



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

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA  
2004  
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

## Foreword

### Dear Minister,

I present herewith the report of An Garda Síochána for the year ending 31st December 2004.

There was a decrease in the total number of headline offences recorded during the year to 98,964 or 4% on the 2003 figure. There were 37 murders, a reduction of 18% on the previous year. Sexual assaults dropped by 30%, with 1021 incidents recorded compared with 1449 in 2003. A 3% reduction was also seen in the number of assaults reported, with 4,583 such offences recorded. Robbery from the Person was down 13% to 1483, with a 14% decrease in Aggravated Burglary, where 284 incidents were recorded, while Burglaries fell by 689, or 3%, to 24,471.

A total of 34,398 headline offences were detected during the year, equating to 35% of all such offences recorded.

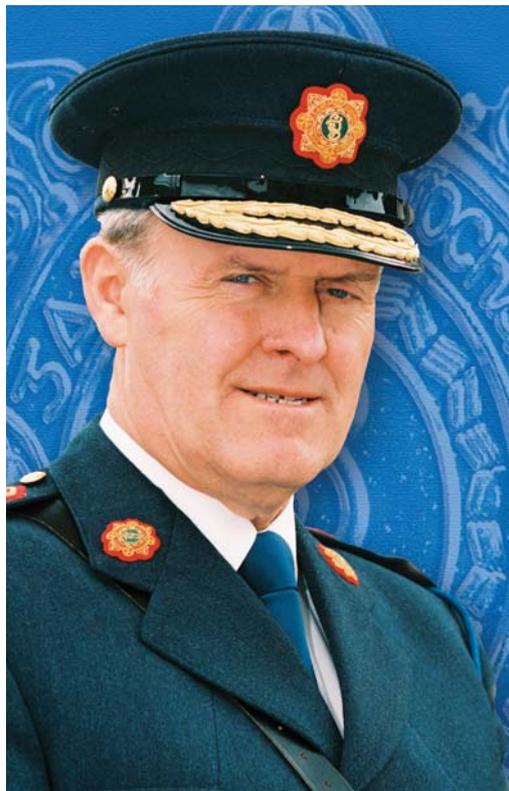
There were 133,957 non-nationals registered in Ireland on the 31st December 2004, a 5% increase on 2003, while there was an almost 40% decrease in asylum applications, with 4,766 applications compared with 7,900 the previous year. 624 persons were deported during the year, a 7% increase on 2003.

Public disorder and drunkenness, the sale and distribution of drugs, and traffic management remained issues of concern for the public and An Garda Síochána and ongoing Garda initiatives and operations, including Operations 'Assist', 'Encounter', 'Cleanstreet' and 'Freeflow', continued during 2004 in order to address these concerns. The launch, in Dublin, of the Luas light rail system and the extension of the M50 motorway helped ease congestion in Dublin City centre.

Garda Liaison Officers serving in London, Paris, Madrid, The Hague and with Europol and Interpol continued to assist in investigations with international and inter-jurisdictional dimensions in preparation of the Criminal Justice (Joint Investigation Teams) Act, 2004.

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2004 was the most significant policing event for An Garda Síochána in 2004 with the accession of an additional ten (10) countries joining the European Union at a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaran on 1st May.

Arising from bomb explosions in Madrid on the 11th March, which resulted in the death of 192 people and injuries to 1,492, the European Justice and Home Affairs Ministers requested the Irish Presidency to prepare a report on the outrage and a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Group was held in Dublin during which a seminal report on countering terrorist activity in Europe was prepared. A meeting of the Chiefs of Police Task



Force, which also focussed on terrorist activity in Europe, was also held in Dublin in March. The Presidency culminated with a visit of the President of the United States, Mr. George W. Bush for an EU/US Summit at Dromoland Castle in June, during which one of the biggest security operations ever mounted in the State was implemented, deploying approximately 3,000 members of An Garda Síochána, together with personnel from the Defence Forces.

The year ended with the policing operation for the inauguration of Mrs. Mary McAleese as President of Ireland at Dublin Castle in November.

In July 2004 the Honourable Mr. Justice Frederick R. Morris presented to you his first report arising from the Tribunal of Inquiry, of which he is the sole member, set up pursuant to the Tribunal of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts, 1921/2001 into the conduct of certain Gardaí in the Donegal Division, in respect of Term of Reference (e), Explosive 'Finds' in Donegal, in which he outlined certain criticisms of An Garda Síochána and wherein he made a number of recommendations directed to prevent a recurrence of such a situation in the future.

Following publication of Mr. Justice Morris' Report and in order to comprehensively consider the implications and recommendations contained in the report, I established nine (9) Working Groups to examine the following issues:

- ◆ Management Development
- ◆ Migration management and policy of tenure
- ◆ Internal audit
- ◆ Religious and ethnic minorities
- ◆ Review of the role of Assistant Commissioner
- ◆ Performance and Accountability Framework
- ◆ Erosion of discipline
- ◆ Issues arising involving personnel
- ◆ Informant Management

The Groups, chaired by a Deputy or Assistant Commissioner, commenced their deliberations in September. Their reports and recommendations will be agreed by my senior management team and will be implemented during 2005. A review will be carried out early in 2006 to evaluate the progress and change within the organisation.

Finally, I wish to thank the Government, you personally and the personnel of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for their support during the year. I look forward to working together to implement change in the coming year to ensure a continued professional service is provided to the community by An Garda Síochána.



