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TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY & LAW REFORM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Annual Report 1997
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 1997

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FOREWORD

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to present my annual report on An Garda Síochána for 1997, the 75th Anniversary Year of the Force.

During 1997 a total of 90,875 indictable crimes were reported to the Gardai, representing an overall decrease of 7.0% on the previous year.

Crime detected increased to 43% from 41% in 1996, thus continuing the upward trend that began in 1990 when the detection level was 33%.

Excellent support of the community, quality intelligence gathering, and the ongoing development of regional policing, coupled with the successes of a wide range of specific policing operations, contributed significantly to the achievements of the year. Efforts to combat the trade in and use of illegal drugs continued, with local Divisional Drug Units working to curb the activities of pushers in their areas and the Garda National Drug Unit acting alone or in conjunction with other Garda Units or Agencies to reduce the supply of drugs, e.g. with the Criminal Assets Bureau, the National Bureau of Crime Investigation, the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, the Custom and Excise Service, or the Defence Forces.

The year under review saw the establishment of additional specialist units, including the Garda Air Support Unit and the Garda National Traffic Policy Bureau. The former provided excellent support to ground operations and the latter made every effort to reduce deaths on our roads. If success is to be achieved in the reduction of accidents and deaths, the message must be delivered to every road user that the behaviour of each individual can improve safety on the road, with a special responsibility falling on people in authority who encourage or promote fast driving by their employees.

As we move into 1998, I look forward, with your support, to equipping An Garda Síochána with the technology and expertise to ensure further success in the operational field and improving necessary back-up systems and services. We must guard against success leading to complacency and ensure that we build on the helpful practices of the past in setting standards for the future.

I thank the Government, you personally, and the personnel of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, for the excellent support received during the year.

Yours faithfully,

M.P. BYRNE
COMMISSIONER



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An Garda Síochána

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

1922 - 1997



An Garda Síochána celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1997 with organised events held throughout the country. The celebrations recognised the contribution made by our founding members who represented the community and who were drawn from all parts of the country. It was also a time to remember those in the Force who made the ultimate sacrifice, having given their lives in the line of duty.

Commissioner Michael Staines led the first group of Gardaí into Dublin Castle on 17th August 1922. In the mission statement delivered by Michael Staines, he said that "the Garda Síochána will succeed not by force of arms or numbers but on their moral authority as servants of the people". That philosophy still remains today.

To celebrate this historic event, a re-enactment of the march into Dublin Castle took place on 17th August when Commissioner Pat Byrne led a party of Gardaí into the Castle. There to witness the event was retired Garda Tom Boland, registration number 520, (now deceased) who was one of the Gardaí who marched on that historic day on 17th August 1922.



The new Garda Museum was officially opened in the Record Tower of Dublin Castle on that day, by Ms. Mary Wallace, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

There was a festive air in the Castle, with the Band of An Garda Síochána performing an open air concert, a display from the Garda Traffic Unit, Garda Dog Unit, and a drill display from the Garda Students, Garda College, Templemore.

There have been many changes within An Garda Síochána since its foundation 75 years ago, changes in the style and type of policing in Ireland. While maintaining the traditions and original concept of an unarmed police force, the Garda Síochána has continually met the demands of a changing society. The 17th of August 1997 was indeed a day to give thanks and celebrate 75 successful years of An Garda Síochána



POLICE AND SECURITY SERVICE

The primary role of An Garda Síochána is to ensure the security of the State. Unlike most other police forces, An Garda Síochána, in addition to providing the policing service, also provides the security service for the State. Considerable resources are engaged in this aspect of our work, which is carried out primarily through personnel attached to specialist units. Due to the nature of the duties and responsibilities of these units it would not be appropriate to comment further, other than to acknowledge the excellent successes achieved during 1997.

GARDA UNDERWATER UNIT

The Garda Underwater Unit plays an active part in security operations, crime detection and on occasions, search and rescue missions. The Unit, while based at Santry in Dublin, is deployed as a national resource. During the year under review the Unit undertook a total of 83 operations, many of which occurred in bad conditions and often at considerable risk to the members involved, the most notable being an operation at Belderrig, Co. Mayo.

The services of the Garda Underwater Unit were sought at 7.15am on the 26/10/97 in relation to a search and rescue situation at Horse Island, Belderrig. Five Unit members were airlifted from Dublin Airport to the scene by an IMES helicopter, where they undertook a heroic rescue mission in the most severe weather and sea conditions. The operation resulted in the rescue of three persons trapped in a cave and the recovery of two bodies, one of whom was a civilian diver who had attempted to rescue the others. The Unit members were congratulated from many quarters for their efforts and one member was awarded a bronze bravery medal by the RNLI.

DRUG ABUSE

The misuse of drugs has presented probably the greatest challenge to policing in the developed world in modern times. Ireland has not escaped these developments in illegal drug activity, which is now truly a 'global phenomenon'.

An Garda Síochána continues to commit significant resources, both directly and indirectly, to curbing the drug problem in this country and two initiatives are worthy of particular mention.

GARDA NATIONAL DRUGS UNIT (G.N.D.U.)

While established in 1996, the year under review saw an increase in resources allocated to the G.N.D.U. and its occupation of new offices at Dublin Castle. The G.N.D.U. operates under the control of a Detective Chief Superintendent and forms part of the 'C' Branch.

Local divisional drug units operate in many divisions throughout the country with their primary focus being local dealers and users. G.N.D.U. personnel provide assistance and expertise to these local units in operational, intelligence and training matters.

G.N.D.U., in conjunction with other Garda units, primarily the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, continue to undertake 'target specific' operations against the larger illegal drug importation and distribution operations. Operations involving personnel from the Criminal Assets Bureau have also been undertaken.

Relatively small amounts of illegal drugs are manufactured in this country, with the vast majority of all illegal drugs being sourced abroad and imported to this jurisdiction for distribution through the various criminal networks which exist.

The international dimension of the drugs market requires An Garda Síochána, primarily through the G.N.D.U., to maintain ongoing liaison with many other police forces and other services, which results in increased dissemination of intelligence and closer operational co-operation.



During 1997, An Garda Síochána assigned Garda Drugs Liaison Officers to Madrid and The Hague, to liaise with law enforcement agencies in the respective countries and co-ordinate joint operations, intelligence gathering and assessment.

G.N.D.U. have also undertaken two joint initiatives, funded by the European Union. The first relates to analysing the possible threat from the movement and usage of cocaine, crack cocaine and meth-amphetamines in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland and operates in conjunction with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Strathclyde Police and Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary. The second initiative is an officer exchange programme with the North West Regional Crime Squad in the United Kingdom in respect of drug activity between Liverpool and Dublin. These programmes enhance the levels of intelligence sharing and provide an exchange of operational strategies.

NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY TEAM / LOCAL DRUGS TASK FORCES

The Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs, in 1997 established the National Drugs Strategy Team, on which relevant Government Departments and the Voluntary Sector are represented. An Garda Síochána is represented by a Detective Superintendent from the Garda National Drugs Unit.

The National Drugs Strategy Team oversee the workings of eleven Local Drugs Task Forces, the latter being charged with delivering the services required in each of the identified localities. The Local Drugs Task Forces consist of representatives from the Health Boards, Probation & Welfare Service, Local Authorities, Local Youth Service, Voluntary Drugs Agencies and Community Representatives. An Garda Síochána is represented on each Task Force by a nominated Garda Inspector.

The Local Task Forces are responsible, within the National Framework, for compiling a profile of existing and planned services in the locality; developing a local development strategy and overseeing the implementation of the strategy. An Garda Síochána is committed, both at National and Local level, to fulfilling their role in this initiative which is aimed primarily at demand reduction.

OPERATION DÓCHAS.

Operation Dóchas commenced in the Dublin Region in October, 1996 and continued through 1997. The primary objective of the operation is to make substantial inroads into the 'drug problem' in the City through the identification of the critical areas requiring action and the deployment of Gardaí solely to the operation in those communities.

The initiative operates through an overt Garda presence in these communities and through intelligence driven covert operations against those persons engaging in illegal drug activity.

OPERATION DÓCHAS SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

(7/10/96 to 31/12/97)

Premises Searches	4,123
'On street' searches	69,498
Drug Searches	22,396
Vehicle checkpoints	17,744
Arrests	17,021
Persons charged	7,887
Summonses applied for	15,188
Approx. street value of seizures	£4,753,541

An underlying principle of Operation Dóchas is to attract the support and assistance of members of the community and engage their participation as a positive contribution to reducing drug activity in their communities.

Operation Dóchas continues to operate and has contributed to the 14% reduction in reported crime in the Dublin region.

GARDA AIR SUPPORT UNIT

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

The Garda Air Support Unit (GASU) became operational on the 1st September, 1997. The Unit is headed by a Superintendent, with a personnel complement of sixteen trained Garda Observers and nine pilots, seconded from the Irish Air Corps. In keeping with its mission statement, the unit provides air support for the Force nation-wide over the twenty four hour period.

The Garda Air Support Unit is deployed to those tasks where it is considered air support is required and can be provided. Without the existence of the Unit, with their prompt response and high level of expertise, the number of arrests made at crime scenes would be considerably reduced.

The GASU Helicopter is a Squirrel (Ecoreuil) AS 355N twin engine craft, with a maximum speed of 130 kts. (150 mph) and a flying endurance of approximately 3 hours. In addition to standard instrumentation, the 'police fit' includes a Global Positioning System (GPS); full Garda Communications system enabling contact with all ground units; a 'Night Sun' searchlight; spherical pod containing a video camera and a thermal imaging (infra red) camera, with full recording facilities.



The helicopter is crewed by a pilot and two Garda observers and has a response time of 3 minutes from receipt of call to becoming airborne. In its four months of operations, the helicopter has flown 513 flights, accumulating some 377 flying hours.



The GASU plane is a BN2TS Defender 4000, with a maximum speed of 170 kts. (190 mph), a loiter speed of 80-90 kts. and a maximum endurance of 6-7 hours. Similar equipment as that fitted to the helicopter is fitted to the plane.

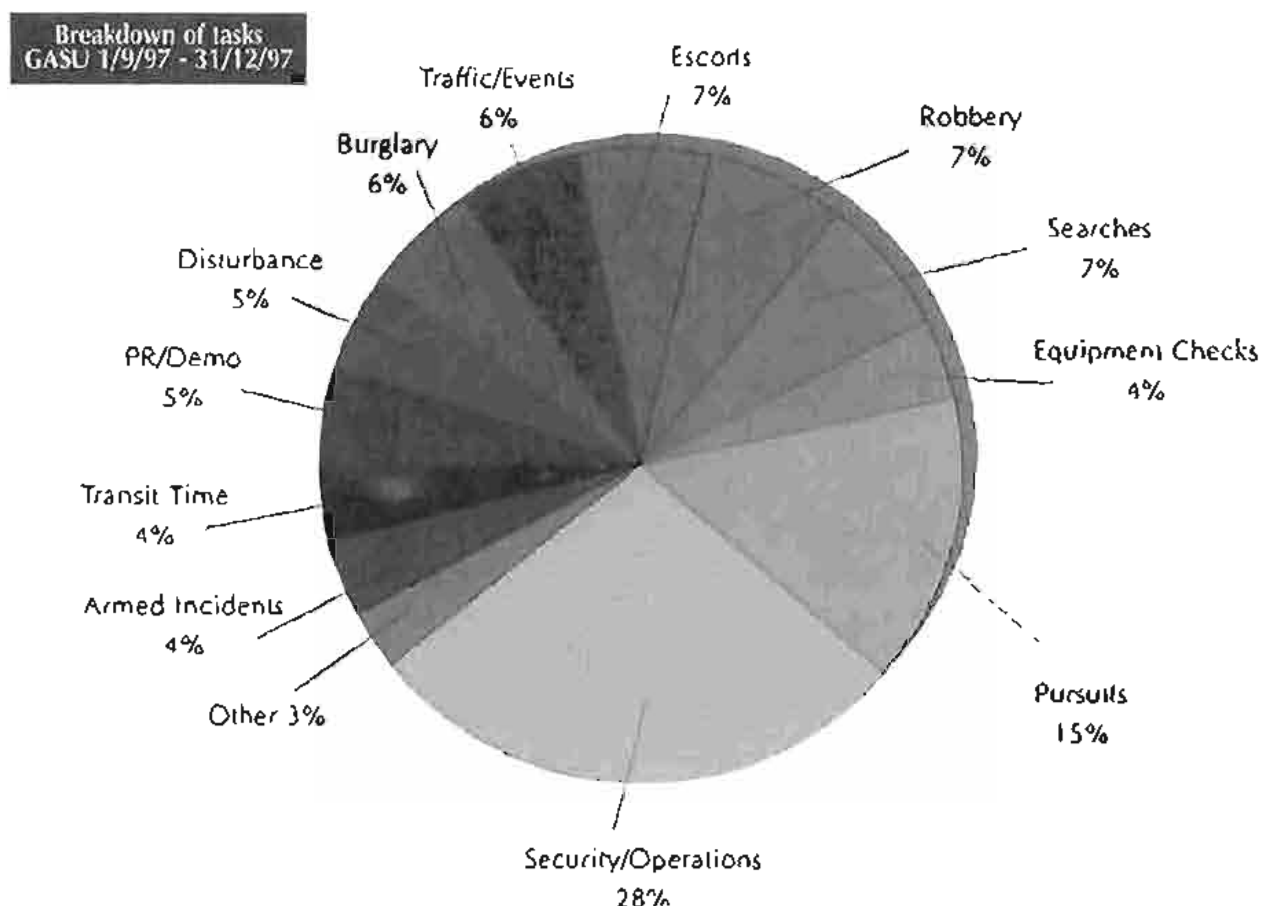
The plane's slow flying ability, coupled with its high wing structure, lengthy mission endurance and low stall speed, makes it particularly suited to police related operations.

The plane is crewed by one pilot and two Garda observers and has a response time of six minutes. The plane was used on 210 occasions and has accumulated some 323 flying hours.

While the number of tasks flown by the fixed wing is considerably less than the helicopter, the duration of tasks would normally be longer.

In its first three months of operations, GASU has made an effective contribution to policing with 66 arrests, directly or indirectly, the recovery of 46 vehicles and the location of four missing persons.

All Garda observers must achieve and maintain high levels of technical knowledge, physical fitness and keep fully abreast of all aspects of police aviation. GASU members are subject to ongoing, regular line checks to ensure that their knowledge, safety standards and suitability remains at the high standards required. The Unit has engaged in training and operational missions, with other specialised sections of An Garda Síochána including the Garda Dog Unit, Garda Underwater Unit and the Emergency Response Unit.



GARDA COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

The primary role of the Garda Community Relations Section is to initiate and support the implementation of various programmes designed to prevent crime and improve co-operation between the community and An Garda Síochána.

The Section is headed by a Chief Superintendent and forms part of the Crime & Security Branch. It is divided into three core units each with responsibility for specific functions: - Community Relations; National Crime Prevention Office and the National Juvenile Office.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations arm of the Section has primary responsibility for the various Watch schemes and acts in a supporting role both for Gardai in establishing and liaising with schemes and for the community members involved in operating the programmes.

It also co-ordinates the Garda role in assisting local communities in providing security for older members of society and supports the community policing initiatives by responding to a wide range of issues at local level.

The section liaises with local radio in crime prevention strategies and produces ten Crimeline programmes each season.



Update of 'Watch' Programmes

	31/12/96	31/12/97
Neighbourhood Watch	2192	2332
Community Alert	921	1000
Business Watch	90	104
Coastal Watch	10	11
Campus Watch	8	9
Hospital Watch	-	1

NATIONAL JUVENILE OFFICE

The Garda National Juvenile Office has responsibility for the management of the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme, the Garda Schools Programme and Garda Special Projects. It maintains liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies regarding juvenile justice, crime and welfare related matters.

The Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme provides a cautioning system, subject to certain criteria, for young people who become involved in crime. Some 15,075 referrals were made to the programme during 1997. A detailed range of statistics are provided later in this report.

The Garda Schools programme, initiated in 1991, continued throughout 1997. The Programme is delivered to 5th class Primary School students through a series of five visits to the school covering issues relating to the role of the Gardaí, vandalism and crime, personal safety, road safety and cycle safety. Presentations relating to bullying and the dangers and legal consequences of the misuse of drugs have recently been added to the programme.

The year also saw the production and launch of a new bilingual workbook and manual and an Irish language video 'Fainic', which are used to support the Garda Schools programme.

Garda Special Projects, funded by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and administered by the Gardaí, are designed to identify young persons considered to be 'at risk' and endeavours to divert their energies from anti-social activities. During the year an additional two projects were established bringing the total to 12.

The National Juvenile Office also provided assistance for many locally based initiatives aimed at young people, including the launch of 'Copping On', a manual for use under the Youthreach programmes; the Garda West Cork Youth Achievement Awards and the development of a 'life skills' orienteering project for schools with an emphasis on drug use prevention. The latter programme received awards under both the Guinness Dublin Living Awards and the AIB Ireland Awards schemes.



NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

The National Crime Prevention Office provides development and support for all Garda Crime Prevention Officers. There is a Crime Prevention Officer in each Garda division.

The unit uses many methods to give crime prevention advice both to the public generally and to specific interest groups. It produces crime prevention leaflets covering a wide range of issues and utilises the media extensively - national and local print media, national and local radio and television, including appearances on Crimeline. The National Crime Prevention Office conducts seminars for Gardai and public groups on all matters relating to personal and business security, in addition to conducting security surveys, of which ninety six were undertaken in 1997.



The unit engages in research on matters relating to crime prevention including retail security, crime pattern analysis and crime re-victimisation. It is currently involved in a major review of the Garda Intruder Alarm Policy, in conjunction with the National Standards Authority of Ireland and the Monitoring Stations Forum.

PURCHASING POLICY AND STOCK CONTROL

The purchasing needs for An Garda Síochána total £36m p.a. and are met by the Barrack Master at Garda Headquarters.

For some time we have been concerned with our stock control methods and an AS400 computer package and an Assets Register were introduced to enhance accountability. We must go much further. A study group was set up to evaluate problems in controlling stock, including transport stores, and to make recommendations. This group identified a number of issues relating to purchasing and inventory management. As a result of their findings An Garda Síochána will be implementing the recommended changes. This will streamline more efficiently our Stock Control System.

Principal changes will be:

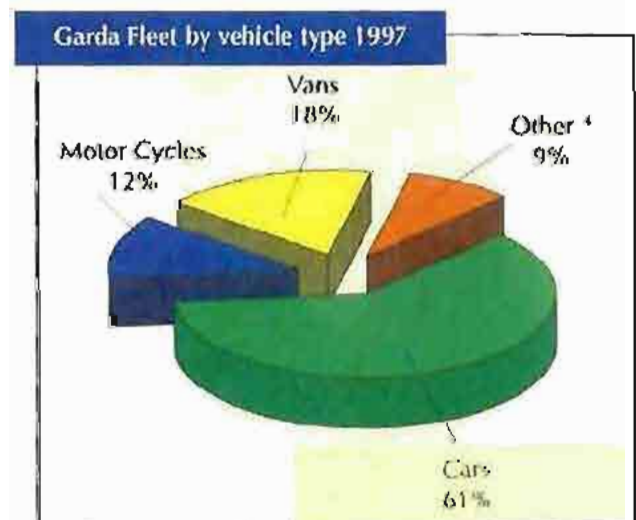
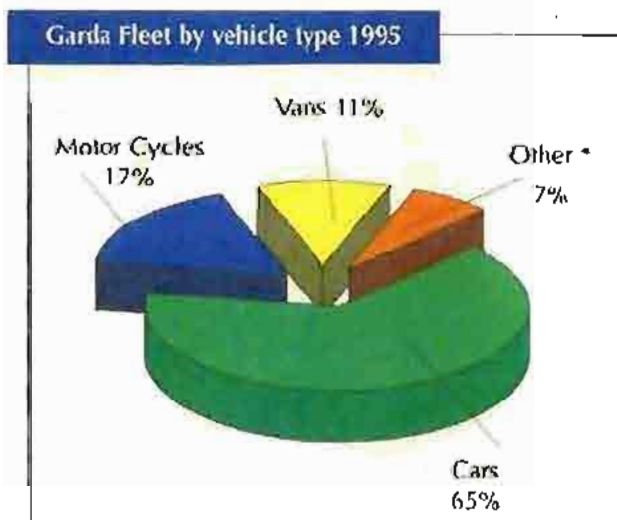
- centralising the stores and purchasing functions
- enhancing the computer system in conjunction with PULSE
- conducting a more comprehensive annual stocktaking
- introducing a new policy on updating stock valuations
- creating procedures for identifying obsolete stock
- introducing unit codes for all stock items.



A recent evaluation identified the most cost-effective vehicles to add to our fleet and the fleet mix has been changed in response to recommendations. Purchases of the three most cost-effective models have increased and the number of motor-cycles in the fleet has been reduced to the level recommended.

It is Garda policy to change vehicles at 100,000 miles. This is not possible at present because of financial restrictions and a short-term aim of fleet management will be to achieve this target. Garda experience shows that there are substantial extra maintenance costs associated with vehicles over 100,000 miles.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, during the year under review, provided extra funding to add a fleet of 4 wheel-drive vehicles to support Operation Lifesaver and to meet other operational needs.



* Includes lorries, minibuses and four-wheel drive vehicles etc.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION

A significant aspect of the work of the Telecommunications Section is in the provision of technical support for the operational side of policing, particularly in the area of crime prevention, investigation and detection. The increased use of advanced technology results in a more efficient service delivery to the public and utilising technology in this way also presents significant savings in traditional areas of expenditure.

The planning side of telecommunications deals with new systems and procedures which are medium to long term projects. A number of projects were advanced during 1997 which will impact directly on the service provided when fully completed, including:

- the commencement of the installation of a telephone network integrating all Garda Station in the Dublin Region, which will provide, among other benefits, a centralised call answering service in the region,
- installation has commenced on a Virtual Private Network (VPN), using an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) facility integrating all Garda Station in the country through a new Telecom Eireann provided service;
- the installation of an extensive Closed Circuit Television system (CCTV) in the greater O'Connell Street area was completed during the year and installation commenced on a CCTV system for Tralee;
- commenced the 'roll out' of projects relating to the national data network, in conjunction with the PULSE project;
- a conceptual design and proposal for a new Garda Radio Network was completed during the year and
- an agreement was concluded with Esat Digifone on the sharing of masts. This allows Esat to construct new masts at 418 Garda Stations and install their antennae on these. These masts are then handed over to the Gardaí and are required for the proposed new Garda radio system. The agreement also includes the supply to the Gardaí of cellular services for voice and data, the use of Esat's hilltop sites for Garda transmitters and the use of capacity on Esat's backbone network. Esat also pay site rental to the exchequer.

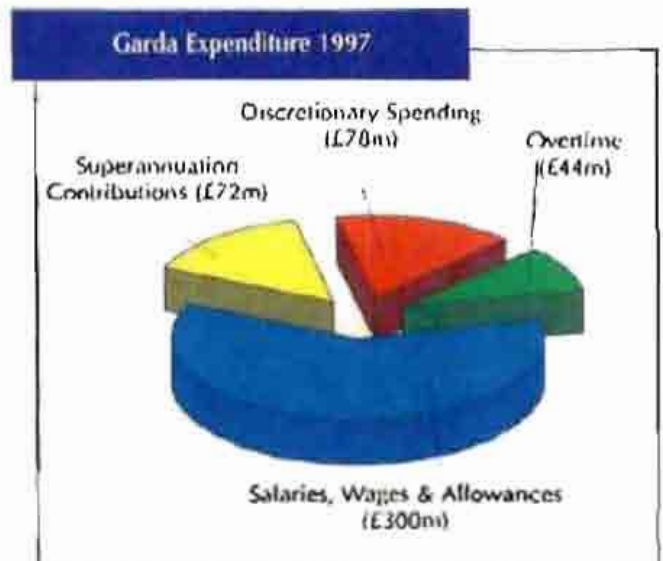


GARDA BUDGET

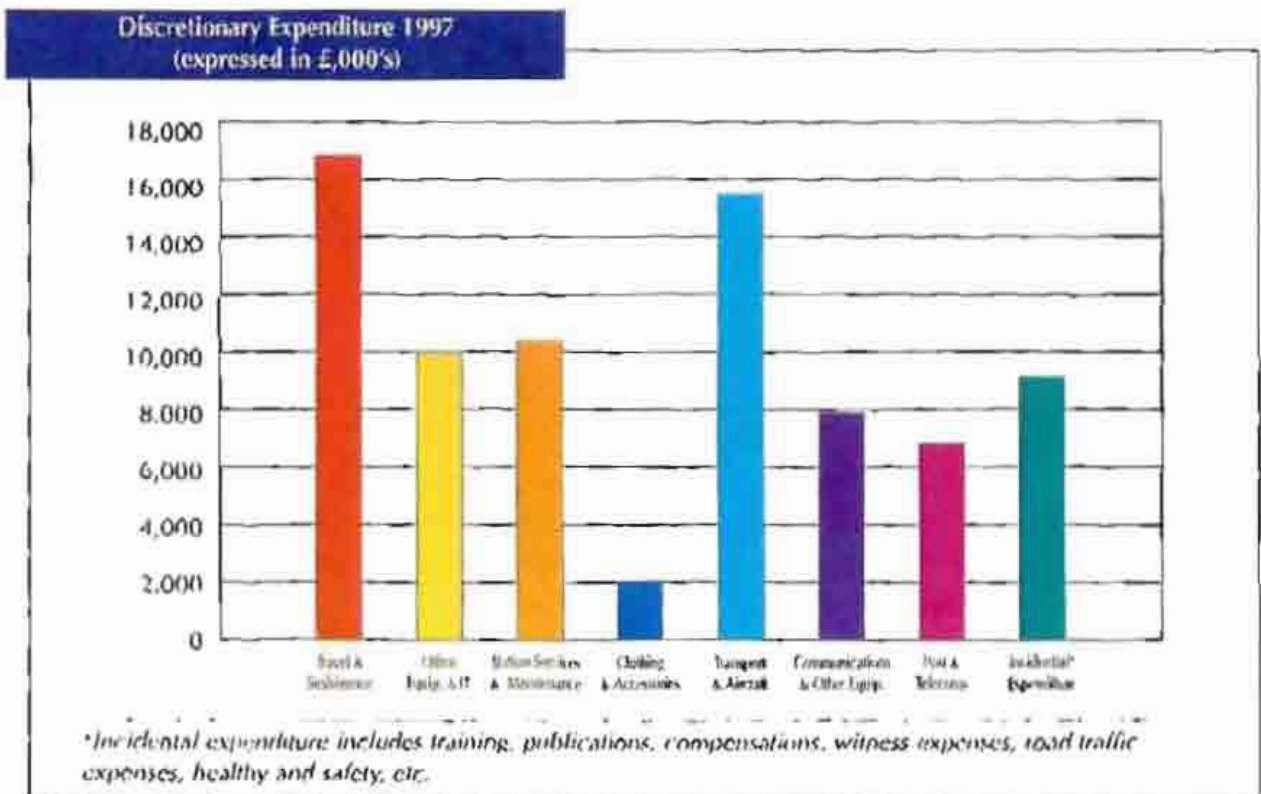
For the year 1997, the financial allocation to An Garda Síochána was £472m. Actual gross expenditure of £494m was incurred, when adjusted for Appropriations in Aid (£15m), resulted in net expenditure of £479m.

Salaries, wages, allowances, overtime and superannuation contributions accounted for almost 84% of total expenditure, with discretionary spending accounting for the remaining 16%.

In 1997, expenditure incurred under the BSE programme accounted for £9.2m.



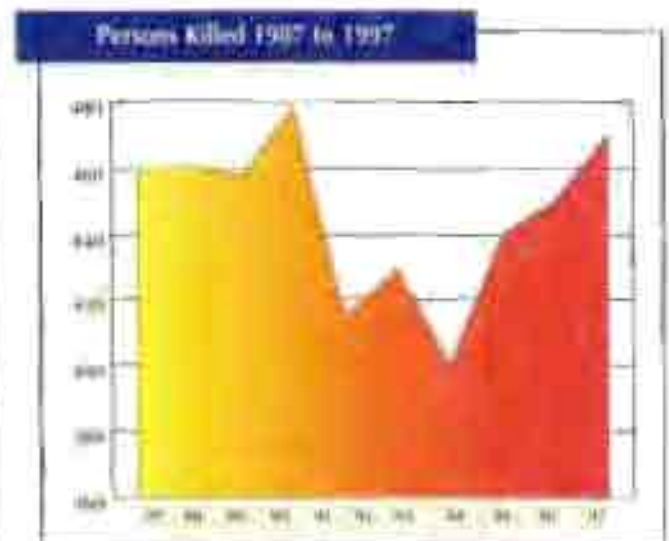
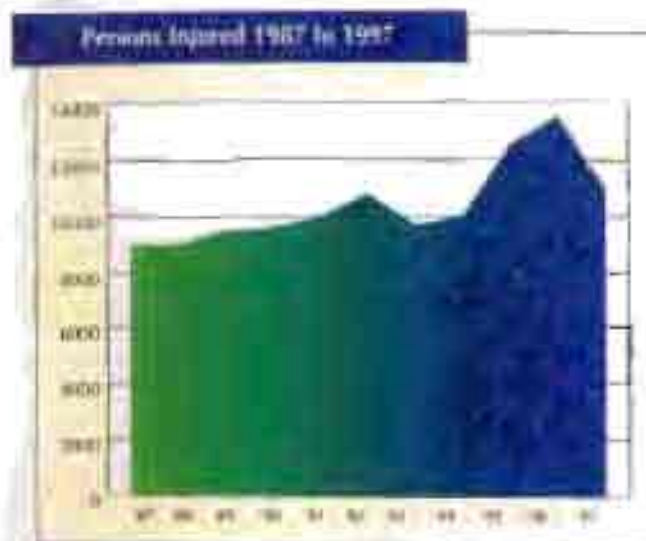
Discretionary expenditure (£78m) was incurred under the following general headings.



The financial arrangements and procedures within 'A' Branch are constantly being reviewed, updated and adjusted to ensure that the best practices are adopted. During 1997, new systems were introduced to enhance the accountability and financial control and as needs are identified, further systems will continue to be introduced.

GARDA NATIONAL TRAFFIC POLICY BUREAU

The contribution of An Garda Síochána to road safety, particularly its enforcement response, was subject to internal evaluation early in 1997, against a backdrop of increasing road fatalities. Following the evaluation, the Garda National Traffic Policy Bureau (GNTPB), headed by a Chief Superintendent, was established on the 4th July, 1997 to give priority to the issue of road safety. The primary focus of the Bureau is policy development, with particular emphasis on formulating proactive enforcement strategies aimed at reducing road deaths and road accidents.



During 1997, there were 472 persons killed and 11,000 persons injured on Irish roads. While the number of persons injured shows a decrease on the previous two years, the number of fatalities has increased considerably since 1994, when the total stood at 404.

While An Garda Síochána is not the only agency with responsibility for road safety matters, it is the primary enforcement agency and in that regard the policy development of the GNTPB will enhance the operational implementation of strategies in a co-ordinated and focused way.

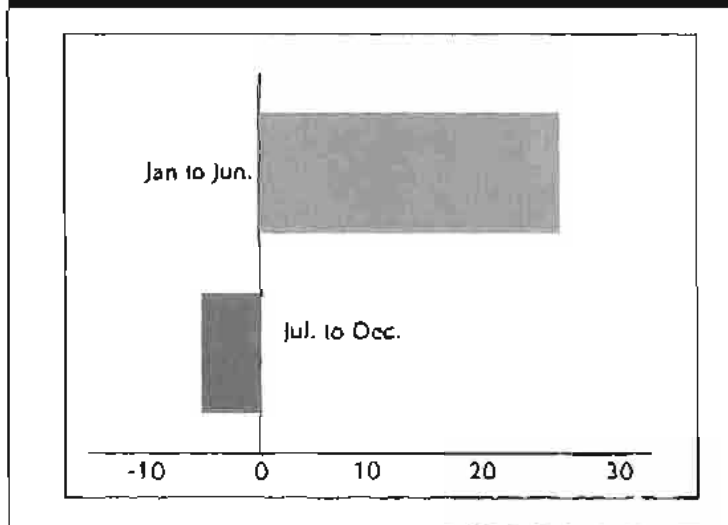


OPERATION LIFESAVER

Operation Lifesaver commenced, initially, in the Louth/Meath Division on the 14th July, 1997 and extended nation-wide on a phased basis during August. Lifesaver was designed to increase the enforcement capacity of An Garda Síochána in the detection of four key offences which impact directly on road fatalities, namely: excessive speed, wearing of seat belts, dangerous driving and drink driving.

