



TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY & LAW REFORM
DON AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

ANNUAL REPORT
OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
2000
TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

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

CURTHA LE CHÉILE AG AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
CEANNCHEATHRÚ NA nGARDAÍ, PÁIRC NA FHIONNUISCE

Brollach

A Aire,

Is mór an pleisiúr domsa mo thuarascáil ar An Garda Síochána a chur os do chomhair don bhliain dar chríoch 31 Nollaig, 2000.

I gcaitheamh na bliana 2000, lean An Garda Síochána air an tseirbhís atá á cur ar fáil do phobal na tíre seo a fhorbairt. Lean coir eagraithe, coir atá bainteach le sceimhlitheoireacht, ord poiblí agus trácht ar a bheith ina eochair-spricreimsí i rith na bliana agus baineadh rathanna móra amach i ngach aon ceann acu. I bhfianaise na mbuairthaí fáis maidir le líon na n-inimircigh neamhdhleachacha atá ag teacht isteach sa tír, cuireadh Biúró Náisiúnta Inimircigh an Gharda Síochána ar bun i mBealtaine na bliana, 2000. Tugadh freagracht náisiúnta dó le haghaidh na gcúrsaí Garda ar fad a bhaineann le hinimircigh agus tá sé ag cruthú a bheith ina bhuntáiste mór cheana féin. Sheol mé ár ndara Straitéis Corparáide, 2000-2004, rud a comharthaí soiléire straitéise don mheántréimhse seo atá amach romhainn. Foilsíodh ár gCairt Chustaiméirí, leis an téama "Tús Áite a thabhairt do Dhaoine" agus scaipeadh é le linn na bliana ag Biúró Chaighdeán Náisiúnta an Gharda Síochána. Is cloch mhór mhíle inár gcuid feachtais seirbhíse caighdeán é an Cairt seo.



I dtéarmaí cur i láthair na staitisticí coire, marcálann an tuarascáil seo tús le hathrú go cur i láthair nua agus níos cuimsithaí sonraí ar choireacht sa dlínse seo. Tá sé seo indéanta de bharr na forbartha leanúnacha agus rolladh amach chórais nua eolais an Gharda Síochána, Garda ag Baint Lánleasa as Córais Treorach. I dtosach báire, tugadh tosaíocht do chumais oibríochta an chórais thar an bhfeidhm staitisticíúil, agus dá bhrí sin an mhoill in eisiúint na tuarascála seo. Bainfidh staitisticí coireachta sa Tuarascáil Bhliantiúil seo agus na cinn atá le teacht le buntáistí an chórais seo trí chomharthaí cuimsitheacha na gcionta coiriúla a tuairiscíodh nó a bhfuil aithne ag An Garda Síochána orthu a chur ar fáil.

Cuireann Gardaí ag Baint Lánleasa as Córais Treorach (GaBLACT) deis uathúil ar fáil leis na staitisticí coireachta atá á dtáirgeadh ag An Garda Síochána a thabhairt suas chun dáta. Tá na grúpaí nua seo níos cuimsithaí agus níl siad inchurtha leis na ceithre ghrúpa coire a úsáideadh roimhe seo. Tá cur síos ar na deich ngrúpa i roinnt mhaith sonraí ag tús cuid Staitisticí Coire na tuarascála. Anuas ar sin, tá na rialacha comhairimh coire atá ann le fada riamh an lá, a úsáideadh i dtiomsú na staitisticí coireachta, curtha ar fáil ag deireadh na Staitisticí Coire.

D'ainneoin an formáid athraithe, tá áthas agus ríméad ormsa a thuairisciú go raibh an ráta iomlán braithe de 42% a chláraíodh sa bhliain 1999 bainte amach in athair sa bhliain 2000. Chomh maith leis sin, i gcuid mhaith de na heochairchatagóirí coire, áit a bhfuil comparáid díreach leis an mbliain 1999 indéanta, tá laghdúithe curtha i gcrích. Tá áthas ormsa a chur in iúl duit go raibh laghdúithe i líon na mBuirléireachtaí (anuas 6%), Robáil ó Fheithicilí Neamhfheastalaithe (anuas 2%). Bhí méadú aon duine amháin i líon na ndúnmharuithe a tuairiscíodh. Tháinig méadú de 21% ar ghadaíocht ó shiopaí. Tá siad seo agus go leor ábhair eile á bplé go mion i gcorp na Tuarascála.

Le linn na bliana chuir dúshlán nua éilimh méadaithe ar acmhainní An Gharda Síochána, trí phleanáil straitéiseach, modhanna forfheidhmaithe dírithe agus oirbheartach agus tionscnaimh agus oibríochtaí faisnéise tiomána a sholáthraíodh ar ár gcuid aidhmeanna agus ár gcuid cuspóirí. Lean muid orainn caidreamh agus comhoibriú le poilíní eachrannacha agus seirbhísí slándála a mhéadú agus lean muid orainn ag forfheidhmiú athraithe ar fud na heagraíochta ar fad, faoi mar atá éilithe ag timpeallacht nua-aimseartha phóilíneachta. Sracann muid de shíor leis an gcaidreamh ríthábhachtach idir An Garda Síochána agus an pobal a mhéadú.

Beidh athrú leanúnach agus solúbthacht ina shainmharc soláthair seirbhíse éifeachtach póilíneachta de réir mar a bhogann muid chun tosaigh. Geallaimse duit, a Aire, go gcinntíonn na tionscnaimh a tógadh agus atá sonraithe ar fud na tuarascála seo agus na straitéisí atá beartaithe don todhchaí, go leanfar leis an tseirbhís profisiúnta atá á chur ar fáil ag An Garda Síochána agus go bhforbrófar é. Is mian liom buíochas a ghlacadh leis an Rialtas, leatsa agus le do Roinne as ucht na tacaíochta leanúnach a fuarthas i gcaitheamh na bliana.

Is mise, le meas mór,

Pádraig Ó Broin

**Pádraig Ó Broin,
Coimisinéir an Gharda Síochána**

Foreword

Dear Minister,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on An Garda Síochána for the year ended 31st. December, 2000.

During the year 2000, An Garda Síochána continued the development of the service being provided to the people of this country. Organised crime, terrorist related crime, public order, and traffic continued to be key target areas during the year, and significant successes were achieved in each. In light of growing concerns regarding the number of illegal immigrants entering the country, the Garda National Immigration Bureau was established in May 2000. It has been given national responsibility for all Garda matters pertaining to immigration and is already proving of significant benefit. I launched our second Corporate Strategy 2000 – 2004, which details clear strategic signposts for the medium term future. Our Customer Charter, with its theme of “Putting People First”, was published and distributed during the year by the Garda National Quality Service Bureau. This Charter represents a major milestone in our quality service drive.



In terms of the presentation of crime statistics, this report marks the beginning of a transition to a new and more comprehensive presentation of data on crime in this jurisdiction. This is being made possible by the ongoing development and roll out of the new Garda information system, PULSE. Initially, the operational capabilities of the system were prioritised over the statistical function, hence the delay in issuing this report. Crime statistics in this and future Annual Reports will reflect the benefits of this system by providing comprehensive descriptions of the criminal offences reported or known to An Garda Síochána.

PULSE provides a unique opportunity to modernise the crime statistics produced by An Garda Síochána. The new crime classification has enabled the introduction of ten new groups to describe headline crime. These new groups are more comprehensive and not comparable to the four crime groups previously used. The ten groups are described in some detail at the beginning of the Crime Statistics section of the report. In addition, the long-standing crime counting rules, used in the compilation of crime statistics, are provided at the end of the Crime Statistics.

Notwithstanding the changed format, I am pleased to report that the overall detection rate of 42% recorded in 1999, was again achieved in 2000. Furthermore, in many of the key crime categories where direct comparison with 1999 are possible, decreases have been achieved. I am pleased to advise you that there have been decreases in the numbers of:- burglaries (down 6%); larcenies from unattended vehicles (down 2%). There was an increase of one in the number of murders recorded. Larcenies from shops rose by 21%. These and many other matters are dealt with in detail in the body of the Report.

During the year, new challenges placed increased demands on resources. An Garda Síochána, through strategic planning, focussed and tactical implementation methods and intelligence-driven initiatives and operations, delivered on our aims and objectives. We continued to enhance relations and co-operation with foreign police and security services, and persisted in implementing change throughout the organisation, as demanded by a modern policing environment. We constantly strive to enhance the vital relationship between An Garda Síochána and the community.

Continuous change, adaptability and flexibility will be the hallmarks of the provision of an effective policing service as we move forward. I assure you, Minister, the initiatives taken and detailed throughout this report, and the strategies planned for the future, ensure the professional service provided by An Garda Síochána will continue and develop. Finally, I wish to thank the Government, you, and your Department, for the continued support received during the year.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Byrne
Commissioner of An Garda Síochána

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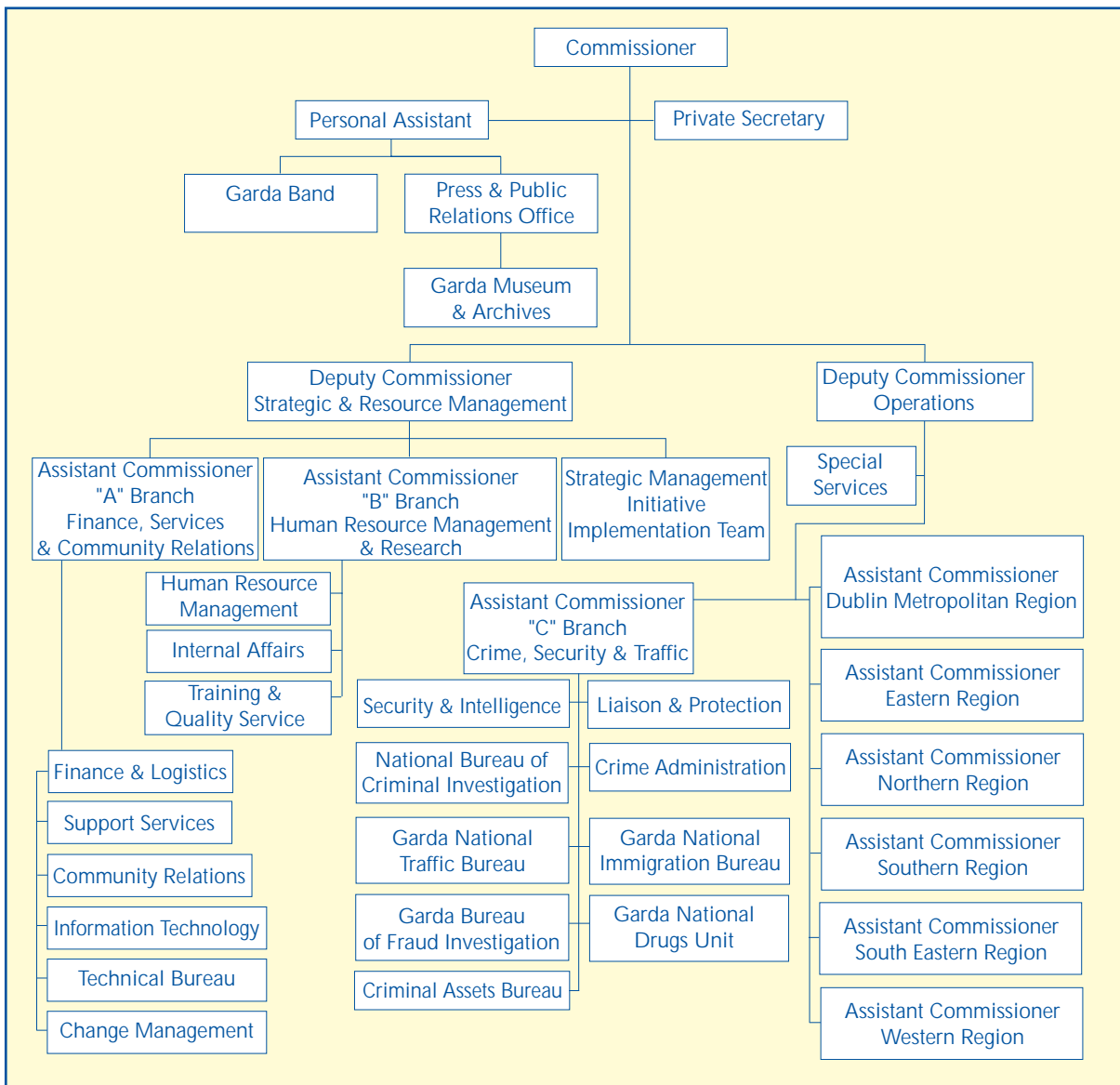
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Office of the Garda Commissioner

Oifig an Choimisinéara

The general direction and control of An Garda Síochána is the responsibility of the Garda Commissioner. The structures through which this direction and control are exercised are outlined in the following organisational chart.



Within the Commissioner's Office, the Commissioner has a Personal Assistant (Chief Superintendent) and a Private Secretary (Superintendent), who, with a small administrative staff, provide administrative and clerical support.

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

Garda Press & Public Relations Office

Oifig Phreasa agus Chaidrimh Phoiblí an Garda Síochána

Demands on the Garda Press and Public Relations Office continued to grow during the year 2000. The Office is responsible for dealing with queries from the media, both National and International.

During the year the Press Office continued to provide support to Garda officers around the country who speak to the media on local issues. Fifty senior officers completed a training course on media interview skills conducted at the Garda College. In addition, five regional training courses were conducted to assist Gardaí who may be requested to act as spokespersons on local radio.

In November, the Press Office hosted the Annual Conference of the Association of Police Public Relations Officers (APPRO) in Dublin. Representatives from 48 Police Forces in Ireland and the United Kingdom attended. The Conference focused on best practices for dealing with the media during large-scale incidents/investigations. Presentations given by UK delegates included the Paddington train crash in London and the case of 6 year old Sarah Payne who was abducted and murdered, whilst the Garda Press Office spoke about the search for the 'disappeared' - the remains of 9 victims of paramilitary killings in the 1970s.

The use of the Garda Website as a medium for communicating with the public continued to grow with approximately 150,000 unique visitors to the site being recorded during the year. The website was particularly well used during the recruitment campaign in October and November. Application forms and information packs were made available on the site thus speeding up the application procedures for those with internet access. Towards the end of the year plans were at an advanced stage for the introduction of a redesigned and more comprehensive website.



Press Office personnel regularly attend at major events and at the scenes of serious crimes to assist with media liaison. During the year personnel also attended the official openings of four new Garda Stations and at four Graduation ceremonies at the Garda College.

Garda Museum & Archives

Iarsmlann agus Cartlann na nGardaí

The Garda Museum remains a vital link between a cross section of the visiting and researching public who have reason to visit Dublin Castle. In the year 2000 some 780 individual names appear in the visitors book located in the Museum foyer. This statistic does not include many who choose not to sign the visitors book, together with many groups which are guided through the exhibition by the O.P.W. guide service and some Police related groups guided by the Garda Curator.

The Garda Archives in 2000 focused on preparations for the creation of a National Repository in the Santry Complex (the former Talbot Complex, Santry, Dublin 9). This facility, which is at an advanced stage of development, will provide long term storage for vital Garda 'Departmental Records'. Records subject to the provisions of Section 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1993 as well as those required to be accounted for under the terms of the National Archives Act 1986, will be housed in this Repository once they are no longer required for administrative or medium term judicial purposes. Electronic and machine readable records of a varied nature (i.e. computer discs; sound recordings of suspect interviews etc.) will be maintained at the centre.



The Garda Museum and Archives administration office/reading room facility is located in the Record Tower, Dublin Castle.

Individual visitors and those researching police related matters are welcome between the hours of 9.30 am. and 4.30 pm. Monday to Friday.

Group Visits and week-end access can be arranged by appointment, by telephoning 01 6719597, or faxing 01 6669992.

Band of An Garda Síochána

Banna Ceoil An Gharda Síochána

The Garda Band was actively involved in all types of performance activity during the Millennium year appearing on 210 occasions comprising official Garda engagements, parades, concerts, Summer Projects, community relations programmes, sporting fixtures, an active schools programme, religious services, as well as major music festivals in Cork, Galway, Belfast, Waterford and Limerick. The Band continues to implement a policy of visiting as many of the Garda regions as possible in the course of the year. The visit to the University of Limerick by the Band of the RUC on behalf of the Peace Institute in November, when it performed with the Garda Band to a capacity audience, was an historic event.



Major initiatives completed or commenced during the year include the provision of Integral Rehearsal Suites at the Bandroom complete with CCTV and video recording facilities; an extensive recruiting campaign which has led to an increase in numbers to thirty seven; recording of a new CD "An Garda Síochána-In Concert" together with the two Garda Choirs - projected release date April 2001. The Garda Band continues its mission to perform music and to increase musical understanding of the widest variety on a national basis in the best acceptable terms.



Deputy Commissioner, Strategic & Resource Management

An Leas Choimisinéir, Bainistíocht Straitéisiach agus Acmhainné

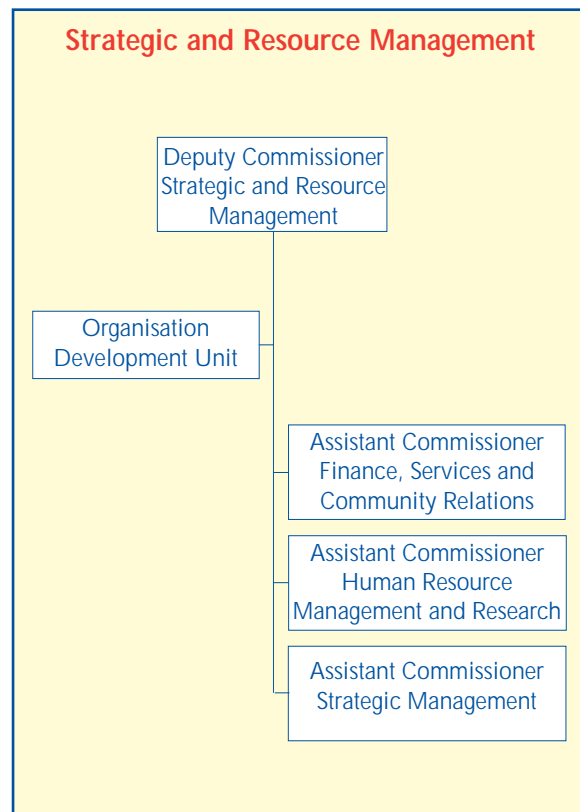
The Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management (SRM), directs leadership management, change management, research, training and development, administration, strategy, planning and all other resource activity within An Garda Síochána. He is responsible for three Branches each headed by an Assistant Commissioner and is a member of the Crime Council.

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

Priority tasks include accountability, change management, strategic and annual planning - including monitoring, evaluating and reviewing; administration policy, finance, budgetary determination, leadership development, resource prioritisation and allocation, training and development, research, evaluation of EU policing projects and organisation development.

Key achievements during 2000 were the:-

- ◆ Successful implementation of the Policing Plan.
- ◆ Launching the Garda Síochána Corporate Strategy Plan 2000-2004.
- ◆ Consulting with community, staff, Government and a range of other agencies and drafting the Garda Síochána Annual Policing Plan 2001.
- ◆ Strong progress in achieving the SMI projects.
- ◆ Increase in the effectiveness of many Garda sections.
- ◆ Two Memoranda of Understanding with police services in Hungary and Russia were renewed for 2000 and 2001. A range of bilateral agreements to combat crime, which have been entered into by the Government, will be serviced by An Garda Síochána
- ◆ Two Gardaí started Master of Arts degrees at John Jay College, New York, in 2000, under the McCabe Fellowship Exchange. Ten Garda members represented An Garda Síochána at EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany from October 11 to November 2, 2000 working in uniform with colleagues from twenty other nations.



