boulevard/Nicotine/Mainstreet – city centre drug, crime and public order operations.





NORTHERN REGION RÉIGIÚN AN TUAISCIRT

NORTHERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	314,461
Area:	11,306 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	745.2 km
Regional Crime 1998:	3,419
Crime per 1,000 Population:	10.87
Regional Detections 1998:	1,737
Detection Rate:	51%
Road Traffic Offences:	11,819
Garda Strength:	1,078
Garda Vehicles:	133
Garda Stations:	108
Garda Districts:	14

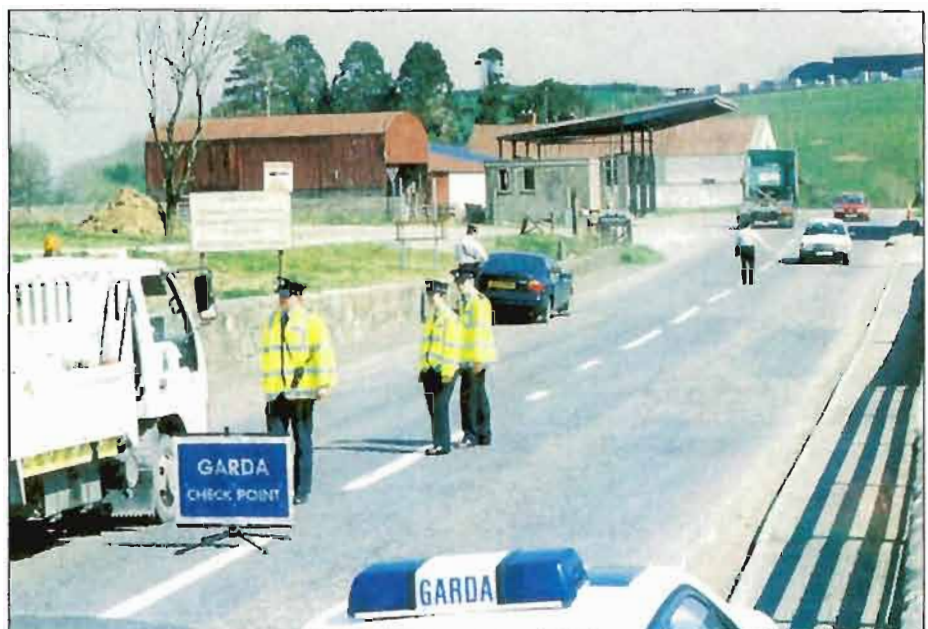
The Northern Region comprises of the Garda Divisions of Sligo/Leitrim, Donegal and Cavan/Monaghan. The Regional Assistant Commissioner is based in Sligo.

Despite the advancements of the peace process, significant resources are still deployed to policing activities along the border, which encompasses some 291 border crossing points along its 359 kilometre length.

Having reported a 12% increase in recorded crime in 1997, the decrease of 3% for 1998 is both encouraging and a very positive trend. The detection rate for the region for 1998 stood at 51%, well above the national average of 44%.

Under a theme of 'Drugs/Alcohol Abuse Awareness Prevention', the Gardai organised a Youth Achievement Award programme throughout the entire region.

In an effort to recognise the excellent work undertaken by voluntary groups who provide recreational facilities and activities for young people as alternatives to drugs/alcohol, the project aimed to highlight the need for ongoing education and recognition of the dangers that young people are exposed to in today's society. The awards attracted huge interest across the region and presentations of prizes were made to coincide with the European Drugs Awareness Week in November. The programme was very well supported by primary schools, youth clubs, local media, commercial concerns and the community generally.





SOUTH EASTERN REGION RÉIGIÚN AN OÍR-DHEISCIRT

SOUTH EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	452,109
Area:	12,977km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	906.5km
Regional Crime 1998:	6,982
Crime per 1,000 Population:	15.44%
Regional Detections 1998:	3,815
Detection Rate:	55%
Road Traffic Offences:	20,176
Garda Strength:	921
Garda Vehicles:	128
Garda Stations:	117
Garda Districts:	16

Having recorded an increase in crime of 3% in 1997, the reduction of 1% achieved in 1998 was a welcome development in the region. The crime detection rate for the year stood at of 55%, well above the national average.

The region, consisting of the divisions of Waterford/Kilkenny; Wexford and Tipperary, is headed by an Assistant Commissioner based in Kilkenny City.