**Noel Conroy**  
**Commissioner**  
**of An Garda Síochána**

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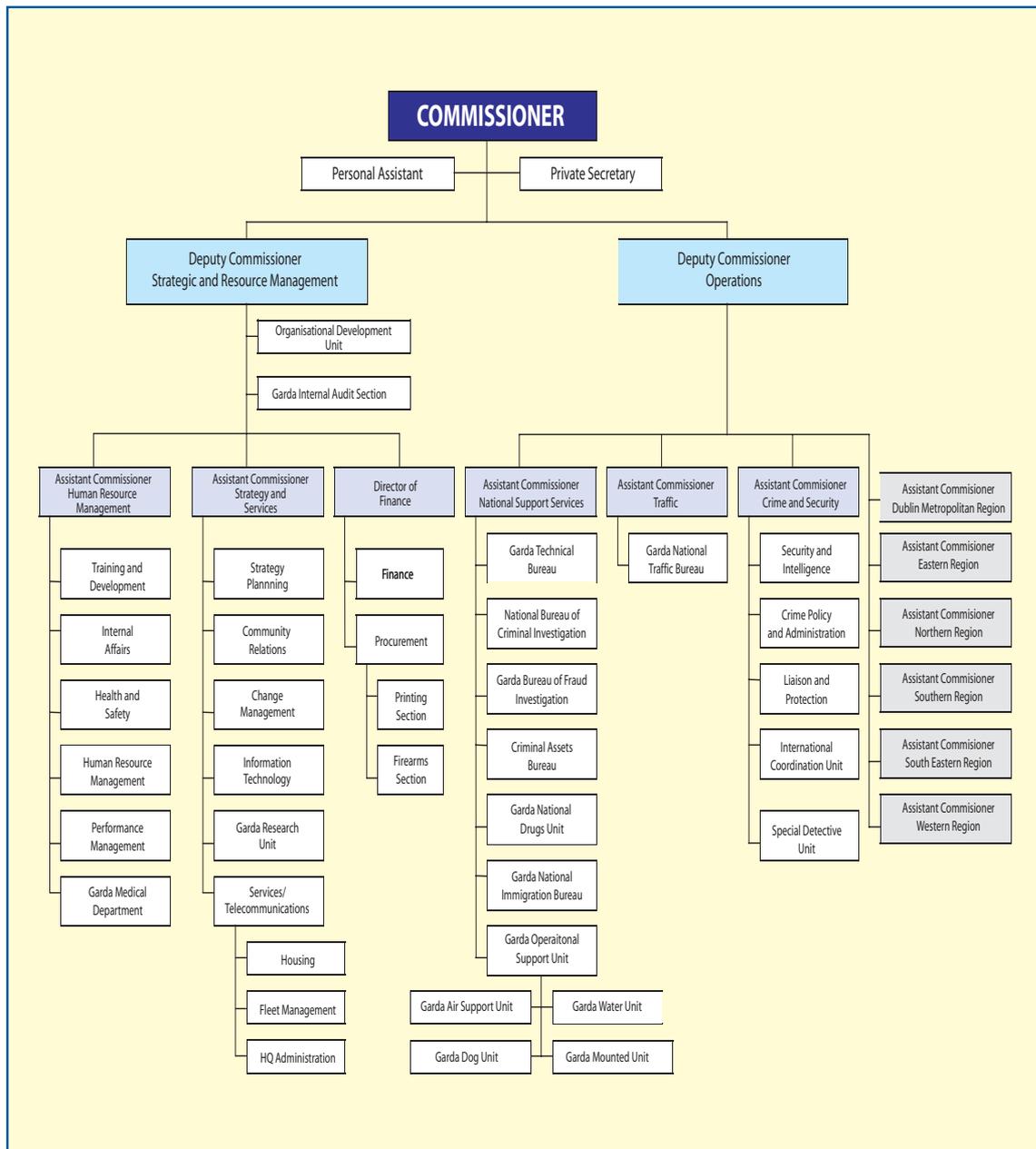
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# Office of the Garda Commissioner

The general direction and control of An Garda Síochána is the responsibility of the Garda Commissioner. He is assisted by Deputy Commissioner, Operations and Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management, both of whom direct all operational and administrative activity respectively. The structure through which this direction and control is exercised is outlined in the following organisational chart :



# 1. The Commissioner's Office.

Within the Commissioner's Office itself, the Commissioner has a Personal Assistant (Chief Superintendent) and a Private Secretary (Superintendent) together with a small administrative staff. The Garda Press and Public Relations Office, the Garda Museum and the Band of An Garda Síochána report direct to the Commissioner, through his Personal Assistant.

The **Garda Press and Public Relations Office**, is headed by a Superintendent with a staff of fifteen and represents the Commissioner in dealings with the media, providing a seven-day service between 7.30am and 11pm to the national and international media.

A 'breaking news' service is provided to journalists with all Garda / crime related items distributed, in real time, to in excess of 530 media outlets and individual journalists. During 2004 a total of 1,200 news items were disseminated in this way. In addition, some 4,866 individual e-mail queries ([gpro@iol.ie](mailto:gpro@iol.ie)) were dealt with by the Office, from both the media and the public.

The Garda Press and Public Relations Office also undertakes a range of other activities including : arranging Press Conferences; providing assistance to senior officers in media relations in major investigations; devising and presenting media courses to all levels within An Garda Síochána; assisting researchers, authors and production companies in the writing of books, feature articles, tv / radio programmes, films, documentaries etc. and in assisting second & third level students in matters regarding policing, crime and media relations.

A key feature of Garda public relations is the Garda Website - [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) – which is maintained at the Garda Press & Public Relations Office, the address of which features on all new vehicles in the Garda fleet. The site is due to be upgraded in 2005.

The **Garda Museum and Archives** is located in the Round Tower in Dublin Castle and continued to attract visitors and researchers from across the world. Visits to the Garda Museum are incorporated into the guided tours programme of the Office of Public Works. Visitors to the Museum are welcome between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and by appointment on Saturdays and Sundays. Contact [gatower@iol.ie](mailto:gatower@iol.ie)

Outreach Programmes under the guidance of the Garda Archivist have resulted in greater awareness of the need to preserve the historical culture of our organisation, particularly from serving and former members. The obligations of An Garda Síochána under the National Archives Act, 1986, particularly in relation to records management, are co-ordinated in close co-operation with the National Archives and other agencies. Staff members are presently preparing for the transfer of departmental records to the new Records Centre at Santry, Dublin.

**The Garda Band**, under the direction of a Superintendent, performed on 160 occasions in 2004 including official engagements, sporting fixtures, concerts and educational establishments and all major festivals. Work began in 2004 on a new CD, which is due for release mid-2005, the proceeds of which will go to charity.



Performances are by permission of the Commissioner and applications are processed through the Office of the Director of Music. Engagements are accepted at the beginning of the year and priority is given to applications of a community or charitable nature. The Band does not accept engagements of a commercial nature.

## 2. Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management.



*Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management* advises the Commissioner in respect of the optimum strategic direction for An Garda Síochána and associated management of strategic performance. The Garda Corporate Strategy and concomitant Annual Policing Plans are most pertinent in this respect.

