



Report on Crime 1979

Report for the year ended 31 December, 1979,
Commissioner, Garda Síochána, to the Minister for Justice.

GARDA SÍOCHANA,
HEADQUARTERS,
DUBLIN, 8.
DECEMBER, 1980.

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Foreword

PROSECUTIONS BY THE GARDAI
Murder and Dangerous Offences - 1979
Burglary and Offences 1979 to 1980
Sexual Offences and the Road of the Male Offender
Kidnapping and Detention by Garda Síochána
Deaths in the District 1979
Deaths in Summary Trials and the Road 1979

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST THE GARDAI
Murder - 1979
Sexual Offences
Kidnapping
Deaths in Summary Trials

Report

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The Minister for Justice

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on crime for the year ended 31st December, 1979.

The rise in crime, which showed signs of having been halted in 1978, appears in 1979 to have recommenced its upward movement. A total of 64,057 indictable offences were recorded during the year which was an increase of 2,057 (3.3%) on the previous year, and an increase of 1,111 (1.8%) on 1977. The increase can be found across the principal groupings, but is highest in group III, which is the group consisting mainly of larcenies, fraud, and crimes of forgery and uttering. In that group the increase was 4.1%, from 38,397 to 39,980.

The Dublin Metropolitan Area, with 36,156 crimes, maintains its share (56.4%) of the total crime of the State. The 1979 census results indicate that the population of the area has risen to 990,234, an increase of 19.4% on 829,660 which was the figure based on the 1971 census. The new population figure provides a ratio of 36.5 crimes per 1,000 people, considerably less than the figures recorded for the previous two years, which were calculated on the older census estimate.

I am disturbed to find that the incidence of assaults on members of the Force continues to increase. Cases of assault of all types, both indictable and non-indictable, on Gardai numbered 2,063 for 1979, an increase of 352 (20.6%) on the number recorded in 1978. In 1976 the total number of assaults on members of the Force was 1,274. In 1977 the figure rose to 1,359, and rose to 1,711 in 1978. Thus from 1976 to 1979 there has been an increase of 61.9% in the incidence of these offences. This rate of assault on Gardai is quite unacceptable and is an increasing burden which the Force should not have to bear. Members of the Force are extremely conscious of their duties in the protection of the society to which they belong, and this trend is evidence of an increasing antagonism to the Gardai on the part of some segments of the same society. It is important that the public be aware of this deplorable situation, in the hope that such awareness will reflect itself in the decisions of courts in respect of these crimes.

There is no doubt that much of the blame for the situation described can be attributed to heavy drinking. The massive increase in driving offences involving the abuse of alcohol is another aspect of the effect of over indulgence in drink. The number of offences of driving, attempting to drive, or being in charge of mechanically propelled vehicles, while drunk, or while the blood/alcohol concentration was above the prescribed limit and in which proceedings were taken, rose from 3,635 in 1978 to 6,983 in 1979, an increase of 92.1%. This increase is due in part to improvements in the law which made the enforcement of the provisions designed to deal with drunken driving more effective. In spite of the serious consequences of a conviction in respect of these offences it is a matter of concern that so many people, otherwise usually law abiding, do not take them seriously. However, I am pleased to record a reduction, albeit marginal, in the number of persons killed as a result of traffic accidents. The figure for 1979 was 616, a reduction of 1.8% on 1978.

The use of firearms in cases of robbery and other serious crimes continues to be a matter of grave concern. Robberies with arms numbered 228, an increase of 5.1% on 1978, and there were 24 cases of aggravated burglaries with arms. Of the armed robberies, 65 (28.5%) occurred at banks or post offices. The number of crimes involving the use of firearms is not large when set against the total crime figure, and is quite small in international terms, but the brazen and arrogant manner in which many of them were carried out is an affront to society itself and an indication of the existence of a criminal undercurrent which must be eradicated. An in-depth examination of methods used here and abroad is at present being carried out with a view to improving measures to reduce this type of crime, and I have already increased the staff of the Crime Investigation Branch with a special mandate to concentrate on the criminals who are involved. There is no doubt, however, that armed robberies involving numbers of criminals can only be planned and executed with considerable activity and assistance from others. The public generally can assist greatly in preventing such crimes and when they occur, in bringing the culprits to justice, by reporting all suspicious activity to the Gardai, no matter how insignificant or trivial it may seem at the time. The Force will not spare itself in its efforts to curb violent criminals, especially those who take up firearms to further their activities.

Larcenies from unattended vehicles numbered 14,663 during 1979. These crimes amounted to 22.9% of the total crime for the country and represent an area in which the exercise of reasonable care on the part of owners and drivers would pay dividends in the reduction of crime generally. It is emphasised time and again that people should not leave property in parked cars, or if they must do so they should put it into the boot. Commercial vehicle owners can also play their part here by providing adequate security systems for their vehicles, especially large container trucks which are becoming an increasingly frequent target for thieves.

Unquestionably the highlight of 1979 was the visit of Pope John Paul II to this country. The complex operation surrounding the visit was a triumph for all who were involved. The methodical planning and preparation for this historical event proved worthwhile, and the Force met the enormous operational demands which were placed upon it with enthusiasm and good will. In this connection also I wish to record the welcome cooperation received by the Force from the public generally as well as from the press, radio and television. On that occasion as well as on many others during the year the Garda Siochana was ably assisted in its task by the very many people whose appreciation of the Garda Siochana's role matches their consciousness of the need for all citizens to contribute to the task of maintaining a free and democratic society.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your obedient servant



P. McLAUGHLIN
COMMISSIONER, GARDA SIOCHANA

INDICTABLE OFFENCES

Indictable offences which came to the notice of the Garda Síochána during the year ended 31st December, 1979, numbered **64,057** as compared to 62,000 in the year ended 31st December, 1978, an increase of 3.3%.

