

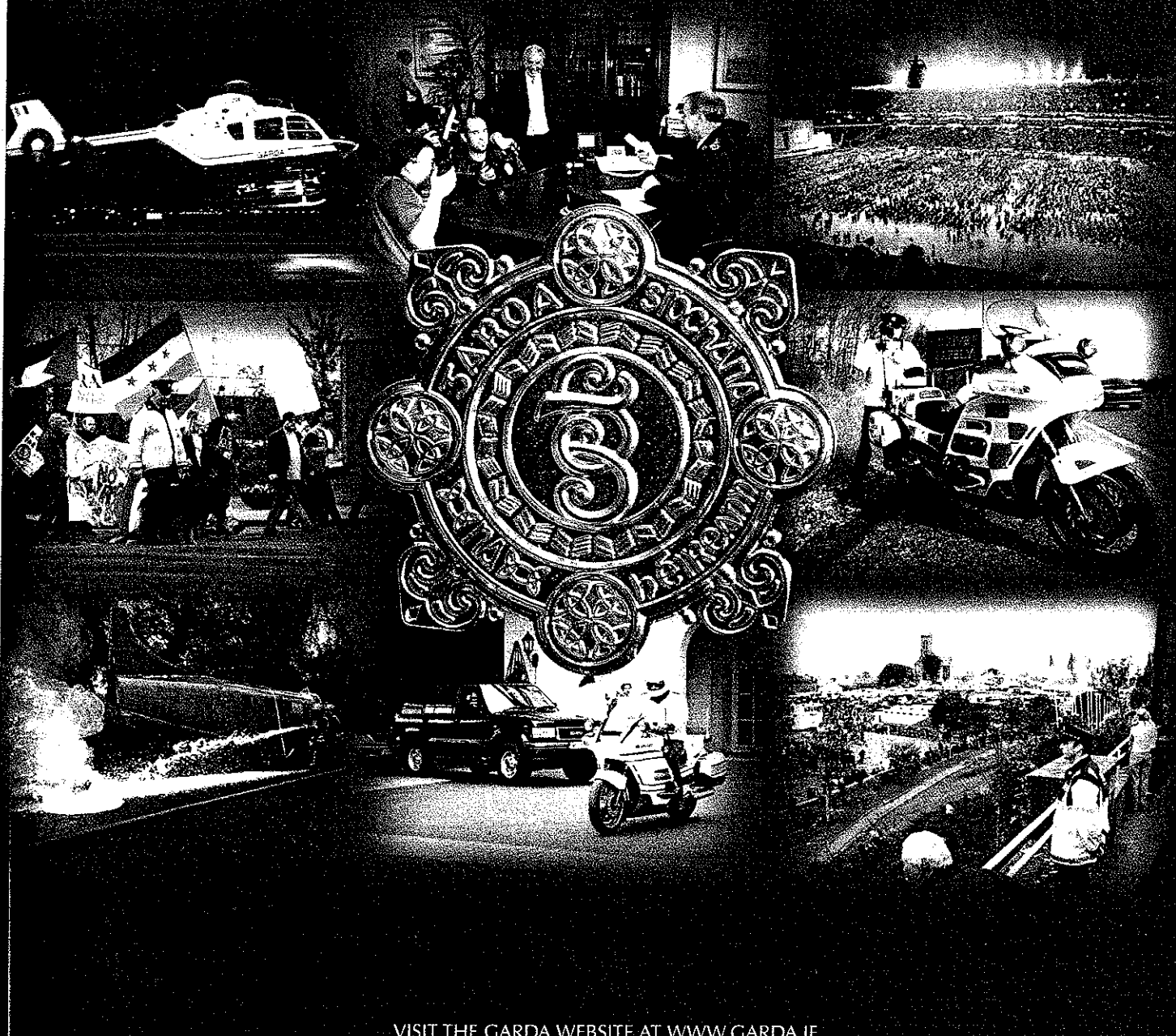
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

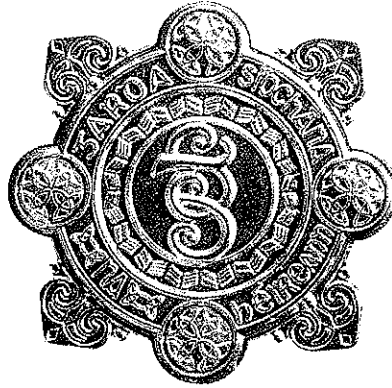
2003

ANNUAL REPORT OF
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

The Mission of An Garda Síochána is to achieve the highest attainable level of

- Personal Protection • Community Commitment • State Security





TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY & LAW REFORM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

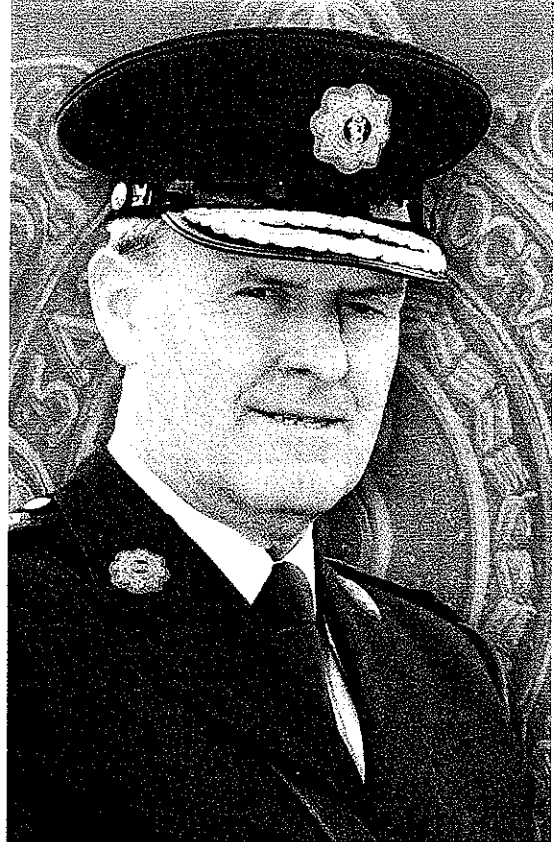
COMPILED BY AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA,
GARDA HEADQUARTERS, PHOENIX PARK,
DUBLIN 8.

Foreword

Dear Minister,

I present herewith the report of An Garda Síochána for the year ending 31st December 2003.

There was a decrease in the total number of headline offences recorded in 2003 to 103,360 or 3% on the 2002 figure. In 2003, there were 45 murders, a reduction of 13% on the same period last year. Assault causing harm fell from 5,016 to 3,926 a reduction of 22% this, coupled with a 24% reduction in Rape of Females, contributed to the overall decrease. Robbery and Aggravated Burglary with Firearms were down 13% from 364 to 313. This reduction has brought about a reverse in a four (4) year trend in this category of crime.



A total of 37,184 headline offences were detected during 2003, a decrease on 2002 of 3%. However, the figures were compiled much earlier than those in 2002, which may explain this drop.

Public order was once again a cause of concern for An Garda Síochána. The first annual return for Operation 'Encounter', an initiative designed to focus Garda attention on the problem, is encouraging as it indicates a declining trend in these types of offences. However, the root of the problem remains the misuse of alcohol, which is being addressed by An Garda Síochána by the continued uniform enforcement policy of the liquor licensing laws.

The Special Olympics World Games held in the Summer of 2003, saw significant Garda participation throughout the community, ranging from the vetting of volunteers to the policing of many events including the Olympic Torch Run which saw the Olympic flame taken under Garda and P.S.N.I. escort from its origin in Athens, Greece through the towns and villages throughout Ireland to the Opening Ceremony at Croke Park.

Successful conclusions were attained in a number of major criminal investigations. Subversive activity continued to be systematically targeted with major achievements including the first conviction for directing an unlawful organisation.

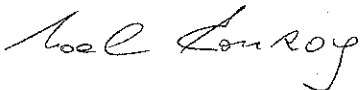
A recruitment campaign continued in 2003 with 690 applicants joining An Garda Síochána. The overall strength of the organisation was raised by 1% resulting in a strength of 12,017 members on 31st December 2003.

The delivery of Pulse Release 2 was achieved in 2003, which signalled the end of the development stage of Phase 1 of the Project. This allowed for the integration of the Fixed Charge Penalty System (FCPS), to process fixed charge offences and implement the Garda element of the inter-agency penalty points system. It is expected that a pilot scheme will commence in mid 2004.

At the end of 2003, following recommendations to achieve prudent financial management, the design, build and test of a Financial Management System (FMS) was achieved. The implementation of this FMS will facilitate the devolvement of budgetary responsibility to, and within, the organisation. This system is a key management tool required to support the Accounting Officer principle.

Finally I wish to thank the Government, you personally and the personnel of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for their continued support throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,



**Commissioner of
An Garda Síochána**

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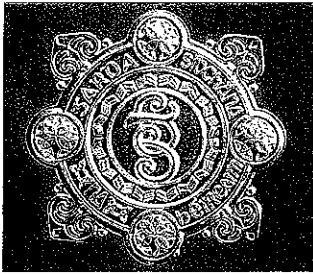
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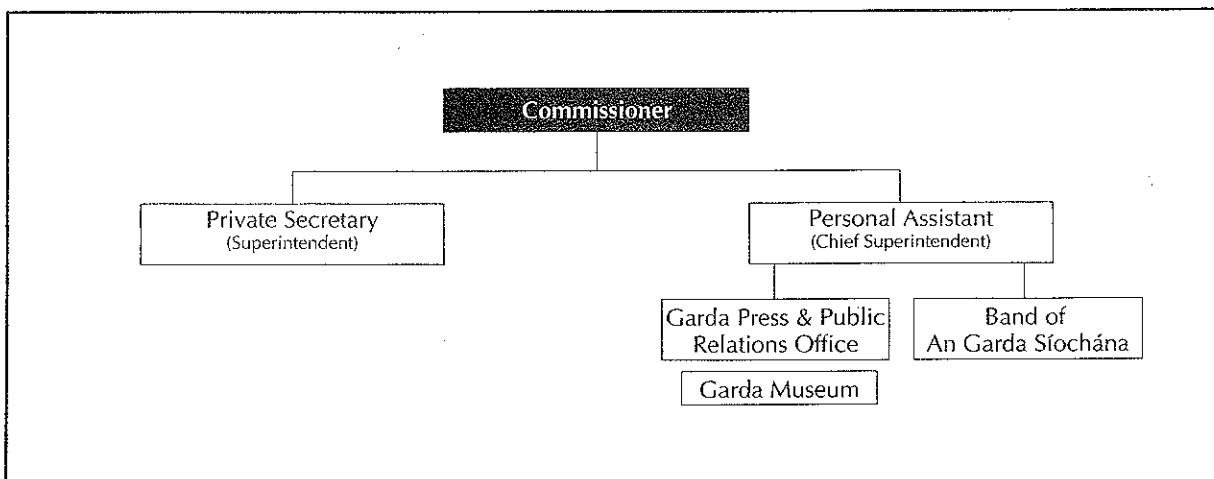




Office of the Garda Commissioner

The general direction and control of An Garda Síochána is the responsibility of the Commissioner. He is assisted by Deputy Commissioner Operations, and Deputy Commissioner Strategic and Resource Management both of whom direct all operational and administrative activity respectively.