In addition, Strategic and Resource Management has over-arching responsibility for Human Resource Management, Strategy and Services and the Finance Directorate in An Garda Síochána. Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management is the nominated representative of An Garda Síochána on the National Crime Council.

The Garda Corporate Strategy 2005-2007 sets out the intended direction, the vision, mission and values of An Garda Síochána, as well as its six strategic goals for this period. Each annual Policing Plan sets out the actions and performance indicators which will advance the realisation of the strategic goals of the Corporate Strategy. Organisational performance in respect of the Garda Performance Indicators is assessed by Deputy Commissioner, Strategic and Resource Management and is published in the Evaluation Section of each An Garda Síochána Annual Report.

### 2.1 Human Resource Management

The *Human Resource Management* section is headed by an Assistant Commissioner and is tasked with all aspects of the training, promotion and management of Garda personnel, as well as safety, health and welfare, discipline, complaints, pensions and Overseas Service.

ORGANISATION STRENGTH	
Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	2
Assistant Commissioner	11
Chief Superintendent	47
Superintendent	168
Inspector	291
Sergeant	1950
Garda	9740
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,210</b>

Four hundred and seventy-eight (478) members of An Garda Síochána left the service for a variety of reasons.

STRENGTH / CIVILIAN STAFF	
Administrative / Clerical posts	763.48*
General Operative & Cleaners (Full-time)	110
Cleaners & Service Attendants (part-time)	579
Specialist Posts e.g. teaching, medical, research, mapping, accountancy, photography, I.T.	45.30*
Traffic Wardens	65
Drivers (Transport Section)	23.40*
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,586.18</b>

\* includes work-sharers.

In 2004 approval was granted for the appointment of 120 civilian Finance Officers, at Staff Officer Grade, to take responsibility for the management of District Imprest Accounts.

Two hundred and ninety-eight (298) occupational accidents / incidents were reported to the Health and Safety Authority during 2004.

A new competency / structured based interview process was introduced for all promotion competitions within the organisation. A review of the promotion procedures, at Assistant Commissioner rank, was conducted by Saville and Holdsworth consultants.

During 2004, a total of 122 notifications were received concerning the initiation of civil proceedings against the State, relating to matters involving An Garda Síochána, not including proceedings arising from traffic collisions involving Garda vehicles.

**Complaints** from the public against members of An Garda Síochána are dealt with in accordance with the Garda Síochána (Complaints) Act, 1986 the statistics for which are published by the Garda Síochána Complaints Board.

A total of two hundred and sixty-nine (269) new cases of discipline were reported to the Internal Affairs section. Twenty-eight (28) were dealt with by way of Sworn Inquiry and forty-seven (47) were dealt with by way of Regulation 13 procedures. The remainder are under investigation or were deemed not sufficiently serious to merit disciplinary action.

SWORN INQUIRIES	
Sworn Inquiries No.	28
Found in Breach of Discipline	16
Found Not in Breach	3
Pending	7
Discontinued	2
Total reduction in pay	€10,950

**Regulation 13** allows for a Chief Superintendent to deal with the alleged breach(es) and where the members admit the breach and opts for such course of action.

Regulation 13	
Regulation 13	47
No. of cases resulting in reduction of pay	43
No. of cases resulting member being cautioned	4
Total amount of reduction in pay	€9,425

## APPEALS

A member found to have been in breach of discipline may appeal the decision of a Sworn Inquiry Board.

APPEALS	
<b>No. of Appeals</b>	<b>9</b>
Affirmed	3
Mitigated	5
Allowed	0
Pending	1

Fourteen (14) members of An Garda Síochána were suspended during the year, with a total of twenty-four (24) suspended on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2004.

DISMISSALS	
Regulation 40	1
Resigned voluntarily, before Regulation 40 proceedings concluded	2
Dismissed after unsuccessful appeal to Sworn Tribunal	1
Dismissed under the provisions of Section 10(4), Police Forces Amalgamation Act, 1925	1
<b>Total number dismissed</b>	<b>5</b>

## GARDA COLLEGE

A total of five hundred and eighteen (518) trainees commenced Phase 1 of the Student / Probationer Education / Training Development Course at the Garda College. Six hundred and sixty-three (663) Students were attested during the year and four (4) Graduation Ceremonies were held at which five hundred and thirty-three (533) Probationer Gardaí completed the Education / Training Development Course

Student and Probationer Gardaí are subject to the Code of Conduct for Students / Probationers. Regulation 33 allows for the Director of Training and Development to deal with alleged breach(es) deemed to be minor in nature. During 2004 fourteen (14) cases were dealt with by way of reprimand with a further two (2) cases being dealt with by monetary penalty. A total of five (5) Student Gardaí had their contracts terminated or reigned in lieu of termination.

Fifteen (15) Garda Officers were awarded Batchelor of Arts Degrees in Police Management by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC). Four hundred and thirty-two (432) Probationer Gardaí were conferred with National Diplomas in Police Studies.

A new programme of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) was introduced during 2004 and in-service training was provided in a wide range of areas including road traffic and transport legislation; training was also provided for the Fixed Charge Processing System (FCPS) and policing requirements for the introduction, in Dublin, of the LUAS light rail system; training was also provided for Criminal Intelligence Officers in support of the development of a new criminal intelligence system.

## 2.2 Strategy and Services

**Strategy and Services** is headed by an Assistant Commissioner who is responsible for the management of the Garda IT system, Change Management, Services / Telecommunications, the Garda Fleet, the accommodation portfolio, the Garda Research Unit and Community Relations.