Lifesaver primarily involved significant increases in high visibility patrols, vehicular checkpoints and increased use of speed detection equipment. The increased enforcement activity has resulted in a significant number of prosecutions against drivers found committing offences relating to speeding, seat belts, drink driving and other road traffic offences.

Road Fatalities 1997 - six month comparison with 1996



Some significant factors in road fatalities during the year were the deaths of some 130 pedestrians; 118 deaths in single vehicle accidents and 80 deaths in 33 multiple vehicle accidents.

Twenty one more persons died on Irish roads in 1997 compared with 1996.

However, since the commencement of Operation Lifesaver, the number of fatalities actually decreased when compared with the corresponding period in 1996.

Increased use of technology, improvements to infrastructure and proactive enforcement strategies can all contribute to reducing accidents and fatalities. However, long term sustained reductions can only be achieved by a change in the mindset of many drivers and other road users to one of compliance with the law, a fundamental change in driving habits; considerable improvement in driving competency and greater observance of the rules of the road by all road users.

The issue of deployment of further resources in terms of personnel, transport and equipment to traffic policing by An Garda Síochána is very much to the fore in the strategic analysis of providing a policing service to the community.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Police Using Leading Systems Effectively (PULSE) is the Garda Information Technology Project which commenced in 1996. The system is being designed to improve the way information is gathered, collated and disseminated in An Garda Síochána.

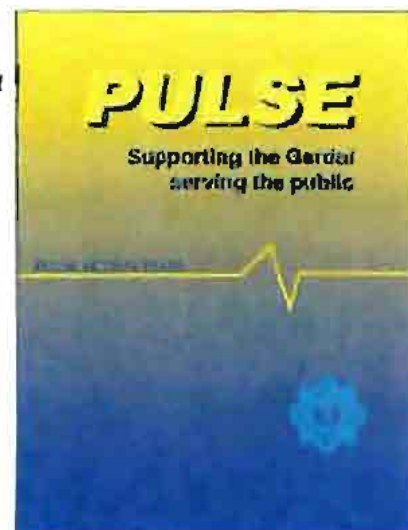
The state of the art computer network will involve all Garda stations in the Dublin Region and divisional and district headquarters stations outside the Dublin Region being linked through wide area and local area networks. Accurate and up-to-date information will be available at the touch of a button, reducing time spent on paperwork, facilitating fast and detailed enquiries. The system will provide more and better quality information on crime, criminals and streamline policing operations generally.



The Project is managed by the Garda Information Technology Section, with the Project Team consisting of Gardaí; Garda civilian personnel and Anderson Consulting, numbering over 100 personnel. The Project has attracted international interest both from police services and the IT sector, based on the innovative approach to the design and build process and the promise of significant increases in efficiency for the police service here.

To ensure that PULSE continues to be aligned to the changing environment in which An Garda Síochána operates, a change control mechanism is in place so that changes in legislation, structures or processes are reflected in PULSE systems.

The Design Phase of PULSE is now completed and work has begun on building the applications, with the first PULSE systems due for 'piloting' in late 1998.



PERSONNEL ISSUES

Assistant Commissioner, 'B' Branch, based at Garda Headquarters is responsible for personnel issues relating to Gardaí and civilian staff. This Branch also encompasses Training & Research; Health & Safety and Overseas Service among others.

Personnel Strength of An Garda Síochána	
Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	2
Assistant Commissioner	9
Chief Superintendent	44
Superintendent	163
Inspector	263
Sergeants	1,844
Gardaí	8,642
TOTAL	10,968

The personnel strength of An Garda Síochána at the end of 1997 was 10,968, all ranks, an increase of 150 (1.4%) over the strength as at 31/12/96. The breakdown by rank is as shown in the table on the left.

RECRUITMENT

During 1997, a total of 616 Garda Trainees were admitted to the Garda College under the 1994 Garda Trainee Competition which concluded in October, 1997. These intakes included the remaining 250 places as announced by the Government in the Crime Package during 1996. The 1997 Garda Trainee Competition was launched in June.

A review of recruitment methods was undertaken jointly by Saville & Holdsworth (IRL.) Ltd., The Civil Service Commission and An Garda Síochána during the year.

RETIREMENTS

A total of 349 members left An Garda Síochána during the year for the following reasons:

Retired	297	Dismissed	2	Discharged on Probation	2
Resigned	32	Incapacitated	16	Death (Serving Members)	6

A total of 56 former members of An Garda Síochána died during the year.

TRANSFERS

There were 1,804 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.

CIVILIANISATION

At 31st December, 1997 there were 1,747 civilians employed in full and part time capacities providing necessary support services for An Garda Síochána.

There are 776 civilian clerical/administrative personnel, an increase of 40 since 31/12/96. The increase is attributable to the impact of the Crime Package, announced in June 1996, which provided for the appointment of 200 additional civilian staff, releasing an equivalent number of Gardaí to operational duties. One hundred and thirty of these posts are clerical/administrative. At year's end, 102 of these posts were filled and the remaining posts will be filled during 1998.

In addition to civilian clerical/administrative staff, there are a number of civilian personnel employed by An Garda Síochána as follows:

- (a) 37 in specialist area, such as information technology, accountancy, research, nursing, teaching, etc.
- (b) 152 full-time general operatives, services attendants, storemen and cleaners.
- (c) 632 part-time cleaners and services attendants.
- (d) 150 Traffic Wardens.

PROMOTION

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

Promotion to the rank of:	Applicants	Successful
Chief Superintendent	64	9
Superintendent	138	24
Inspector	474	37
Sergeant	1,010	140

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 serving overseas on United Nation missions in Cyprus and the former Yugoslavia.

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

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The year saw continued advancements in Safety, Health and Welfare issues, particularly in relation to training, issue of equipment and dissemination of information.

Personnel from An Garda Síochána took part in safety courses organised by the Defence Forces in April and October.

Some Garda personnel completed the first year of a Diploma Course in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (UCD) and others commenced this course in September.

Seminars were organised for Divisional Welfare Committees and the first in a series of refresher seminars for Peer Supporters was held in December.

An Garda Síochána took an active part in the 2nd European Health and Safety week in October. Literature on smoking, cancer and other health matters was distributed to employees during the year. The first Annual Safety Representative of the Year Award within An Garda Síochána took place during the year.



A total of 223 reportable accidents were reported to the Health and Safety Authority, with assaults on Gardai accounting for the vast majority.

The quality of equipment issued to personnel continued to improve during the year, including the issue of high quality pouches for carrying vent-aids, disposable gloves and antiseptic wipes. New improved weatherproof clothing and footwear was provided for use by Garda personnel assigned to certain duties.

DISCIPLINE

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 1997, a total of 202 new cases were reported to the Discipline Section. Eighty one were dealt with formally through 19 Sworn Inquiries; one Unsworn Inquiry; 58 were dealt with under Regulation 13 procedures and three Discharges. The remainder were dealt with informally or were cases where no formal disciplinary action was required.

There were 20 criminal cases involving members of An Garda Síochána disposed of in the Courts during 1997, including two cases involving former members.

Nine cases resulted in convictions, with acquittals recorded in eleven. Convictions were recorded in respect of four road traffic offences, including one drink driving offence; two sexual offences; one assault; one larceny and one offence against public order.

One member of An Garda Síochána was dismissed during the year and another resigned involuntarily. Two members were required to resign as an alternative to dismissal.

Sworn Inquiries

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. A Sworn Inquiry Board consists of three Garda officers and information 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	13
Found not in breach	4
Discontinued	2
Total reduction in pay	£3,895
Total	19

Unsworn Inquiries

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. One Unsworn Inquiry was held in 1997 and a temporary reduction in pay of £425 was applied as a penalty.

Regulation 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	16
Member cautioned, etc.	12
Total reductions in pay	£6,285
Total	58

Appeals	
No. of Appeals where penalty mitigated	5
No. of Appeals affirmed	3
No. of Appeals allowed	0

Suspensions	
No. of members suspended during year	11
No. of members on suspension at years end.	16

Complaints

Complaints by the public 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.

Civil Proceedings

In 1997, there was a total of 75 cases where legal proceedings were proposed 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 of An Garda Síochána.

Seventy five new cases were initiated in 1997. Twenty four cases were finally disposed of, all but one of which had been initiated in previous years.

Civil Proceedings.	No.
No. of new cases initiated	75
No. of awards in Court	2
No. dismissed by Court	8
No. settled out of Court	14
Amount awarded or known to be paid in settlements	£141,049

OVERSEAS SERVICE

Members of An Garda Síochána were deployed on three United Nations Peacekeeping Missions during 1997, where they continue to be recognised for the professional and dedicated manner in which they carry out their duties. An Garda Síochána is fully committed to the establishment of peace and democracy in the countries to which personnel are deployed. Apart from the three UN Missions, there is a Garda Superintendent on secondment to United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In addition to the Drug Liaison Officers at The Hague and Madrid, there are two Detective Inspectors allocated to Europol, The Hague.

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 resolution 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 at Dublin, Cork, Meath, Sligo, Kildare, Kerry, Kilkenny and from Garda Headquarters.

The largest Irish contingent, comprising eight Garda members, is located at Pyla, with three members each at Athienou and Famagusta and one member in Nicosia.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - UNIPTF

There are 35 members of An Garda Síochána deployed on this mission. The mission mandate includes the monitoring and training of local police, advising Government authorities regarding law enforcement issues and providing assistance to UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and other humanitarian agencies.

Gardaí on this mission are drawn from stations in Dublin, Galway, Donegal, Westmeath, Roscommon, Longford, Louth, Wexford, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Garda Headquarters and the Garda College. Gardaí operate facilities at ten sites in Bosnia & Herzegovina, with the largest contingents at Sarajevo, nine members and Bihac, six members. Gardaí are also allocated to Mostar, four members; Duboj, four members; Banja Luka, three members; Tuzla, three members; Gradisca, two members; Pale, two members and one member each at Gracanica and Visegrad.

EASTERN SLAVONIA - UNTAES

There are 10 members of An Garda Síochána deployed on this mission and their mandate includes the monitoring and training of the local police force and law enforcement personnel, ensuring that the proper conditions prevail regarding 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 humanitarian agencies.

Gardaí on this mission are drawn from stations in Dublin, Tipperary, Cork, Wexford, Donegal, Limerick and Clare. They operate UN facilities at Vukovar, five members; Beli Manastir, two members and one member each at Markusica, Erdut and Vinkovci.

The UNTAES mandate will end on the 15th January, 1998 and will be replaced by a new mission called UNCPSPG (United Nations Civilian Police Support Group). The new mandate will include the provision of guidance and support to the local police while monitoring their performance as necessary to ensure public safety and to guarantee universal human rights and gain the confidence of the local population. Ten members of An Garda Síochána will continue to serve in this mission until the end of the mandate on 15th October, 1998.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (NOW)

The NOW (New Opportunities for Women) initiative is funded by the European Commission in partnership with each member state and aims to promote equal opportunities for women in vocational training and employment.

An Garda Síochána implemented a NOW project called "The Development of Training in Equal Opportunities within An Garda Síochána" in 1996 which concluded in 1997. Training programmes were developed for three target groups - managers, trainers and women - and these were implemented over the project period, through a series of one and two day seminars. The project raised awareness of all members of An Garda Síochána in relation to equality matters.

A second NOW project for An Garda Síochána has been approved and will be implemented over the period 1998 - 1999. This project will develop the progress made under the initial programme and enhance the existing good practices relating to equal opportunities.

DEVELOPMENT IN GARDA EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- A total of 616 Garda personnel underwent Trainers courses under the Trainee/Probationer Education Programme. They will be deployed both at the Garda College and at designated training stations to provide guidance, assistance and training for Student and Probationer Gardai.
- The present Trainee/Probationer Education Training and Development Course was introduced on foot of the Garda Training Committee Report on Probationer Training of 1985. A comprehensive evaluation and review of the course commenced during 1997.
- Special driving courses in four wheel drive vehicles were conducted at the Garda College during the year for personnel in divisions to which 'High Visibility' 4x4 vehicles have been allocated.
- The McCabe Fellowship was established in 1996 to commemorate the career and memory of Detective Garda Jerry McCabe and to serve as a continuing inspiration for improvements in policing, crime prevention and peace keeping. The Fellowship Programme provides 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).

Within the Fellowship Programme during 1997, two Sergeants commenced a nine month exchange to John Jay College where they will complete Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Degrees; one Detective Sergeant undertook a two week exchange with the NYPD Domestic Violence Unit and one Detective Inspector undertook a two week placement with the NYPD Drugs Unit.

Two officers from the NYPD completed a two week exchange at Garda Headquarters where they examined developments regarding crime pattern analysis, evaluations at the Technical Bureau and the PULSE project. Two students from John Jay College also completed two week exchanges, one relating to physical education and the other relating to substance abuse and prevention programmes. Further exchanges between the agencies involved will continue in the future.

The Gardá Síochána College was active in contributing to initiatives at E.U. and international level during the year, including:

- A training exchange programme was undertaken, with EU funding, for operational managers involved in combating international drug trafficking. Participants were drawn from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Ireland.
- A training exchange programme for urban drugs units has also been developed and will be implemented during 1998. Participating countries will include the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Ireland.
- A senior Gardá Officer carried out an examination of police training in the Mauritius Police Force and made recommendations for it's future development. The project was funded by the E.U. in conjunction with the Mauritian Police Commissioner.
- A special VIP Protection Course of 3 weeks duration was held at the College for Bosnian Police in advance of the Pope's visit to Bosnia.
- The launch of the International Police Association / Gardá College Language Scholarship. The scholarship is aimed at increasing foreign language skills within An Gardá Síochána.
- Fifteen Hungarian police officers attended a course at the Gardá College which was specifically designed to address police training in the area of human rights.

DEATHS IN GARDÁ CUSTODY

On the 16th January, 1997 at 7.55 a.m., a person in custody at Middleton Gardá Station, Cork, was taken by ambulance to hospital, on direction of a medical doctor. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at 9.30a.m. An Inquest was held and a verdict of accidental death arising from the ingestion of a controlled drug recorded.

On the 18th December, 1997, at 9.21p.m., a person in custody at Pearse Street Gardá Station, Dublin, collapsed and was taken to hospital by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at 9.55p.m. at the hospital. An Inquest has not yet been held.

REGIONALISATION

A regional structure was introduced to An Garda Síochána in January, 1996, comprising of six Garda regions each headed by an Assistant Commissioner.

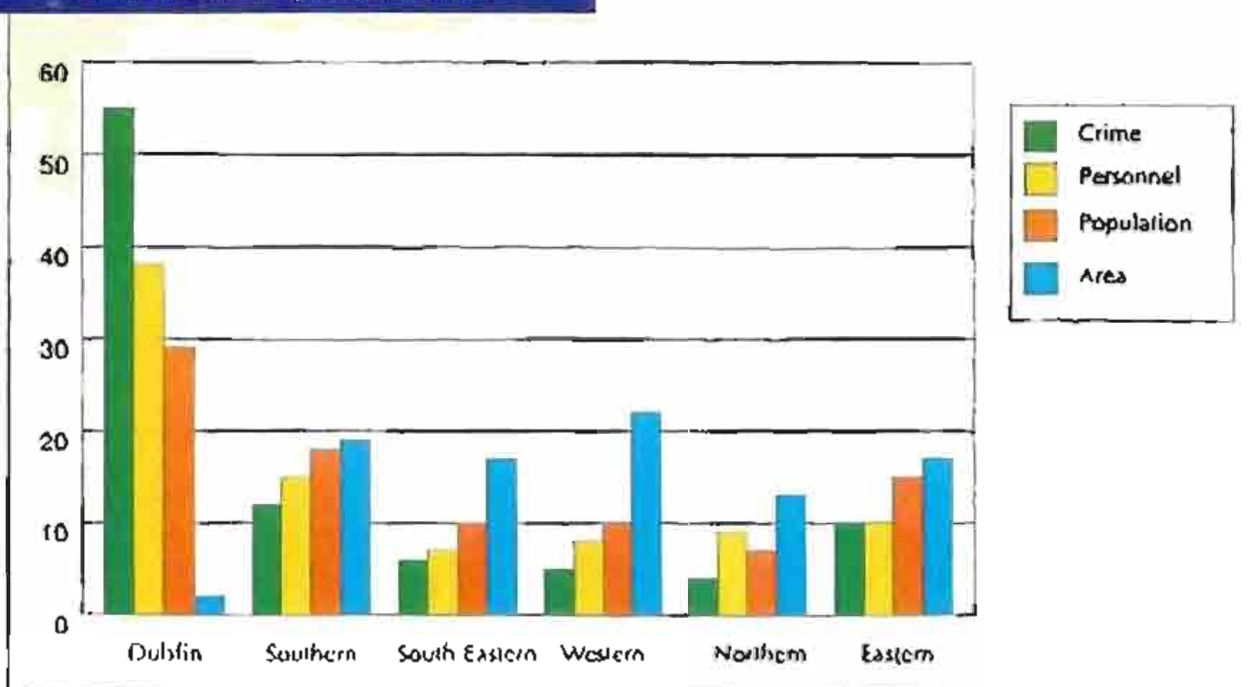
The regional structure was introduced to ensure effective co-ordination and management of the service within and across regions.

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% and to the improved detection rate of 43%.



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





EASTERN REGION CRIME - NO CHANGE DETECTION RATE DOWN 2%

EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	1,191,014
Area:	13,714 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1,117.6 km
Regional Crime 1997:	11,061
Crime per 1,000 Population:	15.3
Regional Detections 1997:	5,452
Detection Rate:	46%
Equal Traffic Offences:	21,229
Cards Strength:	1,200
Cards Vehicles:	160
Cards Stations:	127
Cards Districts:	10

The Eastern Region comprises the Garda Divisions of Louth/Meath, Longford/Westmeath, Laois/Offaly and Carlow/Kildare and the Regional Assistant Commissioner is based at Mullingar Garda Station. The year under review saw the official opening of a new Garda Station at Drogheda and the refurbished Newbridge Garda Station.

A number of specific policing operations were a feature during the period, including the continuation of Operation Retrieval. This operation, in conjunction with neighbouring Garda Regions, operates through a planned series of mobile checkpoints, acting as a crime prevention strategy, particularly in relation to attacks on the elderly.

Operation Cosantóir and Operation Latitude, in conjunction with neighbouring Regions, were implemented during the year with crime prevention as their primary aim. The marginal decrease in crime recorded in the region for the year was among the achievements of these and other operations.



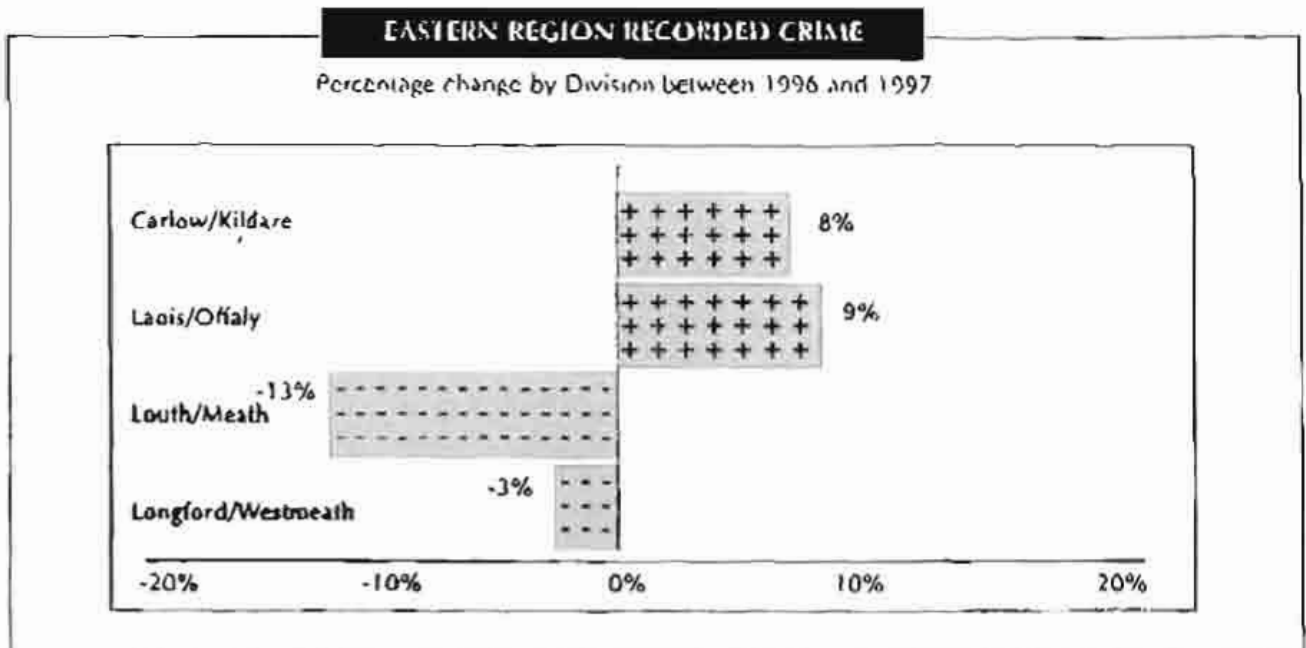
CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, EASTERN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
11,061	11,917	-36 (10%)	5,452 (46%)	5,680 (46%)	-228

Recorded crime decreased in two Divisions - Longford/Westmeath (-13%) and Louth/Meath (-3%) and increased in two - Laois/Offaly (+9%) and Carlow/Kildare (+8%).

Overall, crime decreased in nine Districts in the Region and increased in the other nine. Mullingar (-24%), Longford (-17%) and Birr (-13%) recorded the highest decreases, with Portlaoise (+14%), Trim (+22%) and Carlow (+17%) recording the highest increases. Recorded crime was evenly spread out throughout the year, with marginal changes recorded between the periods of highest and lowest incidence. The months of May (8%) and June (7%) were the lowest and November and December, the highest, with both recording 9% of the annual total from the region.

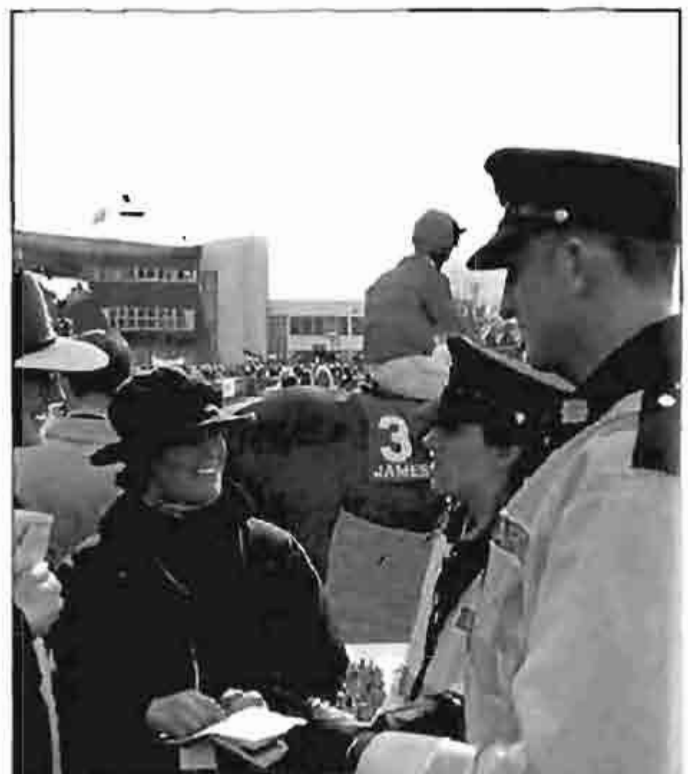
In keeping with national trends, serious crime classifications show significant decreases over the previous period. Aggravated burglary, armed robbery and other robberies decreased by 64%, 35% and 32% respectively. There were seven murders and 49 crimes of rape recorded in the region during the year.



A number of Special Projects have been established in the Region, including those at Portlaoise, Longford and Dundalk. These projects involve An Garda Síochána acting as the lead agency, in programmes designed to divert disadvantaged youth and those at risk from engaging in crime and other anti-social behaviour, through a series of initiatives involving sport, skills activities and general social interaction.

A number of events were hosted in the region during the year which required significant Garda commitments to police.

Events included numerous race meetings at Punchestown, Fairyhouse, Navan & Dundalk; the Budweiser Derby; European Open Golf and the National Ploughing Championships.





DUBLIN REGION

CRIME - DOWN 14%
DETECTION RATE UP 2%

DUBLIN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	1,041,259
Area:	869 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	153.5 km
Regional Crime 1997:	50,542
Crime per 1,000 Population:	48.5
Regional Detections 1997:	19,863
Detection Rate:	39%
Road Traffic Offences:	143,884
Garda Strength:	3,847
Garda Vehicles:	477
Garda Stations:	43
Garda Districts:	17

The Dublin Region comprises five Garda Divisions, in addition to the Special Detective Unit and the Dublin Garda Traffic Department, with the Assistant Commissioner based at Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.

The Divisional structure in the Dublin Region was reviewed during the year, resulting in the establishment of a sixth division - Dublin West. The new division comprises the Garda Stations of Cabra, Blanchardstown, Finglas, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, Ronanstown, Lucan and Leixlip and is expected to deliver a more co-ordinated policing service to the communities in the west of Dublin. The Dublin West Division was not in existence for the full year and crime statistics for the region are presented on the basis of the five divisions which existed at the beginning of 1997.

The year also saw the completion of extensive refurbishment at Pearse Street Garda Station which was officially opened in April.

A number of specific operations continued during the year in the Dublin region including Operation Dóchas, an anti-drug abuse initiative which commenced in October 1996.



Operation Boulevard, with O'Connell Street as its focus and Operation Nicotine, with the illegal cigarette / tobacco trade as its focus, were launched during the year.

The extension of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems has also contributed greatly to the policing of the capital particularly in the city centre Garda districts. In addition to regular policing commitments, the region also hosted a considerable amount of special events, including the Eurovision Song Contest and numerous sporting events, most notably those at Croke Park and Lansdowne Road.

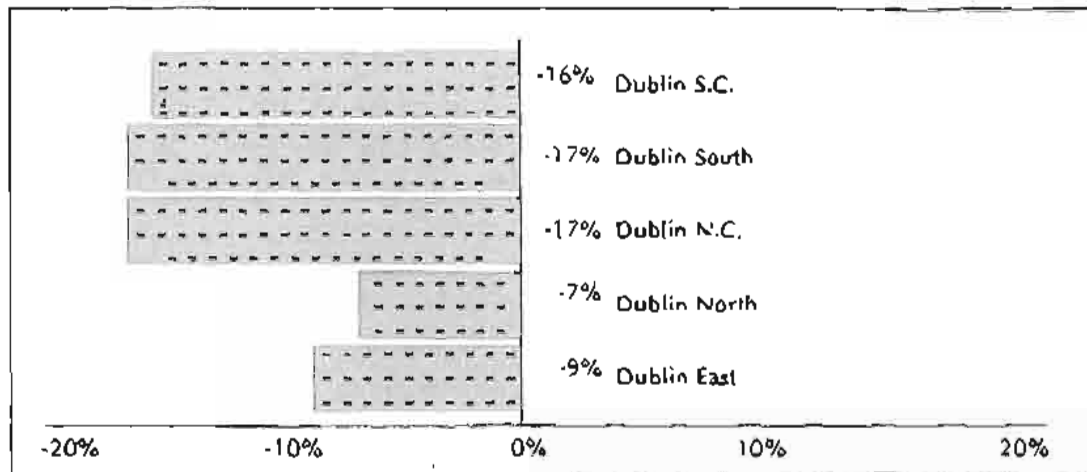
CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, DUBLIN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
50,542	58,759	-8,217 (-14%)	19,863 (39%)	21,630 (37%)	-1,767

Operation Freeflow, introduced in 1996, continued during the year, targeting the routes and driving behaviour which contributed most to traffic congestion throughout the city. Resources allocated to the operation were increased significantly over the Christmas period to cater for the traditional increase in traffic volumes at that time of year.

DUBLIN REGION RECORDED CRIME

Percentage change by Division between 1996 and 1997



Each of the five Garda divisions in the region recorded decreases. The Dublin North Central and Southern Divisions both recorded 17% decreases and Dublin South Central Division recording a decrease of 16%.

Recorded crime fell in sixteen of the seventeen Garda Districts in the Dublin Region. The most notable decreases were recorded in Rathmines (-26%) and Fitzgibbon Street (-23%), with Crumlin, Pearse St. and Donnybrook each recording decreases of 19%. Santry recorded an increase of 68 crimes or 4%.

Recorded crime was highest during the month(s) of January and February, each accounting for 10% of the annual total and lowest in June and November each accounting for 7%.



Serious crime showed considerable reductions with armed aggravated burglary and armed robbery recording reductions of 49% and 37% respectively. Robberies and burglaries decreased by 24% and 11% respectively. All larcenies recorded decreases culminating in a decrease of 5,469 crimes representing an 11% reduction. There were 13 murders and 83 crimes of rape recorded in the region during the year.

The period under review saw the continuation or introduction of many policing initiatives, both locally and regionally. These contributed to the significant reduction in recorded crime of 14% and an improvement of 2% in the detection rate to 39%.



NORTHERN REGION

CRIME UP 12%

DETECTION RATE UP 3%

NORTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population	111,051
Area	12,194 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads	745.2 km
Regional Crime 1997	1,511
Crime per 1,000 Population	13.6
Regional Detections 1997	772
Detection Rate	51%
Road Traffic Collisions	1,277
Garda Strength	1,071
Garda Vehicles	114
Garda Boats	119
Garda Districts	14

The Regional Assistant Commissioner for the Northern Region is based at Sligo Garda Station and is responsible for the Garda Divisions of Sligo/Leitrim, Donegal and Cavan/Monaghan.

The most significant demand on Garda resources in this region is the policing of the border with Northern Ireland which extends to 359 kilometres and includes 291 crossing points.

The region has also been the focus for the BSE operation since its commencement in March, 1996. The operation for the entire border area is co-ordinated from the Regional Office in Sligo.