Organisation Development Unit

Aonad Forbatha Eagraiochta

The Organisation Development Unit was established in 1994 to enhance the effectiveness, through organisation development, of An Garda Síochána. The ODU has a specific brief to develop leading edge interventions to increase individual and organisational effectiveness by researching policy issues and carrying out reviews and evaluations of specific areas of policing.

Reporting to Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management, the ODU provides for the planned development, evaluation and reinforcement of strategies, structures and processes for improving effectiveness; recognising opportunities to influence the culture of An Garda Síochána; identifying and facilitating solutions to issues raised by senior management and researching best practice in setting standards.

EU Co-Ordination Unit

Aonad Comhordaithe AE

The EU Co-ordination Unit serves as a secretariat for senior Garda management's participation in EU Working Groups. On a strategic level these groups deal with the combating of serious criminal activity by preparing EU conventions, joint action and common position papers. The unit also prepares funding applications under the various EU projects, OISÍN, FALCONE etc. and contributes to Garda input into bi-lateral international agreements. The unit in 2000, began initial preparations for the Irish Presidency of the EU in 2004.

EU FUNDED PROJECTS

Funding is available, on an annual basis, under various programmes operated by the EU. These programmes are structured with the objective of enhancing inter-agency co-operation in practical ways. Specific programmes include:

- ◆ **OISÍN** - establishes a common programme for the exchange and training of, and co-operation between law enforcement authorities.
- ◆ **FALCONE** - establishes a programme of exchanges, training and co-operation for persons responsible for actions to combat organised crime.
- ◆ **STOP** - establishes an incentive and exchange programme for persons responsible for combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.
- ◆ **GROTIUS** - establishes a programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners.
- ◆ **ODYSSEUS** - establishes a programme of training, exchanges and co-operation in the field of asylum, immigration and crossing of external borders.
- ◆ **OCTOPUS** - a joint programme between the EU Commission and the Council of Europe in the fight against corruption and organised crime in States in transition in Central and Eastern Europe.

Other programmes improve social issues involving the community we serve. Individual Garda sections/units submit proposals to the Commissioner for consideration and, where appropriate, they are shortlisted and submitted to Brussels for consideration by the various committees set up under TITLE VI of the Treaty of European Union. Funding applications are prepared and co-ordinated at the Garda EU Co-ordination Office. The ODU evaluate most of the projects.

The following are ten successful projects managed by An Garda Síochána during 2000.

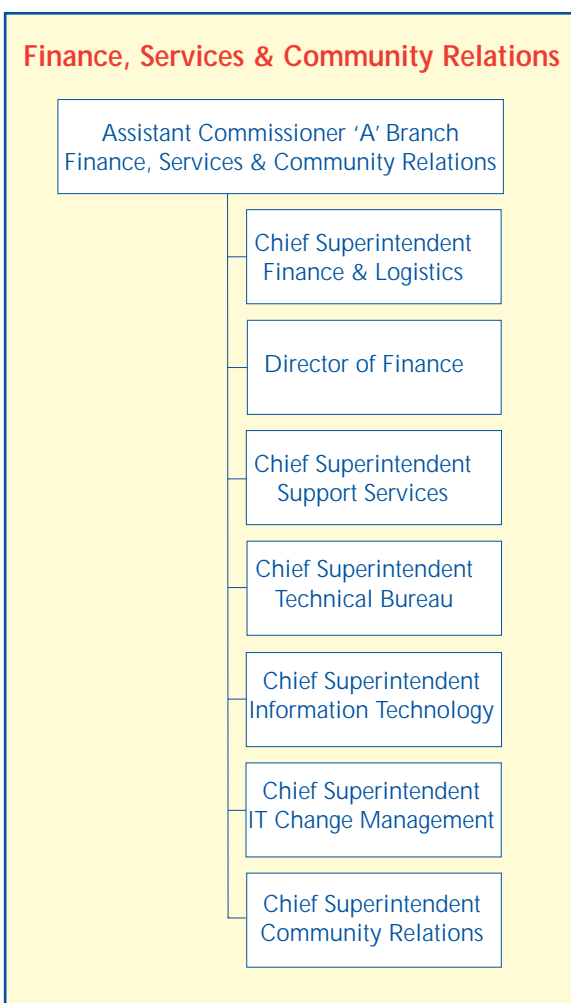
1. **An Examination of the Use of Air Support as a Means to Fight Crime and Terrorism (OISÍN)** was managed by the Garda Air Support Unit with the UK, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Greece, Poland and the Czech Republic participating.
2. **An Examination of Inter-Jurisdictional Investigations Pertaining to International Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering (OISÍN)** was managed by An Garda Síochána and the Royal Ulster Constabulary with Strathclyde, Merseyside, Kent, London Metropolitan Police, French, Belgian and Dutch Police, Spain, Portugal, Europol, EU Commission, Hungary and Poland participating.
3. **A Multidisciplinary Approach to Combating the Growth of Computer/High Tech Crime by International Organised Criminals (FALCONE)** was managed by the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation with the UK, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Italy, Europol, law enforcement agencies from Czech Republic, Hungary and USA; and representatives from the I.T. industry, and scientific/academic world.
4. **Examination of European and Procedural Law involving Mutual Assistance which impinges on Criminal Matters.** Managed by the Garda Síochána College with The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Germany, Finland, EU Commission, Hungary and Poland participating.
5. **A Multidisciplinary European Approach to Combating Organised Crime by Identifying, Tracing, Seizing the Proceeds of Criminal Activity (FALCONE).** Managed by the Criminal Assets Bureau with participants from all EU Member States, Czech Republic, Hungary, Europol, Canada, USA and Poland.
6. **A European Programme on the Practical Co-operation between the Authorities Responsible for Implementing the Asylum, Immigration and External Border Control Policies in Ireland (ODYSSEUS)** was managed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau with Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium and the U.K. participating.
7. **Intercultural Ireland — Identifying Challenges for the Police Service** was managed by Community Relations with the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, U.K, and Austria participating. This was an EU Commission prize-winning project.
8. **Police Officers Achieving a Balance** was managed by Human Resource Management & Research with Sweden, The Netherlands and the UK participating
9. **Study Visits from Ministries of Finance and National Banks to Examine the Implementation of Financial Law to Combat Economic and Financial Crime (OCTOPUS)** was managed by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Garda EU Co-ordination Unit with participants from Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.
10. **Protection of Vulnerable Targets (OCTOPUS)** was managed by Security Section with participation by Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia.



'A' BRANCH

Finance, Services & Community Relations

Brainse 'A' Airgeadais, Seirbhís agus Caidreamh Phobail



Assistant Commissioner, "A" Branch, Finance, Services & Community Relations, is responsible for the delivery of the major support services to An Garda Síochána.

The Branch structure is as outlined in the adjoining chart.

Considerable progress was made during the year under review in preparation for the appointment of the Commissioner as Accounting Officer with effect from January, 2002.

Progress can also be reported in the standardisation and streamlining of procurement procedures.

Work commenced on the development of the National Digital Radio Project, aimed at providing An Garda Síochána with a modern, effective and efficient telecommunications system.

The Technical Bureau continued to expand the range of specialist technical support services provided to the organisation, designed to enhance service delivery, primarily in the area of crime investigation.

The roll out of further strands of the PULSE IT project continued. These included Incident Response, Property and Firearms. As anticipated, challenges presented themselves but these were

faced and solutions identified within the existing framework and excellent levels of stability and performance were achieved. The further extension and integration of the system will continue over the coming years, enhancing the performing and capacity of An Garda Síochána.

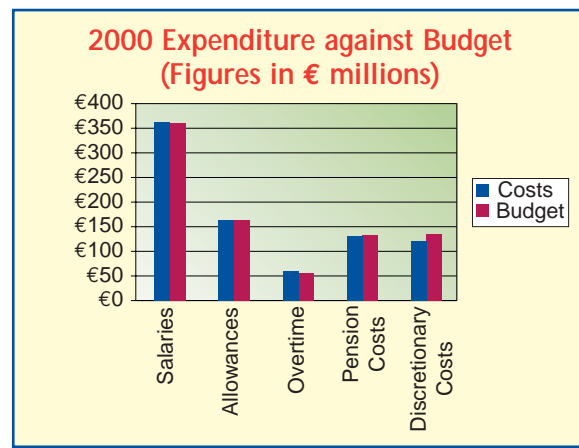
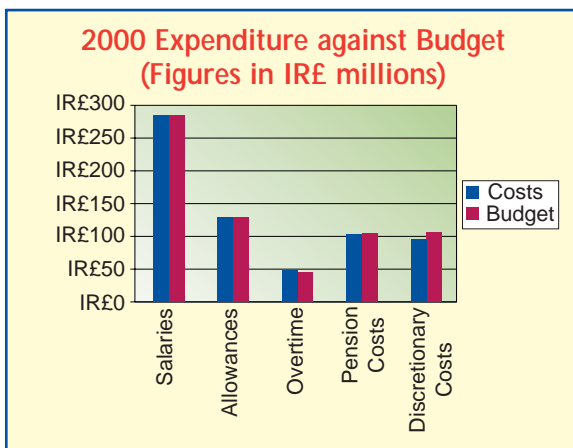
The role of the Community Relations Section continued to be developed and expanded. The Garda Racial and Intercultural Office, which is responsible for the development and monitoring of the implementation of organisational policies and strategies, which deal with racial, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, was established during the year and will contribute to the achievement of the goal of an integrated multicultural society.

Finance & Logistics

Airgeadais agus Loighistic

The Finance & Logistics Section, as part of its commitment to the provision of a quality service, proactively implements policy in areas of procurement, stores management and financial management. A Director of Finance was appointed during the year to head a new Finance Department within An Garda Síochána.

Two professional accountants and an Inspector joined the new Finance Department with targets for 2000 of satisfactory budgetary management, further development of management reporting and a review of finance processes.



Good budgetary management was evident during the year, with expenditure on the Garda Vote remaining within the budgetary allocation, thus avoiding the necessity for a Supplementary Estimate. Work continued on the development of Management Reporting within An Garda Síochána. A review of Imprest Accounts and overtime monitoring was undertaken, with a full-scale review of business processes to follow in 2001.

The progress made will assist in our preparations for the appointment of the Commissioner as Accounting Officer of An Garda Síochána in January, 2002. The development of a specification of requirements by An Garda Síochána for a new integrated financial management system was well advanced and will be completed during 2001. Following this a Request For Tender will issue for a new financial system with a view to implementation in 2002. During the year under review An Garda Síochána incurred gross expenditure of Ir£659.6m. (€837.5m.) against a budget of Ir£668m. (€848m.) Net expenditure was Ir£651.8m. (€827.6) after adjusting for Appropriation-in-Aid of Ir£16.3m. (€20.7m.)

In the purchasing area, a Procurement Guidelines booklet was compiled in accordance with best practice, with a view to circulation in early 2001. Good progress was made with the building of a new purpose built warehouse facility at the former Talbot Complex, Santry, Dublin, with completion expected in 2001. A programme of continuous training for personnel is in place, covering issues ranging from Purchasing and Supplies Management to Computer Related Skills.

The Garda Uniform Committee continues to comprehensively review Garda uniform and equipment, with the ultimate aim of developing an operationally effective uniform that will transcend the needs of An Garda Síochána as a modern professional police service.

BUDGET	JAN 2000	FEB 2000	MAR
EQUIPMENT	€30,900	€15,000	€5,200
FINANCE	€16,800	€14,400	€12,000
OVERTIME	€13,000	€11,000	€9,000
PERSONNEL	€68,000	€32,000	€37,000
STATIONERY	€9,900	€7,500	€7,000
TRANSPORT	€48,000	€11,000	€12,000

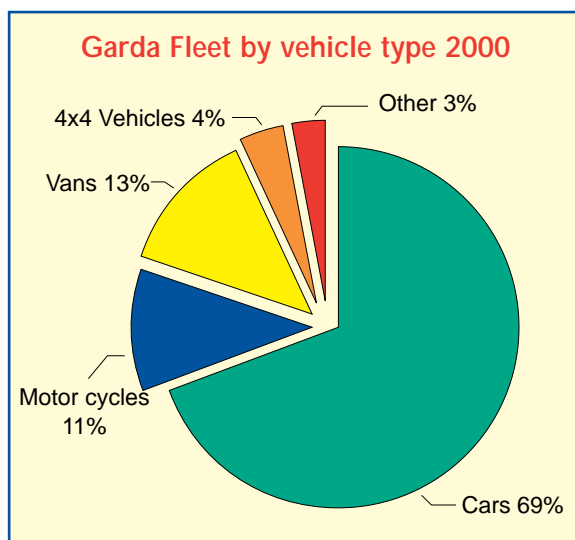
Support Services

Seirbhísí Tacaíochta

Support Services Section comprises of Transport, Telecommunications and Housing Sections, and is headed by a Chief Superintendent. The section provides administrative coordination of all these inter-related areas, to ensure best value and practices are adhered to.

Transport Section

Rannóg Iompair



Transport section is responsible for the provision and management of an effective and efficient transport fleet, capable of meeting the operational requirements of a modern policing service. At years end the fleet totalled 2,254 vehicles. The breakdown, by type of vehicle, is indicated in the accompanying chart.

Further progress was made during the period towards achieving the organisational objective of vehicle mileage ceilings.

The policy of replacing the existing car-derived vans, used for community policing purposes, with small patrol cars continued. This policy is aimed at adding greater flexibility to operational transport utilisation.

An additional 30 motorcycles were purchased for traffic management and enforcement purposes, reflecting the organisation's commitment to the traffic function.

The establishment of a Ministerial Driver Relief Pool at Transport Details Section contributed to a reduction in the operating costs of the Section.



Telecommunications Section

Rannóg Telechumarsáide



The Telecommunications Section, is under the control of Chief Superintendent, Support Services, and has technical staff based in all Garda Divisions. The Section has responsibility for the specification, acquisition, installation and maintenance of a wide range of telecommunications equipment.

Its primary role is to provide a communications network that enables efficient communication between foot and mobile patrols and their respective control centres by providing and supporting the best available technology and telecommunications services.

The primary responsibilities of the Section include:

- ◆ Specification, evaluation, purchase, installation and support of all Garda radio communications equipment.
- ◆ Technical support for all specialist units, including Crime and Security.
- ◆ Technical support for Special Services Section which includes Air Support Unit, Water Unit, Mounted Unit and Dog Unit.
- ◆ Technical support at major sporting and music events. This includes provision of temporary communications facilities and CCTV installation to assist policing and crowd control.
- ◆ Provision of CCTV tape analysis equipment in Dublin Metropolitan Region, and other locations throughout the State, which offers playback and printing facilities to assist crime detection.
- ◆ Assistance to operational members in presentation of CCTV evidence in Courts.

In addition to day-to-day operational demands on the section, some of the major projects under development include:

- ◆ Continued development of CCTV systems with the awarding of the contract for Cork City comprising of 29 cameras; commencement of installation of further system at Pearse Street, Dublin, comprising of 15 cameras and the commencement of the link up from the Dublin Corporation Traffic Camera System to the Garda Communications centre, Harcourt Square.
- ◆ Planning the provision of CCTV systems at Limerick, Galway, Dundalk, Bray, Finglas and Dun Laoghaire.
- ◆ Continued extension of the telecommunications networks including:- upgrades from analogue to digital PABXs in seven District Headquarters Stations; purchase of a further twenty-six digital PABXs; the networking of seventy stations for Telephone/Data and the completion of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for provincial Divisional and District Headquarters stations.
- ◆ Planning the procurement and installation of two-hundred and twenty Suspect Interview Video Systems in Garda Stations.
- ◆ Commissioning Garda role equipment on new EC135 helicopter due for delivery before the end of 2001.

NATIONAL DIGITAL RADIO PROJECT

A number of strands of the project are underway and due for completion during 2001:

- ◆ Work on the Pilot Phase for the Dublin Metropolitan Region is ongoing and is scheduled for completion before the end of 2001, after which a period of technical and operational evaluation will commence.
- ◆ The current Command and Control system in the Dublin Metropolitan Region is being replaced with a modern Integrated Communication and Control System (ICCS). Work is due to be completed by the Autumn of 2001. The Communications Centre itself will be simultaneously modernised.

Housing Section

Rannóg Tithíochta

The Housing Section is located in Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin. It is headed by a Superintendent, who reports to Chief Superintendent, Support Services. As the name suggests, the section is responsible for dealing with all matters relating to accommodation within An Garda Síochána. These range from the management and maintenance of office and domiciliary accommodation, and temporary on-site facilities, to managing and monitoring accommodation related budgets.

Significant progress was achieved in the Garda Building Programme during the year. Construction of the new Accommodation Block and Lecture Theatre at the Garda College commenced and is due for completion and occupation during 2001.

Work on the Talbot Complex, Santry, Dublin, continued and when completed in 2001, will accommodate the following sections and services:

- a) Finance & Logistics Stores
- b) Printing
- c) Vehicle Examination
- d) Archives

Contracts were placed for the construction or refurbishment of Garda Stations as follows:

- ◆ Ballyfermot, Dublin
- ◆ Bray, Co. Wicklow
- ◆ Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny
- ◆ Clondalkin, Dublin
- ◆ Cobh, Co. Cork
- ◆ Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath
- ◆ Rathmines, Dublin
- ◆ Tullamore, Co. Offaly
- ◆ Waterville, Co. Kerry



A survey of all Garda accommodation was commenced during the year with a view to quantifying the works required to be undertaken on the entire property portfolio over the coming years.

The total spent on maintenance of Garda buildings in 2000 was in excess IR£4m (€5.24m).

Technical Bureau

An Biúró Teicniúil

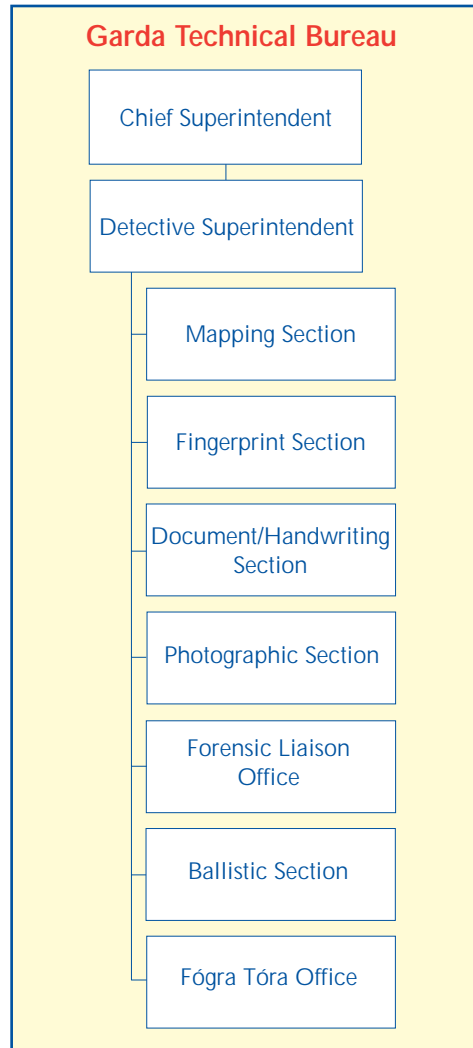
The Technical Bureau is headed by a Chief Superintendent, with a full complement of expert staff. The Bureau provides a diverse range of vital support functions for An Garda Síochána, particularly in the crime investigative field.