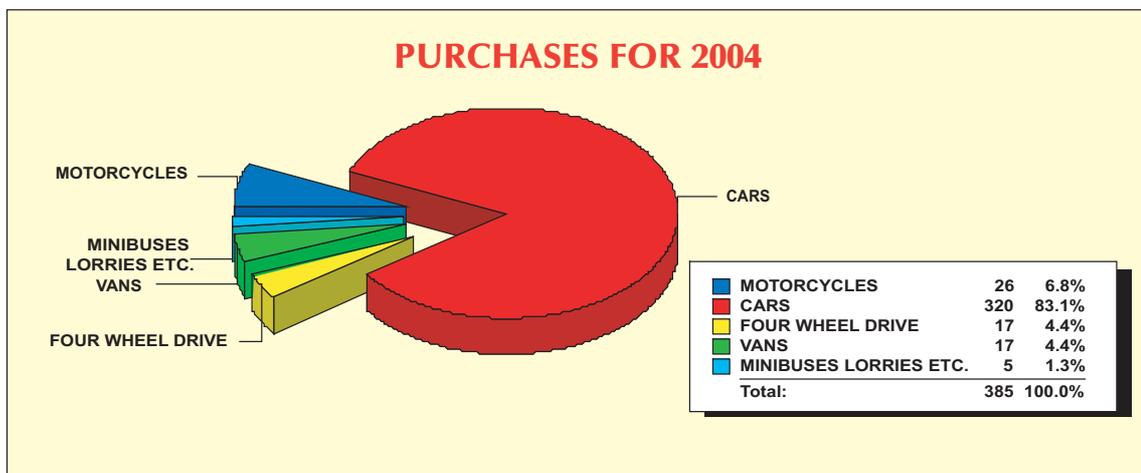
Some of the highlights in 2004 for the **Community Relations** included :

- ◆ The introduction of the 'Securely Designed' Certificate Scheme;
- ◆ The Crime Prevention and Reduction Best Practice Manual;
- ◆ Training programme for all Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers throughout the country;
- ◆ The launch of the Garda Schools Programme Video in support of the primary schools' programme;

- ◆ The launch, by the Commissioner, of the Second Level School's Programme, which is delivered as part of the Department of Education and Science 'Social, Political and Health Education' programme;
- ◆ The update of the Garda Youth Diversion Programme Information Manual, for the efficient management of the sixty-four (64) projects currently being co-ordinated under the programme;
- ◆ Funding was awarded under the RAPID programme (Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development) which will allow for the purchase of six (6) mini-buses and the replacement of forty-eight (48) computers for the Youth Diversion Programme;
- ◆ A national conference for the Local and Regional Drug Task Force Inspectors was organised;
- ◆ 'Crimecall' a new television programme dealing with crime related issues was launched in September on RTE Television.

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union was a priority for **Services / Telecommunications** which developed a Radio Communications Plan, whereby magnetometers, x-ray machines, cctv systems and other security related technologies were installed at a multitude of locations during the presidency. A new national digital radio system for An Garda Síochána was announced and work is underway in preparation for this. Fourteen (14) cctv systems were purchased in 2004 and digital cctv facilities were upgraded at a number of other locations.

During 2004, the Garda Fleet increased by 385 vehicles, including 320 cars, 26 motorcycles, 17 four-wheel drives, 17 vans and 5 minibuses / lorries, giving a year-end total of 2,027.



Under the Housing portfolio a site was identified in Thurles for 200 staff as the part of the Government's plan for de-centralisation; a Disaster Recovery Unit at Garda Headquarters as well as some thirty (30) other major building projects were completed. The contract for the Schengen building at Garda Headquarters was also awarded and is expected to be completed mid-2005. In order to cater for the Government's decision to increase the strength of the organisation to 14,000, plans are at an advanced stage for building work at the Garda College.

**Change Management** continued to provide support to the organisation on PULSE related issues following Release 2, through the PULSE Regional Agent Network. Nine (9) Management Development Workshops were held in March / April, to re-inforce the importance of having quality information on the PULSE system. The Fixed Charge Processing Office was established in 2004 to centrally manage the administration of the Fixed Charge Processing System (FCPS) which is now live in the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR), Cork City Division and some stations in Louth / Meath Division.

The work of the **Information Technology** section continued during 2004 with upgrades in the following systems : money-laundering investigation, juvenile liaison, school's programme and the age-card systems. The Garda National Immigration IT system was extended to an additional twenty (20) Garda stations and new functionality, including Facial Recognition software was added and is in use at Central Registration office as well as several ports of entry. The Request for Tender for the development and implementation of a Computer Aided Dispatch Project, a system which will replace the existing Command and Control system in the DMR, was issued to the market-place and the responses received are being considered. Accenture Consulting was engaged to assist in the development of the ICT Strategy 2005-2009 for An Garda Síochána and their final report is due during the 1st Quarter of 2005.

During 2004, the **Garda Research Unit** was engaged on the following :

- ◆ The Garda Public Attitudes Survey, 2004 in conjunction with the market research company Research and Evaluation Services;
- ◆ Evaluation of the Garda Restorative Justice Programme, for juvenile offenders;
- ◆ Examination of the Garda service to victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- ◆ Review of the implementation of Garda policy on victims of crime;
- ◆ Examination of the level of cocaine use in Ireland with a specific focus on policing recommendations;
- ◆ Review of the role of the Garda Liaison Officers in interaction with the gay and lesbian community;
- ◆ Measurement of public order policing.

### 2.3 The Director of Finance.

The total financial envelope controlled by the **Director of Finance** in 2004 amounted to €1,070 million, which includes a supplementary estimate of €15 million to partly fund additional expenditure incurred during Ireland's Presidency of the European Union and the visit of President Bush. The actual outturn for 2004 amounted to €1,069 million which resulted in a surrender balance of €1 million to the Central Exchequer. The budget for 2005 is €1,109 million, which represents an increase of 4% compared to the 2004 Estimate. To facilitate the implementation of the enhanced and integrated Financial Management System and following the appointment of the District Finance Officers a number of training seminars were held. It is planned to continue the development programmes in finance and procurement into 2005.

Following a tender process the contract for the supply of the new operational uniform was awarded in 2004 and it is anticipated that it will be officially launched in 2005.



## 3. Deputy Commissioner, Operations.

**Deputy Commissioner, Operations**, based at Garda Headquarters with a support staff headed by a Superintendent, has responsibility for operational policing issues within An Garda Síochána. Assistant Commissioners' Crime & Security, National Support Services, and Traffic and the six (6) Regional Assistant Commissioners report directly to the Deputy Commissioner.

2004 was another successful year for An Garda Síochána on the operational front. The total headline crime for the year showed a decrease to 98,964, a 4% reduction. The overall detection rate was 35%. Reductions were achieved in the number of crimes recorded in some key crime categories.

Operation 'Encounter' – 2004						
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
30,874	4,226	20,608	464	155	129	834

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2004 was the most significant event for An Garda Síochána in 2004 with the accession of an additional ten (10) countries joining the European Union at a ceremony at Áras an Uachtarán on 1st May. The Presidency culminated with a visit of the President of the United States, Mr. George W. Bush for an EU / US Summit at Dromoland Castle in June.