OFFENCES RECORDED AND DETECTED 1970 – 1979.

Year	Recorded	Detected	Percentage Detected
1970	30,756	15,242	50
1971	37,781	17,518	46
1972	39,237	17,047	43.4
1973	38,022	18,094	47.6
1974	40,096	19,287	48
1975	48,387	21,011	43.4
1976	54,382	22,482	41.3
1977	62,946	24,439	38.8
1978	62,000	25,286	40.7
1979	64,057	26,370	41.2

The figures for Indictable Offences are broken down in the following table:-

	Offences Recorded		Increase	Decrease	Offences Detected	
	1979	1978			1979	1978
Offences against the Person	2,326	2,266	60 (2.6%)		2,126 (91.4%)	2,027 (89.5%)
Offences against property with violence	21,535	21,119	416 (2.0%)		9,577 (44.5%)	9,308 (44.1%)
Larcenies, etc.	39,980	38,397	1,583 (4.1%)		14,482 (36.2%)	13,771 (35.9%)
Other Indictable Offences	216	218		2 (0.9%)	185 (85.6%)	180 (82.6%)
TOTALS	64,057	62,000	2,059	2	26,370 (41.2%)	25,286 (40.7%)
			Net + 2,057 (3.3%)			

In the Dublin Metropolitan Area (D M A) 36,156 indictable offences were recorded, an increase of 1,132 (3.2%) on the figure for 1978. Of the total crimes recorded in the State 56.4% occurred in the D M A.

The D M A has an estimated population of 990,234 based on the 1979 census of population or 29.4% of the total population of the State.

DUBLIN AND THE REST OF THE STATE COMPARED

Year	Area	Indictable Crime Recorded	% of total	No. of crimes per 1,000 of population
1979	D M A	36,156	56.4	36.5
	In the rest of the State	27,901	43.6	11.7
1978	D M A	35,024	56.5	42.2
	In the rest of the State	26,976	43.5	12.6

DETECTION OF CRIME

The overall detection rate in 1979 was 41.2% (40.7% in 1978). The detection rate varies from 91.4% in respect of Offences Against the Person to 36.2% in the less serious forms of larceny.

The total number of indictable offences detected was 26,370. Proceedings were taken in 23,868 cases, and the remaining 2,502 cases (Col. 17 of indictable offences table) include cases dealt with under the Juvenile Liaison Scheme and cases dealt with by way of formal caution in areas where the scheme is not in operation.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON (GROUP I)

Murder, manslaughter, dangerous driving causing death, traffic fatalities, possession of firearms with intent to endanger life, assault and related offences comprise this group. In 1979 a total of 2,326 offences were recorded in this group, an increase of 2.6% on 1978. The detection rate was 91.4% (89.5% in 1978).

OFFENCES RECORDED AND DETECTED IN THIS GROUP, 1975 - 1979

Year	Recorded	Detected	Percentage Detected
1975	1,456	1,298	89.1
1976	1,714	1,546	90.3
1977	2,063	1,802	87.3
1978	2,266	2,028	89.5
1979	2,326	2,126	91.4

The overall figure of **2,326** offences against the person includes **923** (39.7%) committed in the DMA where the detection rate was 85.9% (84.1% in 1978).

MURDER

There were 22 murders in 1979, as compared with 14 in 1978. There were 10 cases of attempted murder.

MANSLAUGHTER

There were 9 cases of manslaughter in 1979, 2 of which arose out of traffic accidents.

TRAFFIC FATALITIES

There were 616 deaths arising from 561 fatal traffic accidents. In 1978 there were 627 traffic fatalities. 22 persons (29 in 1978) were charged with dangerous driving causing death and 5 persons (8 in 1978) were charged with dangerous driving causing serious bodily injury. 2 persons were charged with manslaughter (2 in 1978).

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY WITH VIOLENCE (GROUP II)

Offences of burglary, aggravated burglary, robbery, arson and serious malicious damage to property are included in this group. A total of **21,535** offences were recorded in 1979, an increase of 2.0% on 1978 and the detection rate was 44.5% (44.1% in 1978).

OFFENCES RECORDED AND DETECTED IN THIS GROUP 1975 - 1979

Year	Recorded	Detected	Percentage Detected
1975	16,432	7,946	48.4
1976	20,903	9,152	43.8
1977	23,154	9,491	41
1978	21,119	9,308	44.1
1979	21,535	9,577	44.5

Of the total number of offences in this Group, 11,092 (51.5%) were committed in the D M A and the detection rate was 46.9% (47.1% in 1978).

ROBBERY

There were 1020 robberies in 1979 showing an increase of 100 (10.9%) on the figure recorded for 1978. A total of 412 offences (40.4%) were detected (40.7% in 1978). Cases of robbery with arms numbered 228 and in addition there were 24 cases of aggravated burglary with arms.

ARSON AND MALICIOUS DAMAGE

There were 1,259 cases of malicious damage of which 150 cases were arson; 661 (52.5%) were detected. In 1978 the total figure for arson was 114, showing an increase for 1979 of 31.6%.