The role and functions of the Technical Bureau, established in 1934, have developed and expanded through the years. Specialist expert personnel provide assistance at major incidents and crime scenes.

In 2000, Bureau personnel responded to 789 (external) requests for assistance at serious crime scenes. However, this figure represents only the initial contact and due to the high level of expertise provided by Bureau staff, many hours are engaged both at the scene of an incident and back at their respective laboratories and work stations at Garda Headquarters. All requests for assistance (Call-outs) are evaluated by management at the Technical Bureau and if appropriate, the service is provided.

The objective of the Bureau is to provide a professional same day service and, to this end, continuous training, research and development of innovative concepts in crime scene/forensic examinations and crime scene management are undertaken.

In addition to "Call-Outs", the Technical Bureau also provides an internal service at Technical Bureau laboratories to scenes of crime examiners operating in every Garda Division. Technical Bureau staff also give presentations to staff courses at all levels and have a significant input into the training of Divisional scenes of crime examiners and detectives. The Garda Criminal Records Office and the service gazette Fógra Tóra are also managed at the Technical Bureau.



Mapping Section

Rannóg Léaescáilíochta

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

The Mapping Section undertakes the surveying of major crime scenes, (internal or external scenes). External scenes are now mapped electronically by a robotic Geometer and the data is transferred to a Computer Aided Drawing System (CAD 2000) for editing and completion at the Mapping Section. Internal scenes are surveyed manually and drawn in CAD. The end product is a high quality map or plan. To further develop the capabilities of the Section, liaison was maintained during the year with the Ordnance Survey Service in regard to the provision of electronic, or online, mapping.

The Section prepared 99 administrative maps during 2000.

During the year, the Garda Mapping Section assisted in the investigation of 223 serious incidents, as per breakdown below:

Fatal Accidents	45
Firearms/Explosives/Drugs finds	10
Robbery/Burglary/Aggravated Burglary	18
Assaults	12
Rape/Sexual Assaults	38
Murder/Suspicious Death	74
Shooting	9
Other scenes	17
Total	223



Fingerprint Section

Rannóg Méarlorg



The Fingerprint Section provides a fingerprints identification service to An Garda Síochána by:

- ◆ Providing the identity of specific persons by their criminal records.
 - ◆ Authenticating of criminal history data.
 - ◆ Linking culprits to the scenes of crime.
 - ◆ Identifying dead bodies.
 - ◆ Technically examining major crime scenes.
 - ◆ Providing expert fingerprint evidence in court.
 - ◆ Maintaining fingerprints and palmprint databases in accordance with legislation.
 - ◆ Providing a service relating to the fingerprinting of asylum seekers and maintaining a separate database.
 - ◆ Providing training in the science of fingerprints to Garda personnel.
- ◆ Training Crime Scene Examiners in techniques of fingerprint recovery at crime scenes.
 - ◆ Searching to identify sets of fingerprints received from Interpol.
 - ◆ Searching fingerprint marks received from other jurisdictions.

The Fingerprint Section was awarded ISO 9002 quality accreditation in 2000.

Non Numerical Standard Identification is a new concept being developed overseas and it's progress is being monitored by the Fingerprint Section, ensuring that An Garda Síochána will be ready to implement the system when fully developed and tested. The implementation of this standard will have major implications for the Section, requiring additional specialist training in Poroscopy, Edgeology and Ridgeology.

Livescan Electronic Fingerprint Systems are being piloted at three locations, namely:- Bridewell Garda Station, Dublin; Bridewell Garda Station, Cork and Mountjoy Prison, Dublin.

When completed, AFIS will allow for the capture of developed finger and palm marks at the Chemical Unit by the use of a digital camera. The captured marks will be electronically transmitted directly into AFIS, rendering the system more efficient and providing a faster turn-around on exhibits.



Document/Handwriting *Doicméid/Scríobhneoireacht*

The functions and role of the section can be divided into two related areas:- Handwriting Comparison and Document Examination. Handwriting Comparison involves the assessment of one piece of handwriting with another, carried out to determine whether there is a common authorship between the writings, the examination of signatures to determine if they are genuine, traced or simulated forgeries.

Document examination consists of identifying if a substitution, addition, deletion, erasure or alteration has taken place. It also includes examination to determine if documents are counterfeit, e.g. currency, passports, travel documents, official documents, bank documents etc.

In addition to Court appearances and ancillary work relating to major criminal investigations and Tribunals, the section dealt with 525 cases during the year.



Personnel from the Document/Handwriting Section lecture to internal Garda courses in Scenes of Crime Examination, Detective Training, Fraud, Forgery, etc. The section also represents An Garda Síochána at meetings of Interpol and Europol on Handwriting/Document Examinations. They also give talks to Defence Forces personnel.

The section is equipped with the most modern apparatus available which includes the ESDA (electrostatic detection apparatus) for detecting indentations on paper caused by the writing of one document while resting on top of another. The VSC2000 Computer System is used to differentiate inks and reveal water marks etc. in documents. Personnel attached to this Section are accredited or in training as Document/Handwriting experts carrying out, within the wide parameters of forensic science, the scientific examination of documents.

Photographic Section

Rannóg Grianghrafadóireachta

The Photographic Section provides a secure, independent photographic service to meet the requirements of An Garda Síochána and the Courts.

Services provided include:

- ◆ Crime scene photography
- ◆ Crime scene videography
- ◆ CD-Fit operators
- ◆ Photographic Laboratory facilities
- ◆ Digital and video facilities
- ◆ Public Relations Photography



Photographic section members receive extensive training in a wide variety of photographic disciplines.

Personnel from the Section engage in the lecturing and training of Garda personnel at the Detective Training School, Garda Headquarters, including Scenes of Crime examiners and other specialist sections.

Personnel also make presentations to Promotion and Student classes. Topics covered include Crime Scene Photography, Video and Digital Camera systems and CD-Fit.

During 2000, the Photographic Section attended at 297 serious crime scenes, 83 of which involved suspicious deaths or murder. A total of 4,428 crime scene examiners films were processed and 4,789 finger marks were photographed for the Fingerprint Section. Two hundred and seventy three (273) footmarks were photographed for comparison purposes, in addition to the production of 98 CD-Fits. One hundred and twenty eight (128) photographic assignments were undertaken for or on behalf of the Garda Press & Public Relations Office.

Personnel from the Section made in the region of 300 court appearances during the year.

Forensic Liaison Office

Oifig Cheangail Fhoiréinseach

The Forensic Liaison Office (FLO) provides a central reception facility for the processing of exhibits of possible evidential value for examination by the Garda Technical Bureau and/or Forensic Science Laboratory. The system is managed by a computerised Exhibit Tracking System, as exhibits move between laboratories and work stations for specific testing and examination.

The Section is also responsible for the destruction of all major drug seizures nation-wide.

During 2000, a total of 24,285 cases were processed in the Forensic Liaison Office, a decrease of 535 cases over 1999.



Ballistics Section

Rannóg Bhailistíochta

The functions of the Ballistics Section include:

- ◆ The examination of all firearms and ammunition seized in relation to crime.
- ◆ The examination of all explosives and explosive devices seized.
- ◆ The technical examination of the scenes of murder, suspicious death and serious crime.
- ◆ The restoration of erased identification numbers on motor vehicles, pedal cycles, jewellery, electrical equipment.
- ◆ Providing assistance in the investigation of arson.
- ◆ The identification of shoe print, tyre print and tool marks found at the scenes of crime.

All firearms received are fully examined and if possible, test fired. Bullets and cartridge cases test fired are microscopically compared with all previous shooting cases. A Ballistics Data Reference Centre maintains a collection of discharged cartridge cases and spent bullets recovered from crime scenes.

The Section is equipped with microscope rooms, laboratory, firearms examination room, work-room, firing range and bullet recovery facilities. It also maintains an extensive reference collection containing specimens representative of firearms, ammunition and explosive devices that have come into possession of An Garda Síochána.

A footwear/shoe print database for the identification of shoe print evidence found at the scene of a crime is also being developed.



To achieve expert status, staff at the Ballistics Section attend at the Institute of Criminalistics/L.S.O.P., Zutphen, Holland. During 2000 personnel achieved accreditation in Scenes of Crime – Blood Pattern Interpretation (2 members), Footwear and Tyre-mark Examination (5 members) and Chemical Etching and Restoration of Erased Serial Numbers (5 members).

One member of the Section was awarded a Diploma in Crime Scene Examination, awarded by the University of Durham, in association with the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Crime Investigation, Durham. This was the first time a member of An Garda Síochána has been awarded a Diploma in this particular discipline.

Fógra Tóra

Fógra Tóra is a confidential publication issued on a bi-weekly basis, or more often if necessary. Details of outstanding criminal investigations are included in issues, along with details of persons and vehicles sought by investigating Gardaí. The publication is circulated throughout An Garda Síochána in addition to police services in Northern Ireland, Britain, the Channel Islands and Europe, via Interpol.

Garda Criminal Records Office

Oifig Chaipéisí Choiriúlachta na nGardaí

The functions of G.C.R.O. are :

- ◆ Computerised recording of criminal convictions;
- ◆ Non security vetting on behalf of the following agencies: An Garda Síochána, Foreign Police, Civil Service, Jury selection, An Post applicants, Dept of Defence, Human Resource Management & Research Branch and Probation & Welfare;
- ◆ Scanning of photographs onto the PULSE computer system.

VETTING

The section carried out non-security vetting on 44,898 applicants, a net increase of 7,418 over 1999.

THE FUTURE

Scanning of Photographs.

The section will take on the responsibility of scanning photographs on behalf of the Garda National Immigration Bureau.

CENTRAL VETTING UNIT

Considerable preparatory work for the establishment of a Central Vetting Unit, which will be responsible for all non-security vetting, was undertaken during the year.

FLEXI TIME SYSTEM

Tenders were invited for the supply of a Flexi Time System that is expected to cater for up to 30 employees and cope with the standard flexi-time and other time patterns.



Information Technology Section

Rannóg Teicneolaíocht an Eolais

STRUCTURE AND WORK OF THE SECTION.

The Garda IT Section is made up of five sections, which are:

IT Security & Operations

Provides the Service Desk; support services; hardware procurement; rollout of equipment; IT security; investigation assistance; PULSE implementation, etc.

Research and Development

Provides services for systems outside the scope of the PULSE Project.

Programme Coordination Office (PCO)

Deals with co-ordination and project management between all the constituencies involved in the PULSE Project, including the Garda IT Centre, Garda Telecommunications Section, Garda College, external consultants, etc.

Project Management Office

Provides services to the various teams within the centre, such as document libraries, storage of key documents and deliverables, etc.

PULSE Project Teams

Responsible for the design, build and pilot of the PULSE systems. PULSE is an on-line computer system, which links Garda Headquarters and all Divisional and District Headquarters stations and many other locations countrywide. It is designed to meet the quality of service objectives identified in the Garda Síochána "Information for Action Vision". This vision creates an opportunity to redefine the way An Garda Síochána works in such a manner as to benefit the community and to enable the achievement of the corporate plan.

The Change Management Section, while currently focused exclusively on PULSE and housed within the Garda IT Centre, is a separate entity and has its own section in this report.



The Garda IT Section has undergone substantial change over the last number of years due to the design, build and implementation of IT systems delivered by the PULSE Project.

Though housed within the same building, the internal structure has been altered to cope with the move to new equipment. Personnel numbers, including civilian and external staff, increased to implement the IT systems. Training programmes are in place to ensure that each person's capability is maximised. In addition, several staff members are pursuing a degree course programme developed by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), while another is undergoing an MBA in the Smurfit Business College.

THE PULSE PROJECT AND PROGRAMME.

During 2000, a particular focus of attention was the successful completion of the rollout of the IT systems contained within Release 1B of the PULSE Project, which had commenced in November 1999. The system areas involved included incident response, general enquiries, photographs, firearms, property and interim court outcomes. During the early part of 2000, huge efforts were made to ensure that the systems were performant and stable. As with most new systems, some hitches were encountered - some related to stability, others to performance but all were overcome. PULSE is now fully operational in all designated locations. Stability and performance are exemplary. To ensure that the service to the Garda organisation is maximised, all necessary support is available within the Garda IT Centre on a 24-hour 7-day basis. Frequent surveys are undertaken with representatives of the user population to fully monitor performance.

In addition to the foregoing, work was progressed on the remaining releases of PULSE, called Release 1C (R1C) and Release 2 (R2). The additional functionality to be delivered in R1C includes full court outcomes, charges, summonses, bail, prisoner logs, information dissemination, information analysis in addition to further functionality within the incident response area. The systems were piloted in a 'model office' environment during the year, and the release is expected to be implemented within the organisation during 2001. Work on the design development and testing of the R2 systems was also undertaken during 2000. The R2 functionality includes bail sign-on, an extension of the collating system, driving licence and insurance production, warrants, an extension of the information dissemination system, letters to crime victims, electoral register and Domestic Violence Act orders. The R2 systems will be piloted in the Garda organisation during 2001 and implemented subsequently. R2 is the final release in this Phase of the implementation of the Garda IT Strategy.

During 2000 work also commenced on the development of a national Fines on the Spot system. This system will streamline the back-office processes associated with FOTS including mechanisms to capture data from fixed cameras etc. Penalty points functionality will be provided as part of this system. This system will be implemented in 2002.

Work also commenced on the development of a Computer Aided Dispatch system to replace the existing Command and Control system that operates in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This work is being carried out in conjunction with Telecommunications Section.

The Garda IT Centre is responsible for other systems that are outside the current scope of PULSE. These include some office systems and products that meet localised needs of specialist sections.

OTHER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS.

Crew Services, appointed to review Garda IT strategy up to 2004, continued its work during 2000, and is expected to present its final report during 2001. This review will identify and prioritise the information technology projects to be undertaken during this period.

Work was also undertaken in several discrete areas outside the scope of the PULSE Project. These include:-

- ◆ A system for the Garda National Immigration Bureau;
- ◆ Enhancements to the system in Human Resource Management and Research;
- ◆ Enhancements to the Garda World Wide Web pages, the content of which is updated by the Garda Press and Public Relations Office;
- ◆ A system in relation to the National Age Card;
- ◆ Enhancements for the Garda Mapping section;
- ◆ Enhancements for the Garda College, including the college library and in the area of legal research.

Other work in maintaining and upgrading IT facilities for the Garda service was continued.

PULSE Change Management

PULSE Bainistíocht Athrúcháin

During the year the Change Management Section focused on bringing about major organisational change enabled by PULSE.

Change management, as a discipline, is concerned with the people issues associated with large-scale change initiatives. It is concerned with linking people, processes, systems and technology to the strategic goals of an organisation. By its nature it must take a long-term perspective, as worthwhile organisation wide change is never achieved by "quick fixes". The seeds were sown in the early 1990's for many of the benefits that the organisation is now harvesting and much more is in the pipeline. In this regard the goals of the Change Management Section are being achieved through ongoing organisation involvement and participation in the design, build and implementation of PULSE.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT SECTION

A Chief Superintendent heads up the Section and he reports directly to Assistant Commissioner Finance, Services and Community Relations. As PULSE is enabling changes to almost thirty system areas he also reports to, supports and advises Assistant Commissioners who are the process owners of the various system areas.

Broadly speaking the Section is divided into five core teams as outlined below. In practice, staff rotate between the different teams depending on the ebb and flow of work requirements.



1. Organisation Analysis and Business Process Re-engineering

This team is essentially concerned with re-engineering work practices to eliminate replication and duplication of work. They work with hundreds of people employed at all levels and diverse areas of work throughout the organisation. The business processes for the next release of PULSE were completed during the year 2000.

2. Marketing, Communications and Involvement

The objective of this team is to ensure that people in the organisation know and understand why PULSE is needed and how it will impact on everyday police work. In effect this team is responsible for PULSE internal communications. Relevant, timely and accurate information about PULSE is communicated to all personnel.

Direct communications included issuing nine bulletins and four newsletters. The newsletters featured a number of articles highlighting how PULSE assisted in locating missing persons and in bringing offenders to justice for serious crimes like armed robberies, stealing and arson attacks.

This team is also responsible for establishing and maintaining the two thousand-member PULSE action team. This action team is the primary change network for face to face communications up and down the organisation. During the year a series of seminars and focus groups were held to keep the PULSE action team network informed of developments.

3. Human Resource Development and Training

Human resource development is a long-term process. It is designed to enhance potential and effectiveness and is generic to the work of all teams involved in change management who are contributing to An Garda Síochána becoming a learning organisation. The training team is responsible for developing the PULSE training materials and for training a group of core trainers from the Garda College.

During the year the training team designed and developed the training materials required for the third release of PULSE. The training materials produced included screen cams, instructor guides, "how to" guides and participants guides. These are used on training courses in conjunction with the on-line PULSE training system, which is a reproduction of the live PULSE system.

The core trainers from the Garda College trained other trainers countrywide as required by the organisation. PULSE training consists of a combination of on-line computer based and instructor led training. Over 12,000 staff were trained during the year in either the Garda College or in one of the twenty-five in-service training centres operating countrywide. Training courses were scheduled to facilitate attendance by shift. The first two courses were the foundation courses upon which later training will build.

4. Procedures and Directives

New work practices are standardised by way of changes to policy, roles and responsibilities. These changes are introduced to the organisation by way of new procedures and directives. The production of these materials falls into the domain of the Procedures and Directives team who link the PULSE system and processes in a systematic way to the wider organisation. This team is developing the "User Manual Procedures and Responsibilities" which will be issued to each station to support the implementation of the next release of PULSE. The documentation produced complements the training materials.

5. Leadership and Organisation Development

A series of 18 Leadership Development Workshops were conducted in Garda Headquarters and in all Garda Regions for Officers as part of the PULSE Leadership Development programme. The workshops were geared towards developing strategies for the implementation of PULSE at local level. They also provided an opportunity for participants to network and exchange views on monitoring implementation and developing plans for future releases of PULSE.

The pilot for the third release of PULSE was conducted during the year. Following our policy of transferring skills from consultants to members of the service, the project was managed by an Inspector from the Change Management team. The system was designed to test the software systems, training processes and procedures. The pilot participants were drawn from both urban and rural stations.



The pilot was very successful in that it raised a total of 485 issues, which were resulted in advance of roll out.

Delivering PULSE to the organisation will continue over the coming years.

Community Relations Section

Rannóg Chaidrimh Phoiblí

The Community Relations Section of An Garda Síochána is located at Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. The section formulates, establishes and monitors all situational and social crime prevention programmes which are operated by An Garda Síochána in conjunction with the community.

Important developments occurred in 2000 with the establishment of a Pilot Police Forum in the "A" District (Kevin Street and Kilmainham Sub-Districts) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This initiative involved the creation of a Forum comprised of representatives of An Garda Síochána, Local Community, Public Representatives and Dublin Corporation with a view to:

- ◆ Creating dialogue between An Garda Síochána and the local community,
- ◆ Seeking views and opinions of the local community,
- ◆ Holding formal meetings of the Forum,
- ◆ Providing solutions through dialogue and action to concerns raised,
- ◆ Providing feedback.