### 3.1 Crime & Security.

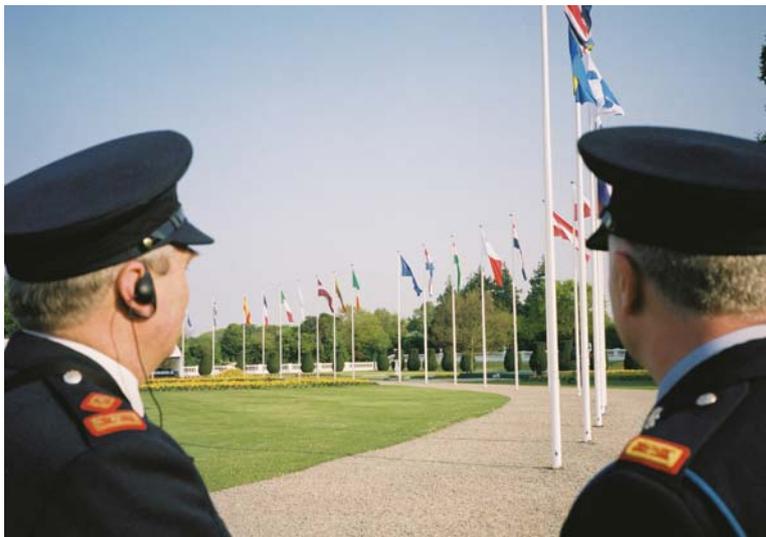
**Crime & Security Branch**, which is headed by an Assistant Commissioner, was centrally involved in planning the effective policing for Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, which included many Ministerial meetings at various locations throughout Ireland for the six (6) months of the Presidency. The highest profile event was the Accession Ceremony on 1st May when the meeting of the Prime Ministers of twenty-five (25) leading European countries, in one location, created the potential for a serious terrorist incident and gave interest groups the opportunity to congregate and protest on diverse issues. A number of protests did take place, throughout Dublin, over the May Day week-end with all, but one, passing off peacefully.

On 11th March following bomb explosions in Madrid that killed 192 people and injured 1,492, the European Justice and Home Affairs Ministers requested the Irish Presidency to prepare a report on the outrage. A special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Group, organised by senior management at **Security & Intelligence**, was held in Dublin and a seminal report on countering terrorist activity in Europe was prepared. The Commissioner chaired a meeting of the Chiefs of Police Task Force in Dublin which also focussed on terrorist activity in Europe.



Crime & Security also played a significant role in preparing for the visit of Mr. George W. Bush in 2004, in assessing the security implications and requirements and effectively implementing one of the biggest security operations ever mounted in the State.

The **Special Detective Unit** played a fundamental role in addressing the threat posed by subversive groups acting from within and outside the jurisdiction and continued to actively gather intelligence, which enabled a pro-active approach to the investigation



of criminal and subversive elements. This resulted in a substantial quantity of firearms, ammunition and explosives being recovered and a significant number of persons being charged before the Special Criminal Court. The Emergency Response Unit provided armed back-up for a number of operations, including taking active, high-profile roles in patrolling the DMR West and Limerick Divisions during periods of high tensions.

**Liaison and Protection** played a central role in the preparation of protection plans for visits of VIPs in 2004, including all meetings held during the EU Presidency, as well as the visit of HRH the Princess Royal and two (2) Vice-Premiers of the People's Republic of China. The inauguration of Mrs. Mary McAleese as President of Ireland at Dublin Castle in November was another major policing event for An Garda Síochána during 2004.

Efforts to develop best practice procedures with the financial institutions and cash-in-transit companies continued and a review of practices surrounding the escorting of explosives was also conducted. **Interpol** National Central Bureau (NCB), Ireland hosted a visit by Mr. Ronald Noble, Secretary General of Interpol. The roll-out of I24/7, Interpol's new communication system, continued during 2004.

An Garda Síochána chaired a meeting of the Europol Management Board during the EU Presidency and, following the accession of the ten (10) additional Member States on 1st May, **Europol** received applications for membership, nine (9) of which were processed and approved during 2004, resulting in an increase in the volume of intelligence on terrorism and organised crime being exchanged. Also during the Presidency an historic Heads of Sirene meeting was hosted, attended for the first time by delegates from the enlarged **Schengen** family of 27 Member States, including Iceland and Norway.

The **International Co-ordination Unit** (ICU) also played a central role during Ireland's Presidency of the EU, co-ordinating and disseminating information and papers to senior Garda management in preparation for chairing various meetings during the Presidency. The ICU also oversaw applications for funding under the EU AGIS Programme, nine (9) of which were awarded to An Garda Síochána and continued to administer grants issued in 2003, with seven (7) projects being completed during 2004.

One of the most significant developments for **Crime Policy and Administration** during 2004 was the introduction of the Criminal Justice (Joint Investigation Teams) Act, 2004 which allowed investigation teams to be set up jointly between a number of Member States to combat and investigate organised crime and terrorism which impact on one, or more, States. On 1st January, 2004 the European Arrest Warrant came into force, replacing extradition arrangements previously in place between Ireland and other European countries.

On 14th September, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, with the Commissioner, launched the Missing Children's Website ([www.missingkids.ie](http://www.missingkids.ie)), which is linked to a global network of fifteen (15) other national websites where details of over 3,000 missing children are posted. The site is administered by the Garda Missing Persons' Bureau, in association with the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children (USA).

## DEATHS IN GARDA CUSTODY

During the year in question four (4) persons died in Garda custody, at Clontarf, Store Street, Kilkenny and Youghal Garda Stations. In accordance with the Commissioner's policy, an Officer from outside each Division was appointed to investigate the circumstances surrounding each death. At year end Inquests had been held in two of the four cases and found alcohol / drug intoxication as the cause of death in each case.

## 3.2 National Support Services

**National Support Services** is headed by an Assistant Commissioner, who is based in Harcourt Square and comprises the following national units :

- ◆ **National Bureau of Criminal Investigation**
- ◆ **Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation**
- ◆ **Garda National Drugs Unit**
- ◆ **Criminal Assets Bureau**
- ◆ **Garda Technical Bureau**
- ◆ **Garda National Traffic Bureau**
- ◆ **Garda National Immigration Bureau**
- ◆ **Operational Support Unit**

### 3.2.1 NATIONAL BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The **National Bureau of Criminal Investigation** continued to target organised crime through intelligence-driven operations, which culminated in the seizure and recovery of firearms, controlled drugs and counterfeit products, by providing expertise and assistance, supported Regional and Divisional teams in the investigation of serious and complex crimes.