BURGLARY

Offences of breaking and entering premises, namely burglary and aggravated burglary, amounted to 19,194 of which 8,470 (44.1%) were detected. In 1978, a total of 19,136 offences of this nature were recorded and the detections were 7,813 (40.8%).

LARCENIES ETC. (GROUP III)

Larcenies, forgeries and frauds of various kinds comprise this group. In 1979, 39,980 such offences were recorded and this showed an increase of 1,583 (4.1%) on the figure for 1978. A total of 14,482 (36.2%) of these offences were detected. In 1978 detections amounted to 13,771 (35.9%).

OFFENCES RECORDED AND DETECTED IN THIS GROUP, 1975 - 1979

Year	Recorded	Detected	Percentage Detected
1975	29,362	10,793	36.8
1976	31,540	11,583	36.7
1977	37,465	12,922	34.5
1978	38,397	13,771	35.9
1979	39,980	14,482	36.2

The overall figure of 39,980 offences recorded in this Group includes 24,036 (60.1%) committed in the D M A where detections totalled 6,857 (28.5%). In 1978, detections in the D M A totalled 6,430 (28.5%). The number of larcenies from unattended vehicles at 14,663 shows an increase of 470 (3.3%) on the figure for the previous year.

Thefts of motor vehicles, 799, show an increase of 105 (15.1%) on the figure recorded in 1978.

INDICTABLE OFFENCES RECORDED AND DETECTED BY GARDA DIVISIONS AND FOUR PRINCIPAL CITY DISTRICTS - YEAR ENDED 31/12/79

	GROUP I Offences Against the Person		GROUP II Offences Against Property with Violence		GROUP III Larcenies, etc.		GROUP IV Other Indictable Offences		Total Indictable Offences	Percentage variation on 1978 figures	No. of detections for 1979
	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.	Rec.	Det.			
Carlow/Kildare	85	81	601	250	765	484	8	7	1459	-13.3	822 (56.3%)
Cavan/Monaghan	43	37	185	75	268	146	2	2	498	-12.6	260 (52.2%)
Cork East	321	299	2204	990	3258	1653	10	10	5793	+ 1.6	2952 (51.0%)
Cork West	41	41	261	146	377	226	2	2	681	+24.0	415 (60.9%)
Clare	21	21	213	100	388	140	3	3	625	+18.6	264 (42.2%)
Donegal	89	77	423	157	603	241	10	8	1125	+32.2	483 (42.9%)
D M A	923	793	11092	5206	24036	6857	105	91	36156	+ 3.2	12947 (35.8%)
Galway West	51	50	478	148	771	313	-	-	1300	+ 3.2	511 (39.3%)
Kerry	48	47	332	166	752	308	6	6	1138	+ 7.0	527 (46.3%)
Leix/Offaly	28	28	290	109	638	346	-	-	956	- 3.1	483 (50.5%)
Limerick	121	117	1255	546	1957	969	17	16	3350	+ 2.2	1648 (49.2%)
Longford/Westmeath	49	47	386	187	820	490	2	2	1257	+ 4.1	726 (57.8%)
Louth/Meath	156	144	1149	370	1763	564	11	4	3079	+ 3.0	1082 (35.1%)
Mayo	32	31	135	81	330	242	2	2	499	-14.8	356 (71.3%)
Roscommon/Galway E.	27	27	226	146	353	199	5	5	611	- 9.1	377 (61.7%)
Sligo/Leitrim	41	41	333	159	303	152	-	-	677	+ 27.5	352 (52.0%)
Tipperary	115	113	617	215	810	390	4	4	1546	+ 21.4	722 (46.7%)
Waterford/Kilkenny	46	44	703	297	734	362	1	1	1484	+ 10.3	704 (47.4%)
Wexford	89	88	652	229	1054	400	28	22	1823	- 4.2	739 (40.5%)
Total for the State	2326	2126	21535	9577	39980	14482	216	185	64057	+ 3.3	26370 (41.2%)
Total less figures for DMA	1403	1333	10443	4371	15944	7625	111	94	27901	+ 3.4	13423 (48.1%)
CITY DISTRICTS											
Cork	239	225	1727	722	2401	1212	2	2	4369	+ 5.0	2161 (49.5%)
Limerick	104	101	1046	463	1728	845	15	14	2893	-1.0	1423 (49.2%)
Galway	24	24	339	96	581	233	-	-	944	- 4.1	353 (37.4%)
Waterford	14	13	386	135	355	158	-	-	755	+ 21.2	306 (40.5%)

AGE GROUPS – CONVICTED PERSONS, 1979
A

Age groups of persons convicted, or against whom the charge was held proved and order made without conviction, in respect of crimes which were pending on 1st January, 1979.

Under 14 years	14 and under 17 years	17 and under 21 years	21 and over	TOTAL
283	1,146	1,133	1,690	4,252

B

Age groups of persons convicted, or against whom the charge was held proved and order made without conviction, in respect of crimes which were committed during 1979.

Under 14 years	14 and under 17 years	17 and under 21 years	21 and over	TOTAL
401	1,643	2,812	4,648	9,504

TOTAL (A) and (B)

Under 14 years	14 and under 17 years	17 and under 21 years	21 and over	TOTAL
684	2,789	3,945	6,338	13,756

Age groups of persons convicted, or against whom the charge was held proved and order made without conviction, in respect of crimes committed in years.

1975 – 1979

Year	Under 14 years	14 and under 17 years	17 and under 21 years	21 and over	TOTAL
1975	876	2,434	3,827	6,600	13,737
1976	734	1,888	2,609	5,291	10,522
1977	515	1,784	2,844	5,558	10,701
1978	912	2,883	4,198	6,893	14,886
1979	684	2,789	3,945	6,338	13,756

Juveniles (under 17 years of age) convicted or against whom charges was held proved and order made without conviction in years 1975-1979.