An ongoing and independent evaluation is taking place, which will report on the pilot scheme by the year's end. This exciting programme certainly has the potential to deliver significant results and, if successful, it will be replicated in other parts of the country.

With community support, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert continued to develop with significant evidence of initiative and originality contributing to our collective crime prevention efforts. Both of these programmes have helped to contribute to a reduction in crime levels in recent years.

Community needs for Community Policing and Rural Community Policing were examined and consultation continues to take place to ensure that an appropriate police service, capable of delivering an efficient and effective service, exists.

Information on all Community Relations initiatives is now available on the Garda website and is continually updated for public needs. During the year 2000 Neighbourhood Watch, Community Alert, Victim Support and the Tourist Victim Support Service were also included in the Crimeline programme to highlight the existence and objectives of these programmes.

The Community Relations Section is supported in its work at an operational level by Community Relations Inspectors and Community Relations/Crime Prevention Sergeants in each Garda Division.



There are dedicated Community Gardaí serving in many urban centres in addition to the 1,100 Gardaí who are assigned as Liaison Gardaí to the various Neighbourhood Watch, Community Alert, Victim Support, Hospital Watch, Campus Watch, Coastal Watch, and Riverwatch crime prevention programmes. This represents a considerable financial and human resource commitment in directing and supporting practical measures at reducing crime in this country.

Update of Crime Prevention Programmes

	31.12.1999	31.12.2000
Neighbourhood Watch	2578	2457
Community Alert	1139	1121
Coastal Watch	14	18
Campus Watch	12	16
Hospital Watch	1	1
Riverwatch	1	1
Police Forum	0	1

An Garda Síochána recognises the importance of both taking a lead in crime prevention matters and supporting communities to help themselves in a responsible way. Ireland, as a dynamic and continually changing society, offers many challenging and engaging situations that require continuous assessment and action. That is the challenge for those engaged in crime prevention.

One of the most important methods employed to reduce crime is to diminish the opportunity for crime. Such a simple message needs to be fully understood in its entirety in order to appreciate that property owners can do so much to protect themselves from crime victimisation. Analysis of crime trends and developments are carried out on a continuous basis and this helps inform us of the best advice and action that the public can adopt to help prevent crime.

National Crime Prevention Office

Oifig Náisiúnta Coiscthe Coireachta

The National Crime Prevention Office is responsible for researching and promoting best crime prevention and reduction practices for the public and An Garda Síochána. Guidance, training and support on modern crime prevention and reduction techniques are provided for all Crime Prevention and Community Relation Officers in the country.

The office now has a dedicated Crime Prevention Design Advisor, who is responsible for liaising with local authorities, planners and architects to help achieve a reduction in crime through environmental design. This initiative was further extended in 2000 when five additional Crime Prevention Officers were trained in this discipline for the Garda Regions in the country. These Officers will liaise with their local town planners and architects and it is hoped a more co-ordinated approach can be achieved in building and housing developments for the purposes of reducing crime through environmental design.

All sections of the business community continue to seek the services of the Crime Prevention Office for specific purposes. These may range from a complete security audit at a business premises to a customised presentation to specific individuals or groups. It is the policy of the Office to respond to all requests.

The continued extension of town-centre C.C.T.V. systems demands a significant contribution by staff of the National Crime Prevention Office. Their expertise is necessary in designing a system best suited to the needs of the Garda Síochána and the public.

A Garda Crime Prevention Web Site is currently under construction and will provide easy accessibility to all our Crime Prevention literature in the near future. A review is being undertaken of all public Crime Prevention literature.

National Juvenile Office

Oifig Náisúnta d'Ógánaí

The Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme is a national scheme operated on the basis that young offenders and society in general benefit more through having their criminal behaviour dealt with by way of caution rather than prosecution. Since the establishment of the programme in 1963, the vast majority of juveniles who benefited from a caution did not come to Garda notice again through repeat offending.

The programme operates under the supervision of the Director (Superintendent) at the National Juvenile Office and is managed nationwide by specially trained Gardaí who are employed as full-time Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLO's). After the juvenile has been cautioned, the JLO may maintain contact with the offender and family for a specified period of time. It may also involve referring the juvenile to other statutory agencies, who are better placed to deal with the specific problems identified.

In 2000, some 8,409 juvenile offenders were included in the programme and full details of how these offenders were dealt with are outlined later in this report.

GARDA SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Garda Schools Programme for primary schools has been in operation since 1990 and is responsible for the training, resourcing and supporting of all Gardaí involved in implementing the Programme nationwide. Each Superintendent has responsibility for the proper implementation of the programme through Irish or English, within her/his District.

The expansion of the Garda Schools Programme to Post Primary schools was progressed. The programme will enable formal contact with post primary students to be developed by Gardaí through a structured education programme while supporting parents, teachers and other relevant agencies.

SPECIAL PROJECTS.

An Garda Síochána Special Projects is a social crime prevention initiative designed to engage with "at risk" young people. The projects are managed by multi-agency and community based committees in each of the areas wherein they have been established. Projects have been set up in specific areas where the need for such intervention has been identified.

The objectives of Garda Special Projects are to:

- ◆ **Divert young people from becoming involved in criminal/anti-social behaviour.**
- ◆ **Provide suitable activities to facilitate personal development and encourage civic responsibility and work towards improving the long-term employability prospects of the participants.**

In achieving the above objectives, the projects seek to support and improve local Garda/Community Relations and to enhance the quality of life in the area.



To date a network of fifty Special Projects has been established. These are located at:

DUBLIN:

K.E.Y. Project, Tallaght, Dublin 24
GRAFT Project, Neilstown, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Woodale Project, Darndale, Dublin 17
WEB Project, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
C.O.D.Y. Project, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
N.I.C.K.O.L. Project, Buckingham Street, Dublin 1
Dán Project, Donore Ave, Dublin 8
LAB Project, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin
M.A.T.E.S. Project, Hardwick St., Dublin 1
B.A.Y. Project Ltd., Ballymun, Dublin 9
Bray New Directions, Wicklow
A.B.L.E. Project, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
M.O.S.T. Project, N.C.R. Dublin 7
J.A.Y. Project, Jobstown, Dublin 24
F.A.N. Project, Finglas, Dublin 11
SWIFT Project, Bawnogue, South West, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Cabra Youth Initiative, Dublin 7
YAK Project, Kilmore, Santry, Dublin 9
SAY Project, Sandyford, Co. Dublin

CORK:

Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill Project, Cork City
M.A.Y. Project, Anglesea Street, Cork City
Glen Action Project, Watercourse Road, Cork
TACT Project Togher, Cork City Ballincollig, Co. Cork

LIMERICK:

C.C.Y.D.G. Project, Moyross, Limerick City
Limerick City South Youth Initiative, Roxboro Road, Limerick City
Ballynanty Project, Limerick City

WATERFORD / KILKENNY:

B.A.L.L. Project, Waterford
SWAY Project, Waterford
DAY Project, Dungarvan
Kilkenny City Project, Kilkenny

LOUTH / MEATH:

T.E.A.M. Project, Dundalk
N.Y.P. Project, Navan
BOYNE Project, Drogheda

KERRY:

Connect 7, Tralee
BAPADE, Killarney,

SLIGO / LEITRIM:

Y.A.P.S. Project, Sligo

LAOIS / OFFALY:

Slí Eile/Tullamore-Clara Project, Tullamore
Block Project, Portlaoise

ROSCOMMON / GALWAY EAST:

Junction Project, Ballinasloe, Galway
Roscommon Project, Roscommon Town

GALWAY WEST:

Bán Project, Ballybane, Galway City
Bris Project, Westside, Galway City

CAVAN / MONAGHAN:

Monaghan Special Community Programme, Monaghan Town

MAYO:

YABS Project, Ballina

LONGFORD / WESTMEATH:

A.L.F Project, Athlone
LEAP Project, Longford Town

WEXFORD:

SAFE Project, Wexford Town

CLARE:

The Ennis Project, Ennis

TIPPERARY:

Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

DONEGAL:

Raphoe Project, Co. Donegal

Garda Racial and Intercultural Office

The Garda Racial and Intercultural Office operates within Community Relations Section at Harcourt Square, Dublin. The office is a national office with responsibility for the development and monitoring of the implementation of organisational policies and strategies, which deal with racial, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.

The Office completed an EU funded programme entitled "Intercultural Ireland, Identifying the Challenges for the Police Service". This was a five (5) strand programme which included:

- ◆ A European exchange programme,
- ◆ A conference
- ◆ The establishment of an ethnic relations forum,
- ◆ The development of a Garda training/ education strategy
- ◆ The production of a Garda training video.

This programme has just been completed and each of the programme targets has either been met or is in the process of being completed. Following this programme, an internal Garda working group was also established. This group comprises members from each of the relevant sections within An Garda Síochána and is intended to help with the mainstreaming of racial and ethnic issues within the organisation.



The Office is currently developing a recording mechanism, within our PULSE programme, which will capture data concerning racially motivated incidents on the Garda PULSE crime recording system. Traditionally, An Garda Síochána did not specifically categorise this type of crime, but with the development of this system we will be in a position to do so soon. Links have also been established with the Irish Victim Support organisation with a view to referring victims of racial crime to this service.

The Office is using specifically developed software to establish a profile of each of the minority communities in Ireland (including Irish Travellers). Other ongoing initiatives include the quarterly production of a Garda Racial and Intercultural Newsletter, together with developing awareness campaigns on racial and ethnic issues.



'B' BRANCH

Human Resource Management & Research

BRAINSE 'B' Bainistíocht Acmhainní Daonna & Taighde

Assistant Commissioner, 'B' Branch, (Human Resource Management & Research), based at Garda Headquarters, is responsible for all personnel issues relating to Garda and civilian staff.

The Branch also incorporates education/training, research, health & safety, quality service, human rights and overseas service.

Three Sections are each headed by a Chief Superintendent reporting to the Assistant Commissioner, Human Resource Management & Research.



Human Resource Management

Bainistíocht Acmhainní Daonna

The Chief Superintendent, Human Resource Management, is responsible for a variety of sections providing the regular human resource functions for a large organisation, including recruitment, appointments, retirements, pensions, promotion, working conditions, equality issues, records and overall deployments.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL DURING THE YEAR

As at the 31/12/00, the overall strength of An Garda Síochána stood at 11,640, all ranks (see table below for breakdown by rank), representing an increase of 182(1.6%) over the strength on the 31/12/99.

Organisation Strength		
	31/12/2000	31/12/1999
Commissioner	1	1
Deputy Commissioner	2	2
Assistant Commissioner	10	10
Chief Superintendent	46	46
Superintendent	169	168
Inspector	293	263
Sergeant	1,897	1,876
Garda	9,222	9,092
Total Garda Strength	11,640	11,458
Civilian Staff	1,728 ¹ / ₂	1,744
Total Organisation Strength	13,368¹/₂	13,202



Four hundred and ninety six (496) Trainee Gardaí commenced training at the Garda College during the year. In addition, eight (8) Gardaí were recruited as Telecommunications Technicians and four (4) Gardaí for the Garda Band.

A new Garda Trainee Competition was advertised in October 2000 with written examination held in December. A total of 1,550 candidates were successful and will be interviewed as the competition progresses.

Garda Trainee Competitions will continue as part of the Government's commitment to bring the overall Garda strength of the organisation to 12,000 by 2002.

During the course of the year 370 members of An Garda Síochána departed the organisation for a variety of reasons, as outlined in the adjoining table. A total of fifty-two (52) former members of An Garda Síochána died during the year.

The breakdown of civilian staff by grade is shown in the table below, with a total of 1,728, civilian support staff allocated to An Garda Síochána in both part time and full time positions. This compares to 1,744 at the end of 1999.

Departures from Organisation

	2000	1999
Retired	282	261
Dismissed	2	1
Resigned	43	32
Incapacitated	29	16
Death (serving)	14	20
Total	370	330

Promotion competitions were held during the year for promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent, Superintendent, Inspector and Sergeant. Promotion panels selected as a result of these competitions expire on the 31/12/01.

Selection competitions are organised through a combination of Regional and Central Interview Boards for promotion to Sergeant and Inspector.

Civilian Staff

Year End	2000	1999
Administrative/clerical posts	799	796
General operatives & Cleaners (F/time)	148	146
Cleaners and Service Attendants (P/time)	627	616
Special Posts, e.g. Teachers, Medical, Research, Mapping, Photography, Accounting and Information Technology	48 ¹ / ₂	40
Traffic Wardens	80	140
Drivers	26	6
Total Civilian Staff	1,728¹/₂	1,744

Promotion to the rank of Superintendent and Chief Superintendent are decided by separate Central Boards for each competition. Separate Interview Boards also sat in respect of members serving overseas. The table below indicates the applicants for promotion to each rank and the number who were successful.

Promotion to rank of:	Applicants	Successful
Chief Superintendent	75	6
Superintendent	133	15
Inspector	406	48
Sergeant	752	170
Total	1366	239

There were 1,797 permanent transfers of personnel effected during 2000. These included transfers on first allocation (on completion of training), allocation on promotion and consequential transfers.

MEDIUM TERM COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

An Garda Síochána has been granted approval from the European Commission under the above Programme to undertake a project entitled "Police Officers Achieving a Balance".

The aim of the project is to create awareness of the benefits of reconciling work and family life. The purpose is to build on this awareness and to produce a manual of best practice and a framework policy document.

The policy makers in the organisation comprise the main target group of the project.

It is proposed that the methods to be used in researching data for inclusion in the programme will be (a) through the distribution of a questionnaire to a random sample of members of An Garda Síochána and (b) through Focus Group Workshops with a strategic sample of about 10 members.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES WERE HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING:-

- ◆ 76 personnel involved in reviewing and amending Safety Statements.
- ◆ 34 personnel involved in issuing and giving instruction in the use and care of Ear Protection to Garda motorcyclists.

LECTURES:-

Lectures were given on matters pertaining to safety, health and welfare to the following:-

- ◆ Specialised Units.
- ◆ Sergeants' Promotion Courses.
- ◆ Inspectors' Promotion Courses.
- ◆ Superintendents' Promotion Courses.
- ◆ Chief Superintendents' Promotion Courses.
- ◆ Scene of Crime Examiners.
- ◆ C.I.D. Courses.

2 members received their Diplomas in Safety, Health and Welfare at U.C.D. and a further 2 members commenced this Diploma Course during 2000.

OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS:-

There were 260 occupational accidents reported to the Health and Safety Authority including 2 members who were fatally injured in a Road Traffic Accident during the year.

SAFETY CONSULTANTS:-

There are 205 Safety Representatives trained countrywide. Safety Committees are established in each Garda Division/Section.



Internal Affairs Section

Gnóthaí Inmheánach

This section manages all matters relating to discipline, complaints, civil proceedings, overseas service and Safety, Health & Welfare issues.

DISCIPLINE

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

During 2000, a total of 163 new cases were reported to Internal Affairs Section, Human Resource Management & Research. 14 were dealt with by way of Sworn Inquiry and 56 were dealt with under the provisions of Regulation 13 procedures. The remainder are under investigation or are not sufficiently serious to merit formal disciplinary action.

4 members resigned involuntarily from An Garda Síochána during the year and one member was reduced in rank.

SWORN INQUIRIES

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

Sworn Inquiries	14
Found in Breach	7
Not in Breach	1
Not concluded	6
Total Reduction in Pay	£1,409

REGULATION 13

The provisions of Regulation 13 allow for the member's 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 Chief Superintendent may deal with the breach(es) if she/he considers it appropriate to do so and can impose sanctions ranging from a reduction in pay amounting to one weeks pay, caution or advice.

Regulation 13 proceedings	56
Fines Imposed	39
Members Cautioned	17
Total Reduction in Pay	£ 6,124

APPEALS

A member found to have been in breach of discipline under the said Regulations may appeal the decision of the Sworn Inquiry board. The Appeal Board comprises a Chairman, who is normally a solicitor or barrister, a member of An Garda Síochána of Commissioner Rank, and a nominee of the member's Representative Body.

Appeals	6
Affirmed	2
Mitigated	1
Allowed	1
Not concluded	2

Suspended during 2000	6
On Suspension at end of the year	15

COMPLAINTS

Complaints by members of the public against members of An Garda Síochána are dealt with in accordance with the Garda Síochána (Complaints) Act, 1986 and statistics in this regard are published by way of Annual Report compiled by the Garda Síochána Complaints Board.

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

During the course of the year 2000 there was a total of 95 civil proceedings instituted against the State which involve An Garda Síochána. In addition throughout the year there was a total of 40 items of correspondence indicating an intention to commence civil proceedings which had not occurred by the year's end.

The above figures do not include proceedings arising from traffic accidents involving Garda Síochána vehicles.

Overseas Service

Seirbhís Thar Lear

Members of An Garda Síochána were deployed on two United Nations Peacekeeping Missions during 2000, namely, UNIPTF in Bosnia & Herzegovina and UNFICYP in Cyprus.

Members of An Garda Síochána also served on one mission with OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) in Croatia.

An Garda Síochána continues to be recognised for the professional and dedicated manner in which it carries out its duties. We also remain fully committed to the establishment of peace and democracy in the countries where we serve.

CYPRUS - UNFICYP

The mandate of UNFICYP is to prevent the renewal of fighting between the different ethnic groups in Cyprus, by maintaining a peaceful atmosphere within which a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem can be found and to provide appropriate assistance for humanitarian agencies. Seventeen (17) members of An Garda Síochána served with the Garda Contingent with UNFICYP Mission in Cyprus. The members served in eight (8) Civpol (civilian police) stations, namely Nicosia, Pyla, Ledra, Famagusta, Dherynia, Athienou, Dhenia and Linou.

As a result of the restructuring of the Civilian Police which was agreed between the Irish and Australian Contingents, the CIVPOL Headquarters is now based in Nicosia. The posts of Police Commander and Deputy Police Commander will, in future, be on a rotating basis between the Irish and Australian Contingent Commanders.

The Garda contingent was responsible, primarily in the Buffer Zone, for the following activities not involving UN personnel or UN property:

- ◆ Investigation of criminal offences suspected to have been committed by non-UN personnel,
- ◆ Preservation of civil order,
- ◆ Resolution of disputes between civilians from the North and South,
- ◆ Access control of civilians,
- ◆ Supporting UNFICYP in the control of civilians during demonstrations, disturbances, etc.,
- ◆ Assisting and monitoring of CYPOL (Cypriot police) investigations,
- ◆ Escorting of civilian officials,
- ◆ Investigation, including custody, of would-be defectors.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - UNIPTF

There were 35 members of An Garda Síochána deployed on this Mission. The mandate for this Mission includes -

- ◆ Monitoring the local police force to ensure that it carries out its duties without discrimination against any person or any ethnic group;
- ◆ Ensuring that local police respect the human rights of all residents in the mission area;
- ◆ Training law enforcement personnel and police forces;
- ◆ Advising Government authorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina on the organisation of effective law enforcement agencies;

- ◆ Ensuring proper conditions prevail for the holding of free and fair elections.
- ◆ Providing appropriate assistance to UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), IRCR (Red Cross) and other recognised humanitarian agencies in support of their work to facilitate the return, in conditions of safety and security, of civilians who have been displaced by the conflict.