An increase in cash-in-transit robberies during the year was addressed by a focussed and sustained operation spearheaded by personnel from the Bureau, with the assistance of local detective units. Environmental crime is an emerging area of criminality and to ensure a structured and co-ordinated approach in tackling various associated problems, in particular illegal dumping, NBCI staff were deployed to conduct investigations, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.



### 3.2.2 GARDA BUREAU OF FRAUD INVESTIGATION.

The **Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation** is the specialist agency within An Garda Síochána vested with national responsibility for the investigation of fraud related crime and concentrates on the more serious and complex cases reported, including Payment Card Fraud, Commercial Fraud, money-laundering and computer-related crime. Members of the Bureau are also seconded to the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement and the Competition Authority.



A Protocol was agreed with the Irish Insurance Federation (IIF) regarding the reporting of suspected fraudulent insurance claims to the Gardaí and guidelines were launched in September with the aim of raising public awareness about fraudulent claims and to deter potential fraudsters.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Heads of the Financial Intelligence Units of Australia, Korea, Dutch Antilles, Portugal and Guernsey. These agreements will strengthen the response of An Garda Síochána, on an international basis, to the serious threats of money-laundering and terrorist financing.

GBFI hosted a Conference, in December under the EU AGIS programme, entitled “An Examination of Effective Strategies in the Prevention and Detection of Fraud in the area of Payment Cards”, designed to explore issues of concern and make recommendations as to models of best practice. The programme involved delegates from the UK, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Romania, France, the Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, Cyprus and the Netherlands. Experts from Europol, Eurojust and the Irish Payment Services Organisation (IPSO) also attended.

### 3.2.3 GARDA NATIONAL DRUGS UNIT

During 2004 the **Garda National Drugs Unit** continued to target those individuals and organisations involved in the sale and distribution of illicit drugs. This resulted in significant seizures of Cannabis, Ecstasy, Cocaine and Amphetamine.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding and Operational Protocol between An Garda Síochána and the Customs Service twenty eight (28) Garda / Customs operations were conducted during 2004. The most significant involved both Irish and Dutch Law Enforcement Agencies resulting in the seizure of substantial quantities of precursor chemicals in both the Netherlands and Ireland. These chemicals are used in the manufacture of both Ecstasy and Amphetamine and the potential production capacity of this seizure was in excess of €500 million.

Operation ‘Cleanstreet’ IX and X were conducted during 2004 resulting in the apprehension of 133 individuals involved in the sale and supply of illicit drugs.

The Unit continued its role under the Government’s National Drugs Strategy 2001 – 2008, overseeing the commitments of An Garda Síochána which, for 2004 included the following :

- (i) the establishment of a co-ordinating framework for drug strategy at Divisional and District level and
- (ii) the preparation and launch of guidelines for the licensed trade, addressing substance misuse on Licensed Premises.

### 3.2.4 THE CRIMINAL ASSETS BUREAU

In 2004 the **Criminal Assets Bureau** continued to target the proceeds of crime with the objective of denying persons associated with criminal activity the benefits of their illegal gains. The processing of ongoing court actions, under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1996, continued along with newly instituted cases.

During the course of the year the Bureau obtained the following High Court Orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1996 :

Order	No. of Orders	No. of Defendants	Value of assets seized (€)	Value of assets seized (Stg. £)
Section 2	10	11	1,027,152.18	6,115
Section 3	10	15	1,688,651.63	375
Section 4	2	3	275,875.43	-
Section 7	24	15	2,255,514.30	6,115

Also, in accordance with its functions under the Criminal Assets Bureau Act, 1996, the Bureau applied the Tax Acts in relation to the income from criminal activity and €16,408,649.08 in taxes was collected. The Bureau used Social Welfare legislation to disallow persons not entitled to Social Welfare benefits and recovered €273,073.61 in overpayments. The Bureau instituted a number of criminal prosecutions in 2004, including prosecutions for Revenue offences. These resulted in a number of convictions for various offences in the criminal courts.

The Bureau continues to work in close co-operation with national and international agencies in targeting the proceeds of criminal activity by application of the statutory remit of the Criminal Assets Bureau Act 1996 and, as part of the commitment of An Garda Síochána to the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy during 2004, the Bureau progressed the establishment of Criminal Assets Divisional Profilers in each Garda Division.

This was achieved in conjunction with Regional Assistant Commissioners and Chief Superintendents, with nominees from each Division receiving training in targeting the assets of local persons involved or associated in criminal activity. Subjects involved in illegal activity were identified in each Division and were targeted under the statutory remit of the Criminal Assets Bureau. This will continue in 2005 with further training and targeting activities to enhance the policing response in relation to targeting the assets of local criminals, with particular reference to drug trafficking.



The Bureau took the lead role in the launch of a new international informal network of Law Enforcement and Judicial Agencies, the Camden Assets Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN), which was formally launched by the Dutch Minister of Interior on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004. The Bureau, representing Ireland, was one of the initiators of the project and the purpose of the network is to enhance international co-operation in identifying, tracing and seizing the proceeds of criminal activity. The Bureau will hold the Presidency of the CARIN in 2005.