The success of a number of target specific operations in the region contributed to the turnaround in recorded crime. Considerable resources were committed to a number of these operations both within the region and across neighbouring regions. Operations 'Wipe Out', 'Claddagh' and 'Holly', each with predetermined targets and objectives were put in place targeting known repeat offenders and those travelling from larger urban

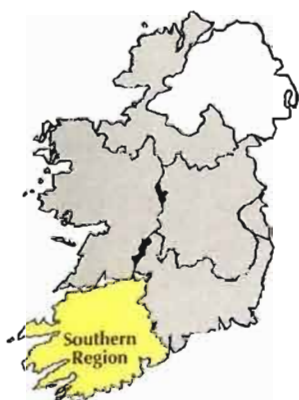


centres such as Dublin and Cork. The operations also provided an increased Garda presence in the region resulting in a very successful crime prevention/reduction strategy.

The year also saw a number of proactive measures taken against drug dealing/dealers throughout the region. Again operations were put in place both within and across the region and where appropriate, were supported by national units. One such operation was successfully concluded with the seizure of some £4m worth of Cannabis Resin in the Cahir area.

Sunday, 12th July, saw the Tour de France winding its way through 55 miles of this region and on Monday, 13th July, Enniscorthy hosted the start of Stage 2 which continued on through 87 miles of racing through the region.

Policing of the Tour in the South Eastern region necessitated the deployment of over 1,600 Gardaí, supported by Civil Defence volunteers. The policing operation was considered a great success and was a testament to the excellent cooperation between many agencies including the Gardai, Civil Defence, Local Authorities, Health Boards and voluntary agencies.



SOUTHERN REGION RÉIGIÚN AN DEISCIRT

SOUTHERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	718,842
Area:	14,936 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1,152.7km
Regional Crime 1998:	13,133
Crime per 1,000 Population:	18.27
Regional Detections 1998:	6,039
Detection Rate:	46%
Road Traffic Offences:	41,213
Garda Strength:	1,699
Garda Vehicles:	225
Garda Stations:	162
Garda Districts:	22

With the Assistant Commissioner for the region based in Anglesea Street, Cork City, the region consists of five Garda Divisions, namely:- Cork City, Cork North, Cork West, Kerry and Limerick. The year also saw the completion of a new Garda Station at Douglas (pictured below).

While showing an increase of 1%, recorded crime stabilised in the region during 1998, in view of the huge cumulative decrease of 22% in 1996 and 1997. The detection rate stood at 46% marginally above the national average.

A number of target specific operations were continued or initiated throughout the region during the year. The 'ATC Checkpoint' operation was replaced with a revamped '22 Six' operation, aimed at travelling criminals. Operations aimed at preventing armed robberies, particularly on financial institutions and business premises, were also put in place during the year.

The regional force continued their anti-drugs activities culminating in the seizure of some £5m worth of drugs during the year.

The benefits of Coastal Watch were apparent during the year, with the seizure of cocaine in Kinsale, with a street value of £30m, in a joint operation with the Customs Service. Significant arms finds were also made during the period, including one operation which netted 26 firearms, numerous component parts and ammunition.



Once again, as with other regions, special event policing placed a huge burden on resources in the region. In addition to the regular annual events at Listowel, Tralee and Millstreet, the region also witnessed the visit of the US President to Limerick City, Adare and Ballybunion. Some 1,700 Gardai were deployed as part of the security operation – the largest policing operation provided in the region.

Cork City provided the finishing point for Stage 2 of the Tour de France on Monday, 13th July, with some 1,400 Gardai deployed to police the route from Youghal to the finish line on the Carrigrohane Straight.



WESTERN REGION RÉIGIÚN AN IARTHAIR

WESTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	443,352
Area:	17,739km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1328.2km
Regional Crime 1998:	5,122
Crime per 1,000 Population:	11.55
Regional Detections 1998:	2,529
Detection Rate:	49%
Road Traffic Offences:	18,041
Garda Strength:	1,061
Garda Vehicles:	126
Garda Stations:	144
Garda Districts:	20

The Western Region consists of the divisions of Galway West, Roscommon/Galway East, Clare and Mayo, with the regional Assistant Commissioner based at Mill Street in Galway City.

Following on from a 4% decrease in recorded crime in 1997, the region reported an increase of 5% in the year under review, representing an additional 231 crimes. The detection rate for the year stood at 49%, which is 5% higher than the national average and a 3% improvement over 1997.

Significant resources were deployed on the investigation of a number of serious crimes in the region, some of which were carried over from the previous year and most of which were brought to successful conclusions.

In addition to these investigations, a number of strategies were continued or initiated during the year, which contributed to the positive detection rate for the year.

The region provides many holiday and tourist attractions and areas, witnessing a huge influx of visitors, particularly during the summer months. The busy third level colleges in the region also require the deployment of significant resources.

As with other regions, the policing of special events also require detailed planning and extensive deployment of personnel. In addition to the regular events – Galway Races, Ballinsloe Fair, Ceoil na hEireann, Ballina and many other social and sporting events – personnel from the region were also involved in the security operation at Shannon Airport for the departure of the US President in September.