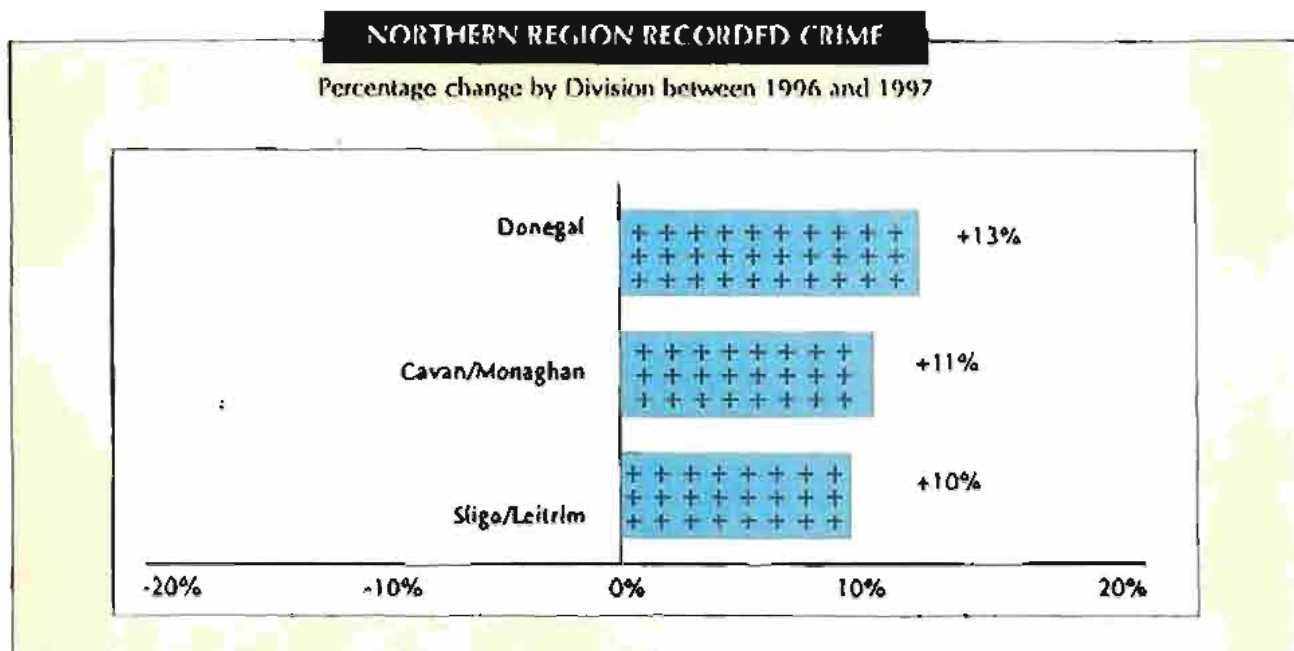
Reported crime in region increased by 368 crimes in 1997, with each of the three Divisions showing increases on the previous year. The detection rate for 1997 stood at 51%, an increase of 3% over 1996 and well above the national average of 43%.

CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, NORTHERN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
1,511	1,142	+368 (+32%)	772	640	+132 (+20%)

Recorded crime in the region increased by 12%. However, the number of crimes detected increased by a substantial 19%, bringing the detection rate to 51%.

Recorded crime decreased in five of the fourteen Districts, most notably Milford (-31%), Ballyconnell (-17%) and Glenties (-8%). Increases were recorded in the remaining nine Districts, most notably Manohamilton (+122%), Ballyshannon (+64%) and Ballymore (+63%).



Recorded crime was lowest during the month February, recording 7% of the annual regional total and highest during April and May each recording 10%. There were no murders in the region in 1997 and 25 crimes of rape were recorded.

Armed robbery and aggravated burglary decreased by 86% and 29% respectively, with armed aggravated burglary showing no change over the previous year. Burglaries showed an increase of 3% or 35 crimes. Larcenies recorded in the region increased by 102 crimes (11%) over the previous period.

The regular police service in this region is provided against a backdrop of significant commitments to both border security and to the BSE operation.

Overall there were 3,510 crimes recorded in the region in 1997, as compared with 3,142 in 1996, an increase of 12%. The detection rate for the region stood at 51%, with an additional 286 crimes detected during the year as compared with 1996.





SOUTH EASTERN REGION

CRIME UP 3%
DETECTION RATE UP 4%

SOUTH EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	440,513
Area:	11,682km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	916.5km
Regional Crime 1997:	7,075
Crime per 1,000 Population:	16.0
Regional Detections 1997:	3,757
Detection Rate:	53%
Road Traffic Offences:	19,266
Garda Strength:	874
Garda Vehicles:	118
Garda Stations:	117
Garda Districts:	16

The South Eastern Region comprises the Garda divisions of Wexford, Tipperary and Waterford/Kilkenny and the Assistant Commissioner is based at Kilkenny City.

In conjunction with the Garda National Drugs Unit, a number of significant drug seizures were recorded in the region, along with two substantial arms/explosives finds.

Under the direction of the Regional Assistant Commissioner a number of specific policing operations were put in place during the year. Operations Retrieval and Latitude, both crime prevention and detection initiatives, were undertaken in conjunction with neighbouring regions. Other operations were also undertaken, some of which had a regional base, while others were confined to specific areas, within the region.

In conjunction with the Dublin Region, the Wexford Division contributed to the policing operation for the Murphy's Irish Golf Open, which was just one of a number of major events successfully policed during the year.

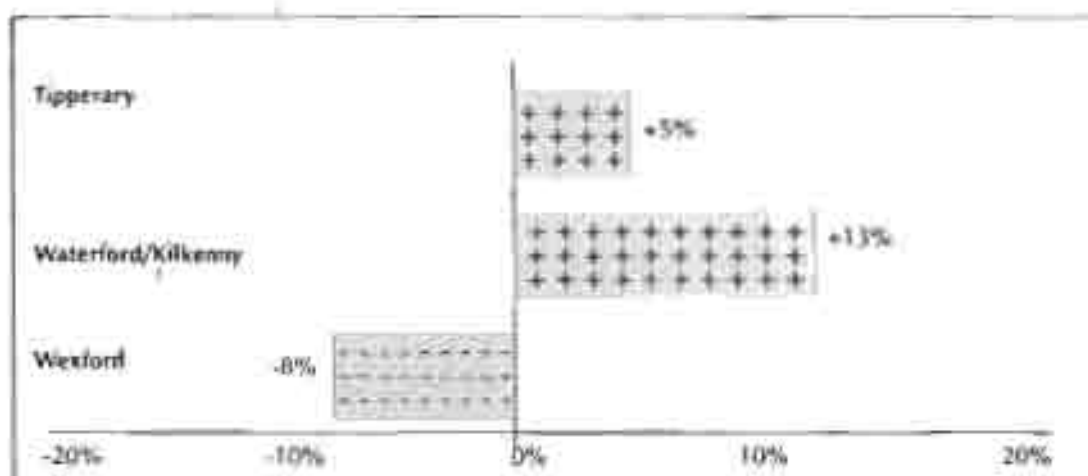


CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
7,075	6,837	+238 (+3%)	3,757 (53%)	3,328 (49%)	+429

SOUTH EASTERN REGION RECORDED CRIME

Percentage change by Division between 1996 and 1997



The Division of Wexford recorded a decrease of 8% in reported crime, while Waterford/Kilkenny recorded an increase of 13% and Tipperary an increase of 5%. Eight of the sixteen Districts in the region recorded decreases, most notably New Ross (-29%), Enniscorthy (-15%) and Nenagh (-13%). The most notable increases occurred in the Districts of Templemore (+36%), Ballybricken (+27%) and Tramore (+25%). The month of February (7%) saw the lowest reporting of crime, with October (10%) being the highest.

All categories of serious crime showed decreases - armed aggravated burglary, aggravated burglary, armed robbery and other robbery recorded decreases of 50%, 41%, 40% and 33% respectively. Larceny from the person increased by 45% and burglaries by 8.5%. There were 5 murders and 35 crimes of rape recorded during the year in the region.

Areas within the South Eastern Region have been targeted by mobile criminals travelling from both Dublin and Cork and operations to curb their activities were put in place towards the end of 1997.

While there was an increase of 238 crimes recorded in the region, the number of crimes detected increased by 13% (429 crimes). The region recorded the highest detection rate in the country, at 53%.





SOUTHERN REGION

CRIME DOWN 13%
DETECTION RATE UP 2%

SOUTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population: 701,216
 Area: 14,935 km²
 Primary/Secondary Roads: 1,152.7km
 Regional Crime 1997: 12,996
 Crime per 1,000 Population: 18.5
 Regional Detections 1997: 5,808
 Detection Rate: 45%
 Road Traffic Offences: 40,745
 Garda Strength: 1,648
 Garda Vehicles: 200
 Garda Stations: 162
 Garda Districts: 22

The region includes the five Garda divisions of Cork City, Cork North, Cork West; Kerry and Limerick. The Regional Assistant Commissioner is based at Angelsea Street Garda Station in Cork City. A refurbished station at Bruff was officially opened in April, 1997.

Several operations were undertaken, both within the region itself and on an inter-regional basis, including Blackwater, a crime prevention strategy, in conjunction with the South Eastern Region.

Many more localised operations were undertaken throughout the region during the year.



CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, SOUTHERN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
12,996	15,020	-2,024 (-13%)	5,808 (45%)	6,454 (43%)	-649

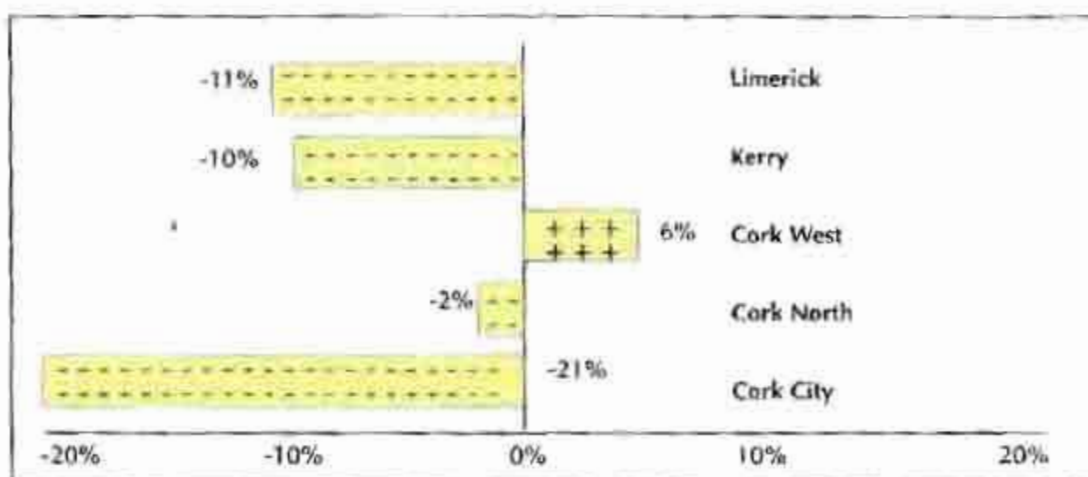
The crime prevention programme for rural areas - Community Alert - was subject to detailed examination early in 1997. A regional group, including the Community Alert Development Officer, improved the structures in place, identified areas for the establishment of new schemes and revitalised dormant schemes. Initial evaluation indicates that the initiative has been successful, with great enthusiasm displayed by the communities in playing their part in preventing crime. The improvements made to Community Alert in the Southern Region during 1997, provide a solid foundation for further development in the years ahead.

A number of substantial drug seizures were also made in the region during the year, primarily in the Cork and Limerick areas, some of which were part of larger international operations.

The month of January (10%) showed the highest levels of recorded crime in the region, with the lowest recorded during September (7%).

SOUTHERN REGION RECORDED CRIME

Percentage change by Division between 1996 and 1997



While robbery recorded a 7% increase, all other serious crime recorded significant decreases for the year.

Armed aggravated burglary and armed robbery decreased by 48% and 45% respectively.

There were five murders and 38 crimes of rape recorded in the region during the year. Selected areas and offenders were targeted as part of local strategies to reduce larcenies and these have yielded very positive results. Larcenies from unattended motor vehicles, from shops and from the person reduced 25%, 15% and 19% respectively. Other Larcenies decreased by 14%. In all, larcenies in the region decreased by 1,252 crimes (18%).

Four of the five divisions in the region recorded decreases in the incidence of crime, with the Cork City Division returning a substantial decrease of 21%.

Fifteen of the 22 districts in the region recorded decreases, most notably Gurranaברה (-26%), Cahirciveen (-25%) and Killarney, Macroom and Angelsea St. each of which recorded decreases of 22%. Recorded crime increased in seven Districts, most notably, Bruff (+69%), Clonakilty (+48%) and Askeaton (+20%).

The detection rate for the region stood at 45% an increase of 2% over the previous period. The emphasis on crime prevention yielded good results: with recorded crime showing a substantial decrease of 13% or over 2,000 crimes.





WESTERN REGION

CRIME DOWN 4%

DETECTION RATE DOWN 2%

WESTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	431,633
Area:	17,739km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1128.2km
Regional Crime 1997:	4,891
Crime per 1,000 Population:	11.31
Regional Detections 1997:	2,266
Detection Rate:	46%
Road Traffic Offences:	15,291
Garda Strength:	1,026
Garda Vehicles:	119
Garda Stations:	144
Garda Districts:	20

The Regional Assistant Commissioner for the Western Region is based at Mill Street, Galway and the region consists of the Garda Divisions of Galway West, Roscommon/Galway East, Clare and Mayo. The year under review saw the opening of two new/refurbished stations at Keel, Achill Sound and Cort.

A number of significant drug seizures were made in the region during the year including 105 gms. of cocaine at Shannon Airport in February, the same month which saw the confiscation of the MV Aegir off the Galway coast.



Operations Retrieval and Cosantóir, crime prevention strategies, in conjunction with neighbouring regions, continued during the year and showed some very good results. Other anti-crime operations undertaken included Operation Míabhl, with its focus on mobile criminals and attacks on the elderly, in addition to other local operations undertaken within the region during the year, each of which contributed to the 4% reduction in crime recorded in the region for 1997.

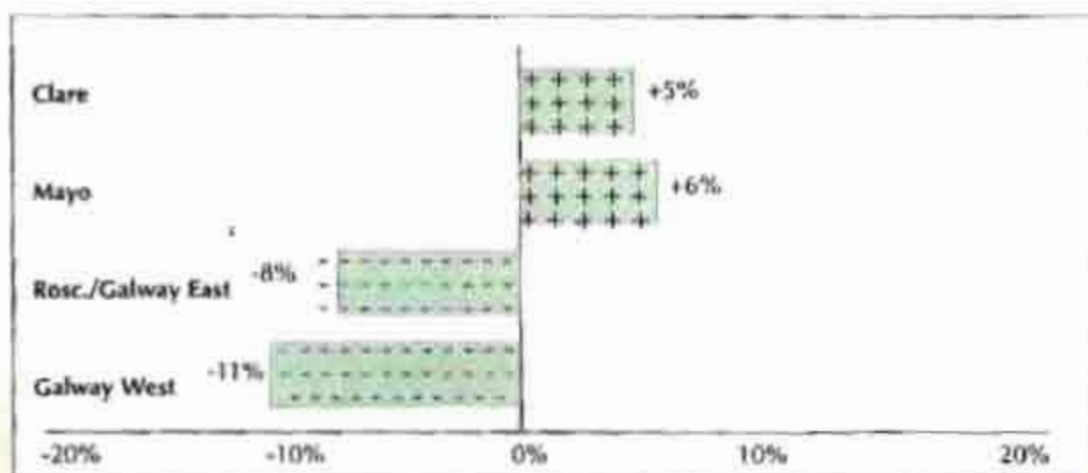
Two Divisions in the region, Galway West (-11%) and Roscommon/Galway East (-8%) recorded decreases in reported crime, with Mayo (+6%) and Clare (+5%) recording increases, the cumulative effect being an overall reduction of 219 crimes (4%) over the previous period.

CRIME ANALYSIS 1997, WESTERN REGION

Reported Crime			Detected Crime		
1997	1996	% Difference	1997	1996	% Difference
4,891	5,110	-219 (-4%)	2,266 (46%)	2,453 (48%)	-187

WESTERN REGION RECORDED CRIME

Percentage change by Division between 1996 and 1997



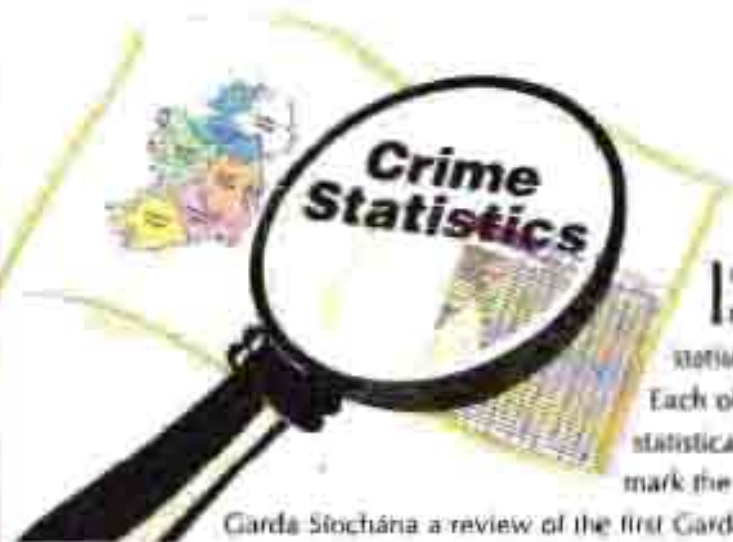
Of the 20 districts in the region, eight recorded decreases in reported crime and twelve reported increases. The most notably decreases were recorded at Kiltrush (-41%), Roscommon (-35%), with Ballina and Mill Street both recording 14% decreases. The most notable increase was recorded at Ennistymon (+45%), with Westport and Ennistymon both showing increases of 42%.

Serious crime decreased during the period. Armed aggravated burglary, armed robbery and aggravated burglary reduced by 82%, 50% and 44% respectively. Burglaries decreased by 13%. Robberies increased by 63% and larcenies from shops and from the person recording increases of 15% and 11% respectively. There were eight murders recorded in the region during the year and 26 crimes of rape.

The month of December (10%) showed the highest incidence of crime recorded, with the lowest recorded in April (7%).

The detection rate for the region was 46%, down 2% from the previous period. However, the culmination of the various prevention strategies contributed to the 4% reduction in recorded crime for the region.





In keeping with the approach adopted in the 1996 Annual Report the crime statistics are presented in seven sections. Each of the seven sections and the titles of all statistical tables and charts are colour coded. To mark the occasion of the 75th anniversary of An

Garda Síochána a review of the first Garda crime statistics is included at the end of part seven of the 1997 Annual Report. While most of the statistical tables are accompanied by a commentary some general introductory comments are relevant.

In presenting the crime statistics a distinction has always been made between indictable and non-indictable offences. Non-indictable offences, such as failing to wear a seat belt or begging, may be processed to a conclusion by a District Court while indictable offences, such as murder or armed robbery, may be tried by a judge and jury in higher courts. The Director of Public Prosecutions directs that a small proportion of indictable offences are heard without a jury trial in the Special Criminal Court. Generally, the distinction between summary disposal (i.e. by a District Court) or disposal on indictment (by a court higher than a District Court) reflects the gravity of the criminal act concerned and the penalty which may be applied.

Approximately 120 types of indictable offences are divided into four groups and presented in detail in four large format tables to show the volume of offences recorded, the results of proceedings taken and the age and gender of persons who have been convicted. It should be noted that the number of indictable offences recorded is based on those offences reported or known to the Gardai during the year under review. Accordingly, some indictable offences reported or known to the Gardai during 1997 may have taken place in earlier years: sexual offences, for example, are often reported to the Gardai several years after they have taken place.

The detailed presentation of indictable offences known to the Gardai in 1997 begins in the four large format tables overleaf. Indictable offences may be broken into four main groups (offences against the person, offences against property, larcenies and other offences) and each table deals with one of these four groups. The number of offences detected may be calculated by adding the values in the column headed No. 1 to those in the column headed No. 17 (i.e. the number of offences in which proceedings commenced are added to the number of offences where perpetrators are known but proceedings are not shown).

**INDICTABLE OFFENCES
WHICH BECAME KNOWN TO
GARDÁI DURING 1997**

	No. of Offences Reported or Known to the Gardai	No. of Offences in Which Criminal Proceedings Were Commenced	Informations Refused	Results of Proceedings in Cases Dealt with an Indictment						Remaining Convictions
				Convictions	Acquittals	Found Guilty & Incapable of Pleading an Alibi	Faulty Plea	Adjourned Save Date or Otherwise Disposed of (On Indictment)	Commenced For Trial and Still Awaiting Trial	
GROUP 1 - OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON										
Murder	38	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempt to murder	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murder (Special Act)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	13	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Manslaughter (Special Act)	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerous driving causing death	16	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0
Dangerous driving causing injury	8	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wounding etc. (f)	120	70	0	5	0	0	0	0	17	4
Wounding etc. (g) (w. imp.)	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault wounding etc. (m)	424	234	0	2	0	0	1	1	14	0
Assault wounding etc. (n) (w. imp.)	17	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	2
Force by or against an employee etc.	10	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Endangering railway passengers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation by letter etc.	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen to or receipt of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abduction children under two years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child stealing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flourishing/keeping in shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concealment of body	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recovery of male only	80	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape of females	256	103	0	3	0	0	1	0	30	1
Sexual assault on female or male	422	207	1	25	0	0	0	0	40	15
Unlawful carnal knowledge under 15	23	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge (15-17)	19	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Nurse	10	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abduction (Female)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Sexual Assault	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Use of force against or for escape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of or arms in suspicious	48	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Carry to arms or arms in	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taken indictment	27	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total	1703	1008	1	43	0	0	2	1	143	58
GROUP 2 - OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY										
Burglary	2303	741	1	43	0	0	1	3	70	162
Housebreaking with intent	300	273	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	19
Armed robbery	88	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Armed assault on police	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Threat to public or to police	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	368	65	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Setting fire to building etc.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Causing an explosion	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obstruction of traffic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public nuisance in schools	125	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Obstruction of traffic in property	5004	3000	1	19	1	0	0	5	42	706
Obstruction with violence	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of motor vehicle	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Making counterfeit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated burglary	981	137	0	3	0	0	0	1	29	13
Robbery	2170	688	0	6	0	0	0	1	61	36
Unlawful use of aircraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful use of vehicle	39	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Armed aggravated burglary	164	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	40232	13078	5	75	1	0	1	10	214	1330

INDICTABLE OFFENCES WHICH BECAME KNOWN TO GARDAI DURING 1997 CTD.

	No. of Offences Reported or Known to the Gardaí	No. of Offences in Which Criminal Proceedings Were Commenced	Information Refused	Results of Proceedings in Cases Dealt with on Indictment						Convictions	Fines	Charges Proved or Order Made Without Conviction
				Convictions	Acquitted	Found Insane & Incapable of Pleading on Indictment	Nolo Prosequi Entered	Adjourned Sine Die or Otherwise Disposed of (On Indictment)	Committed For Trial and Still Awaiting Trial			
GROUP 3 - LARCENIES ETC.												
Larceny of horses cattle or sheep	68	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	
Larceny of other livestock	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny from persons (pickpocket)	3652	711	0	8	0	0	0	0	5	50	0	
Larceny in house to value of £5	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny from house by employee	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny of firearms	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny of explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny of motor cars	1787	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	
Larceny of motor cycles etc.	528	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	
Larceny of motor lorries	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny of other m.p.v.'s	118	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	
Larceny of pedal cycles	307	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	0	
Larceny of m.p.v. accessories	621	127	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	19	7	
Larceny from unattended vehicles	13441	3450	1	5	0	0	0	0	12	410	18	
Larceny of petrol, diesel, l.p.g.	130	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	
Larceny from shops or stalls	7198	4843	0	7	0	0	0	0	35	526	40	
Larceny of cash, cheques etc.	1522	556	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	29	10	
Larceny of drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny of c.w.s, radios etc.	70	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	
Larceny of jewellery or watches	86	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Larceny of cigarettes	30	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Larceny of copper, lead etc.	72	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Other larcenies	11241	2054	0	6	1	0	1	1	29	306	19	
Embezzlement	53	36	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	
False pretences	435	285	0	3	0	0	0	0	13	39	0	
Frauds by agents, trustees etc.	16	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Fraud by bogus advertisers	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fraud by bogus sales persons	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Larceny from persons (muggings)	2520	527	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	84	0	
Frauds by bogus company	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Frauds by obtaining credit	45	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
Fraudulent conversion	59	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	
Falsification of accounts	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other frauds	222	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2	
Handling stolen goods	1443	1236	1	2	2	0	0	0	14	16	7	
Cheating	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Forgery and uttering	2479	1820	0	45	0	1	0	0	20	32	17	
Coinage Acts - Offences Against	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Debtors Ireland Act 1872 - other	31	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Post Office Acts - Offences	25	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Extortion	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	48390	16330	2	81	3	1	1	1	162	2110	122	
GROUP 4 - OTHER OFFENCES												
Official Secrets Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Treason Act 1939 Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Offences Against State	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Affray, riot or violent disorder	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Incitement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Perjury	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indecent exposure	12	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Brothel keeping	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Prison Breach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Escape from lawful custody	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Rescue from lawful custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Public Mischief	17	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	
Conspiracy	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Destroy/dispose of dead bodies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electoral Acts	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Personation on Indictment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Embracery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Misprision of felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wireless Telegraphy Act	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Corruption	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	
Obstruct clergy during services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Indictable Offences	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Misuse of Drugs Act 1977	276	214	0	23	0	0	0	0	117	0	0	
Forcible Entry Act 1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Compounding a felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fishery Acts	37	33	0	21	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	
U/T of MPV - Indictment	17	14	0	3	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	
Firearms Off. Weapons Act 1990	47	40	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	
Total	448	353	0	50	1	0	0	0	146	12	0	
Total Indictable Offences	90,875	30,767	8	249	5	1	4	12	665	410	212	

INDICTABLE OFFENCES PENDING FROM PREVIOUS YEARS DEALT WITH IN 1997

Offences pending previous year
* Offences pending previous year

Group 1	676#	656*	0	84	6	1	3	1	70	13	3
Group 2	11335#	11080*	1	248	1	0	9	3	151	38	88
Group 3	15494#	15333*	2	116	6	0	9	2	113	48	131
Group 4	211#	210*	0	30	0	0	3	1	54	0	7
TOTAL	27714#	27279*	3	478	13	1	24	7	388	87	224

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA ANNUAL REPORT 1997

Cases in Cases Dealt with Summarily				Offences detected & where no proceedings are shown	Persons Convicted or Against Whom the Charge was held proved or order made without Conviction									
Charge Proved or Order Made Without Conviction	Charge Withdrawn	Adjourned Sine Die or Otherwise Disposed of	Suit Pending in District Court		Under 14 Years		14-16 Yrs		17-20 Yrs		21 Yrs and Over		Total Persons	
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1	0	0	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	647	64	0	0	1	0	10	8	31	70	60	
0	0	0	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
0	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	2	32	17	0	0	1	0	6	0	4	0	11	
0	0	0	13	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	9	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
0	0	1	117	109	0	0	0	0	10	0	8	0	18	
7	0	0	97	16	0	0	1	0	33	0	7	1	42	
18	8	2	2989	682	2	0	51	0	234	6	201	4	498	
0	0	1	55	23	0	0	1	0	10	0	5	0	16	
40	16	12	4182	1353	10	4	36	15	109	62	253	144	633	
10	10	4	444	267	1	0	4	0	19	3	62	15	104	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	0	1	15	12	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	5	
0	0	0	20	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	
0	0	0	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
0	0	0	15	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	5	
19	10	10	1665	726	2	1	27	1	117	25	172	32	377	
0	2	8	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	11	
0	3	1	226	95	0	0	0	0	5	0	38	5	48	
0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	426	119	0	0	23	9	31	3	40	1	107	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	32	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	
0	0	0	37	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6	
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	1	1	130	36	0	0	0	0	3	0	14	2	19	
7	1	4	1039	206	1	0	6	1	30	6	109	25	178	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17	12	13	1353	325	0	0	9	0	83	29	240	64	425	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	19	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
0	0	3	11	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	63	64	13636	4175	16	6	162	26	711	142	1217	309	2589	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
0	0	0	74	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	3	26	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	21	
0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	
0	0	0	28	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	7	
0	0	0	144	91	0	0	0	0	6	0	56	3	65	
213	136	123	25677	8176	33	6	395	31	1559	225	2577	353	5179	

Under review and such offences as were detected in year under review

Under review													
3	25	0	290	80	1	0	17	1	58	1	139	1	218
88	188	53	6272	302	57	1	503	4	1766	39	2445	36	4851
131	215	31	9380	439	62	5	363	56	1314	397	2573	794	5564
2	0	0	66	10	0	0	2	1	23	0	49	1	7
224	428	84	16088	831	120	6	885	62	3161	437	5206	832	10709

INDICTABLE OFFENCE
ANALYSIS OF INDICTABLE
JUVENILE OFFENCES
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES
DRUG OFFENCES
TRAFFIC OFFENCES
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1997 INDICTABLE OFFENCES: A COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

Annual crime statistics can not be understood in the absence of a comparative context. Comparisons across time are of particular value while comparisons across locations can provide some useful insights into the statistics recorded in any particular year. That said, the indictable offences recorded in 1997 are presented below in terms of those recorded over the last 15 years and they are then examined, group by group, against those recorded in 1996. Finally, a more detailed comparison is provided in a summary table of the indictable offences recorded and detected for each of the three years 1995 to 1997. But first, a range of international police crime statistics are included, with appropriate qualifications, to provide some insight into the Irish experience.

Despite the limitations involved, international statistics have a part to play in establishing the context within which Irish crime statistics are recorded. Caution must be exercised when interpreting crime statistics from one country to another since legal definitions of offences,

reporting rates, methods of calculation and recording procedures vary across national boundaries despite efforts by Interpol and the European Union to harmonise definition criteria.

Selected offences recorded by police in the European Union and the USA per 100,000 population

	Homicide ¹ per 100K 1996	Domestic burglary per 100K 1996	Offences involving violence per 100K 1996
Austria	2.2	173	581
Belgium	1.2	1832 ²	550
Denmark	1.3	2070	253
Finland	3.1	1998	533
France	2.0	404	305
Germany	1.5	235	216
Greece	2.5	-	-
Ireland	1.2	505	187 ³
Northern Ireland	2.1	512	547
England & Wales	1.3	1149	658
Scotland	2.6	786	485
Italy	1.8	410	110
Luxembourg (1994)	1.5	-	-
Netherlands	1.8	685	440
Portugal	3.9	227	501
Spain (1994)	2.6	-	-
Sweden	2.2	186	772
U.S.A.	7.4	942	634

¹ Intentional killing excluding attempts to kill

² Includes burglary in non-domestic dwellings

³ Indictable offences against the person, armed robbery, armed aggravated burglary, aggravated burglary & robbery

Sources: Interpol & United Kingdom Home Office

Some types of criminal activity have similar definitions in many countries while definitions of other types vary considerably. More meaningful comparisons are possible for a range of similarly defined offences. For example, the intentional killing of a person (homicide) has a similar definition in most countries while definitions of fraud and deception differ considerably. From an Irish perspective, the most useful comparisons can generally be attempted with the statistics from England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland because of cultural and legal similarities.

The table above shows a range of the most recently available international

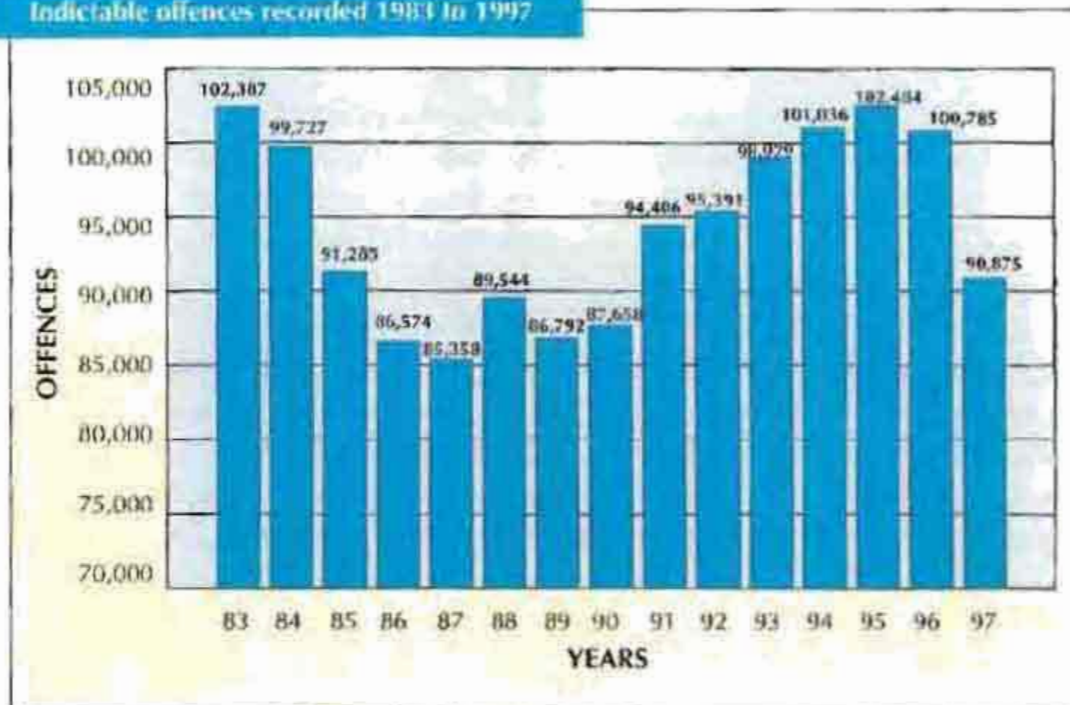
police crime statistics per hundred thousand of population. (A range of sources, such as the Council of Europe, Interpol and the United Kingdom Home Office have been used.) At 1.2 per hundred thousand of population the 1996 Irish homicide rate is the joint lowest in the European Union (shared with Belgium), close to that of England & Wales at 1.3 and one sixth of that in the United States of America. Thereafter comparisons are less certain and data are not available for all locations. The Irish rate of burglary is around the midway position in the table. In contrast, the rate for offences involving violence is among the lower of those for which data are available.