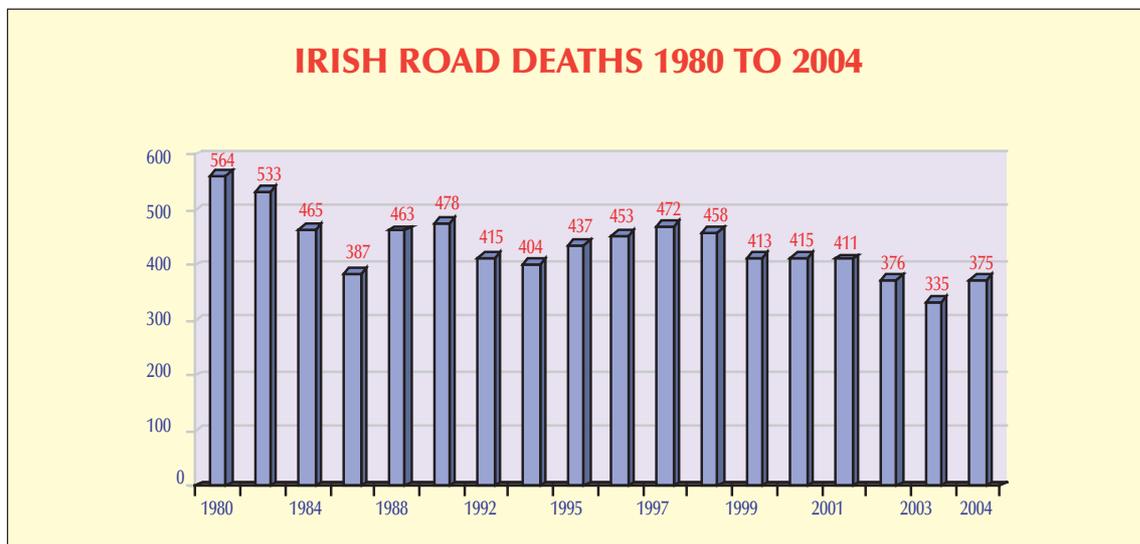
### 3.2.5 THE TECHNICAL BUREAU

2004 saw the **Technical Bureau** celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and, in tandem with local celebrations to mark the event, an international Forensic Conference, with the theme Integrated Evidence Management, was hosted by An Garda Síochána, in association with the Forensic Science Laboratory, the EU AGIS Programme and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

In September the Technical Bureau was certified as ISO 9001/2000 compliant, in recognition of its continued commitment to change, quality service and the delivery of a professional service. The Technical Bureau staff attended 1,085 call-outs during 2004.

### 3.2.6 GARDA NATIONAL TRAFFIC BUREAU

The **Garda National Traffic Bureau** played a central role in the enforcement of a national initiative, Operation 'High Visibility', which created a highly observable presence of local Divisional Traffic Units, as a deterrent in the enforcement of road traffic and transport legislation in conjunction with on-going operations targeting key road-safety offences, including drink-driving, speeding, non-wearing of seat-belts and dangerous driving and special initiatives targeting heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and buses.



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 122 in the category killed. The most dangerous times were between 4/6pm (41), 2/4am (38) and 12/2pm (36) with the worst day being Saturday followed by Sunday and Friday. July was the worst month for fatalities with 38 deaths, followed by February, June and August with 36 each. During the year males accounted for 261 fatalities and females for 114; drivers, passengers and pedestrians accounting for 154 / 88 / 69 deaths respectively, 58.4% of all total fatalities.

ROAD TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY MONTH – 1998 TO 2004													
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1998	34	29	21	46	33	42	38	40	47	42	41	45	458
1999	30	34	35	31	26	35	48	42	38	40	17	37	413
2000	32	41	23	42	28	30	39	32	40	40	36	32	415
2001	30	38	31	22	40	24	41	34	42	32	40	37	411
2002	35	33	34	32	20	34	42	35	36	31	23	21	376
2003	20	21	33	23	38	37	32	26	20	34	30	21	335
2004	32	36	25	27	26	36	38	36	34	22	29	34	375

In November the Ministers' for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Transport announced the establishment of a **Garda Traffic Corps** under the control of an Assistant Commissioner who will have responsibility for :

- ◆ Contributing to reducing road fatalities and casualties;
- ◆ Improving traffic flow;
- ◆ Enforcing road traffic legislation effectively and consistently;
- ◆ Enforcing road transport and haulage legislation effectively and consistently using available technologies;
- ◆ Providing appropriate policing support and response to the National Development Plan provisions relating to traffic and transport and
- ◆ Providing a systematic and structured road traffic collision service and providing accurate, timely and sufficiently detailed information to key stakeholders.

### 3.2.7. Garda National Immigration Bureau.

The enactment of the Immigration Act, 2004, together with the impact of the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2003 contributed to a reduction in the number of illegal immigrants and asylum seekers at ports of entry for the **Garda National Immigration Bureau**.

	2003	2004
<b>Persons refused entry and removed at Ports</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>4,477</b>
<b>Non Nationals Registered</b>	<b>127,956</b>	<b>133,957</b>
<b>Persons deported</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>624</b>
<b>Applications for asylum</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>4,766</b>

There were six (6) planned deportation operations involving charter flights – four (4) to Romania and Moldova and two (2) to Nigeria.

A dedicated unit was established to investigate the activities of “bogus language schools”, which are seen as playing an important negative role in attracting non-nationals to this State whose intention is to work illegally in the service sector. Abuses of the student system were identified and the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform notified the Inter-departmental Working Group on the Internationalisation of Irish Education Services, whose final report was published in November 2004.

A Liaison Officer, from the Department of Social and Family Affairs was seconded to the Bureau in July to deal with welfare abuse and savings of almost €1 million were made to the State up to 31<sup>st</sup> December. A Liaison Officer from the UK Immigration Services was also seconded during 2004 in order to stem immigration abuses of the Common Travel Area that exists between the UK and Ireland.

In December, members of the GNIB attended a training course for Airline Liaison Officers, aimed at training GNIB personnel to perform duty, in a consultative capacity, at European hub airports and seaports, where illegal immigration to this State has been identified as a problem, assisting with exit checks in order to prevent illegal immigration to this State.

In co-operation with the Garda Technical Bureau, Garda IT and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform a major IT project commenced to design and introduce a new Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to electronically store the fingerprints of all non-nationals in Ireland. The expected completion date for this project is 2006.

### 3.2.8 Operational Support Unit.

The **Operational Support Unit** consists of the Garda Air Support, Garda Dog, Garda Mounted and Garda Water Units. The Unit was deployed at over thirty-two (32) EU Ministerial Meetings during Ireland's Presidency of European Union and was also involved in the security operations for EU Accession Day on 1st May and the EU / US Security Summit at Dromoland Castle in June and assisted in training of Regional Public Order Units, including the training and use of Water Cannon, as a graduated response for Public Order policing, for both these Meetings.

Operation 'Assist' - a 'high visibility' crime reduction and prevention strategy – continued during 2004 and was extended to each Region as an initiative to deal with public disorder and anti-social behaviour in provincial towns.