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

Six (6) members of An Garda Síochána were deployed and served on this mission. Two members served in Eastern Slavonia in the Danube Region with OSCE and the other four members were based in Karlovak and Zagreb (Croatia).

The mandate for this mission includes:-

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



Director of Training and Quality Service

Stiúrthóir d'Oiliúint & Cháilíocht na Seirbhíse

The Director of Training and Quality Service is of Chief Superintendent rank and reports to Assistant Commissioner, "B" Branch, Human Resource Management & Research. The responsibility of the Director includes the delivery of all training and development programmes and the co-ordination and implementation of the Garda National Quality Service Bureau initiatives. The Garda College is the focal point for training within the organisation. Outside of the College, training takes place at Harcourt Square in Dublin and at Divisional In-Service Centres located throughout the country.

STUDENT/PROBATIONER TRAINING

The training and development of student/probationer Gardaí is central to the role of the Garda College. To this end in 2000, 496 students entered the College to commence Phase I of the Student/Probationer Education/Training and Development Course. 549 probationers were attested during the year and four graduations took place at which 549 Gardaí completed their education/training and development course.

EVIDENTIAL BREATH TESTING

Evidential breath testing of persons arrested for suspected offences of drunk driving was extended in 2000. To facilitate this initiative joint training programmes were conducted by the Garda College and the Medical Bureau of Road Safety with 410 Garda personnel from 20 Garda Divisions being trained in the use of evidential breath testing apparatus during the year.



UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The In-Service School at the Garda College conducted three training courses for members of all ranks who were preparing for peacekeeping duties with the United Nations in Bosnia and Cyprus. The courses provided training in intelligence briefing, firearms recognition and safe handling, mine awareness, medical and psychological matters, first aid and hostage negotiation.



CHILDREN FIRST INITIATIVE.

A document entitled "*Children First- National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*" was launched in September 1999. This clarifies the roles and obligation of Health Boards, An Garda Síochána and the various other agencies involved in the management of child protection and welfare issues. The document aims to assist professionals and the public in identifying/reporting child abuse and clarifying and promoting mutual understanding among statutory and voluntary organisations about the contribution of different disciplines and professions to child protection.

A joint training programme was developed and initiated in 2000 aimed at improving understanding and co-operation between Health Boards and An Garda Síochána.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (POLICE MANAGEMENT) DEGREE - NCEA

In June 2000 the first Bachelor of Arts conferring ceremony took place at the Garda College. The National Council for Education Awards conferred eighteen Garda officers with B.A. degrees in Police Management. The B.A. degree programme is a modular course conducted over three academic years. The modules are studied by way of distance learning with residential tutorials held at the Garda College. Currently there are a further 48 officers undergoing various modules of the degree programme.

CONTRIBUTION TO EU AND OTHER POLICE FORCES

VISITORS TO GARDA COLLEGE

The Promotion School at the Garda College hosted a group of senior police officers from the Polizei-Führungsakademie, Munster in Germany who were undertaking their senior police studies course to qualify for promotion to more senior positions in the German Police Service. The group attended in June 2000 for one week. Lectures on Student/Probationer Education/Training and Development, the Management Degree Programme, the Quality Service Bureau Initiative, the Criminal Assets Bureau, the Garda Strategic Management Initiative, PULSE training and the Garda Human Rights initiative formed the core programme.

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Two courses of English for specific purposes were conducted at the Garda College during the year. They are designed to provide training for officers in specific English and legal terminology and to introduce participants to the Irish Policing and Judicial system. Police from France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Latvia, Estonia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Romania and Spain attended.

The second course was designed specifically for members of the Hungarian National Police. This course is conducted every two years in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Hungarian National Police and An Garda Síochána.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

During the year the Information Technology training section provided PULSE training and technical support services. As PULSE developed over the year specific training packages were produced to complement the rollout of the various releases of PULSE.

The section also provided courses in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

REVIEW OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING/EDUCATION

A comprehensive review of In-Service training/education has been completed by a joint Garda/Institute of Public Administration Team under the S.M.I. process. The report has been accepted and it is intended that the recommendations will be actioned in 2001.

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

During the year the Human Rights Section established a series of outreach seminars with vulnerable groups in Irish society. These seminars were designed to establish long term partnerships with the various groups with a view to ensuring a sensitive and responsive police service. The diverse groups that attended the seminar included, among others, inner city community groups, members of the travelling community, disabled persons, statutory bodies, and women's groups. The section hosted a national consultative seminar in October 2000. The aim of the conference, chaired by Dr. Brian Farrell, was to initiate a process of exploring how best to consult the many representative groups about their concerns and to establish structures for long term consultation with An Garda Síochána.

Also in October 2000 the Human Rights Section hosted a successful international conference in Dublin Castle on the topic of policing and human rights. The conference coincided with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Garda National Quality Service Bureau

An Biúró Cailíocht na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta na nGardaí

The Garda National Quality Service Bureau under the directorship of the Chief Superintendent, Director of Training & Quality Service published and distributed a Charter for all Garda customers during the year. The Charter, with its theme **"Putting People First"**, is an information leaflet outlining who we are, what our key service concerns are, our commitment to our customers and access to our service. The Bureau also commenced a pilot study into the use of name badges by members of An Garda Síochána and this initiative will be introduced early in 2001 in three divisions on a trial basis.



The Bureau consults widely with Divisional Quality Service Teams and Customers Panels established in each Division to enable the Bureau pursue its objectives, as set out in the Policing Plan 2000. The National Manager of the Bureau is of Superintendent rank.



Strategic Management Initiative (SMI) Implementation Team

Foireann Fheidhmithe an Tionscnaimh Baintíochta Straitéisí

The development of the wide-ranging recommendations contained in the SMI Report 1997 continued during the year 2000 in consultation with staff associations.

The SMI implementation team is headed by an Assistant Commissioner and consists of a small group, administrative and specialist support staff. External consultants continued to be engaged, as required, to provide dedicated specialist advice to the team and internal working groups on specific projects.

In consultation with staff associations and senior management, a comprehensive programme of civilianisation was developed and agreed; a management accountant and a financial accountant were appointed as assistants to the Director of Finance; agreement was reached to extend piloting of a new roster system; a new resource allocation model (GERM) was completed and is now being used as an aid to Garda management in allocating resources; a review of senior and in-service training was completed and sanction from Department of Finance for the recruitment of a training specialist was sought; Phase 11 of the Structures Review was completed and the final phase of the work began.

Progress was well advanced on developing a performance and accountability framework between the Commissioner and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform; revising assessment forms and interview process as an extension of the Promotion Report, under the aegis of the Promotion Advisory Council; and the process of recruiting a Human Resource Manager continued. A high-level implementation team, chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management, was established to oversee the implementation of recommendations of the Human Resources Report and, in particular, to plan pilot devolution in two selected Divisions. An implementation group has also been established at the Garda College to oversee the implementation of recommendations of the Senior Training report.

A Project Management Board consisting of Garda management and representatives of all staff associations, has been established with a view to designing a performance management model which will be acceptable to management and staff and which will meet our commitments under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. Staff at all levels continued to be involved in the SMI process through seminars, workshops, focus groups or on secondment to SMI section as part of the policy of inclusiveness in the process of change.





Deputy Commissioner, Operations

Leas Choimisinéir, Feidhmiúcháin

Operational responsibility within An Garda Síochána rests with the Deputy Commissioner, Operations. Based at Garda Headquarters, he has a small support staff headed by a Superintendent.

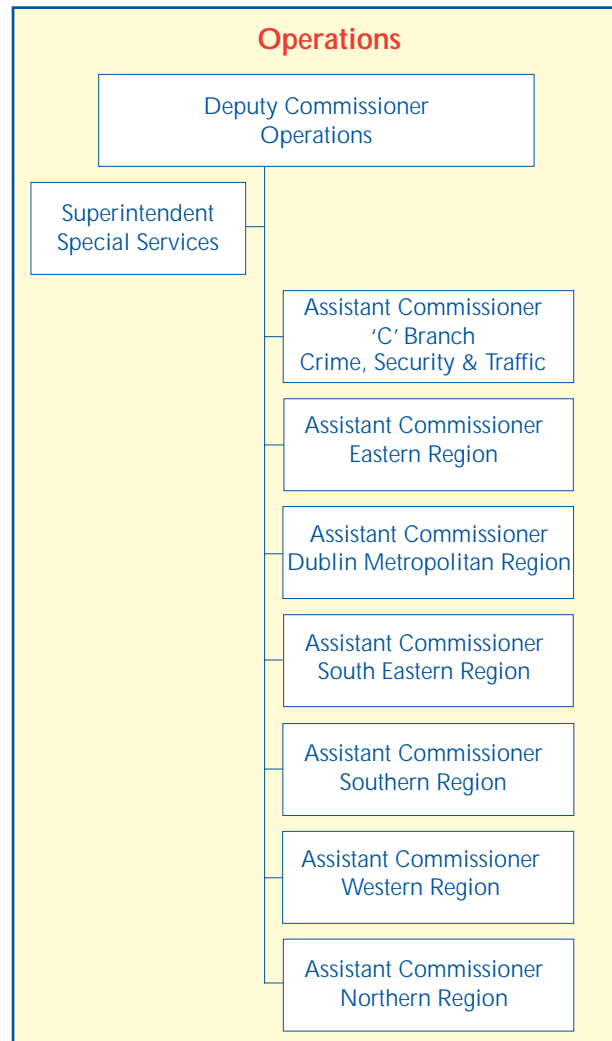
Assistant Commissioner, "C" Branch, Crime, Security & Traffic, each of the Regional Assistant Commissioners, and Superintendent Special Services report directly to the Deputy Commissioner.

The year 2000 was another successful one for An Garda Síochána on the operational front. The overall detection rate of 42% recorded in 1999, was again achieved in 2000. Reductions were achieved in the numbers of crimes recorded in some key crime categories. The Garda National Immigration Bureau was successfully established, to assume national responsibility for all Garda matters pertaining to immigration. Increases were again achieved in the levels of detection of the key road safety related offences of drink driving, speeding and non-wearing of seat belts. The level and range of services provided to both internal and external customers by the national units under the control of Assistant Commissioner, "C" Branch, Crime, Security and Traffic, continued to be enhanced and expanded.

Successful conclusions were achieved to a number of major criminal investigations.

Organised crime and subversive activity continued to be systematically targeted, with notable successes in both areas.

The development of the services provided by Special Services Section continued to be enhanced and expanded. The most significant development was the launch on the river Shannon in May 2000 of the Garda Patrol Boat, the Colm na Córa.





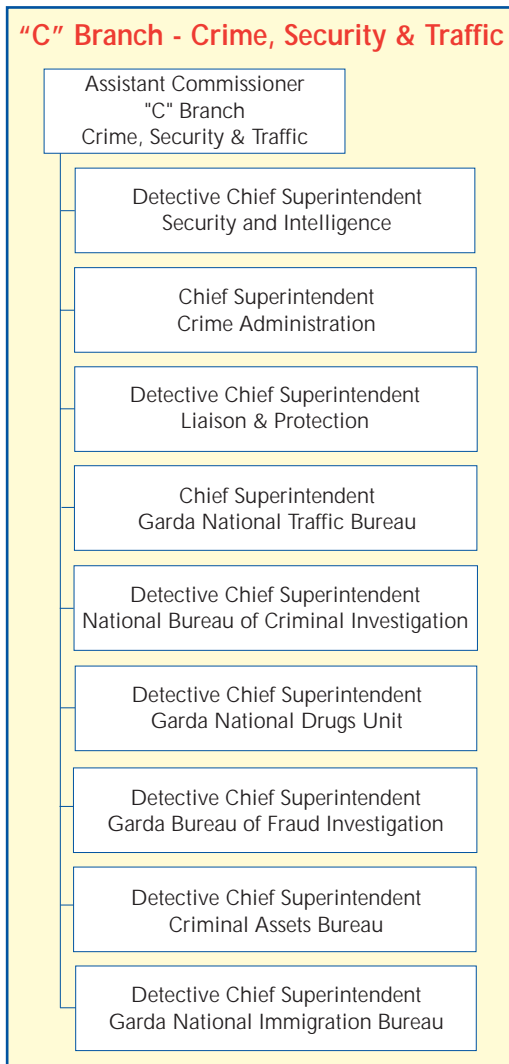
'C' BRANCH

Crime, Security & Traffic

BRAINSE 'C'

Coireacht, Slándáil agus Trácht

Assistant Commissioner, 'C' Branch, Crime, Security & Traffic, has overall responsibility for crime, subversion, security, traffic and immigration issues within An Garda Síochána. He reports to Deputy Commissioner, Operations.



He fulfils his responsibilities primarily through a number of national units, shown on the accompanying chart, which deal specifically with some of the major crime and enforcement areas.

The year saw the establishment of the Garda National Immigration Bureau, which has assumed national responsibility for all Garda matters pertaining to immigration.

The Criminal Assets Bureau again made a major contribution to the fight against organised and other major criminal activity through its co-operation with other bodies and through the seizure of the proceeds of crime.

The fight against illicit drug misuse continued during the year, with some significant successes.

Credit card fraud and computer crime are areas which have been identified for special attention.

The Public Order situation is a major quality of life issue for many people. It is not a problem that lends itself to easy resolution. The causes are many and varied, as are the suggested solutions. Operation Oíche was launched in October, 2000, aimed at providing an enforcement response. It has proved very successful as may be seen from the following table which details the numbers of detections in respect of some key offences. However, this is a problem that can only be effectively addressed holistically, by society as a whole, in a considered and systematic fashion.

Operation Oíche – October to December, 2000

Public Intoxication	Disorderly Conduct	Threatening Abusive or Insulting Behaviour	Obstruction	Sale of Alcohol to Underaged	Provision of Intoxicating Liquor to Underaged	Purchase or Consumption by Underaged
10,011	2,667	6,396	229	132	85	401

Security & Intelligence Section

An Rannóg Slándáil agus Faisnéise

An Garda Síochána is responsible not only for providing the policing service within the State, but also the security of the State. To this end, the Security & Intelligence Section maintains liaison links with police forces and security services throughout the world, forging new links where appropriate. This regularly includes the attendance by senior personnel at meetings and conferences overseas.

Headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent, the core activity of the Security & Intelligence Section is the monitoring of trends in subversive and criminal activity in the State. The work of operational units, who specifically target serious and subversive-related crime, is supported on a daily basis from the Security & Intelligence Section.

Meetings of all major European Union police co-operation bodies, including Europol, Police Working Group on Terrorism, Police Cooperation Working Group and Interpol, are attended by personnel from Security & Intelligence Section.

The section also organises international conferences and seminars on security related issues, which impart valuable knowledge gained through policing in this country, to a world-wide audience of police and law enforcement personnel. Such gatherings also increase the knowledge base of Garda personnel involved and the organisation generally. These contacts also prove useful from an operational aspect.

Personnel from the section make presentations on security and intelligence related issues to promotion and development classes at the Garda College and to foreign police officers undergoing training in this country as part of various international agreements and programmes.



Crime Administration Section

An Rannóg Riarachán um Choreacht

Crime Administration Section is headed by a Chief Superintendent, who reports to Assistant Commissioner, Crime, Security and Traffic. In general, the section is responsible for a number of crime related functions on a national and international basis.

The General Administration Office is responsible for monitoring the progress of serious crime investigations. The investigations are monitored from their commencement to conclusion. The office also provides an extensive service dealing with a wide range of enquiries about crime related matters. Typically, the enquiries emanate from Government departments, external agencies and the public.

As the name suggests, the Missing Persons Bureau is responsible for data relating to missing persons. It also deals with the recording of sudden deaths and the discovery of unidentified bodies. The Bureau also services enquiries from external agencies, other jurisdictions and Interpol.

The Legal Office provides advice on many different subject areas arising from both the operational and administrative roles of An Garda Síochána.

Requests for mutual assistance from other jurisdictions are serviced by the Mutual Assistance Section. The section also records Irish requests for mutual assistance in criminal matters.



The Extradition Section is the central location that receives extradition requests from other jurisdictions to find persons who are the subject of such requests and may be located in Ireland. The section executes extradition warrants throughout the country. It also processes Irish requests for the extradition of persons from other jurisdictions to Ireland in order that they should answer criminal charges in this country.

The Crime Statistics' Office compiles the criminal statistics that feature in the Annual Report. It also formulates replies to parliamentary questions and compiles statistical information to service inquiries from within and beyond An Garda Síochána.

DEATHS IN GARDA CUSTODY

On the 10th. May, 2000, at 10.35am., a person in custody at Roxboro Road Garda Station, Limerick, was discovered in an unconscious state and was later pronounced dead. An Inquest has been held and death due to Asphyxia due to Suspension was recorded.

On the 5th. October, 2000, at 6.20am. a person in Garda custody at Drogheda Garda Station, Co. Louth was found in a collapsed state and was later pronounced dead. An Inquest has not yet been held.

Liaison & Protection Section

An Rannóg Teagmháil agus Cosanta

The Liaison & Protection Section is under the control of a Detective Chief Superintendent. It deals with matters relating to international law enforcement liaison, protection of resident and visiting dignitaries and security of key installations and buildings. The Section has responsibility for the Europol Liaison Officer based at Europol Headquarters, The Hague, the Interpol Liaison Officer, based in Lyon, France, and also the Garda Liaison Officers attached to the Irish Embassies at Madrid, The Hague, Paris and London.

The Liaison & Protection Section comprises the following offices:

The Protection Office co-ordinates security arrangements for An t'Uachtarán, the Diplomatic Corps, the Judiciary and other resident and visiting VIPs. It is also responsible for security issues relating to the courts, embassies and diplomatic consulates, air and sea ports, banks and financial institutions, Garda Stations, prisons, government departments and state buildings, cash in transit operations and matters relating to Explosives.

The Europol National Unit deals with requests for assistance from law enforcement agencies within the European Union. In order for requests to fall within Europol's mandate, an organised criminal structure must be involved and two or more Member States must be affected.

Europol's current mandate is to support law enforcement activity against:

- ◆ Drug trafficking
- ◆ Trafficking in human beings
- ◆ Immigration networks
- ◆ Forgery of money
- ◆ Vehicle trafficking
- ◆ Trafficking in radioactive substances
- ◆ Terrorism
- ◆ Money laundering

The Interpol office maintains ongoing liaison with police forces in 178 countries world-wide and operates within the limits of the laws existing in these countries and within the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An Garda Síochána currently has a Detective Sergeant attached to the Interpol Headquarters, Lyon.