It is important to emphasise that the recording rates of the three selected offences, in the table on the previous page, do not necessarily reflect the overall volumes of crime recorded in the various countries. The chart below shows the number of crimes per 100,000 of population recorded by police in the European Union and the United States of America. In general, the crimes are defined as against the 'penal code' or 'criminal code' and less serious crimes (misdemeanours) are excluded. Since the range of offences included varies across locations comparisons may be misleading but the chart indicates that the overall rate of crime in a country can not be deduced from merely examining homicide, domestic burglary and violent offences.



The single most significant feature of the indictable offences recorded in Ireland in 1997 is clearly visible in the chart overleaf which shows the number of indictable offences recorded in each of the 15 years to 1997. In 1997 the indictable offences were down by 10% when compared with the previous year. Indeed the reduction of almost 10,000 indictable offences

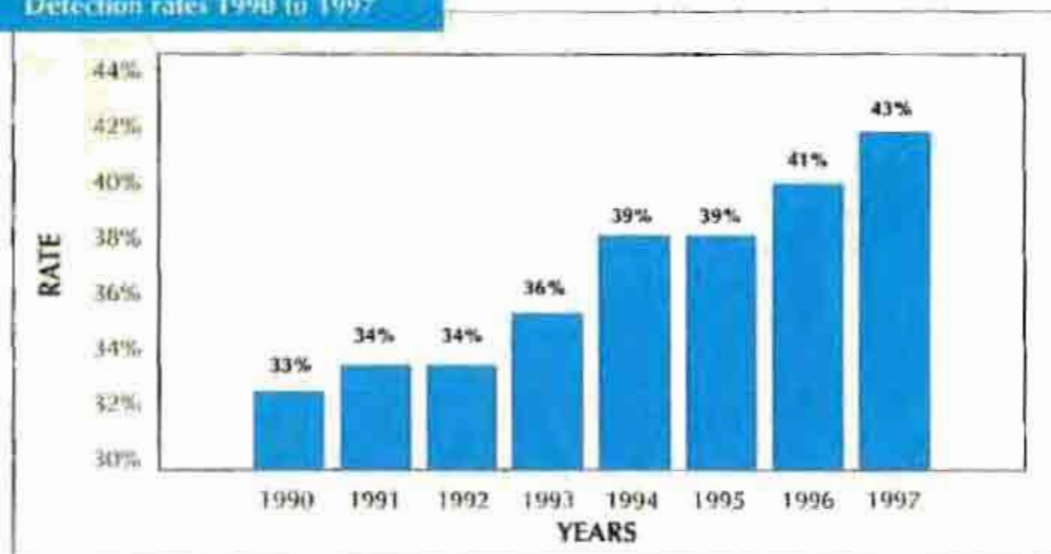
Indictable offences recorded 1983 to 1997



was the largest annual decrease in the number of indictable offences recorded in the history of the State. The 1997 total was lower than the annual totals for the previous six years and only five of the 15 years shown in the chart above were lower than it.

On average, the detection rate remained at 33% for the first seven years of the 15 year period referred to above. A sustained improvement began in 1991 and the chart below illustrates how the rate increased almost every year to 43% in 1997.

Detection rates 1990 to 1997



It is more than 20 years ago since such a high detection rate was recorded. It is worthy of note that the improvement of the detection rate since 1990 took place during a period when the annual volume of indictable offences was increasing. By 1995 the annual volume of indictable offences had increased to a point where it was 17% higher than that recorded in 1990.

Even though the detection rate increased in 1997 the total number of detected offences declined, relative to the previous year because of the very significant decrease in the volume recorded in the first place. The number of offences recorded and detected in each of the ten years to 1997 are shown in the table on the right.

Year	Recorded	Detected
1988	89,544	29,685
1989	86,793	28,781
1990	87,658	28,985
1991	94,406	31,653
1992	95,391	32,400
1993	98,979	35,460
1994	101,036	39,108
1995	102,484	39,754
1996	101,285	41,056
1997	96,875	38,943

The table below shows the four groups into which indictable offences are divided and it can be used to compare the 1997 statistics with the previous year. Indictable offences against the person increased by 244 (16%) and the residual group, other indictable offences, increased by 87 (24%) when compared with those recorded in 1996. In contrast, offences against property decreased by slightly more than 3,500 (8%) while larcenies decreased by 6,651 (12%). The detection rate increased in each of the four groups.

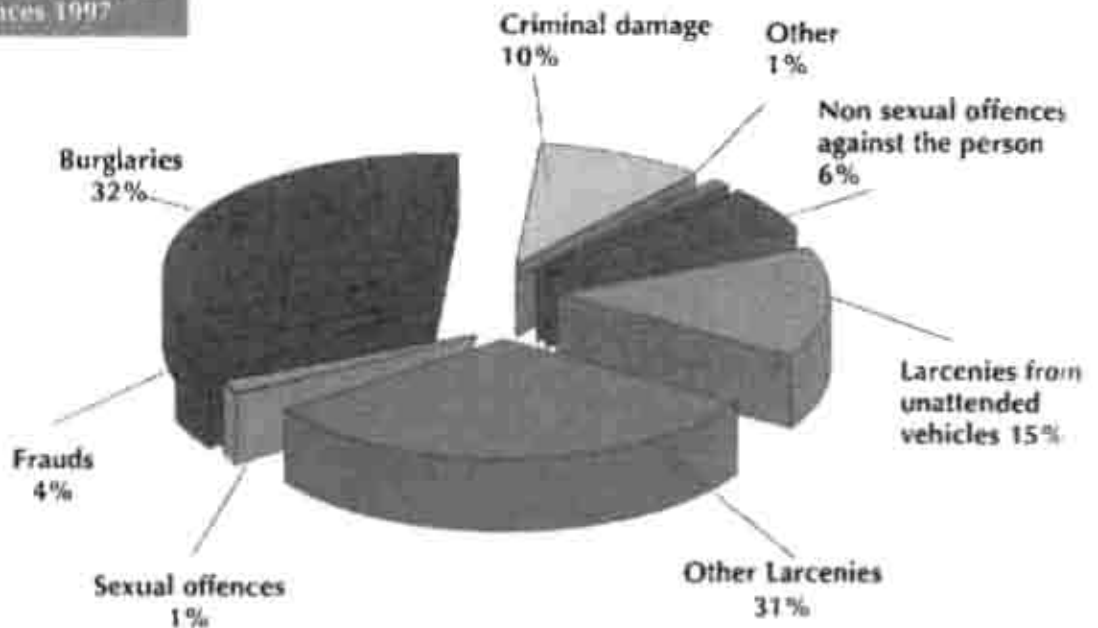
	Recorded		Change		Detected		Detection Rate	
	1997	1996			1997	1996	1997	1996
Offences against the person	1,703	1,541	244	16%	1,500	1,268	88%	82%
Offences against property	46,252	43,843	-3,590	-8%	16,494	17,072	41%	39%
Larcenies	48,380	55,041	-6,651	-12%	20,505	21,366	42%	41%
Other indictable offences	448	361	87	24%	444	350	99%	97%
Total	96,875	106,785	-9,910	-10%	38,943	41,056	43%	41%

A more comprehensive comparison over the last three years is provided in the table overleaf which summarises the indictable offences recorded from 1995 to 1997. (Approximately 120 different indictable offences are shown in the four large format tables which appear at the beginning of this section of the Annual Report.) The chart overleaf shows the proportions of indictable offences recorded in the eight categories used in the summary table overleaf.

The summary table shows that non-sexual offences against the person decreased by 21% over the previous year largely as a result of a decrease of more than 1,550 robberies and muggings. Sexual offences increased by 179 offences (21%) which was a reversal of the decrease which had been recorded from 1995 to 1996. This was largely the result of increases in rape and sexual assault offences by 42% and 9%, respectively. Indeed, almost all of the sexual offences increased over those of the previous year.

In contrast with sexual offences, almost all larceny offences decreased: 5,410 (11%) fewer larcenies were recorded in 1997. Although the larceny of vehicles increased by 670 (38%), larcenies from unattended vehicles decreased by slightly more than 3,800 (22%). The number of larcenies from the person (pickpockets) were almost the same in 1996 and 1997. Frauds decreased by 409 (11%) while burglaries (all types together) decreased by 2,778 (9%). Aggravated burglaries with firearms decreased by 166 (48%) while those involving other weapons decreased by 349 (26%).

Summary of indictable offences 1997



Summary of indictable offences 1995 to 1997

Non sexual offences against the person	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Murder	43	32	42	33	38	34
Manslaughter *	11	11	7	5	16	16
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	2	2	2	5	1	1
Dangerous Driving Causing death	9	9	12	12	16	15
Assault, Wounding or other like offences *	576	434	554	436	591	472
Endangering Railway Passengers *	3	1	0	0	5	5
Abandoning Child under 2 years	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cruelty to or neglect of Children	0	0	2	2	0	0
Child Stealing	0	0	0	0	1	1
Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
False Imprisonment	29	16	16	11	27	22
Abduction	0	0	0	0	4	0
Use of Firearms to resist or escape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery including muggings *	6,479	1,912	6,547	1,788	4,990	1,442
Robbery with Firearms	171	40	152	40	88	31
Total	7,324	2,458	7,339	2,332	5,777	2,039

Sexual offences	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Sexual Assault	617	513	551	465	602	518
Aggravated Sexual Assault	17	11	8	4	11	9
Rape of Females	191	152	180	147	256	214
Buggery	17	16	34	33	80	72
Unlawful carnal knowledge of girl -U 15	23	20	20	20	23	19
Unlawful carnal knowledge of girl - 15- 17	17	15	14	13	19	17
Incest	15	15	11	11	10	10
Bestiality	0	0	1	1	1	1
Procurtion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other sexual offences *	26	26	17	15	13	11
Total	923	768	836	709	1,015	871

Larcenies	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Larceny from Person (Pickpockets)	3,083	626	3,648	633	3,652	775
Larceny by employee	27	17	28	23	16	11
Post Office Act - offences	17	13	23	19	25	20
Larceny of Animals *	112	49	101	37	75	22
Larceny of Pedal Cycles	442	319	339	277	307	246
Larceny from unattended vehicles	18,838	4,930	17,253	4,958	13,441	4,132
Larceny from shops or stalls	2,859	6,679	7,946	6,792	7,198	6,196
Unauthorised takings of M.P.V.'s	15	13	16	15	17	16
Larceny of M.P.V.'s *	2,129	102	1,780	103	2,450	103
Handling of stolen goods	1,681	1,676	1,665	1,665	1,443	1,442
Larceny of Firearms *	23	2	24	7	21	5
Other Larcenies *	15,257	4,096	15,120	3,944	13,888	4,001
Total	49,483	18,517	47,943	18,473	42,533	16,969

Summary of indictable offences 1995 to 1997 <Contd>

Frauds	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Fraud by a bogus company	0	0	0	0	1	0
Offences involving falsification *	2,869	2,432	3,085	2,661	2,660	2,306
Other Frauds *	741	618	673	579	688	597
Total	3,610	3,050	3,758	3,240	3,349	2,903

Burglaries	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Burglary :	30,993	9,660	29,735	10,025	27,503	9,664
Aggravated Burglary other	1,106	320	1,330	549	981	419
Aggravated Burglary with Firearm *	383	116	345	121	179	57
Possession of Articles with intent	239	239	331	330	300	298
Total	32,721	10,335	31,741	11,025	28,963	10,438

Criminal damage	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Arson	286	115	249	104	288	142
Possession of Explosives/making explosives*	2	2	4	4	5	5
Causing or attempting to cause explosion *	7	4	1	0	1	0
Unlawful Seizure (Hijackings) *	28	14	23	7	39	18
Other - Criminal Damage *	7,722	4,140	8,470	4,762	8,391	5,057
Total	8,045	4,275	8,747	4,877	8,724	5,222

Other offences	1995		1996		1997	
	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected	Offences known	Offences detected
Bigamy	1	1	0	0	0	0
Misuse of Controlled drugs	116	114	137	137	276	276
Extortion/Blackmail *	19	16	11	10	7	5
Escape from Custody *	19	19	10	9	9	9
Electorat Acts *	0	0	2	2	2	2
Threat or Conspiracy to Murder	2	2	0	0	0	0
Possession/Carrying firearms to endanger life *	71	61	73	64	78	71
Concealment of Birth	1	0	0	0	2	2
Offences Against the State Act	0	0	1	1	1	1
Fishery Acts	39	39	25	25	37	37
Firearms, Offensive Weapons Act	26	26	47	47	47	46
Other Indictable Offences *	84	73	115	105	55	52
Total	378	351	421	400	514	501
GRAND TOTAL	10,2484	39,754	10,0785	41,056	90,875	30,943

* More than one offence type included in the description. Details are provided in Appendix.

ANALYSIS OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES

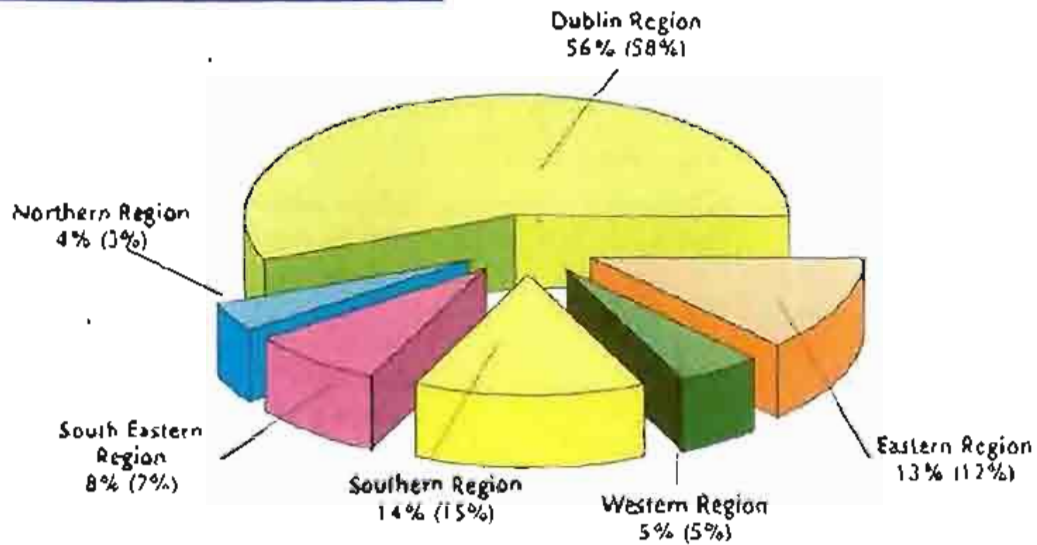
The tables at the beginning of this section show indictable offences by location and per thousand of population while the remainder of the section is devoted to an analysis of individual indictable offences such as murder, manslaughter, robberies involving firearms and burglaries.

The proportions of indictable offences recorded in each of the regions is shown in the chart overleaf. Some indication of the annual change is provided by including the proportions recorded in 1996 in brackets. The principal change occurred in the Dublin Region where its proportion decreased to 36% from 58% in the previous year. This is a significant achievement approximately 8,200 fewer indictable offences were recorded in the Dublin Region during 1997. A more detailed analysis on a regional and divisional basis is shown in the table below. Although a 10% reduction in indictable offences was recorded nationwide there were differences across the regions. The Dublin and Southern Regions had similar reductions, 14% and 13% respectively, while the Northern and South Eastern Regions increased by 13% and 3%, respectively.

Indictable offences recorded and detected by Garda regions and five principal city areas during 1997	Group 1 Offences against the Person		Group 2 Offences against Property		Group 3 Larceny		Group 4 Other Indictable Offences		Total Indictable Offences	% Variation on 1996 Figure	No. of Offences for 1997	% Detected
	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.				
EASTERN REGION	308	277	6,547	2,559	4,938	2,548	68	68	11,861	6%	1,452	46%
Carlow/Kildare	87	80	2,038	847	1,293	700	4	4	3,422	8%	1,611	88%
Louth/Meath	43	42	771	296	562	241	11	11	1,402	9%	200	36%
Longford/Wexford	42	31	880	379	756	367	7	7	1,686	17%	810	60%
Louth/West	136	124	2,858	1,051	2,327	1,110	26	26	5,347	8%	2,311	43%
DUBLIN REGION	363	448	19,781	8,251	29,979	18,956	219	216	50,343	-14%	19,863	39%
Eastern	71	68	4,059	1,635	3,602	1,634	31	30	7,767	-8%	1,368	43%
North Central	108	80	2,710	1,054	7,979	3,124	47	47	10,893	-17%	4,365	60%
Northern	135	110	4,255	1,828	4,022	1,424	27	27	9,439	7%	1,989	60%
South Central	89	63	1,846	1,556	9,477	3,035	81	81	11,891	-16%	4,735	39%
Southern	158	118	4,861	2,198	4,999	1,739	11	11	9,927	-17%	4,266	41%
NORTHERN REGION	159	134	1,940	872	1,283	769	18	18	3,310	12%	1,297	39%
Lancashire	71	64	758	365	371	207	3	3	1,099	11%	341	31%
Monaghan	51	32	857	432	640	275	12	12	1,567	17%	422	27%
Sligo/Down	21	24	324	175	262	167	3	3	917	9%	380	41%
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	199	211	1,648	1,176	2,145	1,919	51	51	7,075	3%	1,707	33%
Tipperary	72	61	839	669	706	629	13	13	1,630	5%	804	55%
Waterford/Kilkenny	101	100	1,330	788	1,466	946	22	22	3,121	17%	1,276	57%
Wexford	64	68	1,279	669	973	544	16	16	2,324	-3%	1,077	46%
SOUTHERN REGION	346	287	6,713	2,286	6,462	3,199	73	72	12,996	-13%	1,888	45%
Cork City*	105	87	2,893	1,102	2,894	1,527	25	25	5,915	-21%	2,141	60%
Cork Town*	58	40	874	364	644	338	7	7	1,549	-7%	726	47%
Cork West	82	77	536	229	446	189	14	13	1,087	8%	499	55%
Kerry	37	25	448	232	707	326	3	2	1,211	-10%	586	48%
Limerick	76	66	1,399	417	1,210	769	9	9	3,017	-17%	1,254	41%
WESTERN REGION	178	137	2,229	966	2,473	1,264	19	19	4,891	-4%	2,266	46%
Clare	27	19	454	186	551	301	2	2	1,024	3%	588	47%
Galway West	79	43	931	316	1,056	552	87	51	1,887	-13%	743	65%
Mayo	31	29	492	214	464	177	5	5	996	6%	475	63%
Connemara/Galway East	28	26	362	196	322	174	4	1	734	-8%	391	33%
State Total	1,287	1,056	48,232	16,494	48,398	29,295	448	444	96,875	-10%	28,943	42%
City Areas												
Dublin	363	448	19,781	8,251	29,979	18,956	219	216	50,343	-14%	19,863	39%
Cork	82	71	3,312	967	3,645	1,868	22	22	5,361	-20%	2,483	47%
Galway	47	34	666	231	854	488	10	10	1,611	-14%	744	46%
Limerick	48	40	904	401	1,498	689	3	3	2,317	-16%	1,039	45%
Waterford	34	32	769	375	808	563	10	10	1,621	-2%	982	61%
Total - Cities	774	636	34,719	18,334	35,824	14,658	266	262	61,283	-14%	25,117	41%
Total - Rural	1,011	886	13,514	8,160	12,574	6,407	182	182	25,292	6%	13,826	47%

* Comparison with 1996 are approximate for non-districted populations abroad during 1997 year.

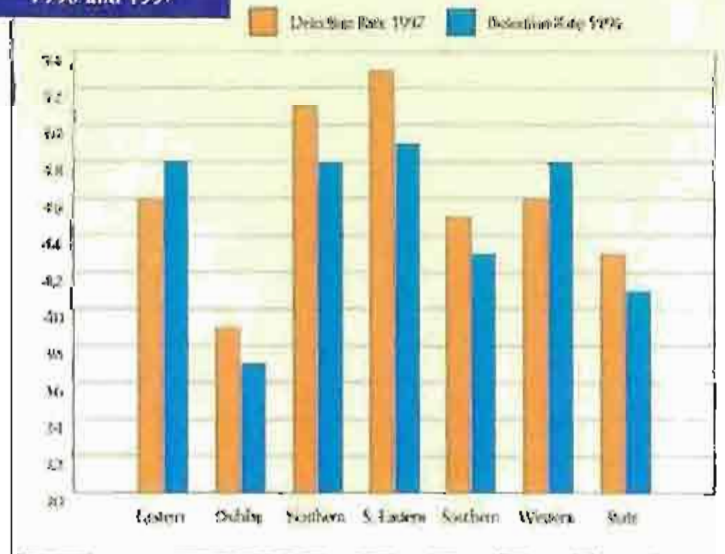
Proportion of indictable offences in each region
(Proportion for 1996 in brackets)



Major reductions in the number of indictable offences were recorded in four of the five city areas. Cork city area recorded a reduction of 20% over the previous year, Limerick decreased by 16% while Dublin and Galway decreased by 14%. In contrast, an increase of 28% was recorded in the Waterford city area. (Cork City area is the same location as that shown in previous annual reports but it is smaller in area than the newly created Cork City Division).

The detection rates in each of the regions for 1997 and the previous year are shown in the chart below. Although the detection rate fell in the Eastern and Western Regions from 48% to 46% the national rate increased over that of the previous year resulting in the best detection rate for more than 20 years. The chart highlights the progress made in the Northern and South Eastern Regions where the detection rates increased to 51% and 53%, respectively.

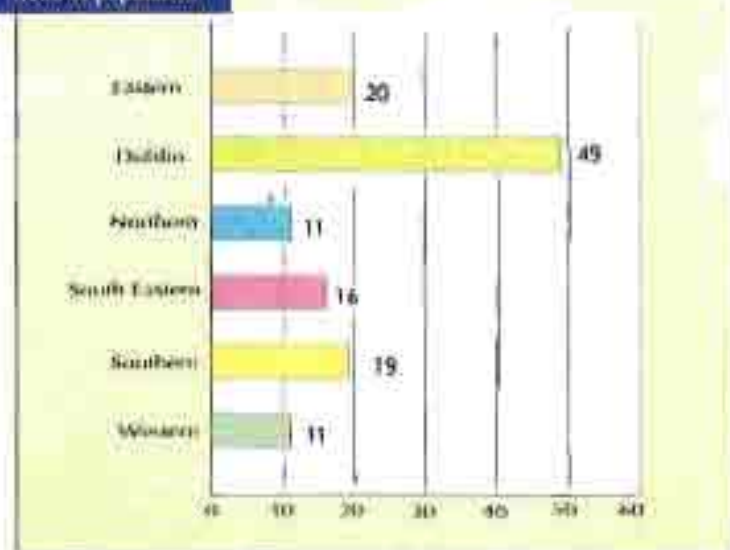
Detection rates by region
1996 and 1997



INDICABLE OFFENCES
TRAFFIC OFFENCES
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further comparison is possible by relating the number of offences recorded to population. The chart below shows the rate of indictable offences per 1,000 of population in each of the regions. When compared with the previous year the most significant change is found in the Dublin Region where the rate reduced from 56 in 1996 to 49 in the year under review.

Indictable offences per 1,000 of population



More detailed information on a divisional basis for two years is provided in the table of indictable offences per 1,000 of population in the table below.

Indictable offences per 1,000 of population	1997			1996			per 1000 of population	
	Recorded	Detected	Det. Rate	Recorded	Detected	Det. Rate	1997	1996
EASTERN REGION	11,061	5,452	46%	11,917	5,680	48%	19.84	19.61
Carlow/Kildare	1,422	1,611	48%	1,161	1,358	43%	20.66	19.00
Laois/Offaly	1,407	730	50%	1,286	603	53%	12.96	11.94
Longford/Wexford	1,485	816	40%	1,929	1,133	59%	17.06	19.53
Louth/Wick	5,147	2,311	42%	5,531	2,496	45%	23.7	24.39
DUBLIN REGION	40,542	19,862	49%	38,258	21,670	37%	48.54	56.43
Eastern	7,767	3,056	43%	8,536	3,857	39%	16.97	40.63
North Central	10,892	4,335	40%	11,146	4,975	38%	100.08	227.00
Northern	6,419	3,395	40%	9,053	3,387	37%	23.78	25.52
South Central	13,493	4,733	35%	16,054	5,384	34%	100.39	179.75
Southern	9,551	4,066	41%	11,858	4,342	35%	30.24	35.34
NORTHERN REGION	3,510	1,797	51%	3,143	1,511	48%	11.27	10.89
Cavan/Monaghan	1,010	515	54%	989	485	54%	9.16	8.19
Down	1,583	872	55%	1,566	687	49%	12.26	10.91
Sligo/Letterkenny	917	410	41%	615	329	59%	12.61	11.52
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	7,075	3,257	52%	6,837	3,320	49%	16.06	15.52
Tipperary	1,630	904	55%	1,547	797	51%	11.29	11.19
Wick/Carlow/Kilkenny	3,121	1,776	57%	2,774	1,354	49%	20.07	17.84
Wexford	2,324	1,077	46%	2,516	1,182	47%	15.64	17.14
SOUTHERN REGION	12,996	5,888	45%	15,029	6,454	43%	18.37	21.42
Cork City*	5,913	2,741	46%	7,432	3,111	45%	30.85	38.81
Cork North*	1,340	729	47%	1,573	806	51%	14.48	13.27
Cork West	1,007	499	43%	1,032	467	45%	9.59	9.12
Kerry	1,373	586	43%	1,536	620	40%	11.06	12.80
Limerick	1,073	1,254	41%	1,440	1,237	36%	18.93	21.72
WESTERN REGION	4,891	2,366	46%	5,110	2,453	48%	11.33	11.84
Clare	1,074	508	47%	1,020	500	49%	12.08	11.47
Galway West	2,087	942	45%	2,346	1,021	44%	15.68	17.42
Mayo	996	425	43%	944	445	47%	8.54	8.09
Roscommon/Galway East	734	291	53%	800	487	61%	7.90	8.61
State Total	96,875	38,941	43%	100,785	41,056	41%	25.29	28.59

* Comparison with 1996 not appropriate because divisional boundaries varied during that year.

HOMICIDE

In keeping with the approach used in the previous annual report the term homicide is used in the analysis of unlawful killings. Used in the strict sense, the term homicide includes more indictable offences than murder and manslaughter. For example, infanticide and manslaughter arising from road traffic fatalities constitute homicide but they are not analysed here. There were 38 murders recorded in 1997 which was a decrease of four when compared with the 42 which were recorded in the previous year. Almost 90% of the 1997 murders were detected. Manslaughters increased almost four fold: 15 were recorded in 1997 while 4 were recorded in the previous year. All of the 15 were detected. When murders and manslaughters are combined the total recorded in 1997 represents an increase of 15% on the previous year.

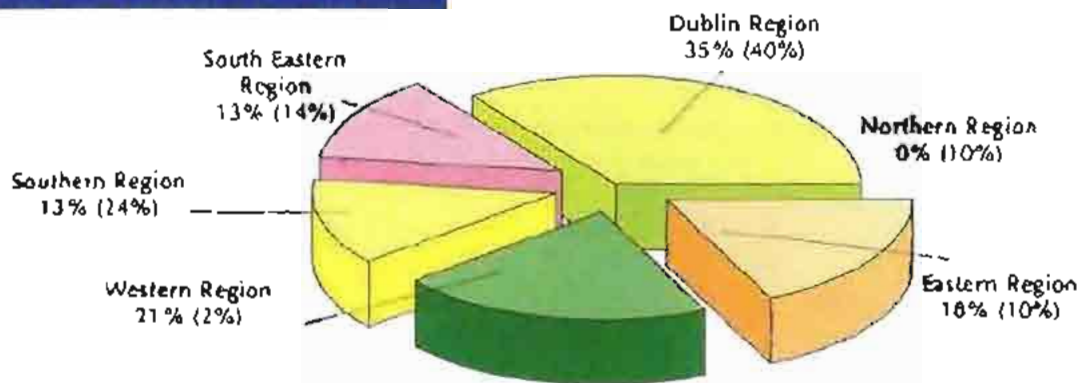
The following table shows the number of murder and manslaughter offences recorded and detected in 1997 in each of the Garda divisions.

Homicide offences by region and gender of victims

	Murder				Manslaughter			
	Male	Female	Rec.	Det.	Male	Female	Rec.	Det.
EASTERN REGION	4	3	7	7	1	0	1	1
Carlow/Kildare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laois/Offaly	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Longford/Westmeath	2	1	3	3	0	0	0	0
Louth/Meath	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
DUBLIN REGION	9	4	13	11	8	0	8	8
Eastern	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
North Central	2	2	4	4	1	0	1	1
Northern	2	1	3	2	2	0	2	2
South Central	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	1
Southern	3	1	4	4	1	0	1	1
NORTHERN REGION	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Cavan/Monaghan	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Donegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo/Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	4	1	5	5	0	1	1	1
Tipperary	2	1	3	3	0	1	1	1
Wexford/Wick	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Windsor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTHERN REGION	5	0	5	5	0	2	2	2
Cork City	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Cork North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kerry	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Limerick	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	1
WESTERN REGION	3	5	8	6	2	0	2	2
Clare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galway West	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
Mayo	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Roscommon/Galway East	2	1	3	2	2	0	2	2
Total	25	13	38	34	12	3	15	15

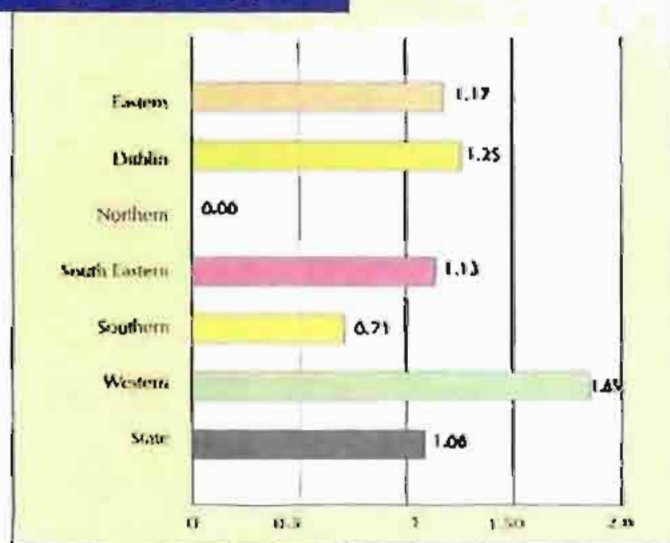
The proportions of murders in each of the regions is shown in the chart overleaf. To indicate the change over the previous year the 1996 proportions for that year are shown in brackets after those for the year under review. Although major changes occurred in nearly every region it is important to emphasise that relatively small numbers were involved in some locations.