Within the Commissioner's Office itself, the Commissioner has a Personal Assistant (Chief Superintendent) and a Private Secretary (Superintendent), together with a small administrative staff.



The Garda Press and Public Relations Office, the Garda Museum and the Band of An Garda Síochána report direct to the Commissioner through his Personal Assistant.

GARDA PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

The Garda Press and Public Relations Office acts as the official spokesperson for the organisation, providing a seven-day service to the national and international media.

During 2003 the office issued 1,024 press releases. At year-end there were 346 journalists and media outlets on the press release recipient list.

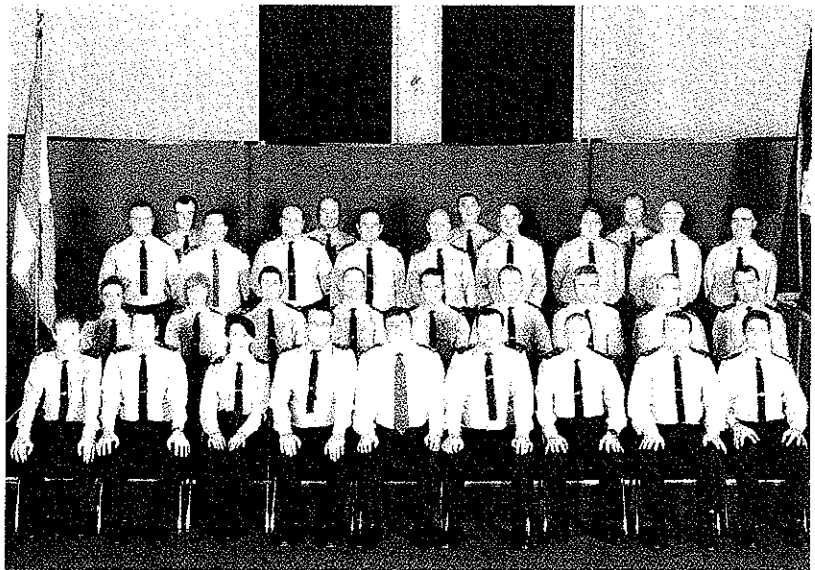
Notable incidents and events during the year, which were the focus of intense media interest, included Garda operations against criminal gangs in the Limerick area, the policing arrangements surrounding anti-war protests at Shannon Airport and other locations.

In May, personnel from the Press Office took part in a major cross-border emergency exercise (Operation 'Lakeland') that replicated a plane crash in the border counties. The exercise involved An Garda Síochána, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the emergency services both sides of the border. This exercise included a number of simulated joint 'Press Conferences' by all the services.

The Official Garda Website www.garda.ie is managed by the Press Office. During the year a total of 438,000 hits were received on the site, an increase of approximately 12% on the previous year.

BAND OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

The Garda Band performed throughout the State on 168 occasions during 2003, covering official engagements, sporting fixtures for the GAA, IRFU, FAI, concerts and educational establishments, television appearances and all major festivals. They also performed at the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympic World Games at Croke Park in June 2003. On the development front, a recruitment competition was held in October resulting in the appointment of six new members to the Band, bringing it to its fully authorised strength of 40 members.



Additional initiatives undertaken in 2003 included the self-development of band members, with one member completing a Masters Degree and others availing of enhanced training in all aspects of music.

Performances are by permission of the Commissioner and applications are processed through the Office of the Director of Music. Engagements are accepted at the beginning of the year – with the performance periods divided into Spring/Summer (Jan/July) and Autumn/Winter (Aug/Dec). Priority is given to all applications of a community or charitable nature. The Band does not accept engagements of a commercial nature.

GARDA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Located at the Record Tower Dublin Castle, the Garda Museum/Archives continued to attract visitors and researchers from across the world. Visits to the Museum are incorporated into the Office of Public Works Guided Tours Programme.

The permanent exhibition has been enhanced with the addition of a number of noteworthy exhibits and a process is in place to acquire further artefacts of historical significance.



Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management

Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management advises the Commissioner in respect of Garda Corporate Strategy and concomitant Annual Policing Plans, Human Resource Management, Finance, Change Management, Services, IT, Telecommunications,

Research, Training and Development, Logistics, Administration and all other resource activities within An Garda Síochána. Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management is also the nominated representative of An Garda Síochána on the National Crime Council.



Strategy and Services

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

IT Operations and Security:

2003 was a very productive year seeing the delivery of PULSE Release 2. This signalled the end of the development side of Phase 1 of the project and made way for the integration with FCPS (Fixed Charge Penalty System) early in 2004. A number of new system areas were incorporated into Release 2, as well as further enhancements to some of the current system areas. The system areas incorporated into PULSE Release 2 were:

- ❖ Bail Sign-on
- ❖ Collating & Intelligence
- ❖ Domestic Violence Act Orders
- ❖ Driving License and Insurance Production
- ❖ Electoral Register
- ❖ Letters to Crime Victims
- ❖ Registered Interests
- ❖ Reports
- ❖ Witness Only Summons
- ❖ Warrants

The facility to merge records was also introduced in 2003. The Merge system helps to enhance the quality of data that is available to the Garda organisation.

Another service delivered to the operational force during the year was 'On Line Messaging', allowing information to be exchanged between individual information disseminators at network station level, Central Control Unit, Harcourt Square, Crime Policy & Administration Section, Garda HQ and the Garda National Traffic Bureau. The primary objective of On-Line Messaging is to send information on serious incidents, fatal traffic collisions, operational requests and death notices replacing the telex/teleprinter service within the Garda organisation. Work for 2004 will include major development in terms of system reliability, fault tolerance with particular emphasis on business continuity.

IT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

This team was responsible in 2003 for the research, development, installation, upgrade and maintenance of systems that are outside the scope of PULSE. The unit provided support for operational requests from specialist and other units, particularly those of an urgent nature. The main highlights and achievements for 2003, which extend beyond the normal support services provided to all areas under our remit, include:

- ❖ The migration of the Command & Control to TCP/IP to allow flexibility to provide C&C terminals where required
- ❖ The successful installation of the Facial Recognition (FIIRS) system in the Technical Bureau
- ❖ The upgrade of the Interpol system, providing faster and more reliable access to Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION OFFICE

The Programme Co-ordination Office continued to actively monitor the progress of play of the various constituencies involved in delivering PULSE. The co-ordination across multiple projects helps to ensure that conflict for resources, e.g. training, between the individual projects, is minimised and that no delays occur which could expose the organisation to penalties in contract arrangements with individual contractors.

In 2003, the Programme Co-Ordination Office was the central point of contact for queries pertaining to the status and progress of the programme.



FIXED CHARGE PROCESSING PROJECT

This project aims to introduce a new national computer system to process fixed charge offences and implement the Garda element of the inter-agency penalty points system. The system will enable An Garda Síochána to significantly increase enforcement levels. This system is being developed in partnership with Fujitsu Consulting.

During 2003 work continued on the design and build of the system which will streamline the administrative effort involved in the processing of fixed charge offences through: -

- ❖ Establishment of a National Processing Office for handling fixed charge offences
- ❖ Introduction of handheld terminals to capture offence data at the roadside
- ❖ Introduction of a scanning system for processing offences detected using fixed or video cameras

Electronic interfaces to the Courts Service (summons applications, court dates and court outcomes) and the Department of the Environment and Local Government (penalty point data, National Vehicle and Driver files and requests for Certificate of Ownership) are key components of this system.

A phased implementation approach will be adopted and the pilot of Phase1 is scheduled for the second quarter of 2004.

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH

The Computer Aided Dispatch Project is intended to provide a national system for processing emergency calls. Initially the system will replace the existing Command and Control System in the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

The request for tenders (RFT) for the development and implementation of this system is with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for approval.

ICT STRATEGY 2004-2009

The request for tender (RFT) to engage external consultancy assistance for the development of the ICT Strategy for the period 2004 to 2009 was issued to the market in August 2003, following receipt of approval from Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The plan will identify the strategic IT and communications projects to be undertaken during that period to support the business objectives of the Garda organisation.

Change Management

PULSE:

During 2003 Change Management continued to provide support to the organisation for Release 1C issues via the PULSE Regional Agent Network. Regional PULSE Agents (Superintendents) and representatives from Change Management attend monthly meetings where reported issues are managed to a resolution. Two PULSE newsletters and eight PULSE bulletins were issued to keep the organisation informed on PULSE related issues.

In June and July, Change Management held 29 seminars nationwide for Inspectors, Sergeants and Gardaí who are PULSE Agents. Ten (10) management workshops were also held on Release 2 for Chief Superintendent, Superintendent and Inspector ranks. The seminars provided participants with an overview of the system areas of PULSE Release 2.

Change Management developed the User Manual (Procedures and Responsibilities Release 2 Edition) in advance of Release 2 of PULSE. The manual sets out the roles and responsibilities of each new system area for each rank and section. In addition, the section managed the pilot of Release 2 in Cavan/Monaghan and Limerick Divisions and provided on-site support to operational members in both Divisions.

FIXED CHARGE PROCESSING SYSTEM (FCPS)

Work is continuing on the development of the Fixed Charge Processing System (FCPS). When implemented, the system will enable An Garda Síochána to electronically process fixed charge road traffic offence fines as provided for in the Road Traffic Act 2002. Change Management is managing the establishment of the National Processing Office and the site readiness of Garda stations for FCPS equipment.

Change Management facilitated twelve (12) FCPS workshops, which were a key component in the process and design phases of the project. A six-week pilot to select the handheld device for high volume users was also managed by the section.

Change Management has developed a communication strategy and plan for the implementation of FCPS. The execution of this plan started with seven briefings in January/February 2003 for Traffic Inspectors, Sergeants and some Gardaí. In July and August a further seven briefings were delivered to the same audience group. The purpose of both briefings was to advise personnel on the progress and status of FCPS.

QUALITY BOARD

Change Management is managing the business of the Quality Board under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Strategy and Services. The board met on six occasions during the year. A number of initiatives were undertaken, including validating the recording procedures for unauthorised taking of motor vehicles and validating court outcomes.

Telecommunications

The Telecommunications Section comprises of two main elements – Operations Support and Project Management.