'C' BRANCH BRAINSE 'C'

(CRIME AND SECURITY)
(COIR AGUS SLÁNDÁIL)



'C' Branch consists of a number of sections dealing specifically with crime and security issues on a national basis. The section is headed by an Assistant Commissioner based at Garda Headquarters, with sections located both at Garda Headquarters and at the Harcourt Square Complex, Dublin.

Each of the sections within 'C' Branch are reasonably autonomous with the respective Chief Superintendents reporting directly to the Assistant Commissioner.

In addition to all crime related matters, the Branch also encompasses cross border and international policing liaison, along with VIP protection and many other operational policing matters.

SECURITY SECTION RANNÓG SLÁNDÁLA

An Garda Síochána is responsible not only for providing the policing service within the State, but also the security of the State. A number of dedicated and specialist units of An Garda Síochána devote their efforts to this task.



Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Operations

Assistant Commissioner, "C" Branch

Detective Chief Superintendent
Security

Chief Superintendent
Crime

Detective Chief Superintendent
International Liaison Office

Detective Chief Superintendent
Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation

Detective Chief Superintendent
National Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Detective Chief Superintendent
Garda National Drug Unit

Chief Superintendent
Community Relations Section

Detective Chief Superintendent
Criminal Assets Bureau

Reporting through Assistant Commissioner, 'C' Branch, these units have recorded notable operational successes during 1998.

CRIME SECTION RANNÓG COIRIÚLACHTA

Crime Section, headed by a Chief Superintendent, has the brief for monitoring all criminal investigations undertaken throughout the country. It also provides the central point of contact for foreign law enforcement agencies regarding Mutual Assistance requests. Crime statistics are compiled and analysed at Crime Branch on an ongoing basis, providing timely and accurate information on crime patterns and trends for senior and middle management.

The Missing Persons Office, within Crime Section, has been extended and now operates as a Missing Persons Bureau, coordinating and monitoring all investigations relating to persons reported missing and undertakes enquiries with overseas police forces in this regard.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICE OIFIG IDIRNÁISIÚNTA COMHCHADRIMH

The International Liaison Office (ILO) is headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent and encompasses five distinct but related sections. All staff and offices are located at Garda Headquarters, with the exception of a number of personnel based overseas.

A significant amount of the workload of I.L.O. comes within the ambit of National Security and Protection. This section is responsible for policy and operational matters pertaining to the security of the following:

The President.	Foreign Police Forces.
Diplomatic Corps.	Garda Stations.
Courts and Judges.	Government Departments.
VIPs (resident and incoming)	Prisons.
Embassies, etc.	State Buildings.
Air/Sea Ports.	Vital Installations.
Banks and Financial Institutions.	Witness Security Programme.

This section also holds the brief for policy and operational matters relating to:

- Cash security and escorts, including Garda/Army escorts;
- Explosives, including legislation, regulations, escorts, security of mines, quarries, magazines, etc. and the supervision of the use of explosives, fireworks, etc.
- Security Surveys and advice regarding security of key installations and high risk buildings.

The *Aliens & Immigration Office* handles the administration of all matters regarding foreign nationals residing in the State, illegal aliens, asylum applicants, issue of Police Certificates of Character, naturalisation issues and liaison with the relevant Government Departments and Garda members deployed on immigration duties throughout the State.



The *Bureau de Liaison (BdL)* provides a central secure communications facility for contact to/from foreign police forces, EU General Secretariat, Garda Drug Liaison Officers in The Hague and Madrid and security services worldwide, including cross border communications.

The *Europol National Unit* is attached to ILO and deals with requests for assistance from law enforcement agencies within the European Union in the areas of criminality, drug trafficking, stolen vehicle trafficking, trafficking in illegal immigrants, trafficking in humans, trafficking in nuclear & radioactive fuels and the laundering of the proceeds of any of the above illegal activities. Terrorism will shortly be added to this list.

Interpol exists for the purpose of promoting international co-operation between member country's police forces and the *Interpol Office* at ILO deals with all aspects of the membership of An Garda Síochána of Interpol.

There are 177 members of Interpol and the Interpol Office at Garda Headquarters maintains ongoing liaison with these members within the scope of the groups procedures and the laws pertaining in each of the Members States.

GARDA BUREAU OF FRAUD INVESTIGATION BIÚRÓ AN GHARDA UM IMSCRUDÚ CALAOISE

The Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation (GBFI) is headed by a Bureau Director with the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent, reporting directly to Assistant Commissioner, 'C' Branch. The GBFI is the specialist agency within An Garda Síochána with responsibility for the investigation of fraud-related crime on a national basis.