Year	Total number of persons convicted	Juveniles (under 17 years) convicted
1975	13,737	3,310 (24.1%)
1976	10,522	2,622 (24.9%)
1977	10,701	2,299 (21.5%)
1978	14,886	3,795 (25.5%)
1979	13,756	3,473 (25.2%)

VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED IN 1979.

Table showing:- (1) Offences against property with violence (numbers 39 to 42 inclusive of statistical return of indictable offences for 1979).
 (2) Larcenies etc. offences against property without violence (numbers 57 to 80 inclusive of statistical return of indictable offences for 1979).

	Less than £10	£10 and less than £50	£50 and less than £100	£100 and less than £200	£200 and less than £300	£300 and less than £400	£400 and less than £500	£500 and less than £1,000	£1,000 and less than £5,000	£5,000 and over	Total No. of crimes	Total value of property stolen	Total value of property recovered	Total No. of cases in which no property was stolen.
(1) No. of offences against property with violence	1993	4842	2840	2544	1373	776	613	1159	846	161	17147	£6,937,372	£970,650	3067
(2) No. of larcenies etc.	5194	13444	7358	4888	1943	823	534	897	499	49	35629	£4,587,367	£728,520	277

TOTAL VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN

1979 £11,524,739.00

1978 £10,372,354.00

TOTAL VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED

£1,699,170.00 (14.7%)

£1,098,695.00 (10.6%)

AGE ANALYSIS OF MURDERED PERSONS — 1979

Age in years	0 — 9	10 — 14	15 — 16	17 — 20	21 — 29	30 — 64	65 — 74	75 — 99
No. of persons	1	1	1	—	5	11	—	3

MURDERS RECORDED AND DETECTED IN 1979 BY DIVISIONS

DIVISION	Recorded	Detected
Carlow/Kildare	1	1
Cavan/Monaghan	3	2
Cork East	—	—
Cork West	1	1
Clare	—	—
Donegal	—	—
D M A	5	4
Galway West	—	—
Kerry	—	—
Leix/Offaly	—	—
Limerick	3	3
Longford/Westmeath	—	—
Louth/Meath	2	2
Mayo	—	—
Roscommon/Galway E.	—	—
Sligo/Leitrim	4	4
Tipperary	1	1
Waterford/Kilkenny	2	2
Wexford	—	—
Totals	22	20

ANALYSES OF ARMED ROBBERIES - LINE 42 TABLE OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES - 1979

DIVISION	House Flat	Bank	P.O.	Betting Office	Licensed Premises	Chemist Shop	Shop Stall	Garage	Factory Store	School	Office	Dance Hall	Public Bldg.	Hotel	Petrbl Stn.	Rail- way Stn.	Other	TOTAL
Carlow/Kildare	1	1			1													3
Cavan/Mo naghan		3						1							1			5
Clare		1		1														2
Cork East							1		1				1		1		2	6
Cork West																		
Donegal		1										1						2
D.M.A.	2	23	18	4	18	2	25	3	13	1	15		1	2	1	1	35	164
Galway West		2					1										1	4
Kerry																		
Leix/Offaly			1															1
Limerick		2	1						1			1						5
Longford/W.Meath	1																1	2
Louth/Meath	2	7		1			1	1	1		2					1	5	21
Mayo		1															1	2
Roscommon/Gal. E.																		
Sligo/Leitrim	1																	1
Tipperary		1					1											2
Waterford/Kilkenny	2	1					1								1			5
Wexford	1	1	1															3
TOTALS	10	44	21	6	19	2	30	5	16	1	17	2	2	2	4	2	45	228
CASH ANALYSIS OF ARMED ROBBERIES in 1979 showing value of property stolen by type of premises																		
Up to £99.99	1		1		5	1	7	2	2		2		1		3		6	31
£100 to £499.99	2	1	3	3	9	1	5	2	3		3	1			1		4	38
£500 to £999.99	1		2	2	2		5		1		2		1				8	24
£1000 to £4999.99	3	18	8		2		3	1	3		5			1		1	5	50
£5000 +	3	24	7				4		4	1	2	1		1		1	18	66
Nothing taken		1		1	1		6		3		3						4	19
Totals	10	44	21	6	19	2	30	5	16	1	17	2	2	2	4	2	45	228