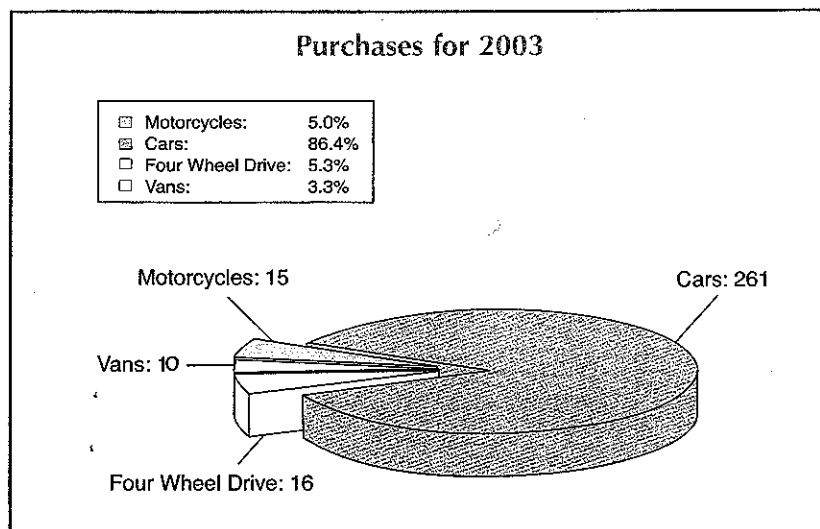
Major projects included:

- ✦ National Digital Radio Project
- ✦ Command and Control Network Conversion
- ✦ Financial Management System
- ✦ General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) for Garda National Immigration Bureau
- ✦ "Traffic Watch" project nationwide
- ✦ Special Olympic World Games and other major events
- ✦ Tetra Radio System

Fleet Management

An Garda Síochána purchased 302 vehicles in 2003. While this is a reduction on purchases in 2002, early purchases for 2004 should enable An Garda Síochána to further advance the Commissioner's stated objectives on economic mileage ceilings for vehicles.

Research is continuing into patrol car safety. Developments in motor vehicle technology are closely monitored and where possible, both active and passive safety features will be



incorporated into specifications for Garda vehicles including:

- ❖ Vehicle Conspicuousness - visibility has been increased on all marked vehicles and Traffic vehicles including motorcycles, which are fitted with Battenburg style markings
- ❖ All vehicles are fitted with alternating flashing headlights and dipped headlights switch on with the ignition
- ❖ Some of the safest vehicles available now form part of the Garda fleet, with enhanced safety features include ABS braking, Traction Control Systems, additional airbag systems, Vehicle Handling, Side Impact Protection, Protection against Load Intrusion, Built in Safety Cages, Active Head Restraints, and electronic brake distribution, to name just some of them
- ❖ Window protection films are fitted to all vehicles. This reduces the risks posed to occupants from flying glass in the event of collisions

Housing Section:

The Garda building programme continued during the year as follows:

ATKINS REPORT/ EQUITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME:	This matter is with the Office of Public Works to deal with tender/ contract for pilot scheme in eight (8) Garda stations.
BALLINA:	Contract placed on 6th October 2003. Scheduled for completion in November 2004.
BALLYMUN:	Agreement reached to purchase site. Brief of requirements with Office of Public Works to prepare Draft Sketch Scheme for approval.
BALLYSHANNON:	Contract placed on 23rd December 2003. Completion due in March 2005.
BANTRY:	Contract placed on 6th August 2003. To be completed in September/October 2004.
CLAREMORRIS:	Sketch Scheme approved. Contract to be placed mid/late 2004. Project timescale - 1 year.
DUNDRUM (DUBLIN):	Office of Public Works endeavoured to obtain site in Dundrum village.
KILL O'GRANGE:	Brief of requirements prepared to merge Kill O' Grange and Cabinteely Garda Stations, which has been approved by the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.
MILL STREET (GALWAY):	Office of Public Works negotiated for the acquisition of additional space to build an extension to the existing station.
NATIONAL REPOSITORY, SANTRY:	Contract placed and due for completion in March 2004.
NEW ROSS:	Contract placed on 20th August 2003. Completion in December 2004.
REVIEW OF BRIEF OF REQUIREMENTS:	A review of the brief of requirements took place at the end of 2003 and completion due in 2/3 months.

Garda Research Unit

During 2003 the unit engaged in research in the following areas:

- ✦ The Garda Public Attitude Survey 2003, in conjunction with the market research company TNS-MRBI. Arrangements were also made to conduct another survey in 2004
- ✦ A review of the implementation of Garda policy on victims of crime, in collaboration with Community Relations Section and Victim Support
- ✦ Assessment of the potential of using PULSE to identify repeat victimisation, with a view to targeting such victims for specific crime prevention and support measures
- ✦ A nation-wide study of the links between opiate use and crime, in association with the National Advisory Council on Drugs. This work updated and expanded a 1996 study in Dublin and completed a project begun in 2002
- ✦ Examination of the level of cocaine use in Ireland, with a specific focus on policing recommendations
- ✦ Evaluation of the Garda restorative justice programme for juvenile offenders, in partnership with Community Relations Section
- ✦ Review of the pilot Pub Watch programme in Cork, as possible model for expansion in other areas

Community Relations

National Crime Prevention Office: During 2003, the concept of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) became a major part of the general crime prevention strategy. This concept incorporates a crime prevention philosophy in the design and layout of buildings, estates, offices, parks and urban development generally. There are currently thirteen (13) Crime Prevention Officers' qualified to give Crime Prevention advice through Environmental Design. More Crime Prevention Officers will receive training to this standard in 2004.

During 2003, in addition to the mainstream crime prevention programmes, the National Crime Prevention Office researched three areas of theft and coordinated specific responses to reduce crime in the following areas – theft from shops, theft from cars and theft of mobile phones.



GARDA RACIAL AND INTERCULTURAL OFFICE (GRIO)

During 2003 the Garda Racial and Intercultural Office (GRIO) continued to engage with all ethnic minorities living in Ireland co-ordinating, monitoring and advising on all aspects of policing in the area of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Since October 2002, GRIO has been actively monitoring racially motivated incidents on a monthly basis and seeks to ensure integrity of the PULSE database by active and ongoing random review of records.

COUNTY/CITY DEVELOPMENT BOARDS (CDB)

The establishment of County/City Development Boards (CDB) in each local authority area was one of the recommendations contained in the report of the "Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems".

An Garda Síochána is represented on each CDB by the Chief Superintendent with responsibility in the particular local authority area. These officers have been part of the consultative process in which each CDB has engaged in the drawing up of strategies. These strategies have a 10-year vision as well as manageable 3 – 5 year targets.

GARDA COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAMMES OFFICE

The Garda Community Relations Office is involved in the development and monitoring of situational crime prevention programmes in partnership with Community Groups, Statutory Groups and Non-Governmental Organisations including:

- ✦ The hospital safety and security initiatives were launched in 2001. During 2003 ten (10) hospitals established Hospital Watch Programmes
- ✦ The Tourist Victim Support Service, Garda Community Relations section and Vodafone worked together to publish and distribute an information booklet titled "Safety Tips for Tourists"
- ✦ Crime Prevention literature continued to be produced and distributed throughout the organisation and at exhibitions. A new generic Domestic Violence leaflet was produced and launched
- ✦ The arrangement and participation of a wide range of public events and exhibitions including the Young Scientists Exhibition, Dublin Horse Show, Ideal Homes Exhibition

The Garda Commissioner signed a partnership agreement with Victim Support during 2003. A working group was established to progress and develop this agreement.

NATIONAL JUVENILE OFFICE

The National Juvenile Office (N.J.O.) was established in 1991 to oversee the administration of the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme a national level. Since then the office has responded to various demands and changes in society and has evolved into its present form which includes not only the administration of the Diversion Programme but also the Garda Schools Programme, Age Cards, Garda Youth Diversion Projects.

JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAMME

The Juvenile Diversion Programme is designed to deal with those offenders who are under 18 years of age at the time of the offence. The Children Act 2001, which was signed into law in May 2002, has placed the Diversion Programme on a statutory footing, for the first time in its forty-year history. New procedures and processes have been introduced to meet the requirements of the Act.

Restorative Justice: a most important development in 2003 was the commencement of the Garda Restorative Justice Programme, as envisaged in Sections 26 and 29 of the Children Act 2001. For the first time, Juvenile Liaison Officers were required, in certain cases, to facilitate a meeting of the crime victim

and the offender. In a number of other cases Juvenile Liaison Officers convened and chaired Family Conferences, designed to help offenders develop a plan to prevent them committing further offences.

GARDA SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

In November 2003, Garda Schools Programme Liaison Inspectors were appointed in each Division to ensure that the programme operated as effectively and responsively as possible and was cognisant of specific local needs.

In order to ensure that the relationship between Gardaí and young people is not lost after primary school, a second level Schools Programme has been developed, in conjunction with the Departments of Education and Science and Health and Children. The Garda contribution forms part of the Social, Personal, Health and Education (S.P.H.E.) programme.

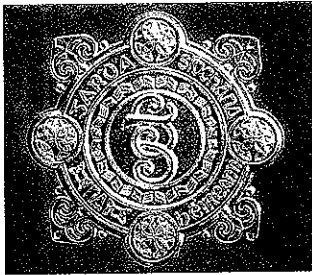


AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECTS

An Garda Síochána Youth Diversion Projects 2003:

- ◆ Organised a national conference
- ◆ Produced a G.Y.D.P. information manual, which provides information on all 64 projects
- ◆ Developed standard reporting formats for the purpose of efficient management and accounting practices
- ◆ Commenced work, in conjunction with the Garda Internal Audit Section, to streamline the operation of and relationships with employing bodies, local committees and local Garda management





Human Resource Management

- ◆ A total of 690 applicants were recruited to An Garda Síochána
- ◆ The competency based interview process was introduced for candidates going forward for interview to the rank of Assistant Commissioner
- ◆ New operational uniforms were piloted and surveys conducted of members involved
- ◆ Training courses were provided to up-skill personnel in various facets of organisational skills to enhance the efficiencies of the section
- ◆ The overall strength of the organisation was increased by 1%. Total overall strength as of 31st December 2003 was 12,017
- ◆ A recruitment competition for the position of Garda Trainee was advertised in April 2003. The Civil Service Commission conducted the written examination. A total of 6,783 applications were received with 4,367 candidates sitting Stage 1 (Aptitude Test) of the process, from which a total of 2,389 applicants were successful
- ◆ The interview process commenced for the appointment of civilian personnel to the posts of District Finance Officers

Internal Affairs

HEALTH AND SAFETY SECTION

The Commissioner approved the establishment of a National Safety Committee incorporating the Staff Associations, Civilian Personnel, Chief Medical Officer and personnel from Human Resource Management. This Committee will enhance the participation of employees in the further development and promotion of health and safety in An Garda Síochána.

Safety representatives were selected and trained countrywide. Divisional Safety Committees were also established countrywide, comprising of local management, safety representatives and the staff associations.