The primary objectives of the GBFI may be summarised as:

- to investigate serious cases of commercial fraud, cheque and credit card fraud, computer fraud, money laundering offences and counterfeit currency;
- to collate information and intelligence and act as a resource centre on fraud related matters and
- to play a pro-active role in the prevention and detection of fraud.



The experience and expertise possessed by personnel at the GBFI can and is availed of by all sections of An Garda Síochána and the GBFI finds itself more and more involved in joint operations with other specialist and non-specialist units.

It also maintains extensive liaison with the business and commercial sectors of the community, in addition to all relevant regulatory agencies within the State. The GBFI participated on the Government Working Group on Company Law Compliance and Enforcement, which reported in November, 1998 and the Bureau will provide specialist staff resources to the new Company Law Enforcement Office.

ASSESSMENT UNIT AONAD MEASÚNÚ

All complaints made to the GBFI are analysed and reviewed by the Assessment Unit to determine if a crime is disclosed requiring Garda action and recommending the scope and nature of the required investigation. When the Assessment Unit is satisfied that the complaint requires further Garda investigation, it refers the complaint either to local Gardai or where the investigation appears complex or the nature of fraud substantial, it refers the complaint to the appropriate unit within the Bureau itself.

The Assessment Unit also deals with mutual assistance requests from law enforcement agencies throughout the world and also collates information and intelligence on fraud suspects, companies and vehicles.

COMMERCIAL FRAUD UNITS AN TAONAD CALOISE TRÁCHTÁLA

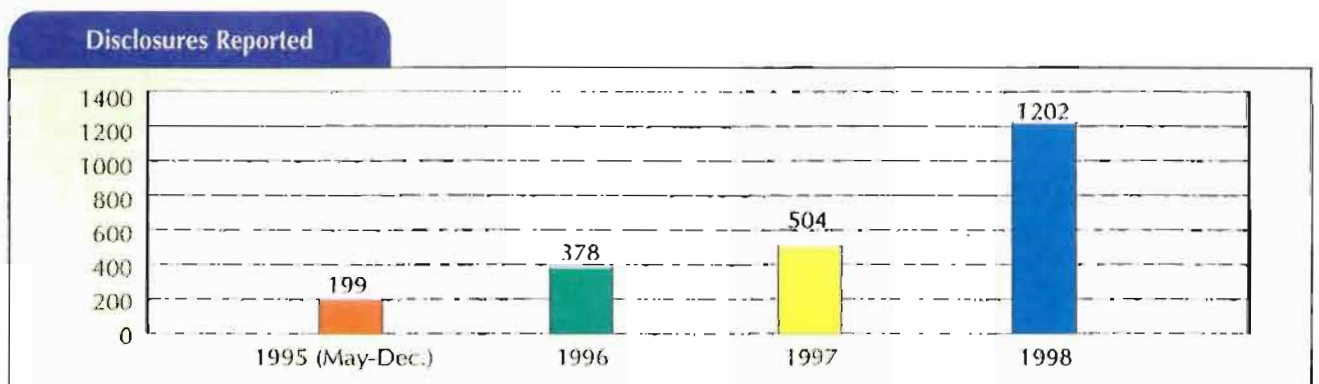
One of the primary functions of the Bureau is the investigation of serious and complex commercial fraud cases. Complaints are received from financial institutions, businesses, Government Departments, insurance companies, the Director of Public Prosecutions and individual citizens.

During the year under review, 1,403 commercial fraud complaints were received at the Bureau. Due to their complex nature, these investigations are time consuming and while all complaints are at various stages of advancement, during the year 21 persons were charged in relation to a range of criminal offences in these cases.

MONEY LAUNDERING INVESTIGATION UNIT AN TAONAD IMSCRÚDAITHE AR SCIÚRADH AIRGID

The Money Laundering Investigation Unit (MLIU) is engaged in recording, evaluating, analysing and investigating disclosures relating to suspicious financial transactions received from bodies designated under legislation, primarily the Criminal Justice Act, 1994.

Since the enactment of the legislation in 1995, the number of disclosures requiring investigation has risen considerably.



Money laundering investigations are usually complicated by the multi-jurisdictional nature of the crime. Criminal charges relating to money laundering have been preferred against 16 persons during the year, with eleven convictions recorded.

CHEQUE/CREDIT CARD FRAUD UNIT AN TAONAD CALOISE SEICEANNA/CÁRTAÍ CREIDMHEASA

Concentrating on the more serious and organised cases of cheque/credit card fraud and counterfeit currency, the Unit received 308 complaints during the year, resulting in 40 persons being charged with 123 individual criminal offences. Less serious cases are referred to the appropriate Garda Station for local investigation.