Proportion of murders in each region in 1997
(Proportion for 1996 in brackets)



Murders per hundred thousand of population are shown in the chart on the right. The national murder rate (depicted by the State bar in the chart) is 1.08 per 100,000 of population. The highest rate was recorded in the Western Region while the Northern Region rate was zero since no murders were recorded in that location. The Southern Region was somewhat below the national average while the remaining regions were closer to it.

Murders per 100,000 of population



The increase in the proportion of female murder victims which occurred in 1996 was not repeated in the year under review. They comprised 45% of the 42 murders recorded in 1996 while they accounted for 34% of the total in 1997. Three of the 15 manslaughter victims recorded in 1997 were female.

Almost one third of all murder victims (male and female alike) were aged between 41 and 50 years while almost one quarter were aged between 21 and 30 years. Those aged less than 20 years accounted for approximately one fifth of all murder victims. A cautious approach must be exercised when analysing age and gender together because of the relatively small numbers involved in many of the age groups. That said, the most significant difference between male and female murder victims occurred among those aged 51 or more years. Approximately 8% of male victims were aged 51 or more years in contrast with the 31% of female victims of similar age.

Age & gender of homicide victims

Age	Murder		Manslaughter	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 10 yrs	0	1	0	0
11 - 20 yrs	5	1	1	0
21 - 30 yrs	6	3	4	1
31 - 40 yrs	4	0	3	0
41 - 50 yrs	8	4	3	0
51 - 60 yrs	1	2	0	1
61 - 70 yrs	0	1	1	0
71 & over	1	1	0	1
Total	25	13	12	3

INDICTABLE ASSAULT & SEXUAL OFFENCES

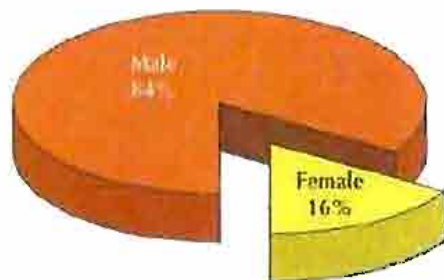
Taken together the number of indictable wounding and assault offences recorded in 1997 show an increase of 3% over those of the previous year. The number of victims are shown by gender in the table below and the proportions are shown in the corresponding chart. It is important to acknowledge that the vast majority of assaults dealt with by the Gardai are recorded as non-indictable offences. (The 39 indictable wounding and assault offences where Gardai were victims, recorded in 1997, are not included in the table).

Indictable assault and sexual offence victims by gender

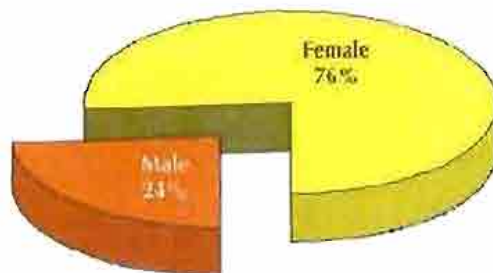
Assault offences	Male	Female	Total
Wounding and other acts endangering life (felonies)	105	15	120
Assault wounding, other like offences (misdemeanours)	352	72	424
Sexual offences			
Buggery	80	0	80
Rape of females	0	256	256
Sexual assault	161	441	602
Unlawful carnal knowledge (under 15 yrs)	0	23	23
Unlawful carnal knowledge (15 yrs to 17yrs)	0	19	19
Incest	0	10	10
Aggravated sexual assault	1	10	11

Indecent exposure which accounts for nearly all of the 13 "other sexual offences" shown in the summary of indictable offences table, in the previous section of the Annual Report, are not included in the table above since they do not necessarily involve an identifiable victim. The total number of sexual offences recorded in 1997 increased by 21% when compared with the previous year. Rapes increased by 76 (42%) while sexual assaults increased by 51 (9%). The proportion of female victims of sexual offences increased from 67% in 1996 to 76% in the year under review.

Indictable wounding & assault victims



Indictable sexual assault victims

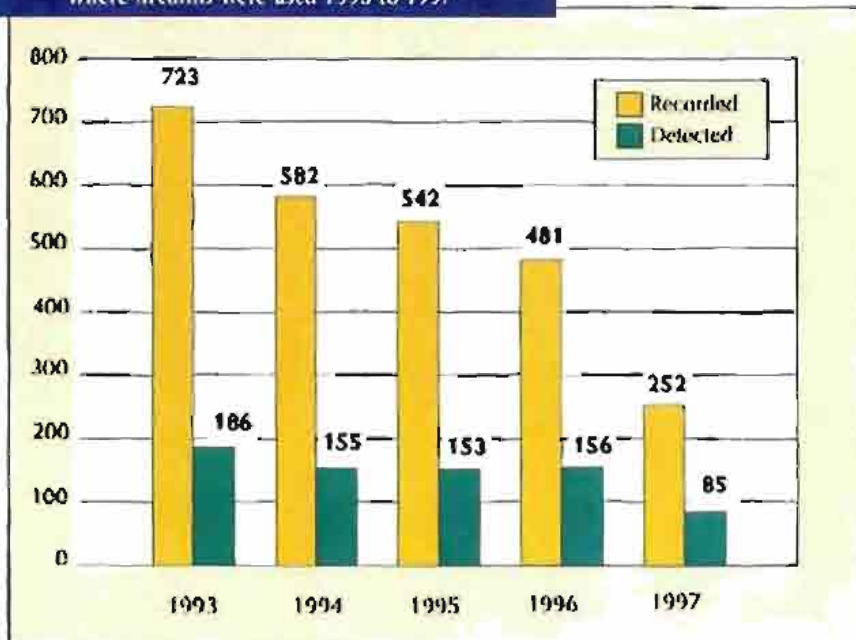


ARMED ROBBERIES & ARMED AGGRAVATED BURGLARIES

Two indictable offences, armed robbery and armed aggravated burglary, refer to the criminal activity which is popularly described as an "armed raid". Rather than explaining the essential legal ingredients of the two offences, the following brief description indicates the general nature of the criminal activities to which they refer. The use of a firearm is a feature common to these two indictable offences and the use of force, or threat of force being used, is a key difference between them. Armed robbery is committed by a person, armed with a firearm, who steals as a result of using force or as a result of fear induced by a threat to use force. Armed aggravated burglary is committed by a person who enters a building as a trespasser in order to steal or damage property, or to rape or injure persons and while in possession of a firearm.

The chart below shows the number of armed robberies and armed aggravated burglaries which were recorded in the five years from 1993 to 1997. Those recorded in 1997 were 48% fewer than the previous year and the 1997 total was almost one third of the 1993 total. The detection rate over the five years rose from 26% in 1993 to 34% in 1997.

Armed robberies & armed aggravated burglaries where firearms were used 1993 to 1997



The table below shows the two offences during the period 1995 to 1997. In the table overleaf, those recorded in 1997 are analysed in terms of the locations at which they occurred.

Armed robbery and armed aggravated burglary 1995 to 1997

	1997	1996	1995
Armed robbery	88	152	171
Armed aggravated burglary	164	329	371
Total	252	481	542

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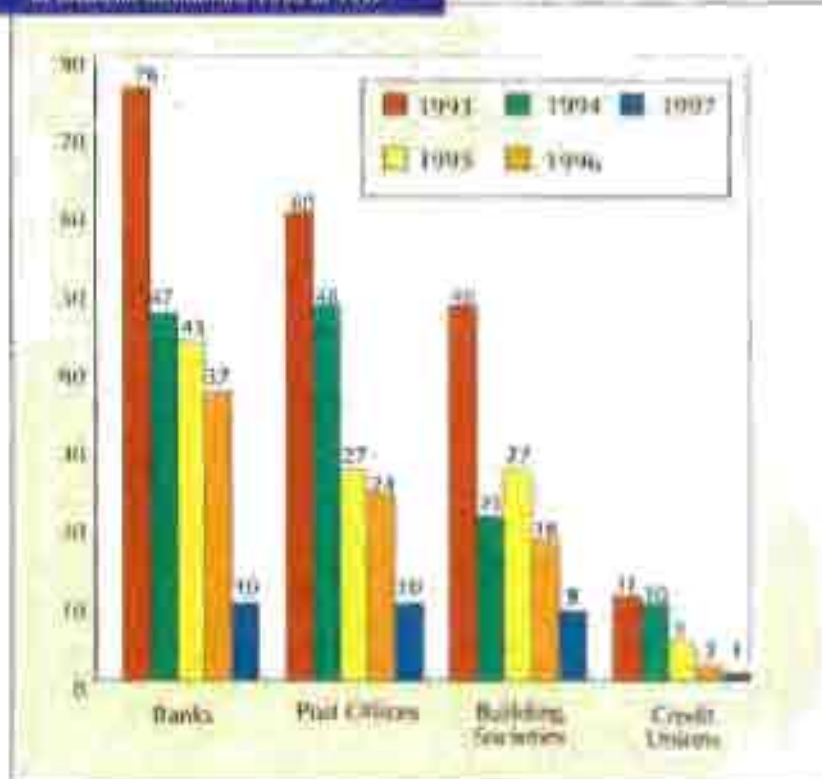
Analysis of aggravated burglaries where firearms were used and armed robberies 1997

	House Flat	Bank	Post Office	Betting Office	Building Society	Credit Union	Licensed Premises	Amusement Centre	Shop/ Stall	Garage	Petrol Station	Hotel	Restaurant	Factory	Office	Super-market	Street/ Road	Other	Total
EASTERN REGION	4	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	2	1	1	0	2	0	4	24
Carlow/Kildare	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	
Laois/Offaly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longford/Wexmouth	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Louth/Meath	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
DUBLIN REGION	12	7	2	8	7	0	7	0	49	7	13	2	2	2	4	4	22	38	106
Eastern	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	
North Central	4	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	8	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	6	
Northern	4	1	1	1	1	0	4	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	12	
Southern	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	18	3	7	1	1	1	0	0	5	9	
South Central	0	1	0	6	0	0	1	0	7	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	3	8	
NORTHERN REGION	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Cavan/Monaghan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Donegal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Sligo/Lisima	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Tipperary	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Waterford/Kilkenny	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wexford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SOUTHERN REGION	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	11
Cork City	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Cork North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cork West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Kerry	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Limerick	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
WESTERN REGION	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Clare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Galway West	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mayo	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Roscommon (Galway East)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	24	10	10	8	9	1	10	0	59	7	25	4	3	3	4	7	23	45	212

Cash analysis of aggravated burglaries where firearms were used and armed robberies 1997

	House Flat	Bank	Post Office	Betting Office	Building Society	Credit Union	Licensed Premises	Amusement Centre	Shop/ Stall	Garage	Petrol Station	Hotel	Restaurant	Factory	Office	Super-market	Street/ Road	Other	Total
Up to £99.99	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	33
£100 to £499.99	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	24	3	8	0	3	0	0	1	6	10	44
£500 to £999.99	5	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	16
£1000 to £4999.99	5	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	6	26
£5000 +	5	5	3	0	1	0	4	0	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	6	11	34
Nothing Taken	7	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	12	1	11	1	0	1	0	1	6	5	48
Totals	24	10	10	8	9	1	10	0	59	7	25	4	3	3	4	7	23	45	212

During 1997 the number of armed robberies and armed aggravated burglaries at financial institutions decreased by almost two thirds when compared with the previous year. The chart overleaf shows the volumes recorded in the five years from 1993 to 1997. Those recorded at building societies and credit unions decreased by half while larger decreases were recorded in respect of banks and post offices.

Armed robberies & armed aggravated burglaries
at financial institutions 1993 to 1997

ROBBERY & AGGRAVATED BURGLARY

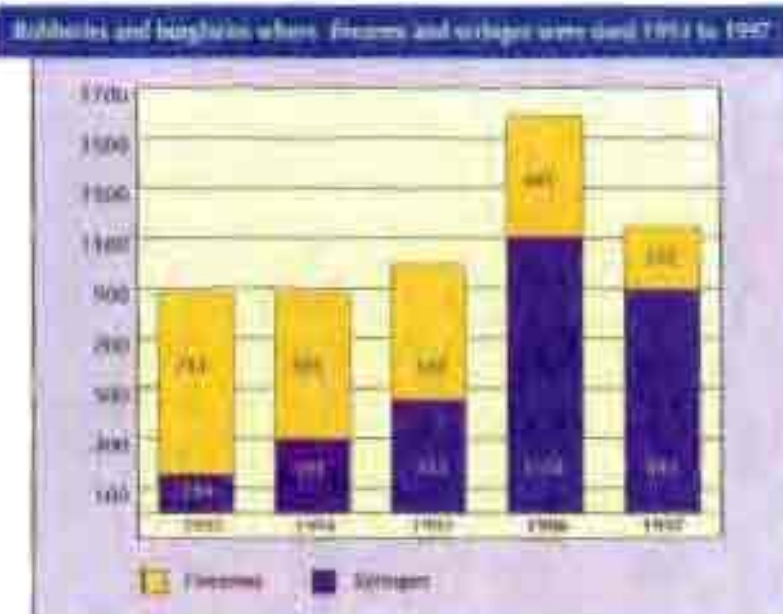
So far, the analysis of robberies and aggravated burglaries has been confined to those situations where firearms were used. During 1997 there were 2,470 robberies and 981 aggravated burglaries recorded (where weapons other than firearms were used) resulting in decreases of 23% and 26% respectively over those recorded in the previous year.

The use of syringes in the course of criminal activity is a relatively recent phenomenon. The table below shows its development in relation to robberies and aggravated burglaries over the five years to 1997. Although the volume recorded in 1997 was 19% lower than that of 1996 it must be viewed against the fact that there had been an annual increase of 144% in that particular year. Detection rates decreased in 1997 for each of the offences: approximately one third of the robberies and almost half of the aggravated burglaries were detected.

Robberies and aggravated burglaries
where syringes were used 1993 to 1997

	ROBBERY			AGGRAVATED BURGLARY			Total
	Recorded	Detected	% Detected	Recorded	Detected	% Detected	
1993	85	26	31%	69	32	46%	154
1994	148	42	28%	142	62	43%	290
1995	274	92	34%	179	67	37%	453
1996	687	267	39%	417	217	52%	1104
1997	593	194	33%	303	145	48%	896

Comparing the use of firearms and syringes in the course of robberies and armed aggravated burglaries over the same five year period gives some indication of the extent to which the modus operandi (methods employed) have changed. As the chart below shows, syringes accounted for 18% of the total shown in 1993 while they accounted for 78% of the total in 1997. However, it is important to emphasise that these syringe offences and firearms offences decreased by 19% and 48%, respectively in 1997 when compared with the previous year.



BURGLARIES

Burglaries account for approximately 30% of the indictable offences which were recorded in 1997. The number of burglaries recorded in 1997 decreased by 2,212 (8%) over those recorded in the previous year. The term "house burglaries" is used to describe those burglaries which occur in dwellings (houses, apartments, mobile homes, hostels, etc.) and the chart overleaf shows the numbers recorded in the five year period to 1997.

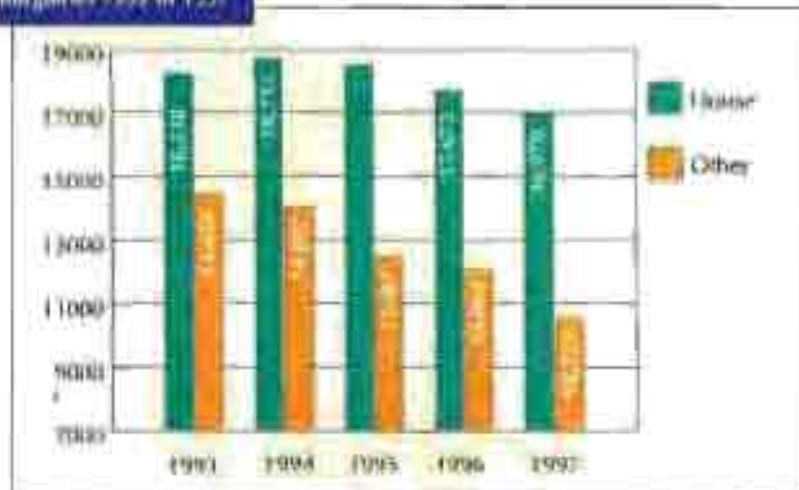
A more detailed breakdown of house and other burglaries is shown in the table below: in 1997, house burglaries decreased by 4% while other burglaries decreased by 13% over the volume recorded in the previous year.

Burglaries in the city areas showed larger reductions: house and other burglaries reduced there by 9% and 14%, respectively. (City areas refer to Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and the Dublin Region).

Burglaries 1995 to 1997

STATE	HOUSE		OTHER		TOTAL BURGLARIES	
1995	18,506	-1%	12,482	-12%	30,988	-5%
1996	17,672	5%	12,063	-3%	29,735	-4%
1997	16,870	-4%	10,533	-13%	27,403	-8%
CITIES						
1995	13,470	-2%	6,564	-13%	20,034	-3%
1996	13,181	-2%	6,446	-2%	19,627	-2%
1997	11,947	-9%	5,373	-14%	17,320	-11%

Burglaries 1993 to 1997



VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED IN BURGLARIES, ROBBERIES AND LARCENIES

The number of burglaries, robberies and larcenies in which property was stolen in 1997 show a reduction of 9,046 (11%) on those recorded in the previous year and the value of the property stolen is 4% more than the corresponding value recorded in 1996. The proportion recovered increased from 6.55% in 1996 to 7.58% in 1997.

Value of property stolen and recovered in burglaries, robberies and larcenies

	Burglaries & Robberies		Larcenies	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Less than £10	657	798	2,109	2,358
£10 and less than £50	2,988	3,599	8,287	9,711
£50 and less than £100	2,549	3,098	6,627	7,931
£100 and less than £200	3,735	4,225	7,916	9,237
£200 and less than £300	2,764	3,058	5,255	6,319
£300 and less than £400	2,196	2,336	2,916	3,622
£400 and less than £500	1,494	1,794	1,764	1,987
£500 and less than £1000	4,295	4,656	3,837	3,967
£1000 and less than £5000	4,891	5,118	3,747	3,305
£5000 and over	833	788	787	766
Total where property was stolen	26,402	29,470	43,245	49,223
Total where no property was stolen	4,804	5,280	328	373
		1997		1996
Value of property stolen (above)		£53,467,316		£51,533,543
Value of property recovered (above)		£4,050,179		£3,376,247
Proportion recovered		7.58%		6.55%

INDICTABLE OFFENCES WHERE TOURISTS ARE INJURED PARTIES

Some 3,651 indictable offences where the injured parties are tourists were recorded in 1997 and this represented a decrease of 9% over the previous year. Of the total involved, 87% were larcenies and there were 20 offences against the person. (Personal injuries were sustained by 86 tourists which represents 2% of those recorded in 1997). As in the previous year, the majority 89% were recorded in the Dublin Region. The proportion of the offences which were detected increased from 17% in 1996 to 21% in 1997.

Indictable offences where injured parties are tourists

	State				Dublin Region			
	1997		1996		1997		1996	
	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected
Indictable offences								
Group 1 - Offences against the person	20	13	15	8	6	1	8	3
Group 2 - Burglary, robbery etc	446	116	441	92	357	89	357	70
Group 3 - Larceny, forgery etc	3,183	627	3,568	591	2,877	537	3,198	504
Group 4 - Other	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	3,651	758	4,024	691	3,241	628	3,563	577
Proportion Detected	20.76%		17.17%		19.38%		16.19%	

GARDA JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAMME

The Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme was introduced in 1963 to provide an opportunity to divert juvenile offenders from criminal activity. The Programme provides, that if certain criteria are met, a juvenile offender may be cautioned as an alternative to prosecution. The Programme operates on the basis of the common law principle of police discretion.

The Programme operates under the supervision and direction of the Garda National Juvenile Office. It is implemented throughout all Garda divisions by specially trained Gardaí, who are employed as Juvenile Liaison Officers (J.L.O.). Juveniles cautioned under the Programme may be subject to supervision by a J.L.O. Supervision involves a wide range of activities including contact between the juvenile, the family and the J.L.O. It may occur at the juvenile's home, school, youth club, sports club, on the street etc. If a J.L.O. identifies a problem affecting the juvenile or family which he/she is unable to deal with, the J.L.O. refers the family to the appropriate statutory or voluntary organisation with expertise in the matter.

In 1997, some 8,583 juvenile offenders were included in the Programme bringing the number included since its inception in 1963, to a total of 94,778 offenders. Of the total number included in the programme 83% were male offenders and 17% were female. Since inception, almost 84,300 juvenile offenders, 89% of the total involved, reached their 18th year of age without being prosecuted for a criminal offence. In recent years, the age limit for inclusion in the programme was increased from 17 to 18 years of age.

Details of the disposal of juvenile referrals received at the National Juvenile Office during 1997 are shown, on a regional basis, in the following table. Since some juvenile offenders were referred on more than one occasion during the year the number of referrals is greater than the number of individual offenders.

Disposal of 1997 referrals

REGION		Prosecuted initially		Prosecuted on N.L.O. direction		Formal caution		Informal caution		No further action	Pending	Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
EASTERN	Referrals	99	5	331	36	236	11	781	163	89	683	2,084
	Individual offenders	75	3	251	30	213	27	731	154	87	657	2,132
DUBLIN	Referrals	896	67	1,009	109	426	48	1,929	394	100	1,016	6,164
	Individual offenders	545	40	605	93	367	43	1,799	375	793	937	5,305
NORTHERN	Referrals	79	0	138	4	141	27	471	40	39	267	1,144
	Individual offenders	72	0	109	3	124	26	455	40	38	258	1,071
SOUTH EASTERN	Referrals	49	8	147	30	252	24	581	149	28	363	1,731
	Individual offenders	34	5	145	22	229	21	526	141	28	315	1,469
SOUTHERN	Referrals	69	10	512	79	261	53	623	203	126	177	2,291
	Individual offenders	56	8	369	57	233	53	593	190	104	156	2,019
WESTERN	Referrals	29	1	140	16	231	38	345	85	38	317	1,241
	Individual offenders	23	1	105	14	207	35	327	84	37	290	1,123
Total	Referrals	1,167	91	2,367	274	1,547	223	4,731	1,031	601	3,023	15,075
	Individual offenders	755	67	1,781	219	1,373	205	4,411	987	588	2,813	13,219

Juvenile offenders who are admitted to the Programme may be cautioned in one of two ways: cautions are described as formal or informal. An informal caution is used where the criminal act committed by the juvenile offender is of a minor nature. The caution is administered by the local J.L.O. and it is normally given at the offender's home and in the presence of parents or guardians. Where the criminal activity is of a more serious nature, a formal caution is administered by the local District Officer (Superintendent). It takes place at the Garda Station and in the presence of parents or guardians.

In all cases where a caution is administered the juvenile offender is advised of the implications of further criminal behaviour and may be placed under the supervision of a J.L.O.

The table below shows the number of cautions by division which were administered in respect of referrals made during 1997.

Details of cautions by region
(1997 referrals)

	Formal		Informal		Total cautions	
	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders
EASTERN REGION	267	240	944	885	1,211	1,125
Carlow/Kilkare	14	14	351	329	365	343
Laois/Offaly	53	47	115	114	168	161
Longford/Westmeath	99	85	109	105	208	190
Louth/Meath	101	94	369	337	470	431
DUBLIN REGION	474	410	2,323	2,174	2,797	2,584
Eastern	70	58	330	307	400	365
North Central	35	31	297	278	332	309
Northern	112	104	821	768	933	872
South Central	84	64	289	270	373	334
Southern	173	153	586	551	759	704
NORTHERN REGION	168	150	513	495	681	645
Cavan/Monaghan	64	56	180	172	244	228
Donegal	82	73	263	255	345	328
Sligo/Lettrim	22	21	70	68	92	89
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	276	250	730	670	1,006	928
Tipperary	71	69	63	61	134	130
Waterford/Kilkenny	106	90	430	386	536	476
Wexford	99	91	237	223	336	314
SOUTHERN REGION	316	286	822	783	1,130	1,069
Cork City	61	51	353	335	414	386
Cork North	86	83	141	131	227	214
Cork West	51	42	108	105	159	147
Kerry	25	23	88	85	113	108
Limerick	93	87	132	127	225	214
WESTERN REGION	269	242	430	411	699	653
Clare	69	61	114	104	183	165
Galway West	101	87	168	162	269	249
Mayo	47	43	89	87	136	130
Roscommon/Galway East	52	51	59	58	111	109
Total	1,770	1,578	5,762	5,418	7,532	6,996

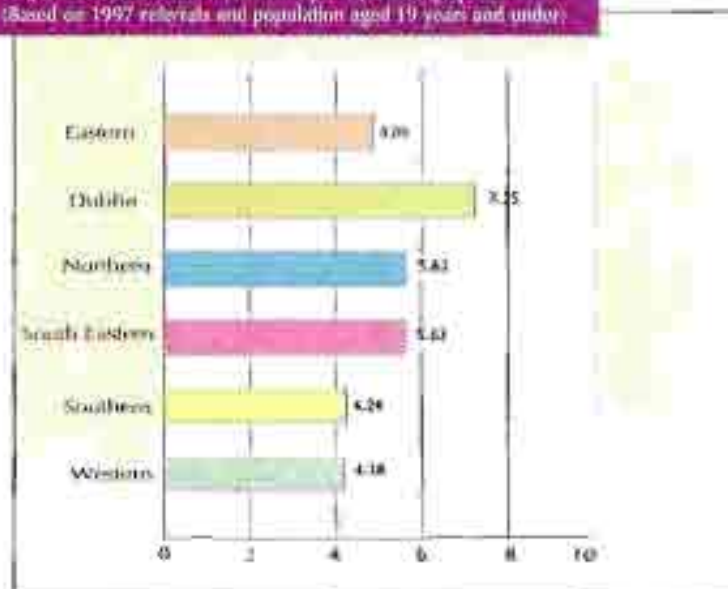
In addition to the 7,532 referrals from 1997 which were dealt with by way of caution during 1997 a further 1,668 referrals which were pending at 1st January 1997 were disposed of by way of caution. These additional referrals related to 1,587 offenders and the combined referrals from 1997 and those pending at 1st January 1997 which were dealt with by way of caution during 1997 are shown in the table below.

Details of cautions by region including referrals pending at 1st January 1997

REGION	Formal		Informal		Total cautions	
	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders
EASTERN	399	352	1,167	1,120	1,566	1,472
DUBLIN	592	529	2,787	2,620	3,384	3,149
NORTHERN	216	191	596	577	812	769
SOUTH EASTERN	357	321	854	793	1,211	1,116
SOUTHERN	406	366	950	911	1,356	1,279
WESTERN	348	315	503	483	851	798
TOTAL	2,323	2,079	6,877	6,584	9,200	8,583

The number of juvenile offenders, per thousand of population, who were referred to the National Juvenile Office and cautioned during 1997 is shown in the chart below. This provides some indication of the rate at which cautions are administered in each of the regions. The highest rate of cautions, 7.25 cautions per thousand of population is found in the Dublin Region. In the remainder of the regions the rate varies from 5.63 in the South Eastern Region to 4.18 per thousand in the Western Region.

Juvenile offenders cautioned per 1,000 of population (Based on 1997 referrals and population aged 19 years and under)



The following table shows the number of prosecutions which were instituted in respect of referrals made during 1997. Prosecutions take place where juvenile offenders do not meet the requirements for inclusion in the Diversion Programme. In some cases, for example, juvenile offenders may be prosecuted on an initial basis because they have been prosecuted previously or because of the serious nature of the offence involved.

Details of prosecutions by region (1997 referrals)	Prosecuted initially		Prosecuted on direction		Total prosecuted	
	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders	Referrals	Individual offenders
EASTERN REGION	104	80	387	283	491	363
Carlow/Kildare	22	16	112	87	134	103
Laos/Offaly	22	21	66	53	88	74
Longford/Westmeath	30	18	56	34	86	52
Louth/Meath	30	25	153	109	183	134
DUBLIN REGION	963	593	1,118	898	2,001	1,491
Eastern	58	49	106	80	164	129
North Central	294	178	193	163	487	341
Northern	224	144	363	303	587	447
South Central	213	113	174	138	387	251
Southern	174	109	282	214	456	323
NORTHERN REGION	25	22	132	107	157	129
Cavan/Monaghan	12	10	74	59	86	69
Donegal	8	7	40	36	48	43
Sligo/Lettrim	5	5	18	12	23	17
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	57	39	277	167	334	206
Tipperary	2	2	34	33	36	35
Waterford/Kilkenny	39	24	172	83	211	107
Wexford	16	13	71	51	87	64
SOUTHERN REGION	79	64	591	426	670	490
Cork City	34	28	292	196	326	224
Cork North	13	12	106	75	119	87
Cork West	7	4	44	34	51	38
Kerry	18	13	73	59	91	72
Limerick	7	7	76	62	83	69
WESTERN REGION	30	24	156	119	186	143
Clare	12	9	54	36	66	45
Galway West	16	13	73	59	89	72
Mayo	1	1	20	16	21	17
Roscommon/Galway East	1	1	9	8	10	9
Total	1,258	822	2,661	2,000	3,919	2,822

J.L.Os meet and co-operate with parents, teachers, probation officers, social workers, welfare officers and personnel involved in child guidance clinics, public health clinics and the Courts. The maintenance of such contacts ensure that the J.L.Os are in a better position to assist juvenile offenders and their families and to guide the young offender away from a life of crime. They take an active interest in youth and other clubs operating in the community. J.L.Os give talks in schools and to many other organisations on a wide range of topics which are relevant to young people.

During 1997, J.L.Os visited 4,873 juvenile offenders who were under intensive supervision and a further 16,480 visits were made to those under regular supervision. In addition, more than 6,500 visits were made to schools and clubs. Details of these activities are shown on a regional basis in the table below.