A generic Safety Statement document was published in CD Rom format and circulated to all Chief Superintendents. The CD Rom will assist Chief Superintendents in reviewing and amending Safety Statements for workplaces under their control.

WELFARE SERVICE

Divisional Welfare Committees exist in each Division. The composition of these Committees include Local Management, Staff Associations, Welfare Officer, nominated Peer Supporters from the Division and other personnel with expertise/interest in this area.

Six Welfare Officers completed a Diploma in Employee Welfare in 2003 and graduated from U.C.C.

One hundred and forty eight (148) Peer Supporters were trained during the year.

LEGAL ACTIONS

During 2003 a total of 112 notifications were received concerning the initiation of civil proceedings against the State relating to matters involving An Garda Síochána. These figures do not include proceedings arising from traffic collisions involving Garda Síochána vehicles.

DISCIPLINE

During 2003, a total of 231 new cases of discipline were reported to Internal Affairs section, Human Resource Management. Fourteen (14) were dealt with by way of Sworn Inquiry and sixty-three (63) were dealt with by way of Regulation 13 procedures. The remainder are under investigation or were not sufficiently serious to merit disciplinary action.

SWORN INQUIRIES

Sworn Inquiries No.	14
Found in Breach of Discipline	2
Not in Breach of Discipline	0
Pending	12
Total Reduction in Pay	€650

REGULATION 13

The provisions of Regulation 13 allow for a Chief Superintendent to deal with the alleged breach (es) of discipline where the member admits the breach and opts for such a course of action. The following table summarises the breaches of discipline and the manner in which they were dealt with in 2003.

Regulation 13	63
No. of cases in which a reduction in pay was imposed	54
No. of cases where member was cautioned	9
Total amount of Reduction in Pay	€17,105

APPEALS

A member found to have been in breach of discipline under the said regulations may appeal the decision of a Sworn Inquiry Board. The following table summarises those appeals processed in 2003:-

No. of Appeals	5
Affirmed	1
Mitigated	2
Allowed	2
Pending	0
No. of members suspended during 2003	11
No. of members on suspended at end of the year	20

STUDENT AND PROBATIONER GARDAÍ

The procedures for dealing with breaches of discipline by Student and Probationer Gardaí attending the Garda Síochána College, are contained in the Code of Conduct for Students/Probationers and allows the Director of Training and Development, to deal with alleged breach(es) of discipline of a minor nature

The following tables summarises those breaches dealt with under these provisions:-

No. of cases dealt with by way of reprimand	7
No. of cases dealt with by way of monetary penalty	15
Total	22

OVERSEAS SERVICE

During the year members of An Garda Síochána were deployed on two overseas missions as follows:

(1) CYPRUS - UNFICYP

The mandate of UNFICYP is to prevent the renewal of fighting between the different ethnic groups in Cyprus by maintaining a peaceful atmosphere within which a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem can be found and to provide appropriate assistance for humanitarian agencies. A total of forty-seven (47) UNCIVPOL officers are currently serving in this mission area, twenty (20) of which are members of An Garda Síochána.

(2) BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA – EUPM

Three (3) members of An Garda Síochána were deployed on this Mission.

The mandate of the EUPM is to build on the successes of the IPTF by monitoring, mentoring and inspecting policing through collocation at mid and senior levels and facilitate and enable development programmes for middle and senior police levels.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA COLLEGE

STUDENT/PROBATIONER TRAINING

A revised training/education and development programme for Student/Probationer Gardaí, based on the final report of the review group on Student Garda Education/Training was implemented on 1st January 2003. The programme is based on a generic professional competency model with defined learning outcomes for each phase of training. The programme consists of the following subject areas: Legal Studies, Garda Practices and Procedures, Contextual Policing, Management and Organisational Studies, Social and Psychological Studies, Physical Education, Health and Safety Studies, European Languages and Irish Studies. The first group to undergo the new programme entered the Garda College on 17th February 2003.

A total of 687 trainees entered the Garda College to undergo Phase I of the Student/Probationer Education/Training and Development Course. Five hundred and thirty (530) Probationers were attested during the year and four graduations took place at which 475 Gardaí completed their education/training and development course.

AWARDS BY HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARDS COUNCIL

The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) conferred 16 Garda Officers with the B.A. Degree in Police Management and 520 Probationer Gardaí were conferred with the National Diploma in Police Studies at conferring ceremonies held at the Garda College.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

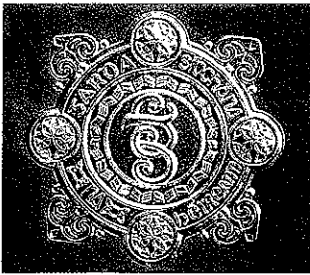
In response to the multi-cultural, inter-cultural and equality challenges which are facing Irish society, a specially tailored human rights training programme was developed and implemented for all Garda training staff. Implementation, which is ongoing, is designed to provide all members of An Garda Síochána with the knowledge, skills and capabilities, which are required to discharge their professional policing duties in a manner which underpins, supports and champions human rights based policing.

GARDA NATIONAL QUALITY SERVICE BUREAU

The Garda National Quality Service Bureau continued the implementation of the Garda Quality Customer Service Action Plan. This involved the progression of the European Foundation for Quality Management Pilot Projects in the Dublin Metropolitan Region (South Central Division) and the Garda College. The application of the concepts and principles associated with EFQM were also utilised to improve the capability of An Garda Síochána in areas such as process improvement, staff involvement and customer focus.

GARDA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Proposals have been brought forward for the implementation of an action-learning programme, which is designed to build the leadership competencies of individual officers, as well as contributing significantly to the development of the leadership capability of An Garda Síochána.



Director of Finance

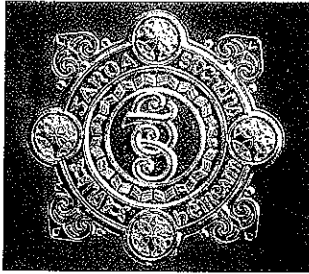
FINANCE DIRECTORATE

As a result of careful management of the Garda Vote, it was possible to contain expenditure within the financial envelope, despite ever-increasing demands being placed upon An Garda Síochána. Notwithstanding that some of the subheads were underfunded, in particular demand-led items such as superannuation, the final outturn resulted in a total spend of €962.5 million versus a budget of €963.8 million. This resulted in a small surrender balance of €1.3 million to the Central Exchequer. The excess expenditure for the demand-led items had to be financed by curtailing capital expenditure, most notably in the communication technology and fleet management replacement programmes.

FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Subhead Description	1999 Outturn €'000s	2000 Outturn €'000s	2001 Outturn €'000s	2002 Outturn €'000s	* 2003 Outturn €'000s	2004 Estimate €'000s
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	535,041	584,820	644,938	658,025	684,472	752,824
Travel & Subsistence	19,389	19,583	27,853	28,634	24,478	24,011
Incidental Expenses	8,674	11,751	13,436	12,987	15,176	11,765
Postal and Telecommunications Services	9,056	9,688	8,502	8,749	9,024	8,136
Office Machinery and Other Office Supplies	26,904	15,788	12,497	12,424	22,241	22,937
Maintenance of Garda Premises	4,576	7,792	9,401	8,163	6,499	6,630
Consultancy Services	89	256	218	222	94	303
Station Services	8,351	9,665	11,538	11,695	12,563	11,354
SMI Implementation	204	843	400	308	107	582
EU Presidency	0	0	0	0	1,196	8,473
Clothing & Accessories	3,290	3,239	4,085	4,332	2,931	3,377
Medical Aid Society (Grant Aid)	44	46	89	90	86	82
Transport	17,753	18,553	17,912	19,431	16,273	18,289
Communications and Other Equipment	8,853	9,584	14,569	14,742	11,608	17,666
Aircraft	3,243	43	1,855	596	421	1,461
Superannuation (all pay)	109,783	130,058	137,270	156,416	172,388	183,058
Witness Expenses	844	1,163	1,351	1,327	1,404	1,159
Compensation	14,474	13,090	19,169	13,853	11,926	10,778
Witness Security Programme	152	152	559	1,092	941	1,097
Appropriations-in-Aid	(22,595)	(25,150)	(25,890)	(28,520)	(31,293)	(29,055)
NET TOTAL	748,126	810,966	899,753	924,566	962,534	1,054,927

* Subject to audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General



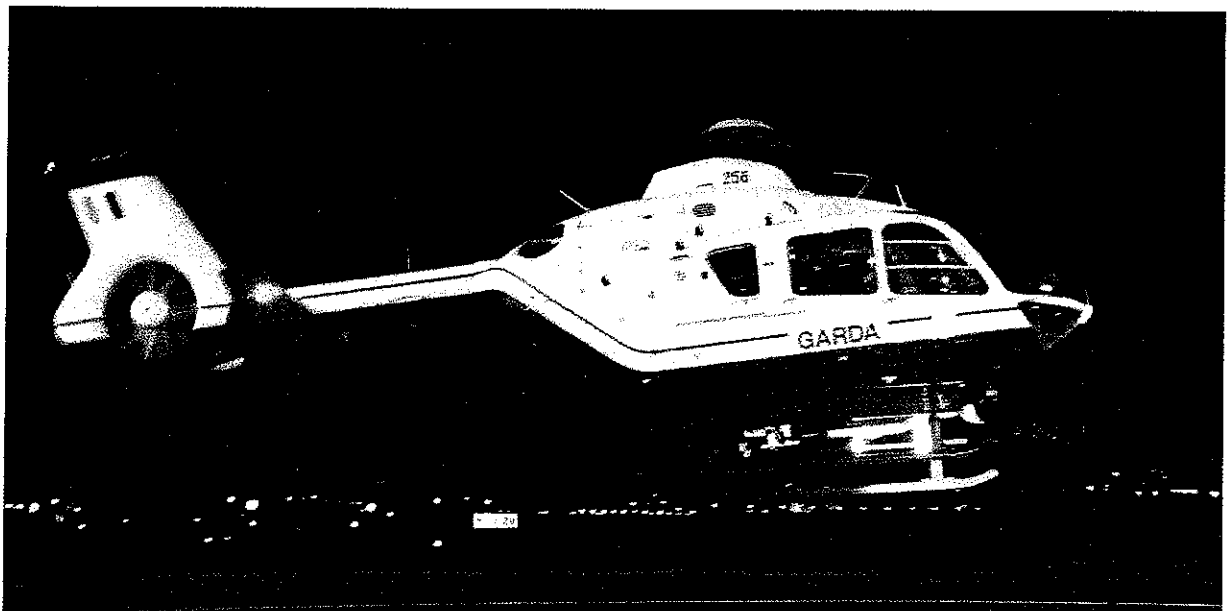
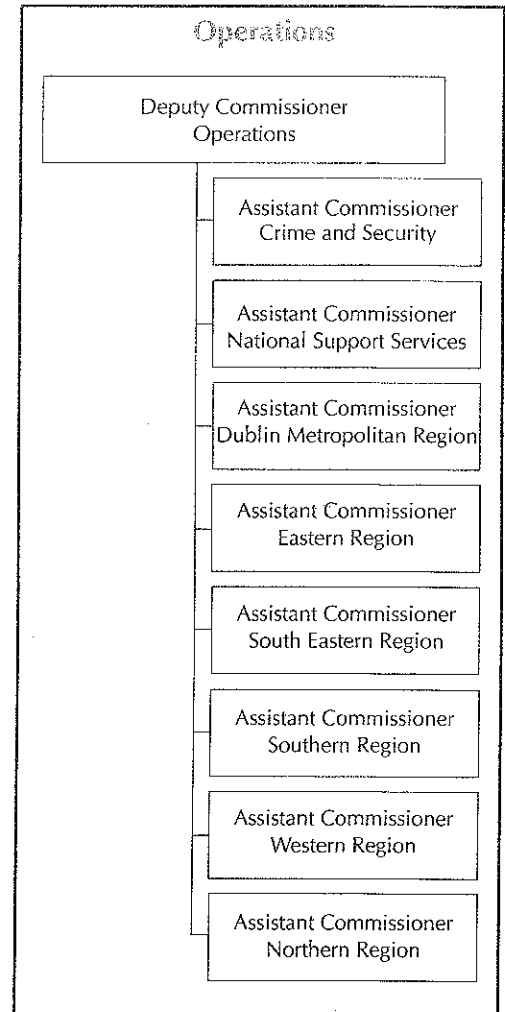
Deputy Commissioner, Operations