Non-Indictable Offences—Proceedings and persons convicted in Year 1979

OFFENCES (1)	No. of Offences in which proceedings were taken (2)	Charges withdrawn or dismissed (3)	Number of convictions (4)	Charges proved and order made without conviction (5)	Adjourned sine die or otherwise disposed of (6)	No. of persons convicted or against whom charge was held proved or orde- made without conviction. (7)
1. (a) Assaults	5549	1063	3375	479	632	3606
(b) .. Gardai on duty	1091	136	753	59	143	783
2. Cruelty to Animals	104	14	67	1	22	58
3. (a) Dogs, Offences in relation to Licensing of (Finance Act, 1925)	848	96	649	86	17	621
(b) Dogs Order, 1966 (wearing of dog collars etc.)	114	16	89	6	3	91
(c) Dogs, Protection of Livestock Act, 1960 (dogs worrying Livestock)	120	13	100	3	4	90
4. School Attendance Act, 1926, Offences against	161	5	91	37	28	123
5. Traffic Acts, Offences against:						
(a) Lighting Regulations—Pedal Cycles (i) No front lamp	935	116	705	98	16	747
.. .. . (ii) No rear lamp	643	91	475	70	7	489
.. .. . (iii) No reflector	532	79	376	72	5	360
(b) —M.P.V.	32245	3395	24077	3638	1135	19353
(c) —Animal-drawn vehicles	13	-	13	-	-	7
(d) Licences—Driving	42669	7839	27434	5397	1999	26265
(e) Obstruction	3702	340	2981	301	80	3106
(f) Dangerous Parking	764	116	547	70	31	581
(g) Road Traffic General Bye-Laws, 1964	3934	511	2956	376	91	2703
(h) Local Bye-Laws	33091	6161	26208	598	124	26559
(i) Dangerous and Careless Driving	11664	1864	8396	582	822	8683
(j) Compulsory Insurance	41735	10107	24494	4542	2592	23740
(k) Drink and Driving:						
(i) Driving or attempting to drive M.P.V. while drunk	1625	350	1039	-	236	1039
(ii) Being in charge of M.P.V. while drunk	143	28	98	-	17	98
(iii) Driving or attempting to drive M.P.V., alcohol concentration above prescribed limit	4994	638	3319	-	1037	3319
(iv) Being in charge of M.P.V., alcohol concentration above pre- scribed limit	221	36	162	-	23	162
(v) Refusing to provide preliminary specimen of breath	492	47	378	-	67	364
(vi) Refusing to provide or permit taking of blood/urine specimen at Garda stations	723	101	513	-	109	500

Non-Indictable Offences—Proceedings and persons convicted in Year 1979

OFFENCES (1)	No. of Offences in which proceedings were taken (2)	Charges withdrawn or dismissed (3)	Number of convictions (4)	Charges proved and order made without conviction (5)	Adjourned sine die or otherwise disposed of (6)	No. of persons convicted or against whom charge was held proved or order made without conviction. (7)
(l) Driving or attempting to drive or being in charge of animal-drawn vehicle while drunk	6	1	4	—	1	4
(m) Driving or attempting to drive pedal cycle while drunk	28	5	22	1	—	23
(n) Exceeding speed limit (i) Built-up area	14534	855	12858	673	148	13305
.. .. . (ii) Special	2908	156	2617	90	45	2665
.. .. . (iii) Ordinary	1364	105	1184	52	23	1197
.. .. . (iv) General	3715	234	3330	122	29	3393
(o) Driving dangerously, defective M.P.V.	369	52	284	18	15	299
(p) Other offences	12963	2467	8586	1399	511	7568
(q) Construction Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations, 1963						
.. .. . (i) Defective tyres	10128	972	8105	719	332	7087
.. .. . (ii) .. steering	325	19	285	16	5	268
.. .. . (iii) .. brakes	2629	166	2186	211	66	2071
.. .. . (iv) Other Offences	11541	1474	8468	1139	460	7038
6. (a) Taking M.P.V. without authority	2773	330	1965	201	277	1987
(b) Unauthorised interference with mechanism of M.P.V.	1495	245	955	138	157	1063
(c) Taking possession of pedal cycle without consent	140	17	114	5	4	119
7. Road Transport Acts	1188	221	713	162	92	654
8. Roads Act and Finance Acts—Excise Licence	53255	9436	34398	6793	2628	31902
9. Intoxicating Liquor Laws, Offences against:						
(a) Illegally on Licensed Premises during closing hours	8383	624	7122	109	528	7208
(b) Drunkenness, Simple	2664	238	2073	238	115	2289
(c) Drunkenness with aggravation	3602	348	2843	239	172	3025
(d) Offences by Licensed Persons (or their Servants) against closing Regulations	1589	520	936	16	117	898
(e) Other Offences by Licensed Persons (or their Servants)	183	85	74	10	14	75
(f) Supplying or selling drink to persons under 18 years	39	17	20	—	2	20
(g) Offences in connection with Registered Clubs	88	16	57	8	7	65
(h) Other offences against Intoxicating Liquor Laws	620	103	440	18	59	424

Non-Indictable Offences—Proceedings and persons convicted in Year 1979.

OFFENCES (1)	No. of Offences in which proceedings were taken (2)	Charges withdrawn or dismissed (3)	Number of convictions (4)	Charges proved and order made without conviction (5)	Adjourned sine die or otherwise disposed of (6)	No. of persons convicted or against whom charge was held proved or order made without conviction. (7)
10. Labour Laws, offences against	37	13	21	-	3	10
11. Malicious Damage to Animals, Fences, etc.	2361	357	1497	210	297	1579
12. Police Regulations, Offences against:—						
(a) Dublin Metropolitan Police Acts	759	136	401	123	99	516
(b) Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1851	328	66	228	24	10	198
13. Prostitution	237	18	205	11	3	216
14. Living on earnings of prostitute	4	-	4	-	-	4
15. Loitering with intent	28	12	14	-	2	14
16. Revenue Laws, Offences against	141	28	79	-	34	64
17. Stealing, Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property (not the subject of larceny at Common Law)	246	40	130	47	29	152
18. Street Trading Act, 1926—Offences against	771	41	668	22	40	649
19. Vagrancy Acts—Offences against:—						
(a) Begging	278	37	208	15	18	222
(b) Other Offences	356	80	210	42	24	245
20. Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1926—Offences against	29	1	28	-	-	12
21. Firearms Acts—Offences against	204	22	136	16	30	141
22. Explosives—Offences in relation to	1	1	-	-	-	-
23. Dangerous Drugs Act 1934 – Health Act 1970 and Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 (Offences in relation to controlled drugs):						
(a) Unlawful possession of controlled drugs	502	23	342	43	94	374
(b) Unlawfully procuring controlled drugs	28	1	27	-	-	9
(c) Unlawfully supplying (pedaling) controlled drugs	37	8	13	1	15	14
(d) Other offences	69	10	34	-	25	25
24. Offences under Juries Act, 1976	221	84	81	18	38	99
25. Other Offences	6872	1108	4594	607	563	4368
TOTAL	338,150	53,954	237,854	29,971	16,371	227,005

NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES BY DIVISIONS – YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1979

Division	Total No. of offences in which proceedings were taken
Carlow/Kildare	12,213
Cavan/Monaghan	11,749
Cork East	36,466
Cork West	8,371
Clare	7,367
Donegal	11,325
DMA	126,437
Galway West	6,719
Kerry	13,527
Leix/Offaly	8,669
Limerick	11,494
Longford/Westmeath	12,346
Louth/Meath	17,944
Mayo	7,629
Roscommon/Galway East	8,594
Sligo/Leitrim	6,512
Tipperary	13,334
Waterford/Kilkenny	11,233
Wexford	6,221
TOTAL	338,150

The following table shows a breakdown of the principal offences for which proceedings were taken.

Type of Offences	Number of offences in which proceedings were taken
Highway Acts (Road Traffic Acts, Road Transport Acts and Road Act)	299,486
Intoxicating Liquor Laws	17,168
Assaults	6,640
School Attendance Act	161
Dogs Acts, Offences against	1,082
Malicious Damage	2,361
Street Trading Act	771
Vagrancy Acts	634
Drug Offences	636
Dublin Metropolitan Police Acts	759
Prostitution	237
Other	8,215

CRIME PREVENTION

Specially trained personnel are engaged in crime prevention advisory work in all Garda Divisions. In Dublin the Crime Prevention Unit is located at Osmond House, Ship Street.

During the year 82 lectures on crime prevention and home security were given to residents' associations, ladies clubs, security organisations and business groups at different venues in the Dublin area. Lectures were also delivered by crime prevention personnel in country areas as occasions demanded.

Crime prevention exhibitions were mounted at the following venues:

1. Holiday and Leisure Fair at R.D.S., Ballsbridge, Dublin.
2. Brighter Homes Exhibition at R.D.S., Ballsbridge, Dublin.
3. "Kerindex '79" Exhibition at Tralee, Co. Kerry.
4. Spring Show at R.D.S., Ballsbridge, Dublin.
5. Roundwood Horse Show at Roundwood, Co. Wicklow.
6. Clonmel Horse Show at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
7. Dublin Horse Show at R.D.S., Ballsbridge, Dublin.
8. Ardara Show, Co. Donegal.
9. Limerick Show at Limerick City.
10. Salthill (Ideal Homes Exhibition) Galway.
11. Cork (Ideal Homes Exhibition).

Great public interest was evident at these exhibitions and security advice was provided as required.

Thousands of crime prevention pamphlets were printed and distributed at exhibitions and lectures. A booklet on Community Security was printed and there has been a great demand for this booklet. Crime Prevention advice was given to tourists and distribution of leaflets was arranged in co-operation with Bord Fáilte. Leaflets on Vehicle Security were also published and circulated.

Crime prevention surveys were carried out on dwellinghouses, commercial and business premises as well as special surveys at State and Semi-State buildings.

The exhibition rooms at Osmond House and the Bridewell Garda Station, Cork, were visited by large crowds who displayed a keen interest in modern crime prevention equipment.

The Crime Prevention Unit is responsible for the presentation of the 'Garda Patrol' programme. Public interest continued to increase and greater emphasis was placed in pointing out and reminding viewers of crime prevention techniques.

JUVENILE LIAISON SCHEME

The Scheme was first established in 1963 in the DMA and later extended to the cities of Cork, Limerick and Waterford, and more recently to large towns throughout the country – Clonmel, Drogheda, Dundalk, Kilkenny, Sligo, Tralee, Wexford, Galway, Athlone, Cobh, Balbriggan, Carlow, Tullamore, New Ross, Killarney, Longford, Gorey and Nenagh.

Juvenile Liaison Officers are specially selected and receive training in dealing with juveniles involved in criminal behaviour. At present there are 4 Sergeants, 36 Gardai and 2 Ban Gardai employed in the scheme, an additional Juvenile Liaison Officer having been appointed at Nenagh during 1979.

The aims of the scheme are to prevent children and young persons under the age of 17 years from becoming involved in criminal behaviour; and in the cases of those who have already offended in a minor way, to divert them into legitimate activities, and help prevent them from becoming adult criminals.

Under the scheme, a person under the age of 17 years, implicated in crime (burglary, larceny and the like) may be dealt with by caution as an alternative to court proceedings, and be subject to the surveillance and guidance of the Juvenile Liaison Officer until the age of 17 years is reached. Supervision may be withdrawn before reaching this age if it is considered that no risk is involved.

Since the inception of the Scheme in 1963, 13,285 offenders have been cautioned and supervised by the Gardai.