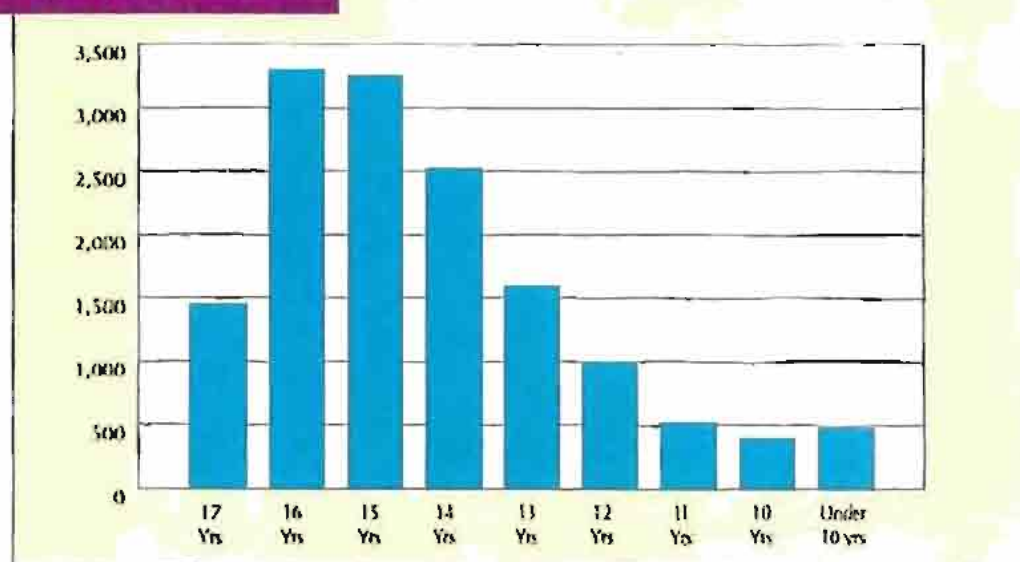
Activities of juvenile liaison officers

	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	Northern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Total
Clubs							
Visits to	356	1,280	138	166	621	66	2,627
Talks given	46	170	24	26	65	13	344
Schools *							
Visits to	223	2,575	106	473	446	208	3,971
Talks given	207	965	110	203	191	62	1,738
Adult groups-talks given	112	252	50	98	94	77	683
Meetings attended	558	2,063	259	257	1,142	326	4,605
Visits to supervises							
Under intensive supervision	644	1,775	356	907	772	419	4,873
Under regular supervision	2,122	7,067	929	1,262	4,288	812	16,480

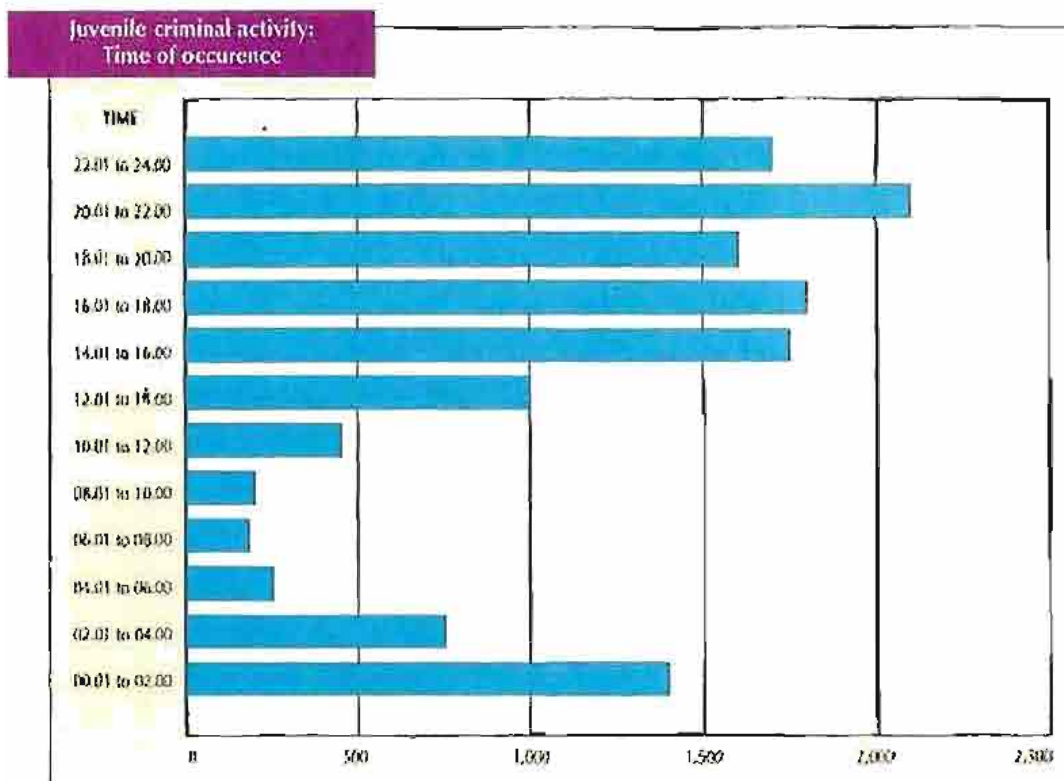
* Excluding Schools Programme

Some 22% of the juvenile offenders referred to the National Juvenile Office during 1997 were aged 15 years and a similar percentage was aged 16 years. Only 10% were aged 17 years and 25% were aged between 10 years and 13 years. The chart below shows the number of juvenile offenders referred, during 1997, where exact age details are available.

Age of juvenile offenders



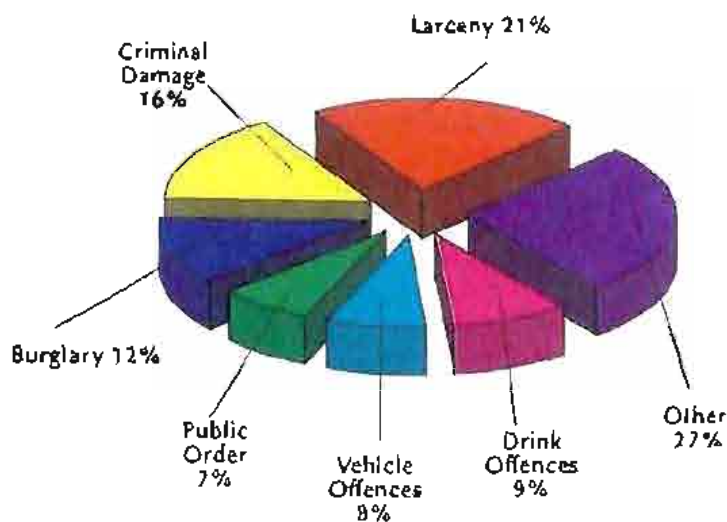
The times at which the criminal activity took place is known in almost 13,350 cases and they are shown in the chart overleaf. The majority of the activity (68%) occurred fairly evenly across the hours from 2pm to midnight, with activity at its highest between 8pm and 10pm, while 20% occurred from midnight to 8am and the remaining 12% took place between 8am and 2pm.



OFFENCES INVOLVING JUVENILE OFFENDERS

In general, adult and juvenile offenders commit similar criminal offences. (Certain offences, such as under-age drinking, may only be committed by juvenile offenders.) The chart below shows the principal offences (indictable and non-indictable) in respect of which referrals were made in 1997. Taken together, larcenies, criminal damage, and burglaries comprise slightly less than half of the total offences involved.

Principal offences in respect of which referrals were made in 1997



Two tables are used to show the offences in respect of which juvenile referrals were made. A selection of offence types are shown in detail in the second table: for example, the total of 1,397 drink related offences shown in the first table are described in detail in the second one.

The total number of offences in respect of which referrals were made continues to rise when compared with previous years. The number of referrals increased by 5.5% (790 referrals) in 1997 when compared to 1996. There were 326 fewer referrals for larcenies in 1997, a decrease of 9.5% over the previous year, however referrals for burglaries increased by 11% (173 referrals).

Vehicle offences relating to unauthorised taking, unlawful interference and unauthorised carriage remained relatively unchanged over the previous year while other traffic offences increased by almost 40%.

There was a significant rise (54%) in the number of offences relating to the purchase possession and consumption of alcohol in 1997. The offence of intoxication in public which in previous years was categorised with the public order offences has now been placed in the drink related offences category. Referrals for serious assaults increased by 32% over the 1996 statistics.

Summary of offences in respect of which juvenile offenders were referred

	No.	%
Larcenies	3,099	20.6%
Burglary	1,744	11.6%
Criminal damage	2,387	15.8%
Vehicle offences (Unauthorised taking, carriage, interference)	1,256	8.3%
Other traffic offences (see breakdown 1)	315	2.1%
Handling stolen property	446	3.0%
Drink related offences (see breakdown 2)	1,197	8.0%
Public order (see breakdown 3)	1,112	7.4%
Possession of offensive weapons etc.	244	1.6%
Drugs (Possession)	411	2.7%
Breach of bail	84	0.6%
Robbery (incl. demanding money with menaces)	161	1.1%
Possession of articles with intent	118	0.8%
Assault (Common)	868	5.8%
Serious assault (see breakdown 4)	174	1.2%
Fraud related offences (see breakdown 5)	155	1.0%
Begging	96	0.6%
Sexual offences (see breakdown 6)	103	0.7%
Casual trading offences	23	0.1%
Assault Garda/Peace Officer	18	0.1%
Trespass/outrage on enclosed premises	56	0.4%
Railway acts (trespass line, stone throwing, non-payment of fare)	210	1.4%
Drugs (Sale/Supply)	71	0.5%
Street and house to house collections	18	0.1%
Firearms related offences	65	0.4%
Public mischief (incl. hoax telephone calls)	61	0.4%
False imprisonment/child stealing	3	0.0%
Aggravated burglary	10	0.1%
Arms	73	0.5%
Cruelty to animals	12	0.1%
Miscellaneous	29	0.2%
Total	15,075	

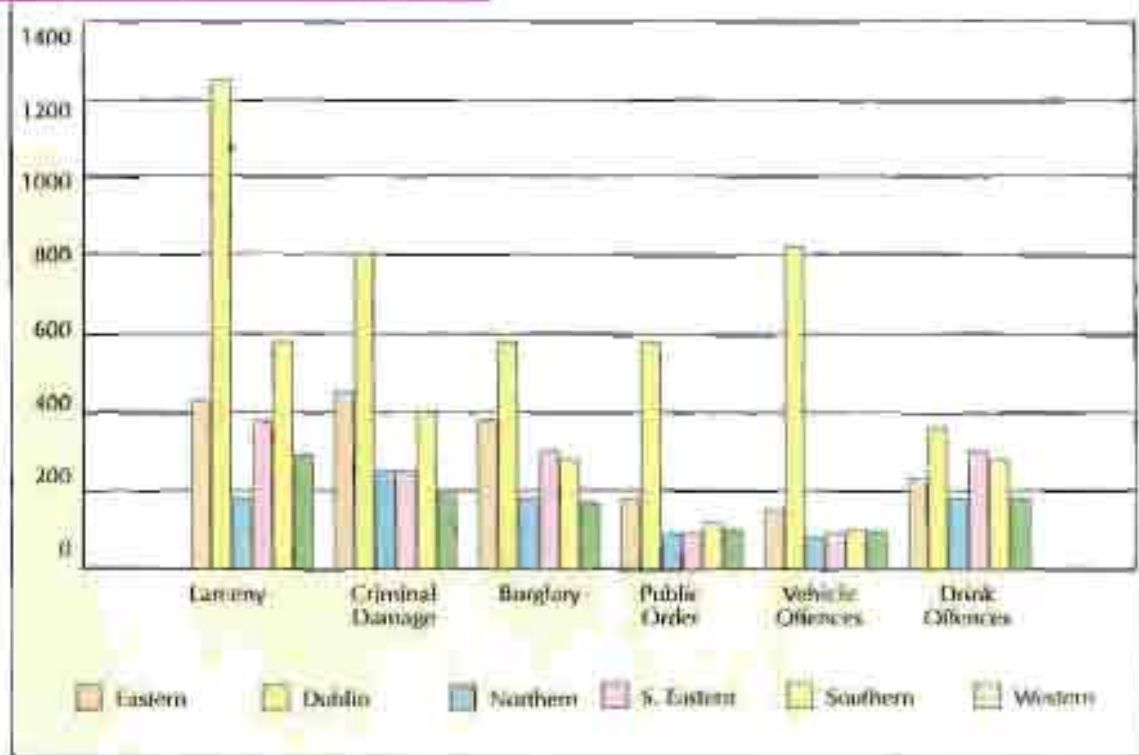
This table provides a breakdown of a selection of offences which are summarised in six groups in the previous table.

Selected offences in respect of which juvenile referrals were made

	No.
(1) Other traffic offences	
Insurance offences	260
Pedal cycle offences	27
Dangerous driving	59
Careless driving	16
Public Transport (PSV) offences	4
Drunk driving offences	17
No driving licence	88
Hit and run traffic accident	10
No helmet/seatbelt	2
Speeding	4
No road tax	5
Miscellaneous	23
Total	515
(2) Drink related offences	
Purchase/possession/consumption of alcohol	744
Intoxication in public place	550
Drunk and disorderly/danger to traffic	44
Simple drunkenness	38
Found on licensed premises	21
Total	1,397
(3) Public order offences	
Affray	5
Riot	11
Urinate in public	10
Disorderly conduct in public	164
Threatening behaviour etc.	646
Failure to comply with Garda direction/Obstruction	226
Willful obstruction	5
Violent disorder	11
Other	34
Total	1,112
(4) Serious Assault	
Murder	0
Assault occasioning serious bodily harm	14
Assault occasioning bodily harm	130
Assault with intent	30
Total	174
(5) Fraud related offences	
Forgery/uttering/fraud	137
False pretences	18
Embezzlement	0
Total	155
(6) Sexual offences	
Aggravated sexual assault	8
Sexual Assault	47
Indecency	24
Rape/unlawful carnal knowledge (including attempt)	21
Loitering for purpose of prostitution	2
Soliciting for purpose of prostitution	1
Other	6
Total	103

The chart below compares the rate of the principal offences between the six regions. Larceny is the principal offence in all the regions but is particularly prevalent in the Dublin Region. Vehicle and public order offences are also most prevalent in the Dublin Region accounting for 1,393 referrals for that region alone compared to a total of 975 referrals for the other five regions.

Principal offences - Comparison by region



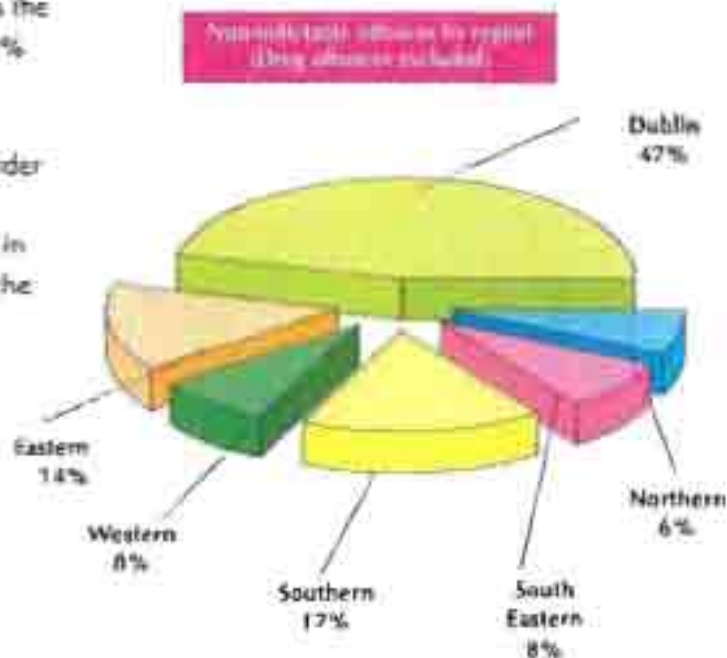
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES

Non-indictable offences may be processed to a conclusion in the District Court, unlike their indictable counterparts which may be heard by higher courts. (The distinction between non-indictable and indictable offences is explained in the introduction to the crime statistics which is located at beginning of the statistical section of the Annual Report.) In a typical year, traffic offences account for approximately 60% of the total recorded. The number of proceedings which were taken in 1997 are shown by region in the table on the right.

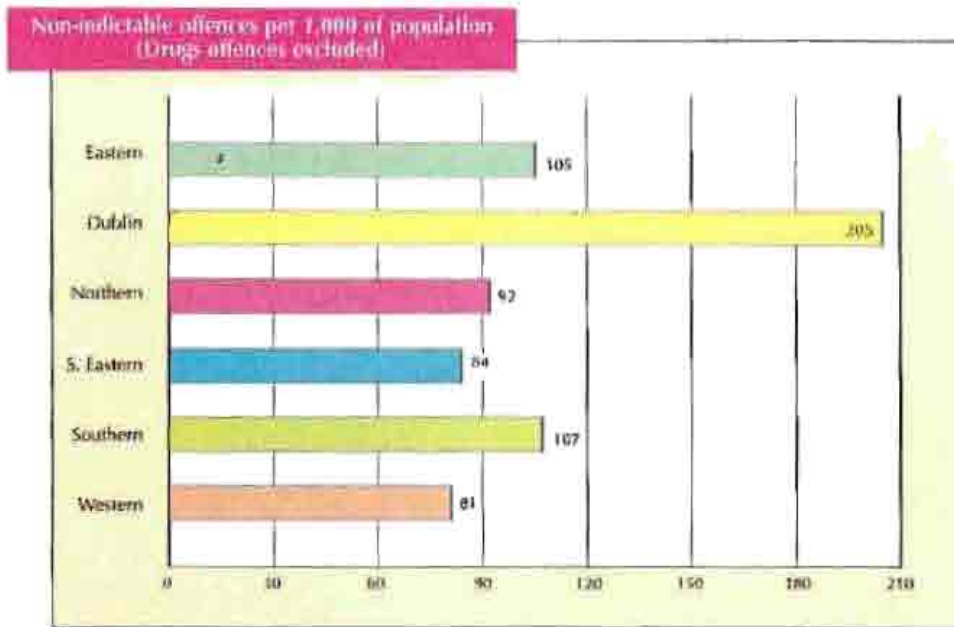
There was almost no change (0.1%) in the number of offences recorded in 1997 and the previous year. The number of proceedings taken in the Northern and Western Regions increased by 12% and 6% respectively while those taken in the Southern Region decreased by 9% over the previous year. The increases and decrease in the remaining regions were in the order of 1%. The proportion of non-indictable offences commenced in each of the regions is shown in the chart below.

Non-indictable offences by region (Drug offences included)	1997	1996
EASTERN REGION	62,866	62,477
Carlow/Kildare	17,182	16,034
Laois/Offaly	11,340	14,133
Longford/Wexmouth	10,095	9,380
Louth/Meath	24,249	20,720
DUBLIN REGION	213,474	218,371
NORTHERN REGION	28,442	25,671
Cavan/Monaghan	11,810	11,133
Donegal	9,292	7,147
Sligo/Fermanagh	7,340	7,391
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	34,800	37,168
Tipperary	11,294	11,580
Waterford/Wick	14,464	14,690
Windsor	9,122	8,438
SOUTHERN REGION	28,055	32,688
Cork City	17,466	1975
Cork North	15,093	1975
Cork West	9,079	8,293
Berry	13,568	13,177
Limerick	10,274	25,143
WESTERN REGION	34,803	32,553
Clare	7,303	8,066
Galway West	10,014	9,043
Mayo	8,286	7,155
Rooscommon/Galway East	9,140	8,689
Total	451,743	451,347

BNVA Divisional boundaries were altered during 1996.



The number of non-indictable offences (drugs offences excluded) in which proceedings were taken are shown per 1,000 of population in the chart below. The rate per 1,000 in the Dublin Region is considerably higher than elsewhere because of the relatively high rate of traffic offences in that region. When the traffic offences are excluded the rates of non-indictable offences per 1,000 of population are more consistent across the regions.



Non-indictable offences - proceedings and persons convicted in 1997 (Drug offences excluded)

	Charges in which proceedings were taken	Charges withdrawn or dismissed	Number of Convictions	Charges proved & order made without conviction	Adjudged or otherwise disposed of	Persons convicted or guilty when charges were held proved or order made without conviction
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. (a) ASSAULTS	7114	1230	3809	382	1865	4191
(b) ... (Gardaí on duty)	877	74	572	56	173	628
2. CRUELTY TO ANIMALS						
(a) Badger baiting	11	0	9	0	2	9
(b) Cock fighting	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Dog fighting	0	0	0	0	0	0
(d) Other offences	132	9	88	3	32	91
3. TRAFFIC ACTS, OFFENCES AGAINST:						
(a) Lighting Reg. - Pedal Cyclist	2081	181	864	99	937	963
(b) ... Motorcyclist	6420	947	3841	601	1031	4442
(c) Not wearing seat belt	9280	1070	6026	608	1576	6634
(d) Not wearing crash helmet, Motor cyclist	643	79	422	28	106	460
(e) Licences - Driving	36107	9084	13234	2380	11409	15614
(f) Obstruction	833	82	507	52	112	639
(g) Dangerous Parking	278	40	173	13	52	186
(h) Road traffic General Bye Laws, 1964	6078	610	2683	409	2376	3092
(i) Local Bye Laws	86000	2111	17264	952	65673	18216
(j) (i) Dangerous Driving	3036	558	1807	151	520	1958
(ii) Careless Driving	3413	635	1831	92	855	1923
(iii) Driving without reasonable consideration	2474	379	1256	121	718	1377
(k) Traffic lights - Non conformity with	2716	340	1166	131	1077	1299
(l) Compulsory Insurance (i) No insurance	24130	6196	10595	624	6715	11219
(ii) Failing to produce	21368	5435	7888	1726	6319	9614
(iii) Insurance Disc Regulations	3029	220	1708	315	1186	2023

Notifiable offences - proceedings and persons convicted in 1997
(King offences excluded) - cont'd

	Offences with no conviction were taken	Charges withdrawn or dismissed	Number of Convictions	Charges proved & under trial without conviction	Adjudged or otherwise disposed of	Persons convicted in 1997 (with conviction or without conviction)
(iv) Other Offences	1335	322	827	74	112	909
ii) Drinking and Driving						
(i) Drive/attempt to drive M.P.V. while drunk	1089	309	567	8	311	567
(ii) Being in charge of M.P.V. while drunk	81	7	60	0	11	60
(iii) Driving /Attempting to drive an M.P.V. Blood/urine/alcohol concentration above prescribed limit	5443	454	3180	0	1809	3180
(iv) Being in charge of M.P.V. blood/urine/alcohol concentration above prescribed limit	223	26	123	0	76	123
(v) Refusing to give preliminary specimen of breath	127	21	58	0	43	58
(vi) Refusing to provide or permit taking of blood/urine/specimens at Garda Stations	581	46	375	0	160	375
(vii) Refusing to provide or permit taking of blood/urine specimen at hospital	28	3	18	0	8	18
(viii) Other offences	50	21	17	0	12	17
iii) Exceeding speed limit: (i) Built-up area	11282	1201	10178	463	1241	10841
(ii) Special	2876	309	2072	108	177	2100
(iii) Ordinary	1254	92	1035	101	41	1119
(iv) General	10554	1224	7314	536	1625	7600
(v) Motorway	1309	50	912	102	245	1014
iv) Driving dangerously defective M.P.V.	347	59	195	34	56	227
v) Other offences	6029	1165	2832	531	1301	2832
vi) Construction equipment and use of with regs 1963						
(i) defective tyres	4864	582	3108	140	834	3440
(ii) defective steering	42	8	29	1	4	29
(iii) defective brakes	371	38	245	16	72	261
(iv) Gross weight of goods vehicles	757	176	311	19	51	310
(v) Axle weight of goods vehicles	75	6	9	0	0	9
(vi) Other Offences	3773	633	2440	178	322	2618
TRAFFIC ACTS OFFENCES SUB TOTAL	263207	25375	187426	11019	109187	188445
4. (a) Taking M.P.V. without authority	2531	185	1857	69	170	1866
(b) Unauthorised interference with mechanism of M.P.V.	1430	124	987	85	214	1077
(c) Taking possession of pedal cycle without consent	30	0	29	1	6	24
5. R13 Regulations: (i) Vehicle Testing	4938	1318	2740	542	336	1380
(ii) Tachograph	1859	368	1119	244	128	1264
6. Road Transport Acts	2941	353	1563	222	603	1283
7. Roads Act and Finance Acts - Excise Duty	38904	19392	19982	7264	32266	47146
8. INTOXICATING LIQUOR LAWS - OFFENCES AGAINST						
(a) Illegally on Licensed Premises during closing hours	7063	694	5794	164	417	3958
(b) Drunkenness, Simple	1131	85	859	94	91	859
(c) Drunkenness with aggravation	907	189	487	71	160	398
(d) Offences by Licensed persons against closing regs	5532	1976	2299	633	624	2603
(e) Other offences by Licensed persons for their servants	441	174	227	6	34	223
(f) Supplying or selling drink to persons under 18 years						
(i) Offences by the holders of On-Licences	219	29	84	2	104	89
(ii) " " " " Off-Licences	16	3	10	0	4	10
(g) Purchase of intoxicating liquor by persons under 18 yrs	113	3	45	4	63	41
(h) Consumption of intoxicating liquor by persons under 18 years in any place other than private residence	122	15	65	8	34	71
(i) Persons under 18 years representing themselves to be over 18 years for the purpose of obtaining or being permitted to consume intoxicating liquor	0	1	1	4	5	5
(j) Licensed holder permitting persons under 18 years to be on licensed premises during period when exemption order is in force	35	4	3	9	13	16
(k) Persons under 18 years illegally on licensed premises during period when exemption order is in force	24	4	7	10	3	17

**Non-indicative offences - proceedings and persons recorded in 1997
(Drug offences excluded - cont'd.)**

	Offences which proceed to court	Charges withdrawn or dismissed	Number of Convictions	Discharged After trial without conviction	Admitted to probation without trial	Persons sent to prison after conviction with a 12 month or less sentence
(i) Licensed holder permitting person under 18 years (unaccompanied) to be on premises used for the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises.	2	0	1	0	1	1
(m) Offences in connection with Regulated Clubs	17	1	21	0	1	17
(n) Other offences against Intoxicating Liquor laws	457	38	307	21	89	326
INTEGRATING LEGISLATION SUB-TOTAL	14116	3221	10273	1530	3446	11273
9. Criminal Damage	3276	306	2172	208	580	2360
10. POLICE REGULATIONS, OFFENCES AGAINST						
(a) Dublin Metropolitan Public Acts	328	41	207	27	158	144
(b) Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act 1957	201	28	78	24	142	102
11. CRIMINAL LAW SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 1993						
Soliciting or Importuning for commission of sexual offences - Section 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soliciting or Importuning by prostitute Section 7	214	2	213	0	96	208
Loitering with intention of prostitution Section 8	202	20	126	1	22	164
Using an earnings of prostitution Section 10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences	21	0	9	0	14	9
12. CRIMINAL JUSTICE (PUBLIC OFFENCE) ACT 1994						
Obstruction to a public officer - Section 4	724	281	491	200	178	273
Disobedience to Public officer Section 5	201	118	104	110	207	216
Detention or Absence or Issuing Warrant Sec. 6	987	1130	484	71	172	403
Failing to comply with direction of Garda - Section 8	270	214	170	21	43	209
Entering building with intent to commit offence - Section 10	113	124	72	28	171	83
Control of Access to Special Events Section 11	0	0	2	0	2	2
Assault and seizure of Information under Section 21	14	7	16	0	11	16
Other offences	1401	135	891	121	280	681
13. Summary Cases, Offences against	129	27	49	14	34	60
14. Youth Training Act - Offences against	176	28	247	23	401	279
15. UNCRACKED ACTS - OFFENCES AGAINST						
(a) - Drugs	126	37	129	26	11	255
(b) - Other Offences	49	13	24	1	7	20
16. Misuse of Firearms, Act 1970 - Offences against	48	1	30	4	30	28
17. Firearms Act - Offences against	401	32	238	17	11	241
18. FIREARMS and EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS ACT, 1981						
(a) Possession of Firearms and other articles - Section 7 (1)	191	140	134	25	153	242
(b) Possession of Firearms etc. - Section 8 (a)	109	7	67	0	1	91
(c) Possession of article with intent to cause injury - Sec. 7 (2)	170	44	147	22	17	209
(d) Transporting with Explosives - Section 11	46	1	21	1	20	23
(e) Prohibited weapons as defined - Section 14	232	20	171	11	49	168
(f) Explosive substances (offensive weapons) - Section 12	0	1	2	1	0	3
(g) Other offences	110	4	67	2	13	69
19. EXPLOSIVES - Offences as related to	2	0	1	0	4	1
20. BURGLY ACT, 1976 - Offences against	284	52	148	22	22	179
21. GAMING and LOTTERIES ACT, 1946	47	0	26	7	13	41
22. PROVISIONS OF PAYMENT BY DEPOSIT ACT, 1989	0	0	0	0	0	0
(a) - Actions taken to set up fund - Section 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) - Prohibition of payment of central bank to set up fund 24	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Other non-indicative offences	1745	370	1074	195	214	1221
TOTAL	41740	4827	30744	2528	11021	32864

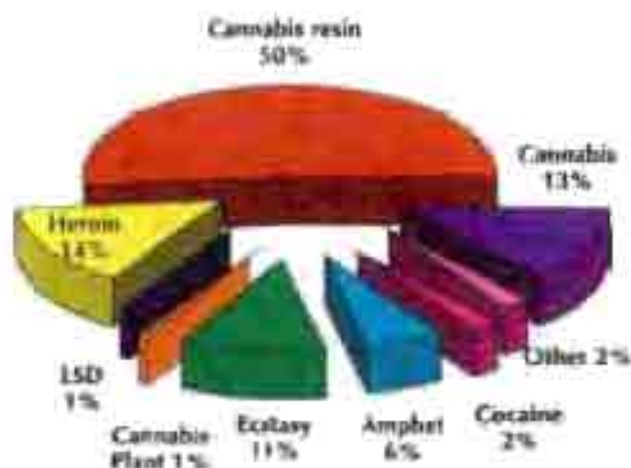
A range of selected non-indictable offences are shown for each of the regions in the table below. The largest volumes of many of the selected offences were recorded in the Dublin Region. The number of assault offences, public order offences and firearms & offensive weapons offences taken per 1,000 of population was highest in the Dublin Region while the number of intoxicating liquor offences was the lowest by far in that region. Per head of population the number of intoxicating liquor offences taken in the Northern Region were more than eight times those taken in the Dublin Region. Offences under the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act, 1993, were almost exclusively the preserve of the Dublin Region.

Proceedings taken in 1997 in respect of selected non-indictable offences	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	Northern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
TOTAL ASSAULTS (includes Gardai on duty)	1,338	2,774	783	765	1,663	868
TOTAL TRAFFIC OFFENCES	31,299	143,884	12,722	19,266	40,745	15,291
TOTAL INTOXICATING LIQUOR OFFENCES	3,232	1,102	2,824	2,023	4,075	2,854
CRIMINAL JUSTICE (PUBLIC ORDER) ACT, 1994.						
Intoxication in a public place - Section 4	1,177	3,107	804	577	1,507	552
Disorderly conduct in public place - Section 5.	593	487	461	310	519	485
Threat or abusive or insulting behaviour - S.6.	1,435	4,300	855	567	1,974	686
Failing to comply with direction of Garda - S.8	424	1,049	260	195	611	161
Enter building with intent to commit offence - S. 11	67	844	31	36	127	13
Control of access to special events - Section 21.	0	9	0	0	0	0
Surrender and seizure of intoxicating liquor - S. 22.	8	17	0	0	9	0
Other offences.	240	282	250	127	348	243
FIREARMS and OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ACT, 1990.						
Possession of knives and other articles - S. 9 (1).	56	800	23	45	114	54
Possession of flick-knife etc. - S. 9 (4).	4	59	4	3	17	22
Poss. of article with intent to cause injury - S.9 (5).	12	183	11	20	43	41
Trespassing with knife/weapon - S. 10.	0	41	1	1	1	2
Production weapon in dispute - S. 11.	27	125	7	18	48	12
Manufacture/sell/hire offensive weapon - S. 12.	0	2	0	1	0	1
Other offences.	6	71	2	6	17	8
CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) ACT, 1993.						
Soliciting or importuning for sexual offences - S. 6.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soliciting or importuning for prostitution - S. 7.	0	276	0	0	0	0
Loitering with intention of prostitution - S. 8.	0	203	0	0	1	0
Living on earnings of prostitution - S. 10.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences.	2	3	4	6	7	1

DRUG OFFENCES

The most significant types of controlled drugs in respect of which proceedings are taken are shown in the chart below. Eight drug types are shown and the contribution of each drug type to the total proceedings is similar to that recorded in the previous year. Cannabis resin was involved in half of the offences recorded. The proportion of offences involving heroin was 14% and ecstasy offences accounted for 11% of the total involved.

The table below shows the number of offences where proceedings commenced by drug type and division. As in previous years, almost all (99%) of the heroin offences were recorded in the Dublin Region. In contrast, 42% of offences involving cannabis resin were recorded in the Dublin Region and the Southern and South Eastern Regions recorded 24% and 11%, respectively. Slightly more than half (52%) of offences involving ecstasy were recorded in the Southern Region and 20% were recorded in the Dublin Region.