Deputy Commissioner, Operations has responsibility for operational policing issues within An Garda Síochána. Based at Garda Headquarters, he has a support staff headed by a Superintendent.

Assistant Commissioners Crime and Security, National Support Services and each of the six (6) Regional Assistant Commissioners report directly to the Deputy Commissioner.

The year 2003 was another successful one for An Garda Síochána on the operational front. The total headline crime during the year showed a decrease of 3,055 to 103,360 (3% reduction). The overall detection rate was 36%. Reductions were achieved in the number of crimes recorded in some key crime categories. Successes were also attained in the detection levels of the key road safety related offences. The level and range of services provided to both internal and external customers continued to be enhanced and were expanded.

The Special Olympics World Games held in the summer of 2003 was the major global sporting event of the year. An Garda Síochána excelled in the policing of this event which was a tremendous success resulting in the enjoyment of the games for both participants and spectators.



Crime & Security

Assistant Commissioner Crime and Security has overall responsibility for Crime Policy and Administration, Subversion and Security issues within An Garda Síochána. He reports to Deputy Commissioner Operations.

CRIME POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Crime Policy and Administration has responsibility for missing persons, mutual assistance requests, extradition and the administration and compilation of crime statistics.

In 2003, the Commissioner approved the installation of a 'Missingkids' website at the Missing Persons Bureau, enabling international liaison by creating an on-line link with other police forces worldwide.

Deaths in Garda Custody: On the 17th June at Tallaght Garda Station a person arrested for an offence under the provisions of Section 4 Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 was found collapsed in the detention cell. Following a medical examination by a medical general practitioner he was pronounced dead. The result of the toxicologists report is still awaited and the Coroners Inquest will be heard on a date yet to be decided.



Liaison and Protection

Bureau de Liaison (BDL): In 2003, the Bureau de Liaison provided a secure communications centre for the exchange of information between An Garda Síochána and Police Law Enforcement Agencies worldwide on issues of State Security and with Garda Liaison Officers positioned abroad. It also provided secure communications systems for internal Garda networks.

During the year the **International Co-ordination Unit** was involved with;

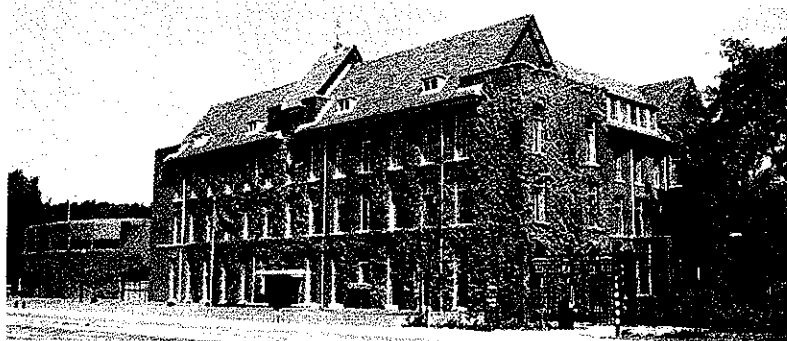
- ✦ Seven (7) AGIS funded programmes involving the specialised units, to wit: Information Technology (Biometric systems); Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation (Credit Card Fraud); Dublin Metropolitan Regional Office (Cocaine and Urban Crime, Joint Investigation Teams, Policing Major Events); Technical Bureau/Forensic Science Laboratory (Best Practices); and Garda Training College (updated Law Enforcement Reference Manual).

The seven projects will be completed by the end of 2004.

EUROPOL

The Europol National Unit (E.N.U) at Garda HQ., liaised and dealt with: -

- ✦ Several controlled deliveries of illicit drugs from various Member States in cooperation with the Garda National Drugs Unit and the Customs Authorities.



- ❖ Europol Analytical Work Files (e.g. CASE, COLA [drug trafficking] and DOLPHIN [terrorism]).
- ❖ Seminars organised by Europol and attended by members of An Garda Síochána during 2003 including:
 - International Seminar on the Fight against Environmental Criminal Organisations
 - Expert Meeting on the Forgery of Money
 - Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Internet
 - International Airports Plan
 - Counter-Terrorism Experts
 - Europol Homicide Working Group



INTERPOL

Interpol is the largest international police organisation; with 181 member countries. The National Central Bureau (NCB) attached to Liaison and Protection Section is the contact point between An Garda Síochána and foreign law enforcement agencies in relation to assistance in criminal investigations as well as humanitarian assistance.

Interpol's Global Communications System (I 24/7) a state of the art weapon in combating international criminality including terrorism provides immediate access to vital police information. The NCB connected to the network on 20th March 2003 ahead of schedule, and access has been provided to GBFI, NBCI and GNIB.

SPECIAL DETECTIVE UNIT

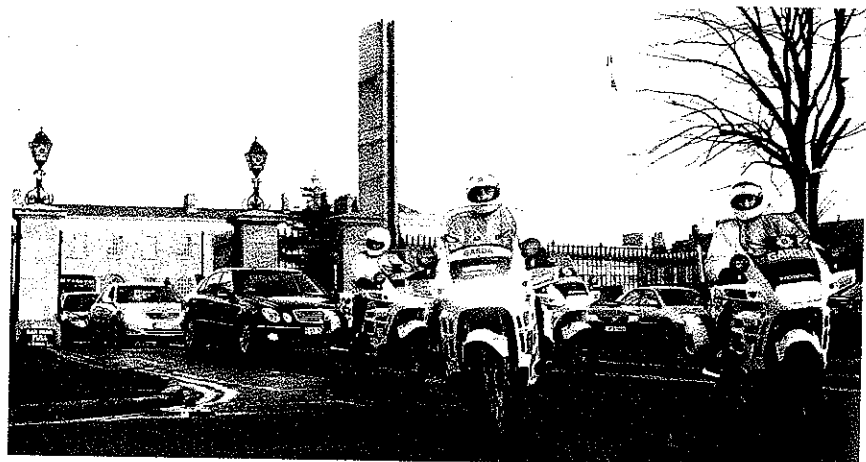
Special Detective Unit had a number of major successes in 2003 against dissident Republican Groups, resulting in a number of their members being charged with offences and appearing before the courts. They played a significant role in the investigation and prosecution of a prominent member of RIRA, who was convicted of directing an unlawful organisation.

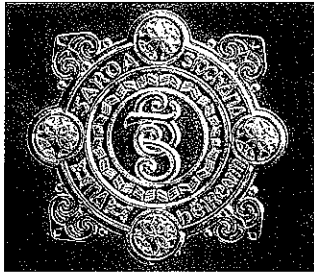
A number of high profile VIP visits were handled efficiently and without incident during the year.

The Emergency Response Unit provided armed back up for a number of incidents including taking an active part in patrolling Limerick and Finglas during periods of high tension.

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

During the year Security and Intelligence Section supported operational units in intelligence led operations against organised criminal and subversive groups. The work of the section resulted in many successful operations, which led to charges being brought against several persons, for both subversive and criminal contexts.





National Support Services

Investigative units of National Support Services are to the fore in the continuing fight against serious and organised crime. The various units continued to exploit and convert key intelligence into evidence, which resulted in arrests, seizures of property, assets, drugs and firearms.

In 2003 greater structured co-operation with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was established with the common goal of disrupting organised cross-border criminality, such as smuggling, distribution and sale of counterfeit products, vehicle theft and drug trafficking.

In 2003 a welcomed reduction was seen in fatalities resulting from vehicle collisions. This reduction was undoubtedly, due in part to the introduction (in autumn of 2002) of the Penalty Point System. The Garda National Traffic Bureau ensured that An Garda Síochána was able to meet the challenges created by the system's introduction and assisted in the ongoing development of the computerised Fixed Charge Processing System.

While requests for the services of the Garda Technical Bureau were down 10% in 2003, the section continued to provide a highly competent and professional forensic scene of crime examination service. The role out of the Divisional Scenes of Crime Initiative was completed. The Garda Criminal Records and the Central Vetting Unit processed 123,906 vetting requests of which 27,316 related to the Special Olympics World Games held in Ireland in 2003.

The Operational Support Unit continued, nationally, to provide specialist support and assistance to operational Garda Units. In February, the Air Support Unit took possession of a new helicopter, an EC135, which enabled the unit commence twenty-four hour immediate response capability, widening its operational area.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

In 2003 the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation co-ordinated national investigations and provided expertise, services and assistance at Regional/Divisional level in serious and complex criminal investigations which included murder, armed robberies and shooting incidents. In partnership with the National Criminal Intelligence Unit the Bureau continued its involvement in proactively gathering intelligence on organised crime gangs.

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit continued to co-ordinate, investigate and assist Regional /Divisional investigation teams with sexual assault cases. In addition the unit managed and controlled Operation Amethyst, an on-going investigation into child pornography on the Internet.

CRIMINAL ASSETS BUREAU

In 2003 the Criminal Assets Bureau continued to target the proceeds of criminal activity and to deny persons of the benefits of their illegal gains. Eleven (11) applications commenced in 2003 under the Proceeds of Crime Act, 1996 while at the same time ongoing court action in several cases continued. Since its inception the Bureau has frozen over €50 million of assets, under the proceeds of crime legislation. It also continues to apply its statutory remit under the revenue acts against the proceeds of criminal activity and this has resulted in the collection of approximately €10 million in taxes in 2003. Action was also taken under social welfare legislation to disallow persons not entitled to social welfare benefits.