COMPUTER CRIME UNIT AN TAONAD COIREANNA RIOMHAIREACHTA

Acting as a national central reference point for computer related crime, this Unit also has responsibility for investigating computer fraud and for assisting other Garda units with the retrieval of computer based evidence in criminal investigations. During 1998, some 685 computer storage devices were referred to the Unit for examination and Unit personnel assisted in 51 investigations at various centres throughout the country.

Training in the latest technology is obviously a critical factor for this Unit. Personnel from the Unit, along with other relevant agencies, successfully completed a specifically designed course tailored to the requirements of law enforcement working within a computer environment, at the Computer Science Department, University College, Dublin. The Unit also hosted an international conference on the retrieval of computer based evidence and the Internet, enhancing the already existing high levels of liaison, cooperation and intelligence-sharing between law enforcement agencies within the EU and beyond.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BIÚRÓ NÁISIÚNTA IMSCRÚDU COIRIÚIL

Under the charge of a Detective Chief Superintendent, the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NBCI) was established in January, 1997, with the amalgamation of the Central Detective Unit and the Crime Investigation Section at Garda Headquarters.

NBCI was formed as an effective response to the proliferation of serious and organised crime. The national investigative remit of the Bureau includes:

- Murder;
- Serious and organised crime;
- Anti-racketeering;
- Arts & Antiques Thefts;
- Stolen motor vehicles;
- Theft of computer components;
- Domestic violence and serious sexual assaults;
- Post Office investigations.



MURDER, SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME DÚNMHARÚ, COIR EAGRAITHE AGUS TROMCHÚISEACH

The NBCI provides a nucleus of expertise and skill to the force on a national basis in the investigation of murder, serious and organised crime. Where the services of the Bureau are sought by a Regional Assistant Commissioner or Divisional Officer (Chief Superintendent), Bureau staff will assist in all aspects of the investigation, including preliminary enquiries, case management, control of Incident Room, general investigation, file preparation for the Director of Public Prosecutions and all other ancillary aspects of a criminal investigation.

This work is carried out by specialist Investigation Units attached to the NBCI. They are also involved, proactively, in gathering intelligence on known criminal suspects.

ANTI RACKETEERING UNIT AN TAONAD FRITHCHAMBHEARTAÍOCHTA

The role of this Unit is the protection of intellectual property. To ensure a structured and coordinated approach in tackling the problem of counterfeit products, the Unit liaises with investigating Gardaí and assists in all aspects of this particular criminality. Personnel also interact with other agencies involved in the protection of intellectual property.

ARTS AND ANTIQUES UNIT AN TAONAD EALÍON AGUS SEANDACHTAÍ

This Unit liaises with art and antique dealers, museums, galleries and police forces worldwide. Unit staff are available to assist in coordinating enquiries, in conjunction with local investigating Gardai, regarding loss and theft of valuable artifacts. To increase awareness of this type of criminal activity staff attend seminars and give presentations, both within An Garda Síochána and to relevant outside bodies.

STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE INVESTIGATION UNIT AN TAONAD IMSCRÚDAITHE FEITHICLÍ GOIDITHE

The theft of motor vehicles, plant/machinery and related crime is investigated on a national basis by this Unit. The main work of the Unit concentrates on the coordination of information and intelligence gathering, targeting of suspects, allied to constant liaison with the motor trade, car hire companies and car auctions. Every opportunity is taken to publicise in the media information which will assist in preventing motor theft and associated criminal activity.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION UNIT AN TAONAD IMSCRÚDAITHE FORÉIGIN TEAGHLAIGH AGUS IONSAITHE GNÉASACHA

Established in March, 1993, this Unit has a number of objectives including overseeing the investigation of offences of domestic violence, child sexual abuse and other sexual offences. Advice and guidance in these types of investigations is provided to Garda personnel. Cases of a more complex nature are

investigated directly by the Unit. A multidisciplinary approach is actively pursued and ongoing liaison is maintained with numerous external agencies, ensuring that the main objectives, of protecting the welfare of the child/children and the proper investigation of any offence disclosed, are met.

CRIMESTOPPERS OFFICE OIFIG CRIMESTOPPERS

Launched in January, 1998, Crimestoppers is a partnership between the community, media, the business fraternity and An Garda Síochána. It provides a confidential service which allows the public supply information to the Gardai on all types of criminal activity using a freephone telephone number.

All calls received are processed by Garda personnel at the Crimestoppers Unit at NBCI.

Since its establishment, over 12,000 calls have been received at the Crimestoppers Office, resulting in 35 arrests and the seizure/recovery of in excess of IR£50,000 (€63,487) worth of property and drugs.