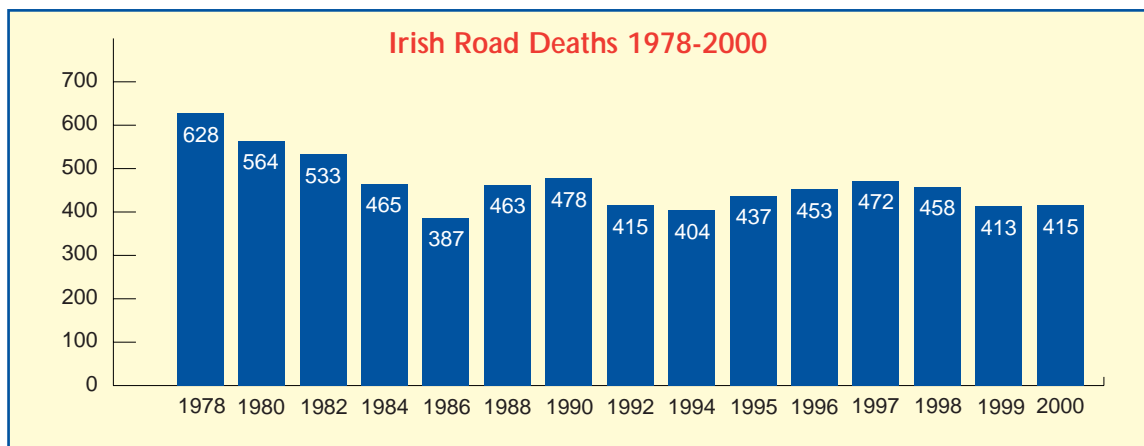
The Bureau de Liaison (BdL) provides a central secure communications facility for contact with foreign Police Forces, EU General Secretariat, Garda Liaison Officers based abroad and security services world-wide, including cross border communications.

Garda National Traffic Bureau

An Biúro Náisiúnta um Tráchtá an Gharda Síochána

The Garda National Traffic Bureau is based at Garda Headquarters and is headed by a Chief Superintendent who reports to the Assistant Commissioner, Crime, Security and Traffic.

The year under review saw a slight increase of two in the number of road traffic related deaths over 1999.



An analysis of road fatalities indicates that those in the 16-25 year old age group were most at risk from road traffic related death, with the most dangerous times being between midnight and 4.00 a.m. and between 8.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. The worst day is Saturday followed by Sunday and Friday. During the year, males accounted for 313 fatalities, and females for 102. This compares to 294 and 119 respectively in the previous year.

April was the worst month for fatalities with 42 deaths. Overall, road deaths in 2000 were down in five of the twelve months compared with 1999. The Southern Region recorded the greatest reduction with a fall of 29, followed by the Northern Region with 8 fewer road deaths.

Road Traffic fatalities for the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 by month.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1997	26	30	45	29	53	36	41	37	42	51	41	41	472
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

The Government Strategy for Road Safety 1998-2002 targeted a 20% reduction in road deaths during the strategy period. The reductions achieved so far during 1998, 1999 and 2000 have resulted in a net reduction of 12% in road fatalities already. Speeding, drink driving and the non-wearing of seat belts continue to be the main causes of road deaths and remain the primary targets for Garda enforcement activity.

Through Operation Lifesaver, the strong enforcement policy of An Garda Síochána was intensified. From April 2000 further Garda National Road Safety initiatives were launched and the following are statistical summaries of the results achieved:-

Operation Belt-Up (<i>Seat Belt Compliance</i>)	2,130 checkpoint, 4,041 seat belt F.O.S. issued, and 4,733 other offences detected.
Operation Road Runner (<i>Speeding</i>)	2,255 checkpoints, 4,741 speeding F.O.S. issued, and 2,981 other offences detected.
Operation Target (<i>Young Drivers</i>)	1,907 checkpoints, 3,301 prosecutions pending and 2,997 other offences detected.
Operation Greenlight (<i>Traffic Light Compliance</i>)	962 traffic light checks, 1,303 F.O.S. issued and 1,227 other offences detected.
Operation Overload (<i>Truck Weight/Dimensions</i>)	1,083 checkpoints, 361 excess weight / dimension detections and 3,455 other offences detected.

Operation Godfrey (*Motorcycle Offences*)



Phase 1

32 vehicles seized under Section 41 Road Traffic Act, 6 vehicles seized as stolen or suspected as stolen, 577 other motorcycle offences detected and 1,366 other offences detected.

Phase 2

9 vehicles seized under Section 41 Road Traffic Act, 2 vehicles seized as stolen or suspected as stolen, 280 other motorcycle offences detected and 941 other offences detected.

In addition to these operations which were focused primarily on specific target offence types, other initiatives aimed at addressing identified seasonal factors were also developed. These included **Operation "Samhradh"** (*Summer 2000 Road Safety Initiative*) and the **Christmas and New Year Road Safety Campaign 2000/2001**. A synopsis of the results of these is given in the following table:-

	Operation Samhradh	Christmas/New Year Road Safety Campaign
Checkpoints Operated	40,839	42,554
Persons Suspected of Drink Driving	3,287	2,737
Persons Breathalysed	2,760	2,611
Persons Arrested	1,717	1,238
Fines-on-the-Spot Issued for Speeding	37,179	22,064
Fines-on-the-Spot Issued for Seat Belt Offences	11,959	7,315

During the year 224,264 fines on the spot notices were issued for excessive speeding 59,841 fines on the spot were issued for non-wearing of seat belts and a total of 10,433 detections were made for drink driving. These levels of Garda enforcement activity continued the pattern of recent years which have seen significantly increased numbers of detections of the key road safety offences and emphasise the Garda focus on road traffic law enforcement and enhanced safety.

National Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Biúró Náisiúnta Imscrúdu Coiriúil

The National Bureau of Criminal Investigation is headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent, reporting to Assistant Commissioner 'C' Branch, Crime, Security and Traffic. The Bureau was established in 1997 with the amalgamation of a number of national investigation units.

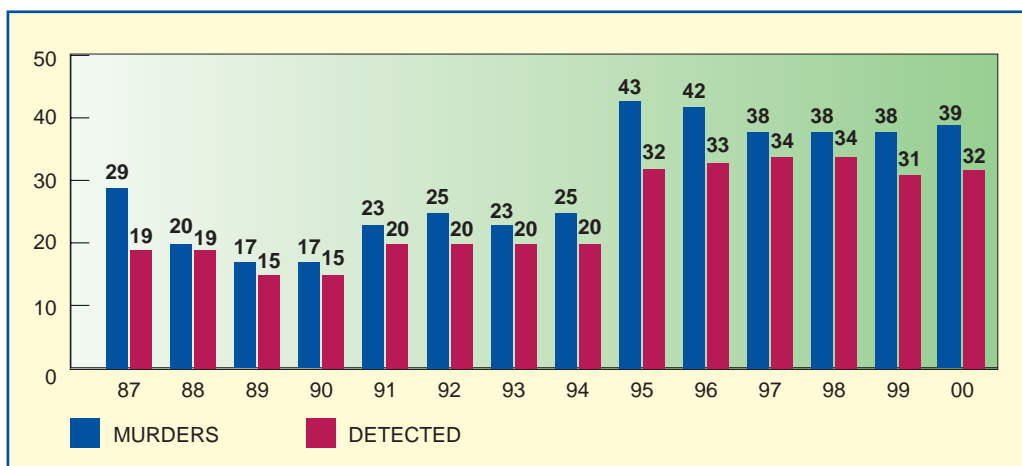
The national investigative remit of the Bureau includes:-

- ◆ Murder
- ◆ Serious & Organised Crime
- ◆ Anti-Racketeering
- ◆ Domestic Violence and Serious Sexual Assault
- ◆ Stolen Motor Vehicles & Plant
- ◆ Theft of Computer Components
- ◆ Arts and Antiques Thefts
- ◆ Postal and Telegraphy Thefts and Fraud

MURDER, SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Responsibility for the proper investigation of all crime rests with the local Garda officers. However, the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation provides assistance in serious investigations through a range of expertise and skills available within the Bureau. Bureau staff assist in all aspects of the investigation, including preliminary enquiries; case management; Incident Room management; general investigation; file preparation and other ancillary aspects of a criminal investigation. Specialist Investigation Teams within NBCI carry out these tasks when requested by local Garda officers or on direction of senior Garda Management. The Bureau also proactively engages in intelligence gathering on known criminal suspects.

The graph shows the murder rate over the last fifteen years and the substantial detection rate. The detection rate reflects the good public co-operation enjoyed by An Garda Síochána and attention to detail by An Garda Síochána, the State Pathologist's Office and the Forensic Science Laboratory.



ANTI-RACKETEERING UNIT

The protection of intellectual property is the primary function of the Anti-Racketeering Unit. To ensure a structured and co-ordinated approach in tackling the problem of counterfeit products, the unit liaises with investigating Gardai and assists in all aspects of this particular criminality. Personnel also interact with other agencies involved in the protection of intellectual property.

ARTS AND ANTIQUES UNIT

The theft of art and antiques caters for a specialised niche market in such goods and An Garda Síochána has developed a certain expertise in the investigation of such crimes. The Arts and Antiques Unit, through a range of activities, endeavours to heighten the awareness of the public to this type of theft and also provides operational assistance and expertise to Garda personnel investigating specific crimes.



To keep abreast of international markets and developments in this area, liaison is maintained with arts and antiques dealers, museums and galleries world-wide, in addition to maintaining close liaison with similar police investigation units elsewhere.

STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Unit investigates on a national basis, the theft of motor vehicles, plant and machinery, and related crime, which today comes under the category of organised crime.

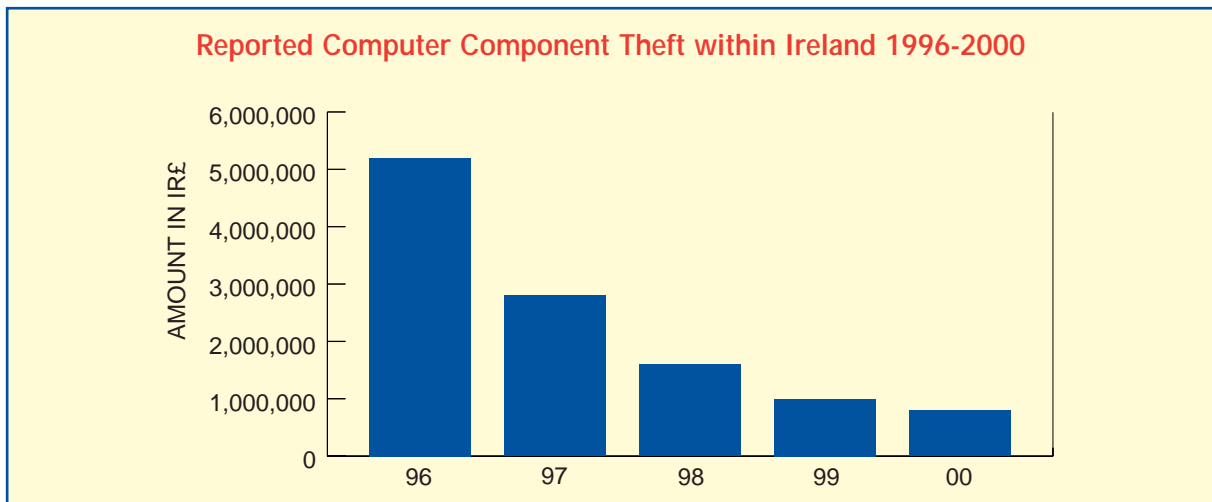
Because of our island status, our geographical location, our closeness to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and our vehicles having right hand steering, it is a fact that our external problems in respect of motor vehicles and plant and machinery theft are associated, primarily, with the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The primary focus of the Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigation Unit is the co-ordination of information and intelligence relating to the theft of motor vehicles, plant and equipment, and related crime on a national basis. The Unit also targets suspects, along with maintaining regular liaison with the motor industry, car hire companies, car auctions and close liaison with similar units in foreign police forces. It avails of opportunities to publicise in the media matters which they feel will assist in preventing motor vehicles theft and associated crime.



COMPUTER THEFT INVESTIGATION UNIT

In excess of IR£12.5m (€15.8m) worth of stolen computer components have been recovered since the establishment of the Computer Theft Investigation Unit at the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation in 1997. The Unit provides an effective prevention and investigative function to combat computer related crime, including robbery, hijacking, piracy, and thefts of computers and their component parts. The Unit also operates an intelligence gathering network, identifies major principals involved in computer crime and provides analysis of patterns and trends in this area.



The Unit responds positively to the growth of computer crime. Through a series of proactive measures, including crime prevention advice and establishing a network between industry, traders and law enforcement, the theft of computer components has greatly reduced. The above chart illustrates the reduction of thefts over a five-year period.

As with other aspects of organised criminal activity, there is a substantial international aspect to the theft of computer parts and the Unit maintains ongoing liaison with police forces throughout Europe and beyond.

COMPUTER PIRACY

The information society represents a new industrial revolution that will be significant and far reaching. The ability to define, locate, analyse and act upon relevant information is the key to success in many endeavours. The catalyst for this change has been the ability of information technology (IT), and software in particular, to store, retrieve, view and share information, without the constraints of time, distance or volume. Computer software provides the tools necessary to bring about many improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, to re-engineer existing business processes and to help companies succeed in an increasingly competitive global market.

Intellectual property rights are designed to protect copyright authors and owners from having the fruit of their ideas or work stolen and their reputation harmed. The following breach those rights:

- ◆ The copying of work without the owner's approval. This is primary copyright infringement.
- ◆ Piracy - this is where offenders deal commercially with copies not approved by the copyright owner, and knowingly does so.
- ◆ Copying of trademark. The offenders use a registered trade mark or a confusingly similar mark without permission.

The packaged software industry is making a vast contribution to Ireland's economic growth, employment, and industrial competitiveness, but the industry faces a major threat in the form of software piracy. This criminal activity has evolved in recent years because of -

- ◆ the development of computer technology;
- ◆ the sheer profitability of the activity;

- ◆ the extension of counterfeiting to new products such as compact discs (CDs);
- ◆ the low cost of production and the high sales value;
- ◆ the perception that counterfeiting is a harmless or victimless crime.

It is not surprising that criminals were quick to see the attractions of counterfeiting. It has come to be regarded as a high profit, low risk, criminal activity by criminals.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Advice, guidance and assistance in the investigation of child sexual abuse, other sexual crimes and domestic violence is given to other members of An Garda Síochána by the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit (DVSAIU). The Unit leads the investigation in the more complex cases.

The Unit also maintains constant liaison with relevant Government departments, State bodies and voluntary groups, embracing the very necessary multi-agency approach to tackling these issues and their causes. The primary considerations for An Garda Síochána in these cases is the protection and welfare of the child/children and the proper investigation of the alleged activity.



Unit personnel spend considerable time delivering presentations to various training, development and management courses within An Garda Síochána and to various gatherings and conferences outside of the organisation. During the year, the Unit continued to develop its capacity to investigate illegal pornographic activity on the Internet, especially child pornography.

POST OFFICE INVESTIGATION UNIT

The Post Office Investigation Unit continued to investigate postal and telegraphy offences. Close liaison is required with the statutory and commercial concerns in the business sector and the Post Office Investigation Unit provides expertise in the investigation of these types of offences.

CRIMESTOPPERS



Crimestoppers is a world-wide concept revolving around a partnership between the police, the community, the media and the business world. The initiative was launched in Ireland in 1998 and while managed by an independent board, it is operated by An Garda Síochána at the Crimestoppers Office within N. B. C. I.

Crimestoppers provides a confidential service to the public to pass information to An Garda Síochána on suspected criminal activity, using a freephone telephone number - **1800 25 00 25**. All calls received are dealt with by Detective Gardaí and a reward system operates where information results in a criminal conviction.

Since its establishment in January, 1998 up to the 31st December, 2000, the Crimestoppers Office received 1,667 actionable calls, resulting in 114 arrests and the recovery or seizure of property valued in excess of Ir£150,000 (€190,500).

Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation

Biúró an Gharda um Imscrudú Calaoise

The Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation based at, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 has national responsibility for the investigation of fraud related crime. This Bureau was established in 1995, on the recommendation as set out in the report of the Advisory Committee on Fraud.

The Bureau is headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent and is staffed with Gardaí, accountants and clerical support personnel.

The role of the Unit is to:

- ◆ investigate reported cases of commercial fraud, cheque & credit card fraud, computer fraud, money laundering offences and counterfeit currency.
- ◆ collect information on fraud related crime to enable the Bureau to act as a resource centre on fraud related matters.
- ◆ play a proactive role in the prevention and early detection of fraud.

For operational purposes the personnel are divided into a number of Units within the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, namely:-

- ◆ Assessment Unit,
- ◆ Commercial Fraud Investigation Unit,
- ◆ Stolen Cheque/Credit Card/Counterfeit Currency Unit,
- ◆ The Money Laundering Investigation Unit,
- ◆ The Computer Crime Unit.

ASSESSMENT UNIT

The Unit is responsible for the assessment of all cases referred to the Bureau to ensure that criminal complaints are investigated. The Unit decides if a crime is disclosed and if the complaint merits investigation by the Bureau or should be referred for local investigation. If a crime is not disclosed the complainant is notified accordingly.

Assessment Unit	
Irish Cases Assessed	248
Referred by Interpol	197
Mutual Assistance Requests	66

The Unit oversees and co-ordinates investigations into counterfeiting and unlicensed money-lending and, where appropriate, a more direct involvement in such investigations can be instigated.

It provides advice and guidance to members of An Garda Síochána and the public in fraud related matters. The Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, in partnership with PriceWaterHouse Coopers, produced a fraud prevention booklet titled "Fraud Alert" and this document may be accessed via the Garda Web Site.

During the year 2000, 511 cases were processed at the Assessment Unit, representing an increase of 53 cases over 1999. Some 197 cases were referred to the Bureau by Interpol, which required assistance in this jurisdiction in relation to fraud investigation by foreign law enforcement agencies.

A further 66 requests for Mutual Assistance in criminal matters were received. Under the Council of Europe Convention mutual assistance requests require investigation in this country under the Criminal Justice Act 1994.

COMMERCIAL FRAUD INVESTIGATION UNIT

One of the primary functions of the Bureau is the investigation of serious and complex fraud cases. The main workload of the Unit relates to the investigation of complaints of banking frauds, commodity frauds, insider dealing, misrepresentation of financial statements and serious Social Welfare frauds, received from financial institutions, business firms, Government departments, insurance companies, etc.

Commercial Fraud Investigation Unit	
Complex Cases Investigated by the Unit	94
Persons Arrested	38
Persons Charged	25

The staff of the Unit makes its expertise available in assisting numerous other fraud investigations throughout the country and is also available to provide guidance and advice when requested.

In the cases of fraud investigations with international connotations Bureau personnel frequently travel abroad. A request to conduct enquiries in these countries must be made through the Mutual Assistance process or via 'Commission Rogatoire'. Both processes require a letter of request to be addressed by the competent judicial authority of the requesting State (in Ireland, the Director of Public Prosecutions) and directed to each competent Magistrate of the Judicial Authority in the country where the enquiry has to be carried out. This ensures that jurisdictional boundaries do not impede the investigation of serious fraud.

CHEQUE/CREDIT CARD/COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY UNIT

The Cheque/Credit Card/Counterfeit Currency Unit concentrates on the more serious and organised cases of such types of fraud. Due to the increasing complexity of these investigations it has become necessary to refer less serious cases for local investigation. In 2000, some 180 new complaints were received by this Unit. The Unit instituted criminal proceedings against 29 individuals during the year for a variety of offences.

Cheque/Credit Card/Counterfeit Currency Unit	
Cheque & Credit Card Fraud Complaints	109
Counterfeit Currency	71
Persons Charged	29

Nationally, credit card fraud is on the increase. The most common cases relate to the use of counterfeit credit cards. This area was up by over 60% in value on the previous year's figures. Account use fraud (card not present) doubled in value over the same period. A new phenomenon in credit card fraud is known as 'skimming'. This occurs when the genuine data from the magnetic strip on one card is copied without the cardholder's knowledge and put on another card. This poses new challenges for criminal investigations.