The Bureau instituted criminal prosecutions against a number of persons for breaches of the criminal law in 2003. In addition the Bureau brought about successful investigations/prosecutions for revenue and social welfare offences heretofore not presented before the criminal courts in this jurisdiction. During

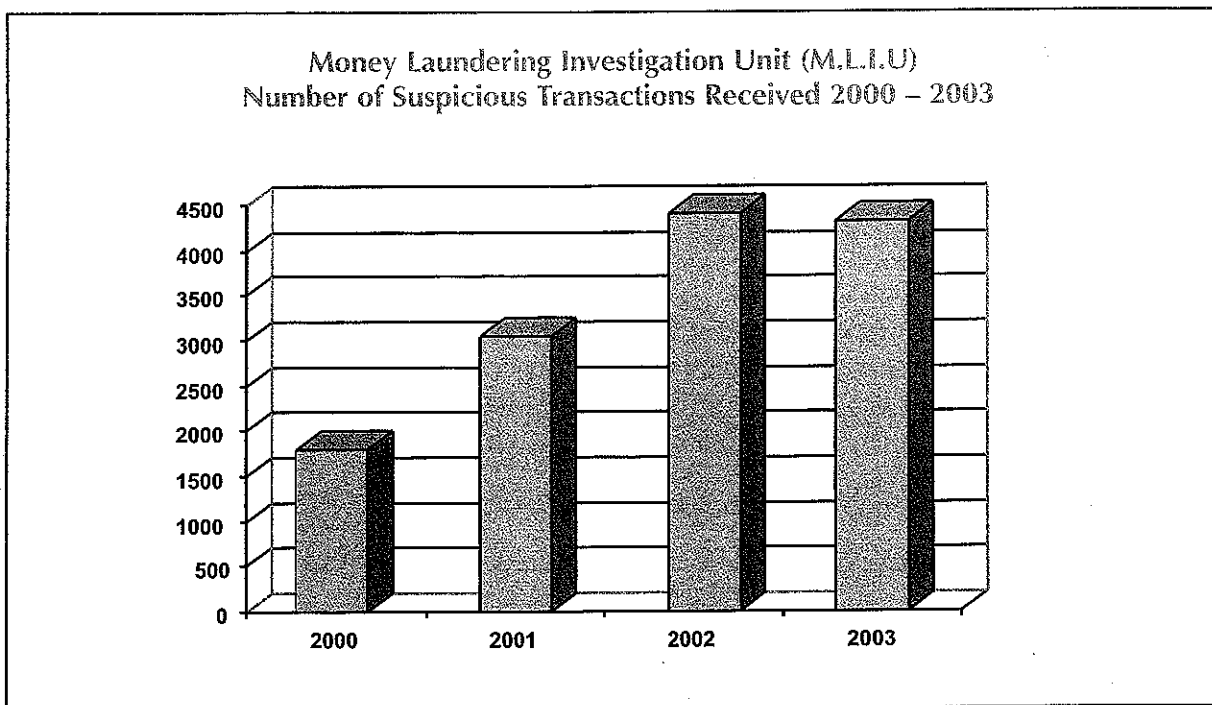
2003 the Bureau paid special attention to targeting organised crime in the Southern Region, particularly in the Limerick area where the statutory remit of the Bureau was successfully applied in a number of areas.

GARDA BUREAU OF FRAUD INVESTIGATION

During the year the number of serious and complex fraud cases received at the Bureau continued to increase, all of which involved complex questions of law and procedure. In one case more than one hundred suspects were identified.

The Money Laundering Investigation Unit at the Bureau continues to work closely with the Criminal Assets Bureau and other specialist agencies to target criminals involved in organised crime. In 2003 there was a total of 4,254 suspicious transactions notifications received by An Garda Síochána. These transactions were investigated and a number of persons are currently under investigation.

In 2003 there was an increasing trend in credit card and ATM card fraud. Criminals surreptitiously obtain credit card details and then use these details to order goods and charge them to the credit card holder's account. Also of note was the use of sophisticated devices to obtain cash fraudulently from ATM machines. However, proactive investigation and cooperation with divisional Gardaí has resulted in the seizure of a variety of devices including miniature cameras, skimmers, false keypads and transmitting devices utilised for the purpose of obtaining details stored on payment cards.



GARDA NATIONAL DRUGS UNIT

The Garda National Drugs Unit targeted organised criminal networks involved in the sale and distribution of controlled drugs during 2003.

In 2003 Operation Clean Street VII and VIII were conducted resulting in the apprehension of 208 persons for offences involving the sale and supply of drugs.

The Garda National Drugs Unit continued its role in overseeing the organisation's commitments under the Government's National Drug Strategy 2001-2008 and completed:

- ◆ A draft national co-ordinating framework for the organisations drug strategy

- ✦ The establishment of pilot arrest referral schemes in Ballymun, Dun Laoghaire and Cork City, designed to inform policy development
- ✦ A Garda/Customs liaison structure review
- ✦ 38 joint Garda/Customs investigations, resulting in substantial drug seizures

GARDA TECHNICAL BUREAU

In 2003 the Technical Bureau responded to 679 "call outs" providing specialist assistance at major incident scenes, down 10% on last years figure.

SECTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN 2003 INCLUDE:

Forensic Liaison Office	Completion of the rollout of the Divisional Crime Scene Units.
Fingerprint Section	Fingerprint cases processed were up 15% over 2002. Four members completed a Ridgeology (3rd level Detail) Course.
Photographic Section	Photographic service areas cases were up 14%. The year 2003 saw the introduction of a pilot Facial Recognition computer linked to PULSE.
Ballistics Section	An FBI instructed "firearms and shooting scene" course was completed and a new "tool mark" laboratory was set-up in 2003.
Mapping Section	A total of 294 court mapping requests and 185 administrative maps were processed in 2004.
Document/Handwriting	Case numbers increased by 75% in 2003 due, in part, to increased use of false travel documents.
Fógra Tóra	The section produced 71 publications, dealing with some 1,700 items in 2003.
GCRO	Processed over 40,000 requests in 2003, down just 1% from 2002.
GCVU	Processed 56,590 general vetting requests, up 9% from 2002, and 27,316 Special Olympic/EU vetting requests during 2003.

GARDA NATIONAL IMMIGRATION BUREAU

During the first quarter of 2003 the roll-out of the GNIB Information System to all ports of entry was completed. Dublin Airport was the most significant new location on the system. Other technical advances made during 2003 include a move towards the use of biometrics to confirm identity and to enhance the security features of the new certificate of registration, which incorporates "Smart Card" technology. A vehicle scanning truck has been deployed at Rosslare Europort to deter and detect the presence of clandestine passengers concealed in goods vehicles.

The Investigation Section of GNIB was involved in a number of investigations relating to the use of forged documents, suspected breaches of the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act, 2000 and breaches of the Employment Permits Act, 2003.

	2002	2003
Persons refused entry and removed at Ports	4,399	4,827
Non Nationals Registered	93,546	127,956
Persons deported	547	584
Applications for asylum	11,634	7,900

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT UNIT

The Garda Air Support Unit recorded 2,598 callouts resulting in 2,074 actual flying hours contributing in the arrest of 373 persons along with the recovery of 108 stolen vehicles.

The Garda Dog Unit was involved in a total of 1,677 Policing Operations including the implementation of several policing initiatives throughout the State.

The Garda Mounted Unit received a presentation of a horse from the following organisations: - The Square Shopping Centre, Dublin Metropolitan Garda Recreation Club and Superquinn Ltd.

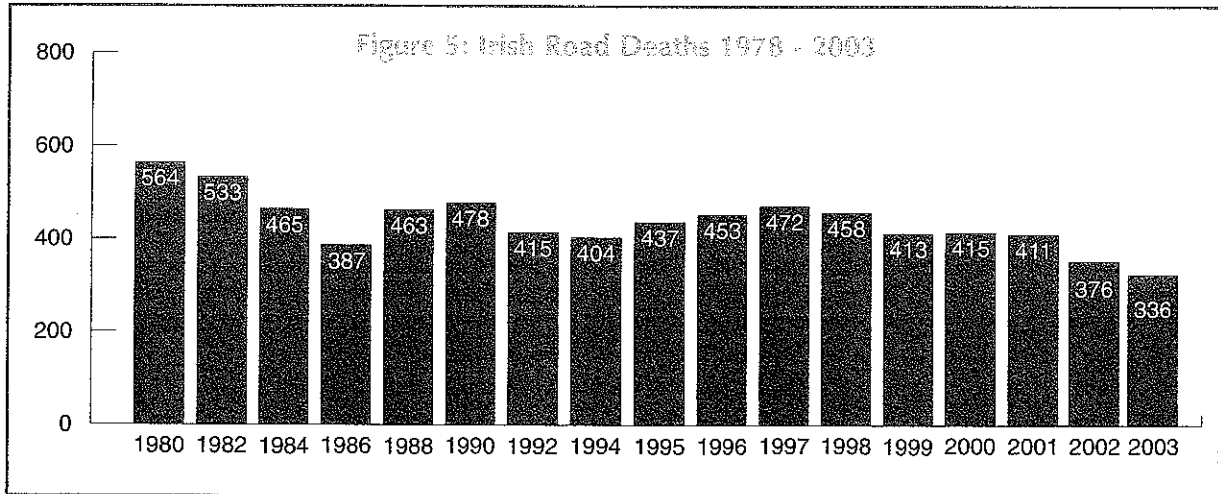
The Garda Water Unit supports all the Garda Regions in the recovery of evidence in serious crime cases from the marine environment including weapons, drugs and stolen property. The unit carried out security searches and crime prevention patrols in maritime districts and inland waterways. In addition, the unit supported Policing Initiatives including the Special Olympics World Games, The Dublin City Centre Policing Initiative, Slane Concert, Skyfest and the Dublin Docklands Festival.

The unit was involved in searches for missing persons on 35 occasions and assisted in a number of joint recovery operations with the P.S.N.I, the Irish Coast Guard, the Civil Defence and the R.N.L.I.



GARDA NATIONAL TRAFFIC BUREAU

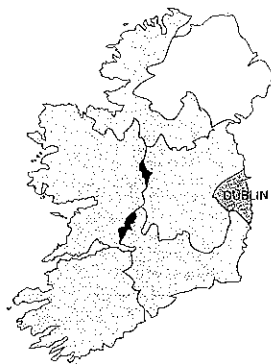
The continuing strong emphasis throughout the organisation on the enforcement of the key road safety related offences of Drink Driving, Speeding, Non-Wearing of Seat Belts and Dangerous Driving coupled with the increased awareness, amongst the public of the penalty points, saw a decrease of forty (40) road traffic related deaths during 2003. The month of May had the highest number of fatalities with thirty-eight people losing their lives on our roads. January and September had the lowest levels, with 20 deaths. It is worth noting that males continue to be disproportionately represented among the road fatalities, with 253 of the 336 in 2003 being males.