**CRIMESTOPPERS FREEPHONE
1800 25 00 25**

COMPUTER COMPONENT THEFT UNIT GADAÍOCHT COMHPHÁIRTEANNA RIOMHAIREACHTA

'Operation Oasis' was established in 1997 to provide a focused and effective response to serious incidents relating to computer crime, e.g. robbery, hijacking and larceny of computers and their component parts. The objectives of the operation include the establishment of an intelligence network, identifying the major principals involved in computer related crimes, identifying patterns and trends following the analysis of intelligence and other evidence available and providing assistance in the investigation of large scale computer component crime.

Cooperation with European and other police forces forms an integral part of investigation of these crimes and stolen computer components to the value of IR£12m (€15.2m) have been recovered since the establishment of the Unit.

In November, 1998, An Garda Síochána, in conjunction with the computer industry, hosted an international conference attended by representatives of foreign and domestic computer related businesses, police forces and haulage companies involved in the transportation of computers and their component parts. The event proved very beneficial to all and strengthened the co-operative nature of the relationship between all agencies involved.

POST OFFICE INVESTIGATION UNIT AN TAONAD IMSCRÚDAITHE OIFIG POIST

This unit operates closely with Post Office Investigation Branch in the investigation of crimes perpetrated against An Post and Telecom Eireann.

GARDA NATIONAL DRUGS UNIT AONAD NÁISIÚNTA NA NDRUGAÍ

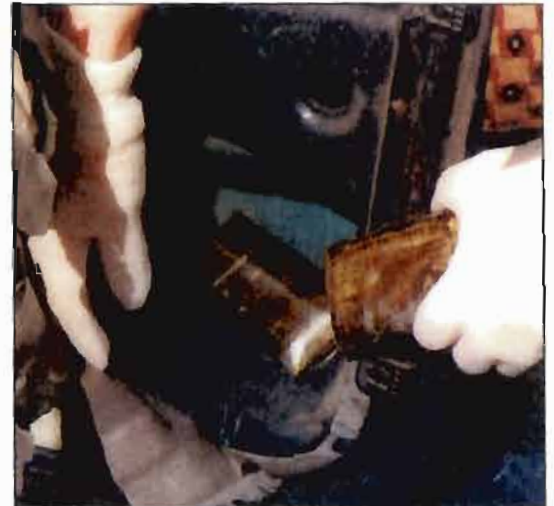
The Garda National Drugs Unit (GNDU) headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent and working from its base at Dublin Castle continued to contribute in the Garda actions against drug abuse and misuse. GNDU forms part of 'C' Branch reporting to the Assistant Commissioner there.

The primary focus of GNDU activities is aimed towards the national and international aspects of drug trafficking. In this regard, GNDU maintains close liaison with police forces from other jurisdictions through the various police networks in existence and through operational exchange programmes.

Garda Drug Liaison Officers based in Madrid, Spain and The Hague, Holland, have proved to be very beneficial in respect of liaising with European law enforcement agencies, undertaking local enquiries promptly, in the dissemination of intelligence and coordinating trans-national operations.

Within this jurisdiction, the GNDU, often in conjunction with other Garda units, undertake 'target specific' operations against the leading 'players' in the illegal drugs world. They also support, through training, joint operations and advice, the Divisional Drug Units operating on a local level throughout the country.

Garda participation on the National Drugs Strategy Team is through a Detective Superintendent from GNDU and An Garda Síochána is represented at a local level by Inspectors on all the Local Drugs Task Forces in operation throughout the country. An Garda Síochána also has a liaison officer with the customs service and a customs liaison officer is based at the GNDU.

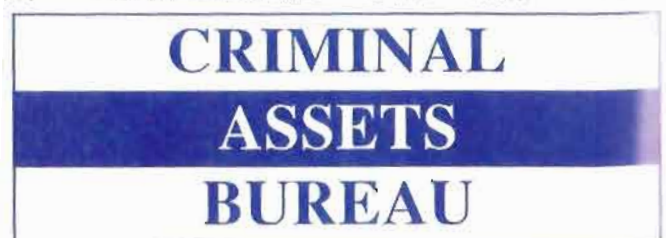


CRIMINAL ASSETS BUREAU AN BIÚRÓ UM SHÓCMHAINNÍ COIRIÚLA

Established in October, 1996, as a Statutory Body as a consequence of the Criminal Assets Bureau Act, 1996, the Bureau is the embodiment of the multi-agency approach. It is staffed by officers from An Garda Síochána, Revenue Commissioners Taxes, Revenue Commissioners Customs and the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs. The Bureau is headed by a Chief Bureau Officer, who is a Detective Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána.