Amount of Drugs Not Unaccounted

Offences where proceedings commenced by division and drug type

	Cannabis	Cannabis Resin	Cannabis Plant	Heroin	Marijuana	LSD	Ecstasy	Amphet	Cocaine	Other	TOTAL
EASTERN REGION	57	103	3	1	0	2	40	36	0	4	143
Carlow/Wex	7	11	0	1	0	0	29	4	0	0	51
Caron/Dub	0	30	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	1	41
Longford/Wick	0	21	0	0	0	0	10	4	0	1	41
Louth/Meath	25	79	1	1	0	1	18	27	0	0	153
DUBLIN REGION	132	475	2	558	6	12	96	72	43	25	1,899
Eastern	27	112	1	24	0	1	1	7	1	0	159
North Central	7	98	0	26	0	1	36	8	8	1	217
Southern	15	234	0	148	1	1	30	31	4	7	440
South Central	1	64	0	146	0	0	0	4	2	0	218
Western	20	67	1	164	2	0	41	42	34	1	743
SOUTHERN REGION	25	105	0	1	0	4	30	1	1	1	179
Caron/Wick	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Down	1	0	0	1	0	0	21	1	1	1	28
Wexford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	29	229	0	1	0	2	34	51	4	12	268
Tipperary	11	68	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	85
Wick/Waterford	2	133	2	0	0	2	29	45	2	5	223
Wexford	16	28	3	1	0	0	1	3	1	5	58
SOUTH WESTERN REGION	277	313	10	1	0	16	345	64	27	16	1,069
Cork City	14	112	7	1	0	6	130	23	11	1	288
Cork North	23	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	41
Cork West	9	6	0	0	0	0	14	0	12	0	41
Kerry	16	44	1	0	0	2	27	4	1	0	98
Limerick	205	0	0	0	0	2	24	36	0	10	627
WESTERN REGION	26	191	8	0	0	3	10	13	4	7	262
Clare	10	55	1	0	0	1	1	6	1	1	81
Galway/Vest	0	98	1	0	0	2	0	7	1	0	121
Mayo	1	25	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	34
Donegal/West Cork	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Total	346	2,096	29	564	6	30	471	229	97	65	4,734
Percentage	14%	50%	1%	14%	0%	1%	11%	6%	2%	2%	100%

The quantity of drugs seized is shown in the table below and cannabis was involved in 66% of the cases, while heroin was involved in 10% of the cases. Ecstasy cases accounted for 6% of the total and cocaine accounted for 3%.

TYPE OF DRUG	TOTAL	
	Quantity	Cases
Cannabis	34,027g	294
Cannabis Resin	1,247,875g	3,753
Cannabis Plants	753	55
Heroin (Diamorphine)	8,211g	599
Morphine	3.28g + 529 tabs	18
L.S.D.	1,851	48
Ecstasy MDMA/MDEA/MDA/MBDB	17,516	347
Amphetamines	102,894g + 3,889 tabs	475
Cocaine	11,020g	157
Crack Cocaine - Small amounts only; included above		
Benzodiazepines	4,942 tabs + 248g	219
Methadone	34.6 litres + 908 tabs	123
Dihydrocodeine	83 tabs	9
Buprenorphine	22 tabs	2
Ephedrine	70.1g + 2,918 tabs	76
Methylamphetamine	106 tabs	3
Mescaline	9 caps	1
Selegiline	212g	3

*Statistics are subject to revision as all seizures were not analysed at time of going to press

During 1997 proceedings commenced in respect of 4,624 offences (indictable and non-indictable) and 2,355 convictions were obtained from those proceedings which had been processed by the end of the year. The majority of the proceedings relate to the supply or possession of controlled drugs. Before examining these two offences in detail some other drug offences of importance are shown in the table below.

Obstruction offences comprised the majority of the miscellaneous drug offences shown in the table below. The 358 obstruction offences recorded in 1997 is an increase of 51% over those of the previous year while the remaining 110 miscellaneous offences showed a decrease.

Nationality of persons against whom proceedings were commenced			
Irish	7,865	Swiss	1
British	34	German	3
American (USA)	3	Liberian	1
Swedish	1	Italian	5
French	2	Greek	1
Nigerian	1	Rwandan	2
Spanish	2	Somalian	1
Portuguese	1	Austrian	1
Jamaican	1	Dutch	1
Belgian	1	Total	7,927

Miscellaneous drug offences	
Importation	23
Forged Prescriptions	16
Cultivation of Cannabis Plants	35
Allow Premises to be used	36
Obstruction	358

The number of persons prosecuted for drugs offences is shown, by nationality, in the table above. While the total prosecuted was double that of the previous year the proportion of non Irish nationals decreased by half, from 2% of those in 1996 to 1% in the year under review. As in previous years the majority of non Irish nationals (34 of the 62 recorded) were British.

The number of persons prosecuted in respect of supply or possession of controlled drugs is shown in the table below. The total number of persons prosecuted for these two offences (7,480) recorded during 1997 shows an increase of 106% over the previous year. Persons prosecuted for possession only offences (Sec 3) increased to 5,866 and supplier/dealer offences increased to 1,614 in 1997. Taking these two together, the largest increase in persons prosecuted (271%) was recorded in the Dublin Region. The increases (for the same offences) in the South Eastern, Northern and Eastern Regions were 68%, 55% and 3%, respectively. A decrease of 21% was recorded in the Western Region and those recorded in the Southern Region decreased by 5%. The 358 persons prosecuted for obstruction offences under the misuse of drugs legislation (Sec 21) are also shown in the table.

Persons prosecuted for possession only, supplier/dealer and obstruction offences

	Sec 3 MDA* (Possession only)	Sec 15 MDA* (Supplier/ dealer)	Sec 21 MDA* (Obstruction)	Other MDA* Offences	Total
EASTERN REGION	315	89	3	1	410
Carlow/Kildare	89	20	0	0	109
Laois/Offaly	40	16	2	1	59
Longford/Westmeath	37	6	0	0	43
Louth/Meath	149	47	1	2	199
DUBLIN REGION	3,926	1,214	312	58	5,510
Easton	104	61	3	0	250
North Central	81	182	29	2	296
Northern	610	213	29	3	857
South Central	144	116	82	7	354
Southern	2,905	640	167	46	3,758
NORTHERN REGION	181	11	1	1	196
Cavan/monaghan	10	0	0	0	10
Downgal	129	12	1	1	143
Sligo/Lettin	22	1	0	0	23
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	313	62	6	5	386
Tipperary	32	7	1	0	40
Waterford/Kilkenny	190	37	5	3	235
Wexford	48	18	0	2	68
SOUTHERN REGION	910	213	26	15	1,164
Cork City	442	141	1	0	584
Cork North	92	13	10	0	120
Cork West	18	4	2	1	25
Lerry	61	15	1	1	80
Limerick	285	39	12	13	349
WESTERN REGION	221	24	5	7	257
Clare	87	1	1	0	89
Galway West	107	19	4	5	135
Mayo	15	1	0	2	20
Roscommon/Galway East	12	1	0	0	13
Total	5,866	1,614	358	88	7,927
Percentage	24%	20%	5%	1%	100%

* Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 (as amended)

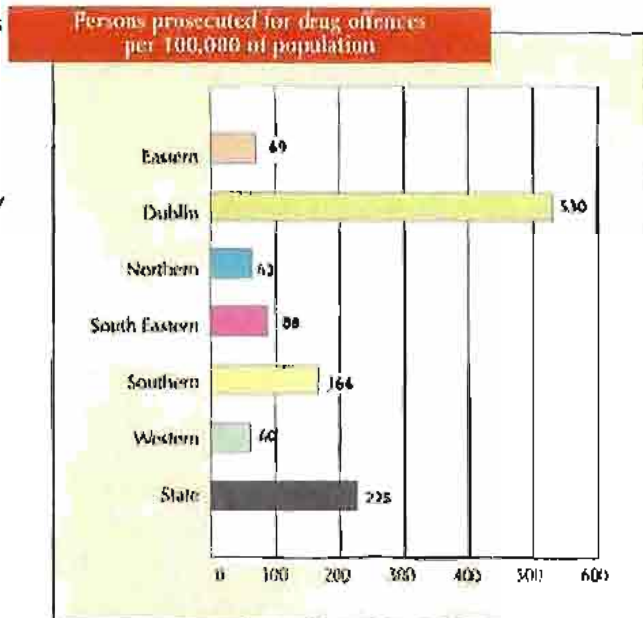
The table below shows the number of persons against whom proceedings for (all) drug offences were commenced by age and gender. Approximately 2% of persons were less than 17 years of age, 29% were aged 17 to 21 years while the remaining 69% were aged over 21 years. The majority (78%) of persons were male and this was a considerable change over the previous year when male persons accounted for 89% of those who were prosecuted. The proportions of female persons in the three age groups were 5%, 25% and 21% respectively.

Persons prosecuted for drug offences by age and gender

	Under 17 yrs		17-21 yrs		Over 21 yrs		Total		Total persons
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
EASTERN REGION	8	0	132	7	254	9	394	16	410
Carlow/Kildare	1	0	30	0	77	1	108	1	109
Laois/Offaly	1	0	31	4	22	1	54	5	59
Longford/Westmeath	1	0	15	0	25	2	41	2	43
Louth/Meath	5	0	56	3	130	5	191	8	199
DUBLIN REGION	46	2	1,011	508	2,868	1,080	3,925	1,590	5,515
Eastern	4	0	85	2	151	8	240	10	250
North Central	18	2	77	11	137	51	232	64	296
Northern	10	0	161	48	461	177	632	225	857
South Central	4	0	76	10	234	30	314	40	354
Southern	10	0	612	437	1,685	814	2,507	1,251	3,758
NORTHERN REGION	1	0	73	3	105	14	179	17	196
Cavan/Monaghan	0	0	13	0	14	1	27	3	30
Donegal	1	0	47	2	85	8	133	10	143
Sligo/Leitrim	0	0	13	1	6	5	19	4	23
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	13	0	131	9	225	8	369	17	386
Tipperary	1	0	46	6	32	0	79	6	85
Waterford/Kilkenny	6	0	75	0	152	2	233	2	235
Wexford	6	0	10	3	41	6	57	9	66
SOUTHERN REGION	56	5	352	38	673	39	1,081	82	1,163
Cork City	34	1	135	11	381	27	550	39	589
Cork North	6	3	52	7	50	1	108	12	120
Cork West	0	0	5	1	18	2	23	3	26
Kerry	0	0	37	1	50	2	77	3	80
Limerick	16	0	133	10	174	7	323	25	348
WESTERN REGION	3	0	35	7	200	12	238	19	257
Clare	1	0	7	0	76	5	84	5	89
Galway West	2	0	25	3	100	5	127	8	135
Mayo	0	0	1	4	14	1	15	5	20
Roscommon/Galway East	0	0	2	0	10	1	12	1	13
Total	127	7	1,734	572	4,325	1,162	6,186	1,741	7,927

In 1997 the number of persons prosecuted in the Dublin Region accounted for 70% of the State total as opposed to the previous year when such offences accounted for 41% of the total. The number of persons prosecuted in the Dublin Region increased by 239% over the previous year. Persons prosecuted in the South Eastern, Northern and Eastern Regions increased by 60%, 51% and 1%. Those recorded in the Western and Southern Regions decreased by 20% and 5%.

The chart on the right shows the numbers of persons prosecuted per 100,000 of population in each of the regions. In contrast with the situation in 1996 where the largest rate was recorded in the Southern Region, the 1997 statistics show the rate in the Dublin Region as the highest and more than three times higher than that of the Southern Region. The Southern Region recorded the second highest rate at 166 per 100,000 of population while the remaining regions recorded rates between 88 and 60 per 100,00 of population.



Drug lectures by division

	Number
EASTERN REGION	472
Carlow/Kildare	123
Laois/Oifaly	125
Longford/Westmeath	72
Louth/Meath	152
DUBLIN REGION	432
Eastern	31
North Central	55
Northern	106
South Central	70
Southern	170
NORTHERN REGION	161
Cavan/Monaghan	8
Donegal	140
Sligo/L Leitrim	13
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	527
Tipperary	237
Waterford/Kilkenny	149
Wexford	141
SOUTHERN REGION	546
Cork City	179
Cork North	72
Cork West	56
Kerry	135
Limerick	104
WESTERN REGION	202
Clare	23
Galway West	43
Mayo	51
Roscommon/Galway East	85
Total	2,340

A total of 2,340 drug lectures were given by Gardaí during 1997 and they are shown by location in the table on the left. The total number of lectures given was 4% less than that in 1996 but those given in the Southern and South Eastern regions increased by 20% and 17% respectively.

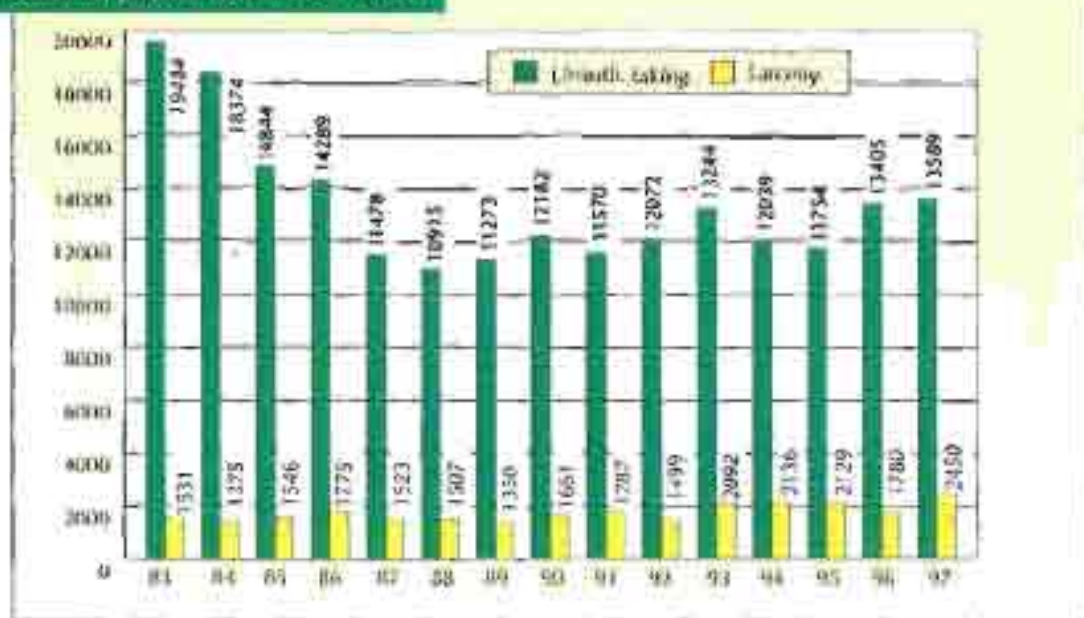
STOLEN VEHICLES

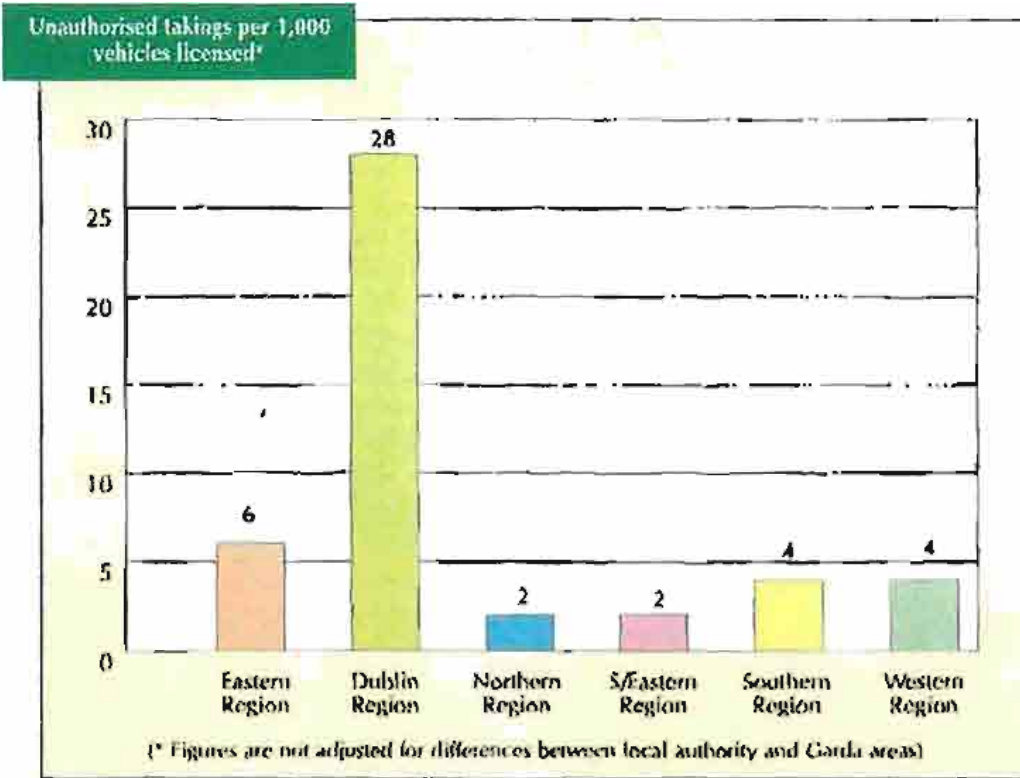
The legal distinction between the larceny of a vehicle and the unauthorised taking of a vehicle is carried into the statistics. The distinction arises from the intention of the person who commits the offence. In common with all larcenies, the larceny (stealing) of a vehicle requires an intention that the owner should be permanently deprived of possession. This requirement is clearly not fulfilled where, for example, a person takes a car, drives it for some hours and then abandons it by the roadside. In this case the offence committed is unauthorised taking of a mechanically propelled vehicle (mpv) as opposed to larceny. Unauthorised takings generally outnumber larcenies of vehicles by a factor of about seven or eight to one.

The following chart shows the number of unauthorised takings and larcenies of vehicles for the 15 years from 1983 to 1997. The number of unauthorised takings is quite stable over the last ten years, the 13,589 recorded in 1997 represents an increase of 1% over the previous year but it is 30% lower than that recorded in 1983.

Because the number of unauthorised takings recorded varies considerably from region to region it is useful to examine them in terms of the number of vehicles in the various regions. The chart overleaf shows unauthorised takings as a proportion of the vehicles taxed (using most recent Department of Environment figures) in each of the regions. The figures should be interpreted with some caution as full account is not taken of differences between Garda and local authority administrative areas. That said, the chart provides a useful insight into the extent of the regional variation.

Unauthorised taking and larceny of mechanically propelled vehicles 1983 to 1997



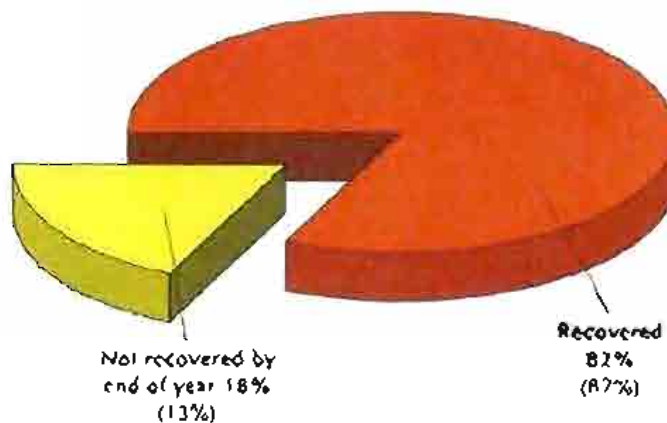


The table on the right shows the number of unauthorised takings in each of the regions. While there was relatively small change in the total recorded in 1997 (1% increase over that of the previous year) some considerable variation can be seen across the regions. For example, the South Eastern Region recorded a decrease of 14% while an increase of 9% was recorded in the Northern Region

Unauthorised takings by region 1996 and 1997			
	1996	1997	Change
Eastern Region	1,410	1,296	-8%
Dublin Region	9,281	9,768	5%
Northern Region	158	173	9%
S/Eastern Region	482	415	-14%
Southern Region	1,359	1,205	-11%
Western Region	715	732	2%
Total	13,405	13,589	1%

Some 18% of vehicles taken were not recovered by the end of the year. The chart on the right shows the proportion recovered in 1997 and the comparable proportions for the previous year are shown in brackets

Mechanically propelled vehicles taken and recovered 1997
(Proportions for 1996 in brackets)



During 1997, a total of 2,450 vehicles were recorded as larcenies. This was an increase of 670 (38%) over the previous year and the details of stolen and recovered vehicles are shown in the table below. Cars comprised almost three quarters of the stolen vehicles recorded in 1997 and they had an average value of £3,272. Motorcycles, with an average value of £1,402, comprised 22% of the vehicles recorded as stolen.

During 1997, the Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigation Unit processed more than 600 inquiries and it identified 208 stolen vehicles bearing false plates. Slightly more than half of these vehicles, 118, were stolen and recovered in the State. A number of vehicles which were stolen abroad (5 in Northern Ireland, 83 in the United Kingdom and 2 elsewhere in Europe) were recovered by Gardai. In addition to this, nine items of plant/machinery were recovered and identified as stolen. As part its role in cooperating with other police forces in the investigation of international stolen vehicle trafficking, the Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigation Unit was involved in 29 operations throughout the country. These operations were initiated by various police forces in the United Kingdom and they resulted in the location of several vehicles, principally in the Northern and Eastern Regions.

Vehicles stolen and recovered 1997					
	Stolen			Recovered	
	Number	Value (£)		Number	Value (£)
Cars	1,787	£5,846,461	Cars	40	£148,510
Motor Cycles	528	£740,307	Motor Cycles	12	£16,850
Lorries	17	£269,150	Lorries	0	£0
Other vehicles	118	£876,670	Other vehicles	11	£100,690
Total	2,450	£7,732,588	Total	63	£266,050

FINES ON THE SPOT

Fines on the spot notices are issued by Gardai (non display of licence disc i.e. no tax displayed, illegal parking and speeding offences) and Traffic Wardens (non display of licence disc and illegal parking). The number of notices issued by the Gardai in 1997 for non display of tax disc and traffic violations increased by 3,547 (38%) and 25,339 (57%), respectively, when compared with the previous year. Those issued by Traffic Wardens decreased by 15% and 12% respectively.

During 1997 fines on the spot notices were introduced for speeding offences and the number issued by Gardai is shown in the last of the three tables below. By the end of the year the notices were in use in all regions except the Dublin Region. The majority (31%) of the notices were issued in the Eastern Region and a quarter of the total were issued in the South Eastern Region.

Fines on the spot issued								
NON-DISPLAY OF LICENCE DISC								
	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	Northern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	State Total 1997	State Total 1996
Gardai	387	4,078	362	1,531	3,492	2,299	12,969	9,422
Wardens	60	20,816	0	0	64	0	20,940	34,017
Total issued	447	33,694	362	1,531	3,556	2,299	41,909	43,439
Fines paid	146	6,405	172	579	663	375	8,340	7,336
Court proceedings	95	11,632	43	90	1,000	876	13,736	13,343
Notices cancelled	52	4,486	50	135	753	377	5,854	5,801
Proceedings pending	101	7,672	115	707	1,131	671	10,397	13,360
Spoiled notices	52	0	2	20	9	0	83	3,599

Fines on the spot issued

PARKING VIOLATIONS

	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	Northern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	State Total 1997	State Total 1996
Gardai	1,240	49,270	2,053	2,287	10,109	5,212	70,171	44,832
Wardens	660	237,690	0	0	980	0	239,330	272,641
Total issued	1,900	286,960	2,053	2,287	11,089	5,212	309,501	317,473
Fines paid	740	145,176	1,143	1,141	5,690	1,822	155,712	148,400
Court proceedings	166	50,341	47	42	909	1,486	52,991	50,974
Notices cancelled	102	14,497	109	85	1,129	802	16,724	17,369
Proceedings pending	878	47,590	719	995	3,306	1,080	54,568	69,547
Spoiled notices	14	9,874	35	24	55	22	10,024	9,992

Fines on the spot issued

SPEEDING OFFENCES

	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	Northern Region	South Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	State Total 1997
Issued by Gardai	22,316	0	8,698	17,596	13,535	9,192	71,337
Fines paid	17,880	0	6,421	15,342	11,074	7,741	58,458
Court proceedings	1,129	0	422	660	1,375	405	3,991
Notices cancelled	22	0	19	29	282	14	366
Proceedings pending	3,277	0	1,806	1,549	802	1,031	8,465
Spoiled notices	8	0	30	16	2	1	57

TRAFFIC OFFENCES

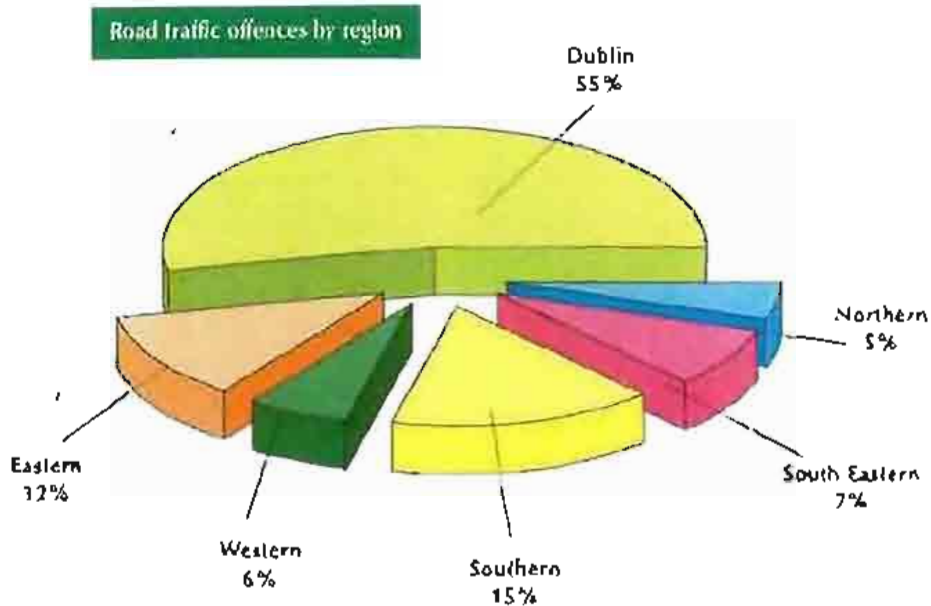
The number of traffic offences in respect of which proceedings were taken in 1997 is shown in the table on the right. The 263,207 traffic offences recorded in 1997 represent a reduction of 2% over that recorded in the previous year. Four of the regions recorded fewer traffic offences and the most significant reductions were recorded in the Southern Region (13%), the South Eastern and Western Regions (9%) each. The proportions of traffic offences recorded in each of the regions is shown in the chart on the right.

Comparing traffic offences with the number of vehicles in a location provides some insight into the rate at which proceedings for traffic offences take place. The chart below shows the number of traffic offences

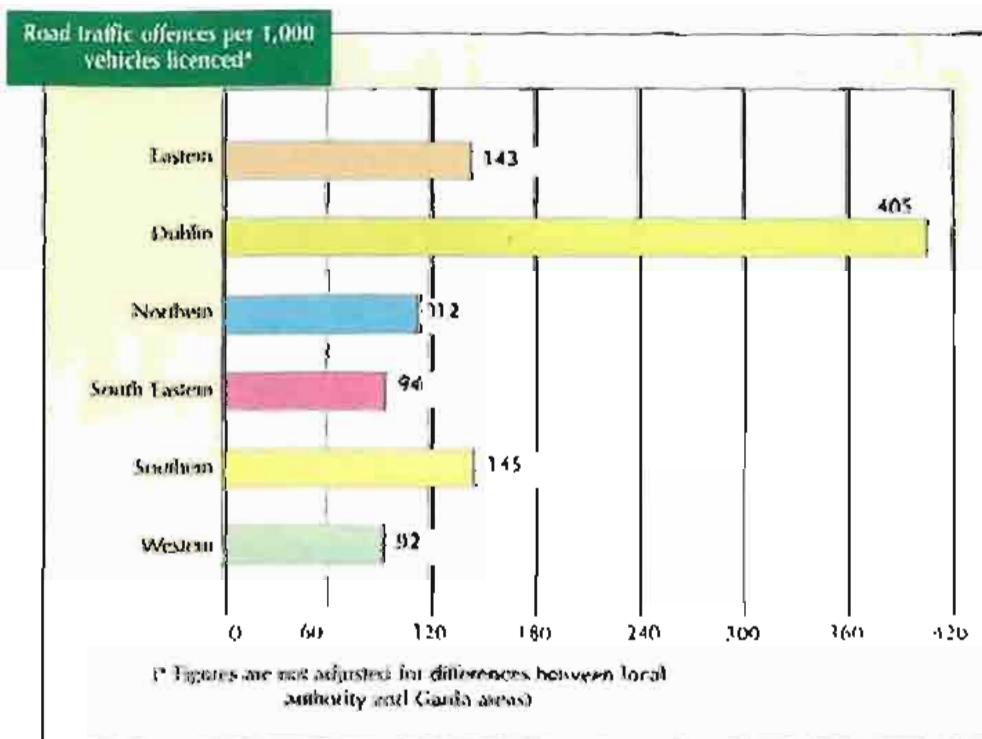
Road traffic offences by region

	1997	1996
EASTERN REGION	31,299	30,954
Carlow/Kildare	8,515	9,402
Laois/Offaly	5,436	7,202
Longford/Westmeath	5,127	4,393
Louth/Meath	12,221	9,957
DUBLIN REGION	143,884	139,829
NORTHERN REGION	12,722	13,028
Cavan/Monaghan	5,133	5,713
Down	4,240	3,350
Sligo/Louth	3,349	3,764
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	19,266	21,170
Tipperary	5,875	6,932
Waterford/Kilkenny	8,881	10,099
Wexford	4,510	4,139
SOUTHERN REGION	40,745	46,765
Cork East	9,807	#N/A
Cork North	7,474	#N/A
Cork West	4,400	4,607
Kerry	6,754	7,209
Limerick	12,310	14,423
WESTERN REGION	15,291	16,826
Clare	4,133	4,830
Galway West	3,957	4,486
Mayo	3,503	3,164
Roscommon/Galway East	3,698	4,346
Total	263,207	268,572

Divisional boundaries altered in 1996



per 1,000 vehicles which were taxed in each of the regions. (Figures are not adjusted for differences between local authority and Garda administrative areas). As in 1996, road traffic offences per 1,000 vehicles in the Dublin Region are more than double those recorded in each of the other regions. The annual rate of offences per 1,000 vehicles decreased in all regions in 1997 because of decreases in the volume of offences and increases in the volumes of licensed vehicles. (Overall, offences decreased by 2% while licensed vehicles increased by 6% when compared with the previous year.)



DRINK/DRIVING OFFENCES: BREATH, BLOOD & URINE TESTS

Although the number of breath samples provided to the Gardai in 1997 decreased by 661 (5%) over the corresponding figure for the previous year, the number of positive breath samples increased by 590 (35%). In 1997 some 33% of the samples provided to the Gardai tested positive while 27% of those taken in the previous year did so.

Breath samples were provided by 13,841 persons and 118 (1%) refused to provide breath samples. Almost 2,900 persons were arrested without the use of breath tests and this represents an increase of 32% on the corresponding statistic for the previous year.

There were 6,865 blood/urine specimens provided, during 1997: blood specimens accounted for 62% of the total provided. Approximately 93% of the specimens analysed contained a quantity of alcohol which was over the prescribed concentration.

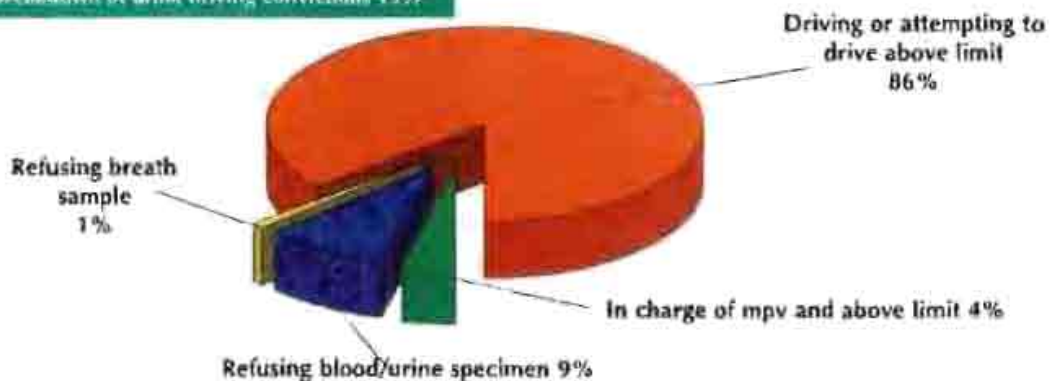
Drink & driving offences breath tests, blood/urine tests, arrests etc.