"Advance Fee" fraud is on the increase. This involves the targeting of business and private concerns with an invitation to become involved in releasing substantial funds. This can lead to a substantial financial loss to participating injured parties. The Unit has received 642 complaints for the year 2000. This increase in complaints was partly due to the successful prosecution against a well organised criminal gang. This case was the first of its kind to be prosecuted in this jurisdiction. The duration of the trial was five weeks and received extensive media attention.



The Unit dealt with 71 reports of counterfeit currency, which when combined with the counterfeits received at the Central Bank is described in the adjoining table.

Currency Denomination	IR£	Stg£	US\$ Notes
5	406	0	0
10	1,049	30	0
20	16,867	660	0
50	254	1	0
100	2	0	0
Total Value	IR£362,760	Stg£1,670	US\$0

MONEY LAUNDERING INVESTIGATION UNIT (MLIU)

This Unit was established in 1995 as a result of the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act, 1994. The main function of the Unit is to act as a national reception point for the receipt, analysis and investigation of all disclosures relating to "suspicious transaction reports" from bodies designated under the Act.

The volume of "suspicious transaction" reports received in the year ended 31st. December 2000 continues to reflect an upward trend over the last number of years, rising from 199 reports in 1995 to 1,803 in 2000.

The increase in reports can be attributed to improved legislation, greater awareness and an increase in the anti-money laundering preventative programmes.

The MLIU provides assistance to other Garda personnel involved in the investigation of serious crime. There is also close co-operation between the MLIU and the Criminal Assets Bureau, resulting in action being taken under the Proceeds of Crime Act and other related legislation.

As a result of the close international co-operation between the MLIU staff and other police services, including the Royal Ulster Constabulary, several investigations conducted under the anti-money laundering provisions of the Act resulted in six persons being charged and four convicted in the Criminal Courts of England and Northern Ireland during the year.

The MLIU is monitoring the level of "suspicious transaction" reports being made by the different financial institutions within the banking and insurance industry and where necessary, in partnership with the Central Bank of Ireland, are targeting those sectors of the industry where the reporting of "suspicious transaction" reports appears weakest. This will be achieved by providing guidance on a number of anti-money laundering issues.

THE COMPUTER CRIME UNIT

The Computer Crime Unit has national responsibility for the provision of both the technical and investigative requirements needed to assist with the retrieval of computer based evidence and the investigation of 'cybercrime' or other such 'hi-tech' offences.

As society continues to embrace computer technology this Unit has experienced an exceptional growth in the demand for its services.

Computer Crime Unit

Computer hard-drives examined	186
Ancillary computer media copies examined	1,489
Assistance to other units	119

Of the 119 investigations in which the Unit provided assistance, these included 19 Internet cases, 12 'hacking' cases and 22 cases of child pornography. The Unit has been particularly successful in investigating the abuse or misuse of the Internet, i.e. website defacement, e-mail viruses, unauthorised access etc and has assisted with a number of investigations involving the distribution and production of child pornography.

With an increasing proportion of the population now using the Internet the instances of reported crime are relatively few. However, as with all new technologies, there is a need for a general awareness of how it can be abused or misused. The Unit is continuing its proactive approach to increasing awareness by participating in 'User Group Awareness Programmes', which include other members of An Garda Síochána. The Unit takes a proactive role in the training of Student and Probationer Gardaí at the Garda College, Templemore.



Garda National Drugs Unit

Aonad Náisiúnta na nDrugáí

Headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent, who reports to Assistant Commissioner, 'C' Branch, Crime, Security & Traffic, the Garda National Drugs Unit (GNDU) continued its activities in curbing national and international drug trafficking.

On a national level, the GNDU continues to co-ordinate large-scale operations against those engaged in drug dealing/trafficking. Unit personnel may either investigate such cases themselves or assist local Garda investigation teams. Operation "Nitecap" was initiated during the year to curb drug activity in licensed premises. The strategic deployment of undercover Gardaí in numerous licensed premises throughout the country resulted in drug related charges being preferred against 87 persons. Notices were served on licensees as appropriate as a result of these operations.

The year saw the implementation of the fourth phase of Operation Cleanstreet, which involves undercover Gardaí purchasing small quantities of drugs from dealers. Those contravening the law were subsequently identified and 180 persons were charged. In excess of IRE16,500 (€21,000) of controlled substances were seized in this phase of the operation which took place in urban and rural areas countrywide.

Drug trafficking is by nature an international activity and the GNDU continues to maintain close contact with law enforcement agencies world-wide. It's contact involves information and intelligence sharing, along with joint operations which often cross numerous jurisdictions in a single operation.

The activities of Garda Drug Liaison Officers in Madrid and The Hague and the Garda Liaison Officer at Europol Headquarters, have contributed greatly to major successes recorded during the year.

As part of the Unit's commitment to international cooperation, the GNDU hosted a European Union funded project under the OISIN Programme. Law enforcement agencies in The Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Portugal and Belgium, as well as An Garda Síochána participated. The objectives of the programme were to target Irish criminals residing outside of this country, identify current drug trafficking trends and best practices in combating drug trafficking within the EU. The programme commenced in September with a conference in Dublin, followed by exchange and operational visits to/from participating countries. Final evaluation of the programme has yet to be concluded but preliminary assessment indicates that the programme was hugely successful and of considerable benefit to all those involved, not least An Garda Síochána.



Criminal Assets Bureau

An Biuró um Shócmhainní Coiriúda

Since its establishment as a statutory body, pursuant to the Criminal Assets Bureau Act, 1996, on the 15th. October 1996, the Bureau has continued in a pro-active manner to target the proceeds and profits of crime and to fulfil its statutory remit, at all times working within the legislation as provided by the Oireachtas.

The objectives of the Bureau include the identification of assets, wherever situated, of persons which derive or are suspected to derive, directly or indirectly, from criminal activity. The Bureau has primary responsibility in this area and takes appropriate action to deprive or deny those persons of the assets and the proceeds of their activity.

The Bureau pursues a multi-agency approach in order to achieve its objectives. One of the strengths of the Criminal Assets Bureau is its ability to exchange information, that is to say information/intelligence available from other sources that is analysed and evaluated by Bureau officers so as to achieve an effective result. Information gathered from the different agencies is put to extremely effective use within the Bureau, thus enabling effective action to be taken against the proceeds/assets of persons suspected of involvement in criminal activity.

The Bureau proactively targets persons involved in serious criminal activity in an effort to identify, seize and confiscate wealth illegally obtained by these persons. Although the proceeds of drug trafficking continues to be of particular interest to the Bureau, a substantial part of its activities involve the targeting of suspected proceeds of other types of criminal activity including living off immoral earnings, corruption and money laundering. The Bureau works closely with various State agencies and in particular with the national units within An Garda Síochána in carrying out this task.

The Bureau has successfully conducted investigations resulting in confiscation of illegally obtained assets and wealth, held both inside and outside this jurisdiction. The Bureau maintains close contact with its European and international partners in the identification, tracing and seizing of illegally obtained assets or wealth.

The operations of the Bureau have received much international attention and Bureau officers and members of the staff of the Bureau continue to attend conferences and deliver lectures about the structure and work of the Criminal Assets Bureau. The international recognition of the Bureau has been enhanced by the interest shown in a number of other jurisdictions in setting up similar type confiscation agencies.

During the year 2000 the Bureau continued, pursuant to its statutory remit, to deprive criminals of their illegally derived assets. The Bureau initiated fourteen (14) new cases/applications under the Proceeds of Crime Act, 1996, and the value of the property frozen is estimated in excess of £3m. (€3.8m.)

The Bureau is statutorily charged with fully applying, where appropriate, the Revenue Acts to the proceeds of criminal activity or suspected criminal activity. During the year Revenue tax actions were taken by the Bureau against a number of individuals, resulting in taxes in the region of £9.7m. (€12.3m.) being assessed and £6.7m. (€8.5m) being collected.

The Bureau presents an annual report through the Commissioner, to the Minister on its activities during that year and copies of the report are laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas, in accordance with the Act.

Garda National Immigration Bureau

Biuró Náisiúnta Inimirca an Gharda Síochána

The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) is headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent. It was established in May 2000 and is currently located, temporarily, at Harcourt Square, Dublin.

It has national responsibility for all Garda matters pertaining to immigration.

The enforcement of all deportation orders throughout the State will, in future, be organised by the GNIB. The following table provides a breakdown of the disposition of Deportation Orders received by the Bureau from the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform up to the end of 2000.

Deported	194
Judicial Review	210
Evaded	305
Total	709

The Bureau issues a periodical Bulletin, featuring persons wanted for deportation, which is circulated throughout the organisation.

IMMIGRATION REGISTRATION OFFICE

All aliens who are longer than 3 months in the State must register every year. In Dublin the aliens register at the Immigration Registration Office in Harcourt Square. Between 220 and 250 aliens arrive at this office on a daily basis. To cater for ever increasing demands, as evidenced by the following table, the Office opening hours were extended during the year as follows:

Monday to Thursday	8am to 6pm
Friday	8am to 4pm

Outside of Dublin aliens register at their local Garda Station.

Year	1998	1999	2000
No. Registered	12,803	17,064	26,654

Illegal immigration is a major problem for Ireland at present. As part of its remit Bureau personnel visit air, land and sea points of entry into the State for the purpose of assessing the needs and resources in use and to ensure that adequate measures are in place. Personnel from the Bureau and from Wexford Garda Division have been engaged in Cherbourg, France giving advice to Irish Ferries personnel concerning persons using forged or inadequate documents. This initiative resulted in 163 illegal immigrants being prevented from coming to Ireland between 23rd. November 2000 and 31st. December 2000.



The Garda National Immigration Bureau has been assessing equipment for detecting the presence of human beings concealed in trucks or trailers. Following an evaluation of the equipment the most effective equipment will be chosen for purchase in 2001.

VISITS TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Bureau personnel have visited Northern Ireland, the UK, France and other EU countries for the purpose of preventing illegal immigrants entering the country and determining best practice in operation by other law enforcement agencies. The use of bogus/forged/stolen travel documents is a major problem faced by all jurisdictions.

MAIN REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF LEAVE TO LAND FOR PERSONS ENTERING THE STATE

In accordance with the provisions of the Aliens Act, 1935 and the Aliens Orders 1946 and 1975 the following are the most frequently used reasons for refusal of leave to land:

1. The person is not in a position to support himself/herself and/or dependants;
2. No work permit held by a person wishing to take up employment in the State;
3. Convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment of at least 1 year;
4. No Visa if from a country requiring a visa;
5. The person is the subject of a deportation order;
6. The person has no passport.



Eastern Region

Réigiún an Oirthir

EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	599,894
Area:	12,864 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1117.6 km
Regional Crime 2000:	10,021
Crime per 1,000 population:	16.7
Regional Detections 2000:	4,014
Detection Rate:	40%
Road Traffic Fatalities , 2000:	125
Road Traffic Offences:	24,577
Garda Strength:	1356
Garda Stations:	127
Garda Districts:	18

The Eastern Region comprises the Garda Divisions of Longford/Westmeath, Louth/Meath, Laois/Offaly and Carlow/Kildare. Reporting to the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, the Region is headed by a Regional Assistant Commissioner based at Mullingar.

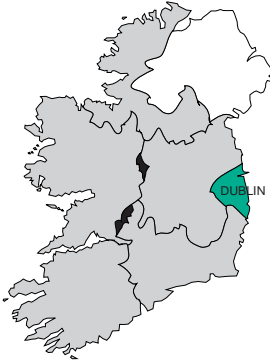
On the 12th. December 2000, President Clinton arrived in Dundalk on his first official visit to this area.

President Clinton's visit to Dundalk was a huge success from a policing perspective and also for the large number of people who were in attendance. Gardaí estimated that approximately thirty five thousand people gathered in the town centre of Dundalk, with an equal number of people lining the route taken by President Clinton, who arrived by motor cavalcade from Dublin.

The visit of President Clinton, who was regarded as the number one security risk in the world, necessitated meticulous planning and attention to detail including logistics. The relatively short planning period available prior to the arrival of the President placed an onus on all involved to ensure that the visit was a success. This was achieved in co-operation with many agencies of the State together with those of the United States of America.



The policing and traffic management plans continued to be reviewed and updated to ensure ease of access and egress at this venue.



Dublin Metropolitan Region

Réigiún Limistéar Chathair Átha Cliath

DMA REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	1,082,048
Area:	869 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	153.5 km
Regional Crime 2000:	38,115
Crime per 1,000 population:	35.2
Regional Detections 2000:	14,856
Detection Rate:	39%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2000:	68
Road Traffic Offences:	130,906
Garda Strength:	4,113
Garda Stations:	43
Garda Districts:	17

The policing demands within the greater Dublin area are considerable and varied. Based in Harcourt Square, a short distance from the City Centre, the Regional Assistant Commissioner is responsible for the provision of a policing service to a predominantly urban area stretching from Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow to the south, to Swords, Co. Dublin to the north, and to Leixlip, Co. Kildare to the west.

Traffic Management is probably the greatest challenge faced by An Garda Síochána in the Region in recent years. To ensure an improved structured response to traffic in our capital city and its environs, Operation Artery was commenced in June 2000. Chief Superintendent Traffic, based in Dublin Castle, assumed total operational control of Garda traffic management in the Region. The operation was highly successful and will continue in 2001.

The National Road Safety Initiative 2000 was also implemented within the Region. This comprised of a series of operations targeting specific groups of road users and specified offences. Detections of key offences, in particular speeding, drink driving and seat belts, continued to show significant increases.

Pedestrian fatalities is an area of particular concern in the Region. A campaign was undertaken aimed at reducing these. The year 2000 showed a decrease of 5 pedestrian fatalities over the 1999 figures.



With a view to achieving enhanced engagement between the Gardaí and the Community, a pilot Policing Forum was established in the 'A' District (Kevin Street and Kilmainham). Participants include An Garda Síochána, local community, local authority and public representatives. The basic principles of the policing forum are local community consultation and policing accountability through the mechanism of feed-back. The Forum will be externally evaluated at which stage a decision on the future will be made.

By the end of the year the Regional detection rate for 2000 was 39%. Operation Oíche originated in the Region and following, initial success, was extended nation-wide from 9th. October, 2000. Its aim was to achieve a more constant and broadly based approach to the issues of public disorder, public intoxication and under age drinking. For the first three months, in excess of 7,500 Public Order related offences were detected in the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

The policing of special events once again figured prominently in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. The visit of President Clinton in December was the most significant event. The St. Patrick's Festival, which includes the Parade and Skyfest Fireworks Display, continues to expand each year demanding high levels of advanced planning and increased deployment of resources. Sporting events at a national and international level were successfully staged throughout the year.



South Eastern Region

Réigiún an Oír-Dheiscirt

SOUTH EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES	
Population:	452,109
Area:	12,977 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	906.5 km
Regional Crime 2000:	7,060
Crime per 1,000 population:	15.6
Regional Detections 2000:	3,551
Detection Rate:	50%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2000:	59
Road Traffic Offences:	17,846
Garda Strength:	933
Garda Stations:	117
Garda Districts:	16

The policing demands made on Gardaí in the South Eastern Region during 2000 were many and varied. The year started with the Millennium Celebrations which necessitated a very significant policing response throughout the Region. Later in the month of January a substantial seizure of bomb making material was made in the Tipperary Division. In August the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil was held in Enniscorthy. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people attended the event. During September Gardaí in Waterford/Kilkenny Division combined with Gardaí in Wexford Division to investigate a most tragic homicide which occurred in Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny, in which a complete family of four died. The year closed with the weather dictating policing demands when severe flooding hit the Region, in the early part of November. Emergency Services combined and activated a Major Flood Emergency Plan.

The Region, however, continues to maintain a very high crime detection rate of 50%.

Crime Prevention remains high on the agenda in the Region. During the year, two new Garda Special Projects were initiated, aimed at diverting young people away from crime related activity. These projects were set up in Kilkenny and Dungarvan and were known locally as the Kilkenny Youth Diversion Project and Dungarvan Advancing Youth Project.

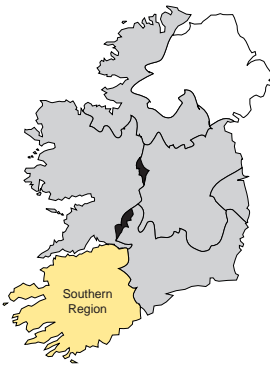
The targeting of drug related activities continued during the year. Detections made for simple possession of drugs increased from 539 cases in 1999 to 775 in 2000, while detections made in relation to sale or supply increased from 112 to 164 cases over the same period



The enforcement of Road Traffic legislation was high in the order of priority in policing terms in the Region during the year. The Region is on target to meet its target of a 20% reduction in the number of road deaths between the years 1998 to 2002. Road traffic fatalities in the Region have been reduced from 81 in 1998 to 59 for the year under review, a 27% reduction.

On the 16th June, 2000 the Minister for Justice, Equality and

Law Reform officially opened the refurbished and extended Divisional Headquarters Garda Station in Thurles.



Southern Region

Réigiún an Deiscirt

SOUTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	716,000
Area:	14,936 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1152.7km
Regional Crime 2000:	10,420
Crime per 1,000 population:	14.6
Regional Detections 2000:	4,730
Detection Rate:	45%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2000:	57
Road Traffic Offences:	51,320
Garda Strength:	1,765
Garda Stations:	162
Garda Districts:	22

The Southern Region is comprised of five Garda Divisions covering the counties of Cork, Kerry and Limerick, with the Regional Assistant Commissioner based at Anglesea Street, Cork.

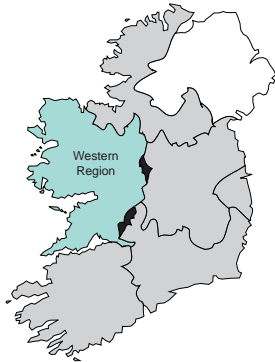
Road Safety Initiatives were high on the agenda during 2000 and a variety of national and regional Initiatives contributed to the 37% reduction in road fatalities achieved in 2000. When compared to the 1999 figures (86) there were a total of 29 fewer lives lost in the Region during 2000.

Crime prevention initiatives again played a significant role in the policing of the region in 2000, with a new specific plan targeting attacks on the elderly and attacks on business premises launched.

The Murphy Irish Open Golf Championship was held at Ballybunion Golf Club, Co. Kerry, in June/July 2000. Large crowds were in attendance each day and the policing arrangements put in place proved successful in ensuring traffic movement and preventing any major incidents.

A number of major criminal investigations were undertaken in the Region during the year, resulting in several individuals being charged with serious offences.





Western Region

Réigiún an Iarthair

WESTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	445,389
Area:	17,739 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	1328.2km
Regional Crime 2000:	4,462
Crime per 1,000 population:	10
Regional Detections 2000:	2009
Detection Rate:	45%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2000:	56
Road Traffic Offences:	15,316
Garda Strength:	1,076
Garda Stations:	144
Garda Districts:	20

The Western Region has within it a number of large urban areas, but is predominantly rural. It is comprised of the Garda Divisions of Clare, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon/Galway East and is headed by an Assistant Commissioner based at Galway Garda Station.