Particulars		Dublin Metropolitan Area	All Other Divisions	TOTAL
Juveniles admitted to the Scheme since its inception in 1963	Boys	6,548	4,826	11,374
	Girls	1,084	827	1,911
	TOTAL	7,632	5,653	13,285
Recidivists		902	652	1,554
Cases closed, subject 17 years of age		3,570	2,616	6,186
Cases closed, supervision withdrawn after 2 years		2,449	1,215	3,664
Visits to delinquents* homes		112,454	84,483	196,937
Visits to Boys* Clubs		13,807	18,692	32,499
Lectures and Meetings		5,178	9,307	14,485

During 1979, 911 Juveniles were admitted to the Scheme (807 Boys and 104 Girls).

Particulars		D M A	All other Divisions	Total
Juveniles admitted during 1979	Boys	399	408	807
	Girls	43	61	104
	TOTAL	442	469	911
Recidivists		30	44	74
Cases closed, subject 17 years of age		127	216	343
Cases closed, supervision withdrawn after 2 years		125	283	408
Visits to delinquents* homes		6,490	10,132	16,622
Visits to Boys* Clubs		1,188	793	1,981
Lectures and Meetings		672	967	1,639

Outside the areas where Juvenile Liaison Officers have been appointed there is also provision for the cautioning of juveniles under the age of 17 years for certain minor crimes and offences. These young people are subject to a less formal type of surveillance by the local Gardai for as long as may be necessary, and are included in the figure of 2502 at column 17 of Indictable Offences Table.

GARDA COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Garda Community Relations Section has its offices at the Garda National Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin, and has responsibility in Community Relations and the operation of the Juvenile Liaison Scheme.

The staff of the section were engaged in visits to Schools, Community Associations, Residents* Associations and other voluntary bodies where talks were given on various aspects of Garda work. They have also represented the Force at joint meetings of the Departments of Health, Justice and Education, The Eastern Health Board and Dublin Corporation Welfare Officers and members of the Itinerant Settlement Committee in dealing with the plight of itinerant children.

DRUGS UNIT

The Drugs Unit is based at the Dublin Metropolitan Headquarters, Dublin Castle, but assists in operations throughout the country. A number of members in each Garda division have undergone drugs courses with the Drugs Unit at Dublin Castle.

During the year there was an increase in the number of persons charged with drug offences: 594 compared with 501 in 1978. Cannabis continues to be the most widely used illegal drug. Home grown cannabis is appearing much more frequently than heretofore.

An illicit laboratory for producing amphetamine was discovered during 1979. Large quantities of amphetamine had been produced at this laboratory over a period of months and exported before discovery. 90% of the illicit supply of hard-drugs is obtained by larceny from chemists' shops.

The unit, under the auspices of the Health Education Bureau, gave 131 lectures to voluntary organisations, to professional groups, and to prison and security services. An on-going advice service is available at the drugs unit, Dublin Castle.

The following tables give a breakdown of persons charged with drug offences during 1979:

Under 17 years		17 and under 21 years		21 and over	
M	F	M	F	M	F
5	—	117	11	426	35

PARTICULARS OF DRUGS SEIZED

TYPE OF DRUG	QUANTITY SEIZED - 1979
NARCOTIC DRUGS	
Opium	52g, 30t.
Morphine	40g, 80t, 100 amp, 260 m.l.
Heroin	5g.
Diconal	61t.
Synthetic Narcotics	1551t. 146 amp.
Salts of Cocaine	29g.
Cannabis	422.4k.g.
Cannabis Resin	17.7k.g.
Cannabis Leaf	69g.
Liquid Cannabis	4.7g.
Cannabis Plants	2209
Cannabis Seeds	14.75k.g.
Cannabis Herb	5.6g.
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES	
Amphetamines and other stimulants	2g. Amphetamine 135t.
Palfium	20t.
Barbiturates	14,199t.
Non Barbiturate Sedatives and Tranquillisers	1,040t.
LSD	211t.
THC	10g
Others	9g.

Amp = Ampoule
 t = tablet
 g = gramme
 k.g. = kilogramme
 m.g. = milligramme
 m.l. = millilitre

DRUG OFFENCES – PERSONS CHARGED

DIVISION	No. of Persons Charged	Persons Charged		TYPE OF DRUG	No. of Persons Charged
		Nationality	No.		
Dublin Metropolitan Area	337	Irish	542	Morphine	12
Carlow/Kildare	5	Northern Irish	3	Opium	5
Cavan/Monaghan	1	British	39	Heroin	5
Clare	9	Welsh	2	Synthetic Narcotics	41
Cork East	178	Scottish	2	Salts of Cocaine	20
Cork West	31	French	2	Cannabis	139
Donegal	—	German	1	Cannabis Resin	237
Galway West	8	Yugoslavian	1	Cannabis Plants	58
Kerry	6	Italian	1	Cannabis Leaf	7
Leix/Offaly	—	West African	1	Cannabis Herb	3
Limerick	—			Diconal	1
Longford/Westmeath	1			Amphetamines and other stimulants	7
Louth/Meath	8			Barbiturates	24
Mayo	—			LSD	11
Roscommon/Galway East	—			THC	15
Sligo/Leitrim	1			Dipipanone	1
Tipperary	1			Palfium	2
Waterford/Kilkenny	1			Dextrakoramide	3
Wexford	7			Psilocin	3
TOTALS	594		594		594

SUB-AQUA UNIT

STV 100 24/29 2001 10/02 2001 10/02 2001 10/02

The Garda Sub-Aqua Unit was established in 1966 to carry out underwater searches for:

- (a) weapons used in the commission of crime or other evidence of crime deposited in water,
- (b) bodies of victims of crime or drowning accidents.

The Unit carried out 31 major search operations during the year in rivers, harbours, canals and sea.