	Eastern Region	Dublin Region	South Region	South Eastern Region	South Region	Western Region	1997 Total	1996 Total
Breath tests								
(a) Total no. of persons breathtested	2,071	1,671	1,662	2,061	1,462	1,809	1,881	14,502
(b) Breath test positive	912	891	846	763	1,006	469	4,549	3,959
(c) Breath test negative	1,159	1,000	1,273	1,298	2,398	1,340	9,292	10,543
(d) Breath test refused	79	20	77	12	28	16	118	146
Arrests								
(a) For refusing breath test	19	20	75	12	28	16	118	146
(b) Arrest without breath test	995	1,031	504	133	209	990	2,874	2,181
Blood/Urine tests								
(a) Blood specimen given	864	1,002	790	409	777	545	4,267	3,476
(b) Urine specimen given	364	603	189	145	409	297	2,598	2,070
(c) Specimens refused	125	164	92	61	128	107	684	535
Analyses of specimens								
(a) Under prescribed concentration	99	124	33	74	74	33	415	294
(b) Over prescribed concentration	1,369	1,322	1,111	726	1,078	777	6,193	5,079
(c) Specimens still to be analysed at the end of year	53	47	21	28	28	27	205	149
(d) Insufficient or spoiled	7	2	6	6	6	3	32	25
Total Specimens	1,428	1,685	990	834	1,186	842	6,665	5,546

DRINK/DRIVING OFFENCES: PERSONS CONVICTED

The majority of convictions related to the offence of driving or attempting to drive mechanically propelled vehicles (mpv) with alcohol levels above the prescribed limit. Relatively small numbers of persons were prosecuted for the offence of being in charge of such a vehicle while above the limit. (The inclusion of the term "mechanically propelled" means, among other things, that this particular offence does not apply to persons using pedal cycles or animal drawn vehicles). Convictions resulting from refusals to provide blood/urine specimens and refusals to provide breath samples are included in the chart below. The chart compares convictions for the four principal drink driving offences.

Breakdown of drink driving convictions 1997



The number of persons convicted of drink driving offences are shown in the table below. During 1997 a total of 4,379 persons were convicted and this was an increase of 569 (15%) over the previous year. The increase was largely the result of an increase of 535 (17%) in the number of persons convicted of driving or attempting to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle while over the prescribed limit. The number of persons who were convicted of refusing to provide a breath sample was 18% lower than that recorded in the previous year. In keeping with the previous year, 94% of those convicted were male.

Drinking and driving offences:
Age and gender of persons convicted 1997

OFFENCES	Persons convicted		17 & under 21 yr		21 yrs & over	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Driving or attempting to drive MPV while drunk or with a blood/urine/alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit.	3,540	207	201	10	3,339	197
Being in charge of MPV while drunk or alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit.	165	16	1	1	164	15
Refusing to provide or permit the taking of blood/urine specimen at Garda Station.	353	22	12	0	341	22
Refusing to provide or permit the taking of blood/urine specimen at hospital.	16	2	0	0	16	2
Refusing to provide a preliminary specimen of breath.	55	1	1	0	54	1

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There were 4,184 domestic violence incidents recorded in 1997 which represents a decrease of 10% when compared with the corresponding figure for the previous year. Considerable annual change was recorded across the regions and, in keeping with previous years, the volume of incidents differed from region to region. Decreases of 20% and 23% were recorded in the Eastern and Dublin Regions while large increases were recorded elsewhere. The increases in the Western, South Eastern and Northern Regions were 66%, 63% and 52%, respectively.

Although the number of incidents recorded in 1997 was 10% lower than that of the previous year, the number of persons arrested, charged and convicted increased in volume by approximately one third. For example, arrests were associated with 19% of the incidents recorded in 1996 while the corresponding proportion of arrests was 27% in 1997.

Domestic violence 1997					
	Incidents	Arrests	Persons charged	Persons injured	Persons convicted
EASTERN REGION	506	235	193	172	144
Carlow/Kildare	158	55	42	70	33
Laois/Offaly	95	51	49	41	42
Longford/Westmeath	75	49	41	19	17
Louth/Meath	178	80	61	42	52
DUBLIN REGION	2,306	460	348	315	236
Eastern	242	78	53	41	36
North Central	63	24	20	3	25
Northern	374	91	71	39	73
South Central	573	77	31	66	23
Southern	1,054	185	165	166	79
NORTHERN REGION	302	129	111	117	46
Cavan/Monaghan	106	75	75	57	28
Donegal	155	37	19	60	12
Sligo/L Leitrim	41	17	17	0	6
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	267	78	76	114	62
Tipperary	60	24	17	21	15
Waterford/Kilkenny	153	35	34	72	31
Wexford	54	19	25	21	16
SOUTHERN REGION	530	152	166	190	140
Cork City	170	46	35	68	38
Cork North	87	21	19	43	19
Cork West	98	36	30	30	19
Kerry	82	19	52	29	44
Limerick	93	30	30	20	20
WESTERN REGION	273	81	53	84	45
Clare	51	7	6	24	6
Galway West	57	23	21	27	15
Mayo	87	32	17	13	13
Roscommon/Galway East	78	19	9	20	11
Total	4,184	1,135	947	992	673

MISSING PERSONS

The terms 'acceptable and unacceptable' are used to distinguish between two categories of missing persons. The term 'acceptable' refers to (a) persons under 18 years, (b) aged persons, (c) physically or mentally disabled persons, or (d) persons whose disappearance takes place in circumstances which give rise to fears for the person's physical or moral safety.

During 1997, the total number of 'acceptable' missing persons recorded increased by 2% over those recorded in the previous year. Six of the 1,877 missing persons recorded in 1997 remained untraced at the end of the year. As in previous years, there is considerable variation between the numbers recorded in each of the regions. The largest proportion of 'acceptable' missing persons were recorded in the Dublin Region resulting in a rate of 131 persons per hundred thousand of population. In contrast, the rate for the South Eastern Region was 48 while the remaining regions varied between nine and 22 per hundred thousand of population. More than 600 'unacceptable' missing persons were recorded in 1997 and this was an increase of one quarter over the corresponding volume recorded in 1996.

Missing persons	'Acceptable' persons reported missing	'Acceptable' persons untraced	Persons not 'acceptable' reported missing	Unidentified persons found	Unidentified bodies found
EASTERN REGION	78	1	22	0	0
Carlow/Kildare	14	0	0	0	0
Laois/Offaly	2	0	0	0	0
Longford/Westmeath	7	0	2	0	0
Louth/Meath	55	1	20	0	0
DUBLIN REGION	1,363	2	497	0	0
Eastern	244	0	63	0	0
North Central	188	0	17	0	0
Northern	404	0	164	0	0
South Central	160	0	95	0	0
Southern	367	2	158	0	0
NORTHERN REGION	27	1	46	0	0
Cavan/Monaghan	19	0	12	0	0
Donegal	7	0	4	0	0
Sligo/Fermanagh	1	1	30	0	0
SOUTH EASTERN REGION	211	1	50	0	0
Tipperary	13	0	7	0	0
Waterford/Kilkenny	197	0	42	0	0
Wexford	1	1	1	0	0
SOUTHERN REGION	157	1	12	0	0
Cork City	123	0	6	0	0
Cork North	0	0	0	0	0
Cork West	1	0	0	0	0
Kerry	13	0	6	0	0
Limerick	20	1	0	0	0
WESTERN REGION	41	0	14	0	0
Clare	14	0	5	0	0
Galway West	16	0	8	0	0
Mayo	0	0	1	0	0
Roscommon/Galway East	11	0	0	0	0
Total	1,877	6	641	0	0

Note: The terms 'acceptable and unacceptable' are used to distinguish between two categories of missing persons. The term 'acceptable' refers to (a) persons under 18 years, (b) aged persons, (c) physically or mentally disabled persons, or (d) persons whose disappearance takes place in circumstances which give rise to fears for the person's physical or moral safety.

The number of 'acceptable' missing persons recorded in the four year period from 1994 to 1997 are shown in the table below. Some indication of developments over time can be seen by comparing the numbers shown as missing at the end of the year within which they were recorded with the number which are recorded as still missing at the end of 1997.

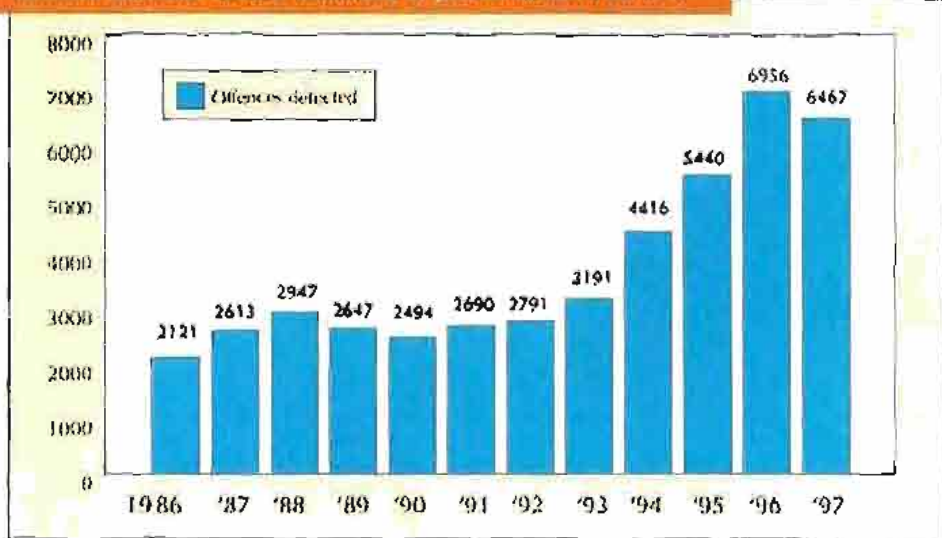
Missing persons 1994 to 1997				
	1997	1996	1995	1994
Acceptable missing persons recorded	1,877	1,848	1,658	1,578
Missing at end of year when recorded	6	8	12	13
Still missing at end of 1997	6	7	12	12

INDICTABLE OFFENCES COMMITTED BY PERSONS ON BAIL

The number of detected indictable offences committed by persons on bail decreased by almost 500 to 6,467 in 1997. As in 1996, almost 17% of the indictable offences detected by the Gardai were committed by persons on bail. The chart below shows the number of detected indictable offences committed by persons on bail in the period 1986 to 1997.

For several reasons, a far larger number of criminal offences are likely to have been committed by persons on bail than the figures shown in the chart below. In 1997, the 6,467 offences takes no account of those offenders who committed almost 52,000 indictable offences which remained undetected at the end of that year. Similarly, the figures shown take no account of the non-indictable offences which were committed by persons on bail.

Detected indictable offences committed by persons on bail 1986-1997



Detected indictable offences committed by persons on bail by offence group

Offences against the person	29
Offences against property	3,097
Larcenies	3,308
Other indictable offences	33
Total	6,467

The table on the left shows the number of indictable offences detected and committed by persons on bail during 1997. Burglaries and larcenies from unattended vehicles are the principal indictable offences involved. Burglaries accounted for almost three quarters of the 3,097 offences against property known to have been committed by persons on bail. Larcenies from unattended vehicles accounted for 43% of the 3,308 larcenies known to have been committed by persons on bail.

ANALYSIS OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES
DRUG OFFENCES
TRAFFIC OFFENCES

FIREARMS, AMMUNITION & EXPLOSIVES SEIZED BY GARDAÍ

On 17th February 1997 a Garda operation resulted in the seizure of 50 x 5 foot lengths of improvised detonating cord and the arrest of two suspects. Follow up search operations uncovered a house that was being used to convert Semtex explosive into improvised detonating cord. This was the first time such an outlet was discovered.

On 16th August 1997 another Garda operation uncovered a huge bomb factory in Crosskeys, Co. Cavan. This factory was dedicated to the construction of electronic components used to detonate explosive devices. This seizure recovered a vast quantity of equipment for constructing and testing the electronic devices. Items such as infra red mechanisms, radar and laser systems, photographic slaves, speed guns, model aircraft controls and windscreen wiper controls were being adapted as explosive devices. There was also a large quantity of electronic and mechanical timers recovered. Radio equipment and scanning devices of numerous types and makes were also seized.

Firearms, ammunition and explosives seized by Gardaí during 1997

FIREARMS		EXPLOSIVES	
AKM Assault Rifle	3	Kg. Semtex	30.1
Heckler & Koch G3 Assault Rifle	1	Kg. Black Powder	2.1
Sub Machine Guns	5	Kg. Sulphur	1.5
Shotguns	165	Kg. Powergel	3
Rifles	51	Sticks Frangex	24
Pistols	59	Sticks Gelignite	54
Revolvers	54	Electric Detonators	13
Air Guns	167	Plain Detonators	1
Replica/Imitation Firearms	77	Improvised Detonators	7
Pen Guns	2	Old detonators	38
Stun Guns	5	Incomplete projectiles	5
Crossbows	10	Pipe Bombs	8
Magazines	18	Petrol Bombs	4
Telescopic Sights	9	Incendiary Devices	15
Silencers	12	Grenades	10
		Seasearcher Magnets	3
		Mark 6 Mortar Propeller Units	10
		Mark 15 Mortar Components	14
		Assorted Radio Equipment	124
		Night Vision Goggles	3
		Training Camps	1
		Bunkers/Hides	10
		Assorted mechanical/electronic timers designed to function from several seconds to 12 days	760
AMMUNITION			
7.62 X 39MM	1,199		
7.62 X 51MM	248		
12.7 X 99MM	100		
Assorted ammunition	5,523		
Shotgun cartridges	2,340		

A REVIEW OF THE FIRST GARDÁ CRIME STATISTICS ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The earliest published Gardá crime statistics provide a valuable record of criminal activity during the early years of the State. The files relating to the divisional crime returns provide some unique insights into the society in which the first generation of Gardáí served. It was generally accepted that, in some counties, it was "...not always easy to induce persons to come forward and give evidence on behalf of the State". In one case it was stated that there was "...almost a complete absence of co-operation or civic spirit on the part of people in this Division, and it would seem that any who would be inclined to assist the Gardáí in the detection of crime are afraid to do so. Even people who are the victims of crime endeavour by every means in their power to avoid having to give evidence". Nevertheless, the statistics featured below provide clear evidence of the service, commitment and success of the first Gardáí.

The first published Gardá crime statistics were those for the year 1927 and they are described in the Gardá files of the day as "...the first complete and comprehensive statistics of crime for the Saorstát". That said, the files indicate that the 7,091 indictable offences recorded in 1927 represented a decrease of 14% when compared with the previous year. In any event, the published statistics indicate that indictable offences continued to decrease to about 6,000 by 1929. (Similar volumes were recorded throughout the next decade until they doubled in number during the 1940's).

The table overleaf shows indictable offences recorded by the Gardáí in 1927 and they are presented in the five groups then in use. Despite the creation of many new offences since then, quite a number of those included in the 1927 table feature in the statistics being recorded today.

The 1927 murder statistics are very different from those recorded in recent years. At first view, the 28 murders recorded in that year seem remarkably similar to the annual average of 27 murders (of all ages and including infanticide) which has been recorded in the decade from 1988 to 1997. In 1927 two thirds of the murder victims (19 of the 28 recorded) were aged less than one year. Indeed, those under one year outnumbered their older counterparts in the following years and they did so in the 1929 statistics by a factor of more than one and a half times (8 and 1), respectively).

By August 1928, the Gardá files indicate that convictions had been obtained in 34% of the 1927 murder offences where the victim was aged under one year and that the conviction rate was 50% where the victims were older than one year.

The 80 manslaughter offences recorded in 1927 are more difficult to interpret since fatal traffic accident statistics were recorded as manslaughter in that particular year. Some indication of the volume of manslaughters excluding road deaths may be possible by referring to the following two years when 23 and 32 such offences were recorded.

The 41 offences of concealment of birth recorded in 1927 also differ from the statistics of the last decade when an average of one case per year was recorded. Indeed those recorded in 1927 may have been relatively low for that time since 20% more were recorded for each of the following two years. By August 1928 a conviction rate of 38% is shown for the 41 offences recorded in 1927.

Some 63 attempts to commit suicide are recorded for 1927 and a conviction rate of 68% is recorded for them by the following August. However, the divisional files refer to one man whom a jury did not find guilty despite the fact that "...it was a perfectly clear case and no defence was put up and the Judge in his address said so".

Indictable offences recorded in 1997

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

Murder of persons aged above one year	9
Murder of infants aged one year and under	19
Attempt to murder	19
Manslaughter *	80
Wounding and other like offences	55
Assault	52
Intimidation and molestation	24
Abandoning children under two years	12
Concealment of birth	41
Indecent assault on females	81
Other sexual or unnatural offences	86
Other offences against the person	26
Total	504

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY WITH VIOLENCE

Burglary	111
Housebreaking	512
Breaking into shops, warehouses	118
Robbery and assaults with intent to rob	88
Other offences against property with violence	79
Total	908

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Larceny of horses cattle or sheep	84
Larceny from persons	186
Larceny in house to value of £5	146
Larceny by a servant	63
Embezzlement	84
Simple larceny and minor larcenies	3,437
Obtaining goods by false pretences	311
Receiving stolen goods	196
Other offences against property without violence	67
Total	4,574

MALICIOUS INJURIES TO PROPERTY

Arson	165
Other malicious injuries to property	523
Total	688

FORGERY AND OFFENCES AGAINST THE CURRENCY

Forgery and uttering (felony)	69
Other forgery and offences against the currency	31
Total	100

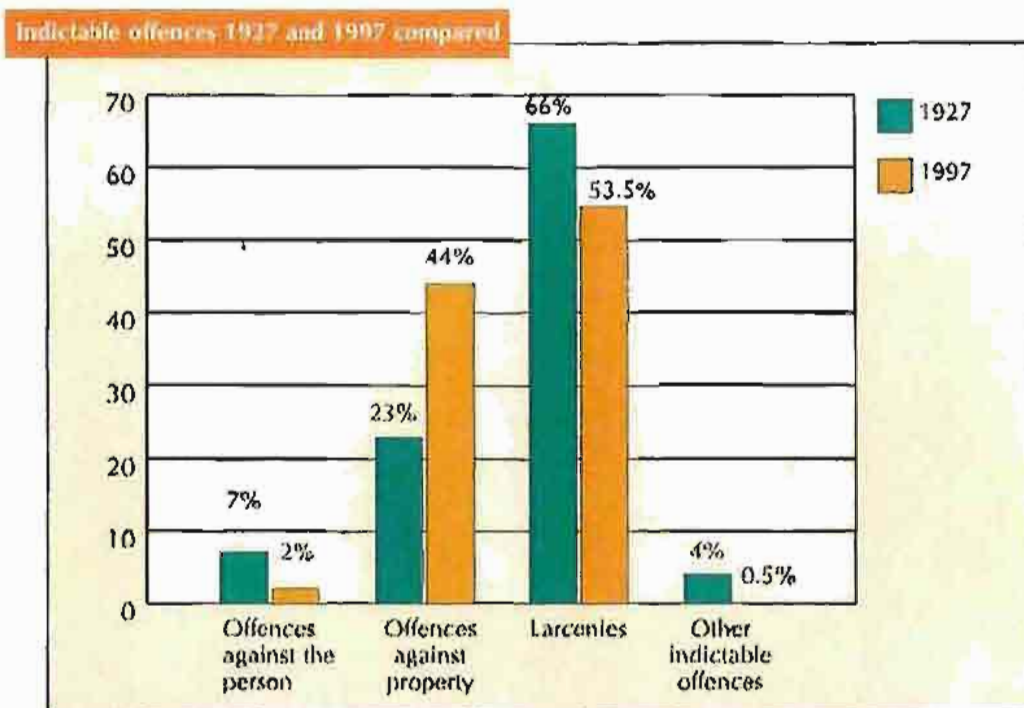
OTHER OFFENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE CLASSES

Intimidation by threatening letters, notices etc.	84
Other offences against the State and public order	76
Offences against public justice	14
Suicide (attempt to commit)	63
Misdemeanours under Firearms Act, 1925	50
Other offences against law of nation	30
Total	317

Total Indictable Offences 7,091

(* All fatal traffic accidents are included as manslaughter)

For comparative purposes the chart below shows the proportion of indictable offences recorded in 1927 and 1997 in the four groups which are used today. Over the years the proportion of indictable offences against the person has more than halved while the proportion of property offences has almost doubled.



Garda administrative areas have also changed over the years. In 1927 the State was divided into 22 divisions. Since then major alteration of divisional boundaries occurred in the areas located in the current divisions of Wexford, and Roscommon/Galway East and divisions in the Dublin Region. The proportion of indictable offences recorded in 1927 and 1997 are shown in the table on the following page for each of the divisions as they existed when the first Garda crime statistics were published and the numbers of stations in the divisions are shown in brackets. Although considerable change can be seen over the years it should be noted that significant demographic and other changes have also taken place since then.

Just as variations can be seen in the proportions of offences recorded in the divisions there was also quite a variation in detection rates. The overall detection for all the divisions in 1927 was 63%. The divisional rate was 80% or higher in Sligo/Leitrim, Mayo and Dublin/Wicklow while Cork West and DMD (Dublin Metropolitan District) recorded detection rates of 48% and 52% respectively.

Following the amalgamation of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and the Garda Síochána the Executive Council (Government) set the strength at 7,122 in July 1925. The strength at each of the ranks of the amalgamated force is shown in the table on the right and it gives some idea of the number of men who endeavoured to prevent and detect crime in the early years of the State.

Strength of Garda Síochána (as fixed in July 1925)

Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	2
Assistant Commissioner	2
Surgeon	1
Chief Superintendent	26
Superintendent	133
Inspector	55
Station Sergeant	44
Sergeant	1,307
Guard	5,551
Total Strength	7,122

Proportions of indictable offences by Division: 1927 and 1997

Divisions and No. of Stations (as they existed in 1927)*	1927	1997
Carlow/Kildare (31)	2.47%	3.44%
Cavan/Monaghan (40)	3.06%	1.11%
Clare (40)	3.14%	1.18%
Cork East (71)	8.24%	8.31%
Cork West (39)	1.78%	1.06%
Donegal (47)	2.42%	1.74%
DMD (27)	40.78%	46.53%
Dublin & Wicklow (47)	4.59%	10.65%
Galway East (30)	2.59%	0.45%
Galway West (32)	2.33%	2.32%
Kerry (43)	2.31%	1.53%
Kilkenny (32)	1.90%	0.87%
Laois/Offaly (38)	2.65%	1.55%
Limerick (41)	3.46%	3.39%
Longford/Westmeath (36)	2.11%	1.85%
Louth/Meath (38)	2.74%	5.22%
Mayo (46)	2.22%	1.10%
Roscommon (28)	1.06%	0.33%
Sligo/Leitrim (47)	2.47%	1.01%
Tipperary (57)	3.85%	1.79%
Waterford (27)	1.69%	2.58%
Wexford (33)	2.11%	1.98%

* The 1997 statistics are approximate: extensive alteration to divisional boundaries occurred over the 70 year period in some areas.

Non-indictable offences recorded in 1927

Cruelty to Animals	2,140
Diseases of Animals Act	398
Dogs, Offences in relation to	3,342
Education & School Attendance Act	8,389
HIGHWAY ACTS	
Offences by Owners and Drivers of Carts	6,957
Obstructions and Nuisances	3,595
Heavy Locomotives	188
Motor Cars	11,028
Bicycles	7,305
Stage, Carriage and Cab Regulations	932
Dublin Metropolitan Police Acts	4,120
INTOXICATING LIQUOR LAWS	
Drunkenness, Simple	4,015
Drunkenness with Aggravation	1,743
Permitting Drunkenness (on Licensed Premises or Selling drink to Drunken persons)	59
Supplying drink to persons under 18 years	21
Other offences by licensed persons	98
Other offences against Closing Regulations	1,448
Unlicensed sale of drink	39
Other offences against Intoxicating Liquor Law	1,783
Methylated Spirits, Offences in relation to	14
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1851	5,412
Other Non-indictable Offences	12,520
Total persons	75,546

In contrast with their indictable counterparts, the non-indictable offences recorded in 1927 are quite different from those being recorded today. A total of 75,546 persons were prosecuted and the table on the left shows the offences as they are recorded in the Garda files.

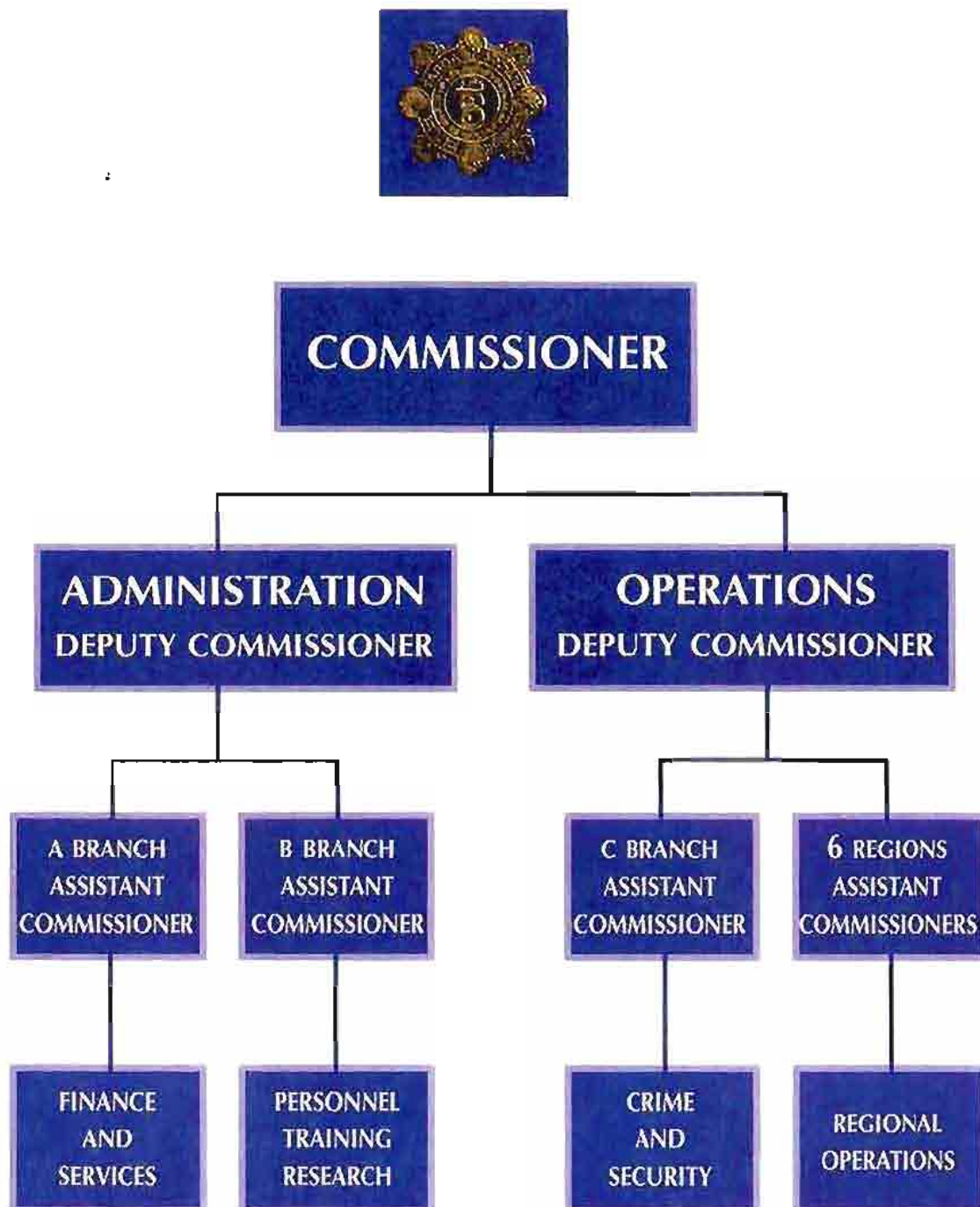
Offences involving animals or their welfare (arising from legislation governing cruelty, the control of dogs and the control of animal diseases) account for almost 6,000 (8%) of the total recorded. The persons prosecuted for offences under the Highways Acts account for about 40% of the total recorded and they provide some insight into the various modes of transport then in use.

Almost 200 persons were prosecuted in relation to heavy locomotives while more than 7,000 related to bicycles. It is interesting to compare the number of offences by owners and drivers of cars with offences involving motor cars. In 1927 offences involving cars amounted to 63% of the number involving motor cars. This relationship changed considerably within a few years: in 1929 the number of persons prosecuted for offences involving cars amounted to only 40% of those involving motor cars.

Unlike the crime statistics of today, those for 1927 make little reference to offences committed by juveniles. During that year prosecutions were taken against 599 persons under 16 years of age for indictable offences and a total of 1,676 were prosecuted for non-indictable offences. Six sentences of whipping were applied by the Juvenile Courts while no adults are recorded as having been so sentenced.

APPENDIX (1)

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



INDICTABLE OFFENCES

INDICTABLE OFFENCES

JUVENILE OFFENCES

NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES

DRUG OFFENCES

TRAFFIC OFFENCES

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

APPENDIX (2)

Some descriptions used in the table which summarises indictable offences for the last three years refer to more than one type of indictable offence as set out hereunder.

Manslaughter	Offences involving falsification	Escape from Custody
Manslaughter	Falsification of accounts	Escape from lawful custody
Manslaughter (traffic fatalities)	Forgery and uttering	Prison Breach
Assault, Wounding etc	Frauds by agents, trustees etc.	Rescue from lawful custody
Dangerous driving causing sbh,	Fraud by bogus advertisers	Electoral Acts
Wounding etc. (f)	Fraud by bogus sales persons	Electoral Acts
Wounding etc. (gda) on duty	Frauds by obtaining credit	Personation on Indictment
Assaults wounding etc (m)	Fraudulent conversion	Possession/Carrying Firearms etc
Assaults wounding (gda) on duty	Embezzlement	Poss fa or ammo w/ endanger life
Endangering Rail Passengers	Other Frauds	Possession fa or ammo in susp circs
Endangering railway passengers	False pretences	Carry fa with criminal intent
Interference with railway	Cheating	Other Indictable Offences
Robbery including muggings	Coinage Acts - Offences Against	Intimidation
Robbery	Debtors Ireland Act 1872	Intimidation by letter etc.
Larceny from persons (muggings)	Other frauds	Official Secrets Act
Other sexual offences	Armed Aggravated Burglary	Treason Act 1939 Offences
Indecent exposure	Armed Aggravated Burglary	Alfay, riot or violent disorder
Brothel keeping	Armed attack on house	Public Mischief
Larceny of Animals	Possession of Explosives etc	Incitement
Larceny of horses cattle or sheep	Possession of explosive substance	Bribery
Larceny of other livestock	Making explosives	Perjury
Larceny of MPV's	Causing Explosion etc	Destroy-dispose of dead bodies
Larceny of motor cars	Causing an explosion	Embracery
Larceny of motor cycles etc.	Attempting to cause explosion	Misprision of felony
Larceny of motor lorries	Unlawful Seizure (Hijackings)	Wireless Telegraphy Act
Larceny of other m.p.v.'s	Unlawful seizure of aircraft	Corruption
Larceny of Firearms	Unlawful seizure of vehicles	Obstruct clergy during services
Larceny of firearms	Other - Criminal Damage	Forcible Entry Act 1971
Larceny of explosives	Killing and maiming cattle	Compounding a felony
Other Larcenies	Malicious damage to schools	Other Indictable Offences
Other larcenies	Other malicious injury to property	Conspiracy
Larceny in house to value of £5	Extortion/Blackmail	
Larceny of m.p.v. accessories	Extortion	
Larceny of petrol, diesel, l.p.g.	Threat to publish with intent to extort	
Larceny of cash, cheques etc.		
Larceny of drugs		
Larceny of t.v.'s, radios etc.		
Larceny of jewellery or watches		
Larceny of cigarettes		
Larceny of copper, lead etc.		

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