Road Traffic Fatalities by Month – 1998 to 2003

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1998	34	29	21	46	33	42	38	40	47	42	41	45	458
1999	30	34	35	31	26	35	48	42	38	40	17	37	413
2000	32	41	23	42	28	30	39	32	40	40	36	32	415
2001	30	38	31	22	40	24	41	34	42	32	40	37	411
2002	35	33	34	32	20	34	42	35	36	31	23	21	376
2003	20	21	33	23	38	37	33	26	20	34	30	21	336





Dublin Metropolitan Region

DMA REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	1,032,048
Area:	869 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	153.9 km
Regional Crime 2003:	48,724
Crime per 1,000 population:	45.02
Regional Detections 2003:	16,630
Detection Rate:	34%
Road Traffic Fatalities 2003:	40
Road Traffic Offences:	99,832
Garda Strength:	3,817
Garda Stations:	43
Garda Districts:	17

CITY CENTRE POLICING INITIATIVE

An innovative city centre policing initiative was devised with a view to achieving a substantial reduction in street crimes and thereby enhancing street safety, security and the reputation of Dublin as a major visitor centre. The initiative, which was piloted in June 2003 entailed high visibility joint patrols by personnel attached to Garda stations on both sides of the River Liffey. Having identified the inherent difficulties, a new policing entity was established. Additional transport, personnel and compatible communications were provided, together with unambiguous instructions to target street crime, beggars, vagrancy, drug dealing and other anti-social activities.

PUBLIC ORDER

A working group was established in early 2003 to examine public order training and equipment, principally in preparation for the EU Presidency in the first half of 2004.

MAJOR EMERGENCY PLANNING

A new interim DMR Major Emergency Plan was introduced to replace the plan in place since 1999.

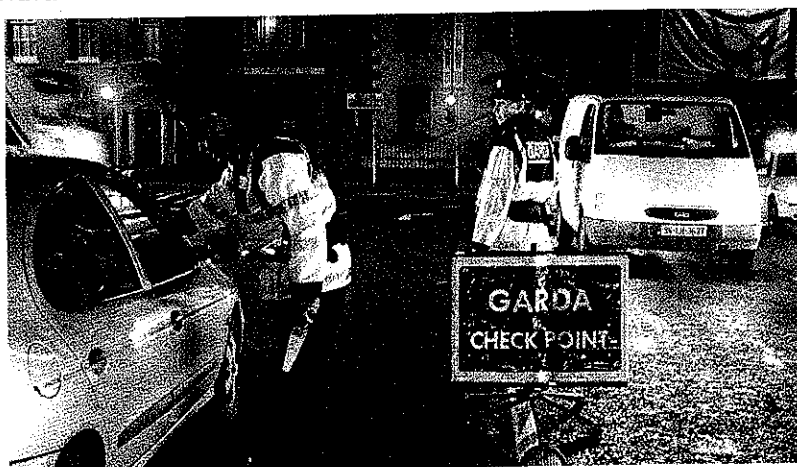
POLICING INITIATIVES

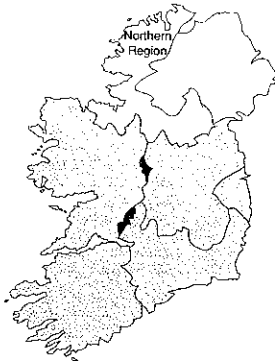
To address serious crime Operation 'Lance' was initiated to identify and profile criminal groups operating within the Region. Many of those profiled were arrested and charged with serious offences including murder, unlawful possession of firearms, theft and possession of stolen property.

To tackle the criminal exploitation of non-nationals for financial gain, a proactive, intelligence-led policing operation was initiated culminating in the targeting of a number of premises operating in the Region. A dedicated team of personnel executed a series of simultaneous policing plans on a number predetermined venues in the Dublin Metropolitan and other Regions. Follow up investigations have led to significant arrests and the recovery of substantial assets. As many as ninety, criminal cases are presently before the courts or under investigation.

SPECIAL OLYMPIC WORLD SUMMER GAMES 2003

The games were the largest sporting event ever held in this country and a global event in 2003. A major Policing Plan was effectively implemented for the duration of the event culminating in a joint Garda/PSNI motorcycle team escorting the Olympic flame to Croke Park for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.





Northern Region

NORTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	315,129
Area:	11,306 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	745.2 km
Regional Crime 2003:	5986
Crime per 1,000 population:	19.04
Regional Detections 2003:	2,263
Detection Rate:	38%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2003:	52
Road Traffic Offences:	10,837
Garda Strength:	1,068
Garda Stations:	108
Garda Districts:	14

MAJOR EMERGENCY EXERCISE

In May 2003 a live cross border exercise was conducted involving a simulated plane crash involving personnel throughout the Region along with the P.S.N.I. and other emergency services. In addition, International Observers from other law enforcement agencies attended and saw how the different emergency services interacted. A manual of 'Best Practices' was compiled with appropriate recommendations and a draft Protocol on Joint Cross Border Investigations was prepared, improving readiness for any future major emergency.

ENFORCEMENT OF LIQUOR LICENSING LAWS OPERATION 'ÓL'

The law relating to underage drinking was specifically targeted in the Region with an unprecedented increase in the number of inspection of licensed premises. Operation 'Ól' was one initiative pioneered to drive this offensive, which also targeted after-hours trading.

REGIONAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Divisional Drug units continue to be successful in thwarting the actions of known drug dealers. In October 2003 a regional drugs intelligence driven operation resulted in several significant drugs seizures and arrests. The operation attracted widespread support from local communities.

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Many Divisional initiatives were implemented during the year e.g. Hospital Watch, Petrol Retailers Alliance and they have proved beneficial in identifying issues and targeting resources to reduce incidents of crime.

The establishment of two Divisional dedicated 'Scenes of Crime' Units have proved a valuable tool in the investigation of crime in the Region. The number of positive finger-mark and shoe-mark identifications has shown an exponential increase resulting in major criminals before the courts.

PUBLIC ORDER - DIVISIONAL/REGIONAL UNIT

As a result of a working group set up in 2003 a new regional public order unit has been established and fully trained.

ROAD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

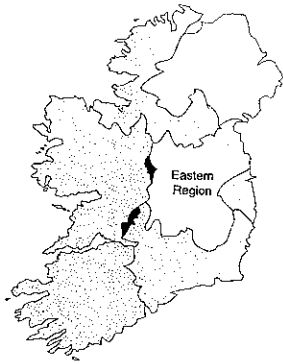
Road traffic safety continues to receive a high priority and is supported with a high visibility campaign. This high visibility drive has a distinct inter-Divisional dimension. Fatal road traffic collisions in 2003 show a decrease on the previous year.

OPERATION 'SYNDICATE'

This initiative, against organised crime has achieved major successes both in intelligence gathering, targeting and profiling of major figures. Simultaneous searches at key predetermined locations were conducted with the assistance of the Criminal Assets Bureau.

OPERATION 'HEATHER'

This operation targeted persons engaged in the international theft of plant and machinery and has resulted in the recovery of a large consignment of stolen property. In the process, the investigation also uncovered and dismantled an international illegal dumping enterprise.



Eastern Region

EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	599,894
Area:	12,864 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1117.6 km
Regional Crime 2003:	15,157
Crime per 1,000 population:	24.63
Regional Detections 2003:	4,730
Detection Rate:	31%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2003:	88
Road Traffic Offences:	29,372
Garda Strength:	1,372
Garda Stations:	127

A reduction in road fatalities remained the central policing focal point for the Eastern Region during 2003 and road fatalities were reduced from ninety-seven in 2002 to eighty-eight in 2003 which represents a 9% reduction. Traffic management concentrated on high visibility patrolling, particularly on major arteries throughout the Region, during peak times.

The policing of major events in 2003 was a significant factor for the Region with many national and international events taking place including the National Ploughing Championships at Ballinabracky, Co. Meath, which attracted 150,000 people over a three-day period; a concert performed by the pop acts 'Red Hot Chili Peppers' at Slane Castle; an 'Eminem' concert at Punchestown racecourse; The 'WitNESS' Concert at Punchestown; The European Open Golf Championship at the 'K Club' and an International Horse Show at Punchestown.

Divisional Drugs units have now been established in each of the 4 Garda Divisions within the Eastern Region. This has led to an increased number of seizures and arrests during 2003.

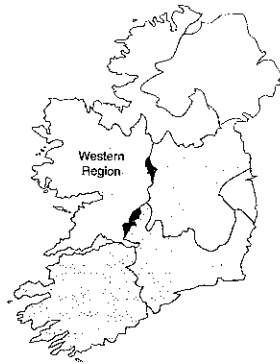
The first national 'Hospital Watch' scheme was launched at Tullamore General Hospital, Co. Offaly in conjunction with the Midland Health Board.

A CCTV scheme commenced in Dundalk, Co. Louth and a second scheme is due for installation in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

There was a phased introduction of reduced opening hours at rural border Garda stations which was implemented at Omeath, Co. Louth. This has led to the availability of an additional 7,665 policing hours, on an annual basis for patrolling and crime prevention.

Host Town Programmes for the Special Olympic World Games took place at over 30 towns within the Region in the lead up to the summer games 2003.





Western Region

WESTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	445,389
Area:	17,739 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1328.2km
Regional Crime 2003:	7,973
Crime per 1,000 population:	17.98
Regional Detections 2003:	2,933
Detection Rate:	37%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2003:	44
Road Traffic Offences:	15,419
Garda Strength:	1,112
Garda Stations:	144
Garda Districts:	20

SHANNON AIRPORT:

Policing in the Western Region during 2003 was dominated by the ongoing security operation at Shannon Airport. The operation commenced in the Autumn of 2002 and continued throughout 2003. During the year there were 12 anti-war demonstrations at Shannon, which were mainly peaceful.

ROAD FATALITIES

There were 45 road fatalities in the Western Region in 2003. This represented a reduction of 18 fatalities or 28%, on the previous year. Traffic policing continued to be a priority within the Region.

OTHER POLICING ACTIVITIES

Enforcement of liquor licensing laws along with drugs and public order policing received much Garda attention during the year, resulting in many, closure orders being issued against publicans, for underage drinking, prosecutions for assault and other public order offences.

In February, the 'Aisling Challenge' project received the Irish Road Safety Endeavour Award in respect of the educational section. This award was made in recognition of the work by the Mayo Division, in association with transition year curriculum support service, who developed a project that challenged transition year students to develop solutions to the problems of road safety, underage drinking and drug abuse. The Challenge ran during the school year 2001-2002 in 30 schools in County Mayo involving over 500 transition year students and their teachers. The award was presented at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham at a ceremony on 27th February 2003.

A Garda Mountain Bike Unit was established during the year in Galway City, which has proved to be a great success in the City Centre area.