Youth crime and disorder is a major policing concern in the Region, like elsewhere. With a view to systematically addressing the primary causes of the problem, six Special Projects, funded by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, are in place, and have the common objectives to:

- ◆ Prevent crime through community and multi-agency co-operation
- ◆ Divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Provide suitable activities to facilitate personal development and encourage civic responsibility;
- ◆ Support and improve Garda community relations.

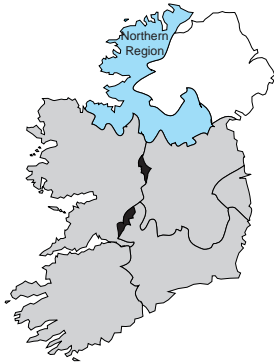
A number of other initiatives have been developed with the local communities aimed at addressing this problem. Among these is the 'No Name Club' established in the town of Ballinasloe.. The Club provides alternative entertainment for young people (Junior and Leaving Certificate students) and educates them to enjoy life without alcohol or drugs. Access to illicit drugs is not confined solely to the large cities. Significant detections and seizures were made throughout the Region during the year, such as the seizure of 500 ecstasy tablets in Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

There are ever increasing demands for the policing of major social, sporting, cultural and other public events in order to ensure public safety and manage traffic flows. Examples of some of these events during the year under review are:

- ◆ Connaught Football Final, Roscommon
- ◆ Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage
- ◆ Ballinasloe Horse Fair
- ◆ Galway Races
- ◆ Cabinet Meeting in Ballaghaderreen
- ◆ Galway Arts Festival

Improving road safety in the region through enforcement of the key offences of drink driving, speeding, dangerous driving and non-wearing of seatbelts continued in the Region during the year. Road deaths were reduced to 44, from 47 in 1999.





Northern Region

Réigiún an Tuaiscirt

NORTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	315,129
Area:	11,306 km ²
Primary/Secondary Roads:	745.2 km
Regional Crime 2000:	3198
Crime per 1,000 population:	10.2
Regional Detections 2000:	1,395
Detection Rate:	44%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2000:	50
Road Traffic Offences:	9,922
Garda Strength:	1,081
Garda Vehicles:	139
Garda Stations:	108
Garda Districts:	14

The Northern Region comprises of the Garda Divisions of Sligo/Leitrim, Donegal and Cavan/Monaghan, with the Regional Assistant Commissioner based in Sligo. While the Region has a low population base compared to other Regions, it's primary focus revolves around the policing of the 291 border points along it's 359 kilometre length of border with Northern Ireland. Despite advances made in the peace process, significant resources are deployed along the border areas and throughout the region to detect and curb possible terrorist activity and especially the threat posed from dissident Republican groups.



Road traffic fatalities for the year showed a decrease with 50 fatalities arising from 41 accidents compared to the 1999 figures of 58 fatalities arising from 51 accidents. This showed a significant decrease which reflects the commitment and dedication to Road Traffic Enforcement in the Region.

The "Youth Achievement Awards" were organised in all three Divisions in the Region for the third successive year. The theme for the year 2000 being "Effect of Drug/Alcohol Abuse in our Society". This proved a tremendous success, with very high levels of participation by schools and youth clubs throughout the Region.

The year under review saw the completion of an E.U. funded project under the OISÍN Programme. The purpose of the project was to examine the extent and effects of controlled drugs in rural areas, with special emphasis on amphetamines, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine and cannabis, and to formulate programmes to counteract this threat. The final conference was held in Monaghan, attended by a number of prominent guest speakers, including Mr. Eoin Ryan T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. The overall project was very worthwhile as it raised the level of awareness of drugs misuse in rural areas amongst members of An Garda Síochána and the public generally.

Special Services (Operations)

Seirbhísí Speisialta (Oibríochtaí)



Special Service (Operations) is under the direct control of Deputy Commissioner, Operations, and is headed by a Superintendent. It consists of four units - the Air Support Unit, Dog Unit, Mounted Unit and Water Unit, and provides support to operational units throughout the country.

In consultation with Divisional and District Officers the Section provides dedicated support in high profile policing to target particular crime and public order problems. Operation 'Assist' utilising a combination of the above-mentioned units in conjunction with local resources and targeting high crime areas or 'Hot Spots', has proved to be a very effective response in assisting local management.





Garda Air Support Unit

Aonad Tacaíocht Aeir An Gharda

In June 2000, the Air Support Unit moved to new custom built accommodation at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel, from temporary accommodation at the base. The accommodation includes a training room, operations room, an editing suite and is connected to the Dublin Metropolitan communications network by microwave link.

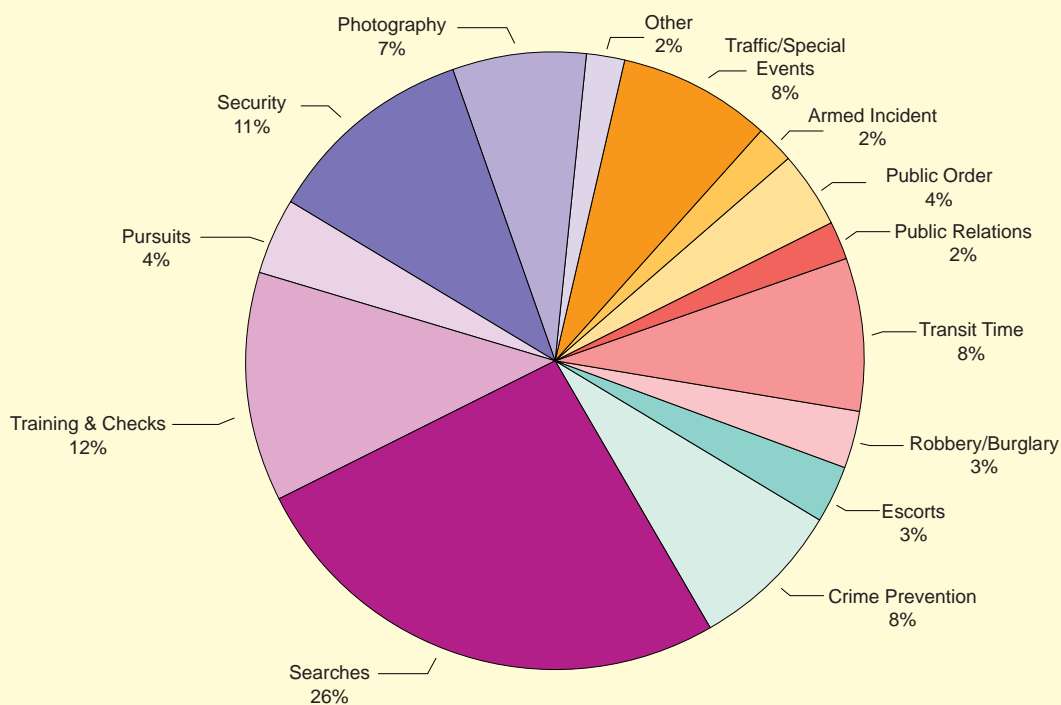
The unit conducted its first in-house training programme since its formation for additional members in preparation for the arrival of the second Garda helicopter, a Eurocopter EC 135 which has been built and is now awaiting final fitting out with Garda role equipment, including Digital Moving Map systems, daylight and thermal imagery cameras and a Skyshout public address system before delivery.



The unit carried out 1,536 operational tasks, utilising 1,256 flying hours. It assisted in the arrest, both directly and indirectly of 234 persons, the locating of 10 missing persons and the recovery of 55 stolen vehicles during the year under review.

In addition to regular crime prevention patrols the unit supported major policing events including the Millennium celebrations, Skyfest weekend, Slane Concert and the visit of President Clinton in December 2000.

Breakdown of tasks performed by the Garda Air Support Unit in 2000.





Garda Mounted Unit. *Aonad Marc an Gharda*

The Garda Mounted Unit was established in March, 1998. A two year review of the Garda Mounted Unit was conducted during the year by the Organisation and Development Unit, covering the period May 1998 to May 2000.

During 2000 the unit strength was increased to two Sergeants and twelve Gardaí and the unit held its first training course in equitation for the new members, extending over a period of twelve weeks.

During the year under review the Unit was involved, either directly or indirectly, in the arrest of 86 persons, the recovery of a large amount of property and the seizure of drugs. In addition to daily crime prevention patrols in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, the unit carried out 66 deployments to other Garda Regions to assist in crime prevention patrols and in support of policing operations.

On the 18th December 2000, the new Garda Mounted Unit facility at Áras an Uachtaráin was officially opened by Her Excellency, Mrs. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland. The facility comprises of Garda administration offices, training rooms, fifteen (15) loose boxes, working and ceremonial tack rooms, wash rooms, forge, bedding and feed stores.

In addition, an all-weather arena of 2,400 sq. metres, a lunging ring and two paddocks were developed and are now in use for the training of members and young horses.





Garda Water Unit

Aonad Uisce an Gharda

On the 15th May 2000 the new Garda Patrol Boat, the Colm na Córa, (Dove of Justice) was officially launched. The boat, a Targa 31 was built in Finland at a cost of IRE224,000 (€284,480). It is thirty one feet in length and has a draught of 1 metre with an air draught of 3 metres making it capable of negotiating the entire Shannon Navigation System. It has a top speed of 35 knots. It is fitted with the latest navigation aids and Garda role equipment technology and can receive microwave downlink images from the Garda helicopter during policing operations.

The unit strength was increased to five Sergeants and thirteen Gardaí based at Santry and Athlone Garda Stations and supported by seventeen part-time members drawn from the Garda Divisions adjoining the River Shannon. Following a twelve weeks training course, patrols of up to four days duration are now undertaken.

During the year under review, the unit was involved in forty searches for missing persons and was, directly or indirectly, involved in the recovery of fourteen bodies. The unit was also involved in 19 searches for the recovery of murder weapons, drugs and scene preservation in a number of serious crime investigations.

The unit carried out crime prevention and public order patrols related to the following policing operations—Dublin Skyfest Weekend, Waterford Maritime Festival, Cork Ford Week, Slane and Mosney Festivals.

Crime prevention patrols, using rigid inflatable boats, commenced on the East Coast (including Dublin Port), Dun Laoghaire, Howth, Bullock and Colliemore Harbours. In addition regular in-shore patrols under the Coastal Watch Scheme commenced in a number of maritime Divisions.





Garda Dog Unit

Aonad Madra an Gharda



The Garda Dog Unit, consists of two Sergeants and fourteen Gardaí based at Kilmainham, Dublin and two Gardaí, one of each based at Anglesea Street, Cork and Henry Street, Limerick.

During the year under review, the Garda Dog Unit expanded further the range of services provided, including additional members trained in Human Remains Recovery on land and over water, scent identification and firearms recovery.

In addition to conducting crime prevention patrols on a daily basis in the Dublin Metropolitan

Region, the Unit carried out 589 drug detection searches, 696 explosive searches, 614 crime scene and missing person searches, and public order and crime prevention operations throughout the country.



International Activities

Gníomhaíochtaí Idirnáisúnta



Internationalisation of Crime

Voice and text data can be transmitted instantaneously to almost any part of the globe. International travel has become a part of every-day life for many. It is little wonder that national boundaries no longer delimit criminal activity. Crime is now organised internationally. Criminal associations and syndicates have tentacles extending across the globe. Organised criminal activity is dynamic by nature. It need not be confined to rigid structures. It has shown itself to have the capacity to be entrepreneurial, business-like and highly flexible in responding to changing market forces and situations.

These groups appear to be becoming increasingly involved in the licit as well as the illicit market, using non-criminal business specialists and structures to assist them in their criminal activities.

Just over ten years ago the Soviet Communist system in Eastern Europe collapsed, and with it the economies of many of the former Eastern Bloc countries. In the intervening years organised criminal associations from these countries have been expanding their operations into Western Europe, where they have become involved in the illicit drugs trade, prostitution, pornography, illegal trafficking in human beings, and money laundering activities.

As a result of the increased sophistication of many organised criminal groups, they are able to utilise legal loopholes and differences between Member States, exploiting the anomalies in the various systems. They can take advantage of the free movement of money, goods, personnel and services across the European Union and beyond. There are approx. 120 separate Police Services in the 15 EU Member States.

The manner in which many criminal groups operate has altered considerably. While such groups have been in existence for a long time, it is now the case that they have become highly sophisticated and operate in much the same way as multinational companies, with networks which extend to different countries. Computer Component theft is an area that lends itself well to internationalisation. A million pounds worth of memory chips will easily fit into the boot of a car. A single chip may be worth more than an ounce of cocaine. Many of these components, because of their size and mass production, lack unique identifying serial numbers. These characteristics and the fact that, unlike illegal drugs, possession of these items is not prohibited, per se, makes computer components immensely attractive and internationally tradable. These criminal enterprises are undermining legitimate business through money laundering and similar activities.

Information technology and, in particular, the Internet recognise no international frontiers. This makes the medium a prime vehicle for international crimes such as child pornography, hacking, credit card fraud, fraudulent investments, etc.

The international threat posed calls for a dynamic and co-ordinated response by all law enforcement agencies, a response that not only takes into account national strategies but also seeks to become an integrated and multidisciplinary strategy. Addressing the ever-changing face of organised crime requires that this response and strategy remain flexible.

Internationalisation of Terrorism

Though the indigenous terrorist environment has stabilised considerably over recent years, international terrorism is a growing phenomenon. Factors such as the spread of the Islamic fundamentalist movement, ethnic strife such as the Basque and Kurdish movements, the effects of increasing globalisation and anti-US sentiment, and the growth of environmental or eco-terrorism, have contributed to this situation.

The expansion of the European Union to the East and the lessening or removal of restrictions on free movement within the zone have meant that Ireland is now more open and susceptible to international terrorist attacks.



European and International Issues



Ireland has now been a full participant in the process of European integration for a generation. We have benefited enormously from membership of the European Union, and have, at the same time, contributed constructively to the Union's development, not least in our contribution in the Justice and Home Affairs area. Irish people see the European Union, not simply as an organisation to which Ireland belongs, but as an integral part of our future. We see ourselves, increasingly, as Europeans. So, also do members of An Garda Síochána.

As a nation we have benefited greatly from the transfer of EU funds, which have helped create the fastest growing economy in the Union. There have been other transfers – of skills, of excellence and of best practice. To this end, An Garda Síochána has developed relationships with police forces in every EU Member State, primarily through EU funded programmes under the EU Justice and Home Affairs area, such as OISÍN FALCONE, GROTIUS, STOP, etc..

Gardaí have participated in the exchange of best practice over a wide area of policing, from organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and policing a developing multiethnic society. Through these programmes we have learned about failed policies and best practice. But, the exchange is not just one way. An Garda Síochána is now recognised as a world centre of excellence in at least four areas of policing:- police training; community policing; anti-terrorist police training and in asset tracing, restraint and seizure.

An Garda Síochána intends to fulfil its obligations to law enforcement issues and initiatives on an EU wide basis. For example, the Treaty of Amsterdam has opened up new possibilities for further Police co-operation within the European Union for the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice in the Union.

A reflection of the importance that An Garda Síochána places on international policing issues, and its increasing commitment to international police co-operation, is the current posting of Liaison Officers in The Hague, Madrid, London and Paris, and Interpol, Lyon.

Within the European Union there are three main trends in policing a new Europe.

- ◆ The process of policing systems moving towards integration on both horizontal and vertical levels. This involves enhanced co-operation and a move towards harmonisation of some aspects of criminal law through conventions, council decisions and protocols.
- ◆ There is a process of increasing the notion of a common border, resulting in the Schengen Agreement.
- ◆ There is a general enhancement of law and order issues, where the citizens of Europe, through their Governments wish to live in an area of freedom, security and justice, bearing in mind, of course, human rights.

An Garda Síochána is helping to shape the future of EU law enforcement through its involvement, along with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, in the various EU Working Groups set up to increase further co-operation between law enforcement agencies and combat criminal activity across the EU. One example of this was the publication recently of a document with 39 recommendations on fighting organised crime, entitled:- *'The prevention and control of organised crime : - A European Union Strategy for the beginning of the new Millennium.'*

An Garda Síochána intends to meet the challenges of international Policing by working hand in hand with:-

- ◆ **Other European law enforcement agencies** bi-laterally on a case by case basis.
- ◆ **EU Commission** and Third Pillar Working Groups, such as the Multi-Disciplinary Group on Organised Crime, the Police Co-operation Working Group and the Drug Trafficking Group, among others. These Working Groups determine the future policy and direction in the EU Justice and Home Affairs area.
- ◆ **Europol** - The Treaty of Amsterdam and the Tampere conclusions call for the strengthening of Europol. Members of An Garda Síochána actively participate in all activities of Europol, including the allocation of permanent Garda Liaison Officers at Europol Headquarters in The Hague.
- ◆ **The Schengen Agreement** - The UK has formally applied to join the Schengen Agreement and An Garda Síochána is currently preparing for Ireland to follow the UK's example of applying to join the Schengen Agreement. The key benefit to An Garda Síochána will be full access to the Schengen Information Systems. Travel between the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe will be more open and this will present further challenges for An Garda Síochána, at points of entry into the State.
- ◆ **Interpol** - An Garda Síochána will continue to co-operate with and participate in Interpol which facilitates co-operation with the other 176 members of Interpol. An Garda Síochána is frequently asked to assist in international investigations, and has a liaison officer assigned to Interpol, Lyon.
- ◆ **The OSCE** - Increasingly An Garda Síochána is asked to participate in a growing number of overseas missions, a participation which is regularly reviewed.
- ◆ **The Missions** - the role of An Garda Síochána is well documented. Gardaí are seen, internationally, as highly skilled and effective police officers.
- ◆ **The United Nations** - in formulating conventions to combat the spread of criminal activity, for example the proposed UN Convention on Organised Crime.
- ◆ **The Council of Europe** - The Council is currently preparing a convention to combat the use of cybercrime. Through the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, An Garda Síochána is contributing to the formulation of this convention, which is seen by this organisation as particularly important, considering the amount of technological companies based in Ireland.

The Garda Síochána Corporate Strategy, 2000-2004 clearly outlines our responsibilities in our policy on the Global Village, as indicated in the following excerpts:-

"An Garda Síochána will work with European and World Policing Organisations and agencies such as Europol and Interpol to help curb drug trafficking. In Ireland, the scale of drugs supply will require a concerted and multi agency approach more particularly on the demand reduction side. The integration of the national effort to curb drugs misuse requires review to improve existing effective policies.

The Gardaí will work with the EU Commission and the Council of Europe in briefing and benchmarking on new and current European policing issues including the protection of human rights".

An Garda Síochána fully endorses the Tampere Conclusions, which noted that:-

People have the right to expect the Union to address the threat to their freedom and legal rights posed by serious crime. To counter these threats a common effort is needed to prevent and fight crime and criminal organisations throughout the Union. The joint mobilisation of Police and judicial resources is needed to guarantee there is no hiding place for criminals, or the proceeds of crime, within the Union (conclusion No. 6)

Liaison Officers

An Garda Síochána has a number of Liaison Officers and other staff based in Europe, who assist home based units involved in investigations with an international/European element. One Detective Inspector and one Detective Sergeant are based at Europol Headquarters at The Hague and a Detective Sergeant is based at Interpol Headquarters at Lyon, France. There is an Inspector based at the Irish Embassy in Paris with one Detective Sergeant each, based at the Irish Embassies in The Hague, Madrid and London. These latter four Garda members are engaged primarily in liaising on criminal matters in the countries where they are based and adjoining territories.