CAB forms part of 'C' Branch in the Garda structure and the Chief Bureau Officer is responsible to the Commissioner for the performance and functions of the Bureau. In accordance with the Criminal Assets Bureau Act, it prepares its own annual report which is laid before the Oireachtas through the Garda Commissioner and the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

The objectives of the Bureau include the identification of assets, wherever situated, of persons who derive or are suspected to derive, directly or indirectly, from criminal activity.



It has primary responsibility in this area and takes appropriate action under the law to deprive or to deny those persons of the assets and the proceeds of their activity. The Bureau combines the functions of the agencies represented in its make up in a multi-agency approach to meeting its objectives, relying primarily on the enforcement of the Proceeds of Crime Act, 1996, the Taxes Acts and relevant social welfare legislation.

Working closely with all State Agencies and in particular other units within An Garda Síochána, the Bureau proactively targets persons involved in serious criminal activity in an effort to identify, seize and confiscate wealth illegally obtained by these persons. Many major operations have been mounted in conjunction with the Garda National Drugs Unit, the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and in particular the Money Laundering Investigation Unit.

The effectiveness of these and other operations, has led to a number of seizures of illegally obtained assets. Indeed, the establishment of the Bureau itself and the continuance of its operations has led to the displacement of major criminal figures, many of whom have left the jurisdiction since coming to the attention of CAB.

Within its sphere of operations, the Bureau has an international dimension and, working in conjunction with other international agencies, has successfully conducted investigations resulting in the confiscation of illegally obtained assets and wealth, held both inside and outside this jurisdiction.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION RANNÓG CHAIDRIMH PHOIBLÍ

The Garda Community Relations Section, headed by a Chief Superintendent, initiates and supports the implementation of various programmes designed to prevent crime and develop mechanisms to improve wider community participation in crime prevention and other related areas – primary objectives of An Garda Síochána. The work of the section is divided into three core units.

Personnel at the National Crime Prevention Office, through analysis of crime trends and examinations of developments in technology, provide advice on how best to prevent criminal attack.

National Crime Prevention Office

- Crime Prevention Surveys.
 - CCTV Systems.
- Garda Intruder Alarm Policy.
- Crime Prevention Design Adviser.
 - Business Watch.
 - Fraud Seminars.
 - Crimeline.
 - Crimestoppers.

Evaluation of crime prevention initiatives in 1998 has shown that partnerships between An Garda Síochána and interested groups have shown very positive results. One successful initiative undertaken was to prevent attacks on video rental outlets. Owners and managers were targeted and strategies devised and put in place, resulting in a 20% decrease in attacks on these types of premises.

The reduction of crime and disorder, thereby creating a safer environment is a core policing function and a natural extension of that is development of close links between An Garda Síochána and local authorities, planners and architects. The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) acknowledges that the built environment can influence criminal behaviour and the most economical and effective way of reducing the likelihood of criminal attack against any building is to plan its security

and that of its immediate environment well before it is built. An Garda Síochána, in 1998, appointed a Crime Prevention Design Advisor, attached to the Garda Community Relations Section, to further enhance this liaison to the benefit of all.

An advisory committee, spearheaded by the Garda Community Relations Section is currently examining all aspects of policy, planning and installation of town centre Closed Circuit Television systems (CCTV). Experiences gained to date, both at home by An Garda Síochána and elsewhere by other police forces, indicates that CCTV systems can play a very important crime prevention and detection role.



NATIONAL JUVENILE OFFICE OIFIG NÁISÚNTA D'ÓGANAÍ

The National Juvenile Office (NJO) has primary responsibility for maintaining the Garda Juvenile Diversion programme – an initiative provided to 'caution' juvenile offenders under the age of 18 years for criminal actions as against criminal prosecution, subject to certain criteria.

Detailed statistical information regarding the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme is outlined later in this report.

In addition to providing many services and facilities regarding juvenile crime, justice and welfare, the NJO also coordinates the various Garda Special Projects. These projects are funded by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, administered by An Garda Síochána and designed to identify young people considered to be 'at risk' and endeavours to divert their energies from anti-social behaviour.

National Juvenile Office

- Juvenile Diversion Programme.
 - Schools Programme.
 - Special Projects.
 - Local Drugs Task Forces.
 - Integrated Services Projects.
- Child Care Advisory Committees.
 - Children/Family Legislation.
 - Age Cards.
 - 'Copping On' project.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE OIFIG CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ

The Community Relations Office works with numerous statutory and community groups with a view to involvement both at local and national level to prevent and reduce crime, primarily through various situational crime prevention strategies.

Developments during 1998, centered on the completion of an Evaluation on Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert Schemes.