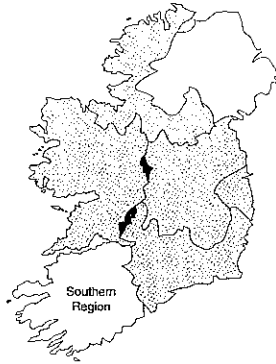
Special dedicated Scenes of Crime Units were established in Mayo, Clare and Galway West Divisions in 2003, and another unit is due to be established in Roscommon/Galway East in 2004. The units have achieved considerable success since their establishment.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Gardaí in the Western Region were privileged to be involved with the Special Olympics. Many areas in the Region were chosen as host towns. In addition, a number of Special Olympics Torch Runs were organised in various towns throughout the Region.



Southern Region



SOUTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	716,000
Area:	14,936 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1152.7km
Regional Crime 2003:	15,472
Crime per 1,000 population:	21.52
Regional Detections 2003:	6,146
Detection Rate:	40%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2003:	60
Road Traffic Offences:	27,404
Garda Strength:	1,842
Garda Stations:	162
Garda Districts:	22

INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS CRIME

There were ten homicides within the Region during 2003, with six of this detected (60%) and substantial progress being made in the investigation of the remainder. Feud related criminal activity remains a high priority for An Garda Síochána in Limerick. With policing centred on planned initiatives during 2003 in relation to the availability of illegally held firearms. These initiatives succeeded in the locating of sizeable caches of firearms and other weapons, which had links to both dissident Republicans and international U.K. based criminals. These successes can be seen in the light of preventing loss of life and serious injury to the people of Limerick.

DRUGS RELATED ACTIVITIES

The enforcement of drugs legislation saw a significant number of major successes during 2003, many with national and international connections. Individuals and groups involved in drug activities were targeted, resulting in a number of established drug dealers being arrested and drugs seizures to a street value of €7.75 million.

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES

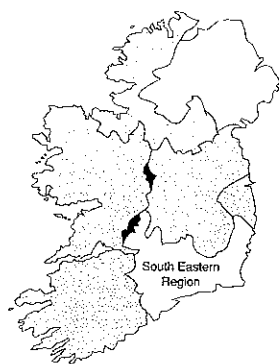
The Region has successfully implemented 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' as a means of reducing incidents of crime and public disorder. This programme also compliments the establishment of a new CCTV system for Limerick City and the expansion of the Cork City CCTV programme, which now has 29 cameras. The establishment of both systems has contributed in a substantial way to combating criminal matters/public disorder particularly in both City Centres, which host much of the nighttime entertainment.

The Garda Mountain Bike Initiative was extended to Limerick City where it is fully operational. Training commenced in late 2003 for the establishment of a similar initiative for Cork City. The Limerick initiative has been well received by the communities being serviced.

Operation 'Ant' was established to deal with crimes of deception committed against the elderly and the most vulnerable particularly relating to house repairs and other related services. Assistance from Criminal Assets Bureau and Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation has played a significant part in the success of this operation, which resulted in a number of persons being charged with these offences.

ROAD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Increased road traffic law enforcement through Operation 'Lifesaver' focused on the key road safety related offences such as drink driving, speeding, non-wearing of seat-belts, and dangerous driving. Across the Region special emphasis was given to high visibility policing methods resulting in a reduction in the number of road fatalities from 64 deaths in 2002 to 62 deaths in 2003. A record number of drink driving related arrests were also recorded in 2003. The Region continues to implement the Government Strategy for Road Safety in relation to penalty points system.



South Eastern Region

SOUTH EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	452,109
Area:	12,977 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	906.5 km
Regional Crime 2003:	10,048
Crime per 1,000 population:	22.2
Regional Detections 2003:	4,482
Detection Rate:	38%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2003:	52
Road Traffic Offences:	10,837
Garda Strength:	972
Garda Stations:	117
Garda Districts:	16

The South Eastern Region, saw the introduction of Operation 'Veld', a special Garda anti-crime operation which represented a proactive Garda response to preventing and detecting serious crime in the Region and was designed to tackle the problems associated with suspect travelling gangs.

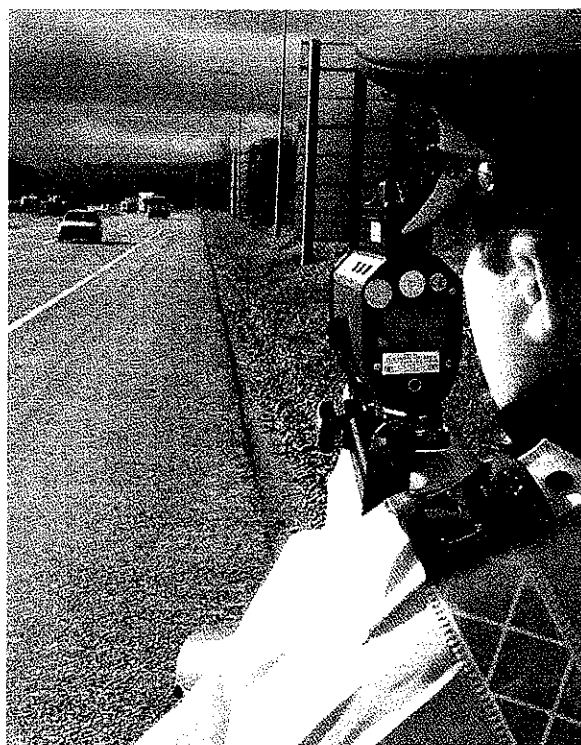
The Region continues to implement 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' in the major centres within the Region as a means to reduce incidents of crime and public disorder. The programme incorporates strategies of natural surveillance, natural access control and territorial reinforcement and is proving to be very effective. This initiative complements and adds value to the Governments RAPID (Revitalisation of Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) Programme, which is concentrated in seven targeted urban areas with the greatest concentration of disadvantage in South Eastern Region:

Road traffic law enforcement continued to remain high on the Region's priority list and a number of road safety initiatives concentrated on speeding, driving while intoxicated and seat belt compliance were introduced during the year. The primary purpose of these operations was to increase road safety and to seek a reduction in the number of road collision fatalities on our roads. 'Traffic Watch' continued to be a very worthwhile and enabling strategy involving the Community and the Gardaí aimed at raising awareness among all road users of the need for and the value of actively contributing to improving road safety. While the number of road collision fatalities at 52 is the same as in 2002 it is significantly down on the number of fatalities recorded at the commencement of the Governments Strategy for Road Safety.

The abuse of alcohol is well recognised as a major factor in most public order situations and assaults and the roll out of the 'Uniform Approach to Licensing Law Enforcement' is seen as a positive development, to deal with this problem. It provides a framework, which includes the setting up of a Forum of interested parties at local level, aimed at securing the cooperation of interested parties in adopting a partnership approach that can assist in this area.

The expansion of the Garda Mountain Bike initiative to Waterford and Clonmel, provide an effective means of high visibility patrolling with flexibility to cover large estates and parks and is ideally suited to Community Policing.

In addition to the many varied policing demands made on the Gardaí in the South Eastern Region, Clonmel hosted Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, where record crowds were in attendance in a very jovial and friendly atmosphere.



The Special Olympics World Summer Games 2003

The 21st of June 2003 was Mid-Summer's Night and it was also the occasion of the Opening Ceremony for the largest multi-sporting event in the world in 2003.

In 1998 Special Olympics Ireland put together a bid to host the World Games in 2003. Part of the submission included commitments from An Garda Síochána that the safety, security and traffic management requirements for such an event could be met. In May 1999, An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, T.D. announced that Ireland had been selected to host the World Games. This was the first occasion that the World Summer Games were to be held outside the U.S.A.

The Special Olympics World Summer Games were an overwhelming success and there are many reasons why these Games have been acknowledged as the best ever. The opening ceremony was the culmination of four years of planning and preparation and An Garda Síochána had a major role to play in ensuring that the policing requirements for the hosting of such an event were fully met.

The World Games Organising Committee (WGOC) was set up by An Taoiseach and Mr. Denis O'Brien was appointed as Chairman and Ms. Mary Davis appointed as Chief Executive Officer. It was evident from an early stage that the policing of these Games would require major resource commitments from An Garda Síochána - with 7,000 athletes, 28,000 family members, 3,000 media and over 30,000 volunteers moving around between 21 sporting and accommodation venues.



A working group was set up under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner, D.M.R. and Inspectors from each D.M.R. Division along with representatives from Traffic, Liaison & Protection, Security, Specialist Services, Telecommunications and the Press and Public Relations Office. An Inspector was seconded to work with the WGOC and act as a point of contact between the WGOC and An Garda Síochána.

While the Games themselves took place in and around the Dublin area the rest of the country was not excluded. The Host Town programme was one of the most successful aspect of the Games and saw the arrival of the 7,000 athletes to 170 communities around the country 5 days prior to the start of the Games. The purpose of this was to enable the athletes acclimatise to the 'Irish weather' and also experience a little of our culture.

Here again, members of An Garda Síochána were to the fore in assisting with the preparations for the Host Town Programme. Each of the 170 Host Towns had an organising committee and a Garda representative attended each meeting. A Garda Inspector from each Division was appointed to co-ordinate all policing requirements for the Host Town Programme within the Division.

These liaison Gardaí and Inspectors also facilitated the movement of the Law Enforcement Torch Run around the country from the 13th of June to the 21st of June.

Another area of Garda involvement in the Games was the School Enrichment Programme. This is an education programme for primary and second level schools and formed part of the curriculum for 2003 for all students. It educated students on Special Olympics and the World Games. The Garda Schools' Office worked closely with the WGOC in devising lesson plans, which members of An Garda Síochána delivered in the schools.

The hosting of these Games required the assistance of over 30,000 volunteers. This was the largest recruitment of volunteers in the history of the State. One of the key areas of concern for the WGOC was the vetting of these volunteers who would have unsupervised access to vulnerable persons with learning disabilities.

The Garda Central Vetting Unit was tasked with processing these vettings and successfully completed this task before the start of the Games.

As the Games themselves involved the whole of the country there was substantial cross-border co-operation with our colleagues in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). This co-operation culminated in 40 motorcyclists from An Garda Síochána and the PSNI escorting the Olympic Flame into Croke Park for the Opening Ceremony. Similarly, at the Closing Ceremony members of An Garda Síochána and the PSNI lowered the Olympic flag and passed it on to representatives from the next hosts, Japan and China.

There were many members of An Garda Síochána who stepped forward on a voluntary basis to help out in many aspects of the Games. Many volunteered to work without pay at the Opening and Closing ceremonies. Many others volunteered at the sporting and accommodation venues. All had one thing in common – they were enriched by their experience in working closely with people with disabilities and experience the spirit of the competitors and their families.

For those present, to witness this spectacle, it will remain one of the strongest memories of the Games. It was a truly memorable event.