THE EMERGENCY '999' SERVICE

During the year, 137,776 emergency '999' calls were received by the Gardai; 123,206 at the Communications Centre, Dublin Castle; 8,663 at the Communications Room, Union Quay, Cork; 2,160 at the Communications Room, Henry Street, Limerick; 2,500 at Galway station and 1,247 at the Communications Room, Waterford.

STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE INVESTIGATION UNIT

This Unit which operates countrywide is based at Dublin Castle.

Close liaison is maintained with similar units in other countries and this co-operation has led to the recovery of many stolen vehicles.

During the year the Unit recovered 249 stolen vehicles, 214 of which were stolen in the State and the remainder in England and Northern Ireland. In addition 69 illegally imported vehicles were located.

ROAD TRAFFIC

There was a decrease of 11 in the number of persons killed during the year and a reduction of 15 in the number of fatal traffic accidents. A total of 616 persons were killed in road traffic accidents in 1979, as compared with 627 in 1978.

The Special Traffic Corps was particularly active in the enforcement of the law on drunken driving.

During the year road safety lectures were given to school children and to other interested parties with a view to developing a greater sense of road safety.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PRESS OFFICE

As well as servicing the media on day-to-day basis, the Public Relations Officer and Staff assisted in research for feature articles on the Force and appeared on T.V. and radio on matters affecting police interest.

The office received many visitors during the course of the year including students on research projects, criminologists from home and abroad as well as journalists. A notable development in the Public Relations Office during the year under review was the increase in demand for career lectures, participation in careers seminars and exhibitions throughout the State. These requests came mainly from Teachers, Career Guidance Counsellors, Chambers of Commerce and Vocational Groups. This new trend is welcomed as it enables the Force to reach out to a vital cross-section of the public, particularly the young, and provide them with first hand information about the Garda Síochána.

ANNUAL STATISTICS OF BLOOD TESTS

BLOOD/URINE TESTS, ARRESTS, ETC.

1. BREATH TESTS	
(a) Total number of persons breath tested	15,257
(b) Breath test positive	9,228
(c) Breath test negative	6,029
(d) Breath test refused	520
2. BLOOD/URINE TESTS	
(a) Blood specimen given	7,029
(b) Urine specimen given	1,870
(c) Specimen refused	749
3. ARRESTS	
(a) For refusing breath tests (Section 29(3) R.T.A. 1968) and Section 13(2) of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1978	517
(b) Arrest without breath test (Section 49 and 50 R.T.A. 1961 and Section 10 and 11 Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1978	1,809
4. ANALYSES OF SPECIMENS	
(a) Under 100 milligrams	825
(b) Over 100 milligrams	7,192
(c) Specimens still to be analysed at end of year	661
(d) Insufficient or spoiled	221
TOTAL ANALYSES	8,899

NON INDICTABLE OFFENCES (TRAFFIC) - 1979

- DRINK AND DRIVING -

SEX AND AGE OF PERSONS CONVICTED

(1) OFFENCE	(2) Persons Convicted	(3) 17 and under 21		(4) 21 and over	
		M	F	M	F
Driving or attempting to drive M.P.V. while drunk or with a blood/alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit	4,358	263	2	4,027	66
Being in charge of M.P.V. while drunk or with a blood/alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit	260	16	-	243	1
Refusing to provide or permit the taking of blood/urine specimen at Garda Station	500	21	-	468	11
Refusing to provide a preliminary specimen of breath	364	16	-	343	5

FINE ON THE SPOT NOTICES ISSUED IN 1979

	Parking Violations	Non Display of Licence Disc
Gardai	213,926	47,138
Wardens	67,752	210
TOTALS	281,678	47,348
Fines Paid	78,826	12,237
Court Proceedings	26,737	4,592
Notices Cancelled	15,268	6,364
Proceedings Pending	159,725	23,971
Spoiled Notices	1,122	184

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1961 (SECTION 103) OFFENCES REGULATIONS, 1976
 Parking Violations - Fine on the Spot Notices issued. - 1979

	Carlow/ Kildare	Cavan/ Monaghan	Clare	Cork East	Cork West	Donegal	D M A	Galway West	Kerry	Leix/Offaly	Limerick	Longford/ W. Meath	Louth/Meath	Mayo	Roscommon/ Galway East	Sligo/ Leitrim	Tipperary	Waterford/ Kilkenny	Wexford	TOTAL	
Gardai	338	1745	467	35954	585	1342	150994	2049	3086	829	2221	2209	580	1957	1094	1637	1582	3081	2176	213,926	
Wardens	-	-	-	27561	-	-	36425	-	3426	-	-	340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,752
TOTALS	338	1745	467	63515	585	1342	187419	2049	6512	829	2221	2549	580	1957	1094	1637	1582	3081	2176	281,678	
Fines Paid	212	1124	201	15634	405	809	44048	1401	2900	391	842	1568	416	1187	954	1132	1124	2572	1906	78,826	
Court Proceedings	10	103	20	4032	9	27	21295	89	41	258	136	173	67	56	41	37	106	158	79	26,737	
Notices Cancelled	7	105	70	2600	18	77	10418	248	372	29	688	72	12	100	46	91	103	119	93	15,268	
Proceedings Pending	109	399	176	40378	153	425	111555	311	3190	144	555	708	67	606	51	345	242	228	83	159,725	
Spolled Notices	-	14	-	871	-	4	103	-	9	7	-	28	18	8	2	32	7	4	15	1,122	