Training for civilian participants involved in organising Neighbourhood Watch Schemes at a local level was undertaken for the first time. The relationship with Victim

Community Relations Office

- Community Policing.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Community Alert.
 - Campus Watch.
 - Coastal watch.
 - Hospital Watch.
 - Victim Support.
- Tourist Victim Support.
 - Policing Forum.
 - Focus Groups.
 - Literature.
- Mobile Crime Prevention/Drugs Unit.
- Liaison for ethnic/minority, gay/lesbian groups

Support continued to grow, with a review of the manner in which crime victims are treated and new service procedures were issued in this regard.

As part of the EU Drugs Awareness Week in October, the Community Relations Office, in conjunction with the Garda National Drugs Unit, was central to the organisation of a

conference, which will become an annual event, during the course of which some 50,000 homes in the greater Dublin area received drugs awareness literature and advice.

Update of 'Watch' Programmes			
	31/12/96	31/12/97	31/12/98
Neighbourhood Watch	2192	2332	2617
Community Alert	921	1000	1133
Business Watch	90	104	103
Coastal Watch	10	11	11
Campus Watch	8	9	11
Hospital Watch	0	1	1

TOUR DE FRANCE EN IRLANDE TOUR DE FRANCE IN ÉIRINN

One of the biggest special event policing challenges was presented to An Garda Síochána over the period from the 11th to the 13th July, 1998 with the staging of the Grand Depart of the 1998 Tour de France.

Planning for the event commenced some twelve months earlier, with selected members attending various stages of the 1997 Tour in France. Coordinated through Assistant Commissioner, 'C' Branch, with ultimate responsibility resting with Deputy Commissioner, Operations, a substantial planning process was undertaken to ensure that the policing operation was effected in a professional, efficient and safe manner.

Following the Prologue through Dublin City, the Tour continued through the South Eastern, Eastern and Southern regions on its 390 kilometre journey.



Consisting of 200 cyclists, swelled by team management, technical staff and support personnel, the Tour involved the direct participation of 2,000 people.

In addition, the Société du Tour de France accredits some 3,500 additional officials at race time. With world-wide exposure, the Tour attracts some 1,500 media personnel to satisfy the 900 million television audience.



The Prologue took place on Saturday, 11th July, around Dublin City on a 5.6km circuit, with riders leaving College Green at 1 minute intervals. The policing operation, under the direction of Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Region, necessitated the deployment of 1,000 Garda personnel, augmented by 500 Civil Defence volunteers.

Stage 1 commenced in O'Connell Street, Dublin on Sunday, 12th July, through the south city in a neutralised mode to the start proper in Dundrum. From there cyclists followed a 180km route through Bray, Wicklow and Arklow, before turning back through the Wicklow Gap and on through the west of Dublin City to the finish at the Phoenix Park.

The race passed through the Dublin, South Eastern and Eastern regions on this stage, with the policing operations overseen by the relevant Regional Assistant Commissioners.

In excess of 3,000 Garda personnel drawn from the regions concerned, Garda Headquarters and the Garda College policed this stage of the race, assisted by over 800 Civil Defence volunteers.

Stage 2 on Monday, 13th July, saw the race departing Enniscorthy and continuing through New Ross and Waterford on its 205 km route to Cork City to finish on the Carrigrohane Straight. Passing through two Garda Regions, local resources were augmented by personnel from the Dublin, Eastern and Western Regions and the Garda College.

A highlight of the event for many was the attendance of members of the Gendarmerie Nationale de France to take up their usual positions as race marshals. Each French motorcycle officer was 'paired' with a Garda from the Dublin Region Traffic Division, giving a total of 60+ police motorcyclists escorting the race on its journey.

The Dublin Region Traffic Department was primarily responsible for the mobile policing function for the entire event. In addition to the huge deployment of local resources many national units of An Garda Síochána contributed to the successful mounting of the policing operation including:

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| Air Support Unit. | Operations. |
| Barrack Masters Section. | Personnel Section. |
| Community Relations Section. | Press Office. |
| Dog Unit. | Services. |
| Finance Section. | Special Detective Unit/Emergency Response Unit. |
| International Liaison Office, 'C' Branch. | Telecommunications Section. |
| Mapping Section. | Transport Section. |
| Mounted Unit. | Underwater Unit. |

Due to the extent of the task, excellent ongoing liaison was undertaken with a wide range of external agencies, including the Société du Tour de France; L'Evenement (local organisers); all local authorities; tourist services; utility suppliers; local media; Government Departments; Civil Defence and a host of other agencies.

The cumulative effect of the efforts of all those involved ensured that this enormous, logistically challenging, event passed off without serious incident.

Overall 8,000 Garda personnel were involved in policing Le Tour de France en Irlande at a cost of IR£2m (€2.54m) approximately.