# Dublin Metropolitan Region

## DMA REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	1,082,048
Area:	869 km <sup>2</sup>
Primary/Secondary Roads:	153.5 km
Regional Crime 2004:	46,841
Crime per 1,000 population:	40.74
Regional Detections 2004:	14,932
Detection Rate:	32%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:	49
Road Traffic Offences:	98,584
Garda Strength:	3,983
Garda Stations:	47
Garda Districts:	18

A number of Crime initiatives took place within the Region in 2004. Operation 'Delivery' was established to counteract an increase in cash-in-transit and ATM robberies. In November, Divisional Officers put intelligence-led 'high profile' policing operations in place to ensure increased levels of dedicated foot and mobile patrols in areas of identified vulnerability. The City Centre policing initiative continued during 2004.

Eleven (11) high profile meetings and a total of 200 medium / low profile meetings were held in Dublin during Ireland's Presidency of the EU. Key locations requiring extensive policing included Dublin Castle, Farmleigh, Dublin Airport and Phoenix Park. Policing of events and meetings were performed by uniformed and plain-clothes personnel throughout the Region. The Divisional Traffic Unit, Dublin Castle had a significant role in the escorting of VIP's. Public Order Units, who had undergone intensive training in preparation, were available for deployment during the Presidency and were utilised in a number of other Garda Regions, as well as the DMR, where they were used to particular effect against protestors at the Accession Day celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> May, where for the first time, water cannon were deployed. It was a challenging period for An Garda Síochána but the professional manner in which events and meetings were policed was a significant factor in the success of the Irish Presidency.

The LUAS (light rail) Red and Green Lines were introduced in 2004 running from Heuston Train Station to Connolly Station and from Tallaght and Sandyford to the City Centre. In preparation for this, Traffic Management Plans, Standard Operating Procedures and Generic Risk Assessment Plans were prepared, culminating in an In-Service programme providing training for operational Gardaí in the Region. A number of inter-regional initiatives, concentrating on the enforcement of Road Transport legislation, with particular emphasis on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and 'over-weight' offences, proved particularly successful.

Operation 'Freeflow' took place between 29<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005. 150 Probationer Gardaí were transferred to the Region for the operation and was the culmination of planning both within An Garda Síochána and externally with 'Freeflow' stakeholders.

During 2004 three (3) seminars, under the EU AGIS Programme, were organised during Ireland's Presidency of the EU, on the following topics :

- ◆ Joint Investigation Teams
- ◆ Misuse of Cocaine
- ◆ Public Order.

The conclusions and recommendations of the seminars were compiled into official documents of the Council of Europe and were included on the agenda of the Police Cooperation Working Party (PCWP). The findings of all three seminars have been compiled by way of Manuals of Best Practice and distributed to all Member States.





## South-Eastern Region

### SOUTH EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES

Population:	452,109
Area:	12,977 km <sup>2</sup>
Primary/Secondary Roads:	906.5 km
Regional Crime 2004:	9,673
Crime per 1,000 population:	19.34
Regional Detections 2004:	4,047
Detection Rate:	42%
Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:	57
Road Traffic Offences:	14,375
Garda Strength:	971
Garda Stations:	117
Garda Districts:	16

The South Eastern Region continues to host a number of significant national major events every year. The American Express World Golf Championship was held in September at Mount Juliet in Thomastown in Co. Kilkenny. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann was held at Clonmel, attracting record crowds. The 'Spraoi' Festival in Waterford City over the August bank holiday weekend doubled the City's population, entertaining in excess of 60,000 visitors in the city.

Kilkenny continued to attract high volumes of tourists throughout the year, with a significant influx of people for the annual Arts Week, Cat Laughs Festival and the 'Source' concert.

Seaside resorts, from Courtown, Rosslare Strand and Fethard-on-Sea in Wexford to Dunmore East and Tramore in Waterford attracted a huge migration of traffic throughout the Region during the year.

Traffic law enforcement continued to be a high priority in the Region, with Waterford / Kilkenny Division achieving the lowest ever number of fatalities on record for the Division in 2004 with 'high visibility' campaigns, concentrating on the Collision Prevention Programme as the basis for deployment of resources in identified areas, contributing to road traffic management.

The management of public order matters, so as to create a safe environment, continued to be a priority for policing. Operation 'Encounter' and a number of localised initiatives, including the 'Safe Home' initiative in Waterford City, developed in partnership with the Vintners Association and the City Council helped target public order offences in the Region.

The contribution of Community Policing to crime detection and prevention, with emphasis on community responsibility in this area, is a dominant feature of policing in the Region. Neighbourhood Watch, Coastal Watch, Community Alert and Business Watch schemes, with the Schools' Programme are actively supported in the respective divisions with high levels of community interaction evident. There are eight (8) Youth Diversion Programmes operating in the Region, catering for in excess of four hundred (400) young people, ranging in age from 8-18 years, expending approximately €800,000 per year. These partnership crime prevention initiatives play an important role in dealing with youth issues and are an integral part of the strategy to address crime in the Region.

Two (2) high-level meetings were held in the Region during Ireland's Presidency of the EU.



PICTURE COURTESY OF MATT BROWNE/SPORTSFILE



## Southern Region

### SOUTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

<b>Population:</b>	716,000
<b>Area:</b>	14,936 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary/Secondary Roads:</b>	1152.7km
<b>Regional Crime 2004:</b>	14,788
<b>Crime per 1,000 population:</b>	19.34
<b>Regional Detections 2004:</b>	6,372
<b>Detection Rate:</b>	43%
<b>Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:</b>	61
<b>Road Traffic Offences:</b>	29,981
<b>Garda Strength:</b>	1,867
<b>Garda Stations:</b>	160
<b>Garda Districts:</b>	22

During the course of the year there were nine (9) homicides, eight of which were detected (89%) and substantial progress has been made in the investigation of the remaining one. Policing strategies, which have been in place in relation to feuding criminal families in Limerick, have been particularly effective and the successful prosecution of key figures during 2004 is now paying dividends with serious instances significantly reduced. This has been complemented by ongoing operations to recover illegally held firearms which has also disrupted criminality in the city.

A number of key figures involved in the illegal drugs trade were also targeted and successfully prosecuted during the year. Illegal drugs in excess of €6million street value and cash amounting to €500,000 were seized resulting in the supply networks being seriously disrupted.

Monitoring of dissident subversive activity continued in 2004 with a Cork-based Real IRA cell being targeted for their activities resulting in a number of successful prosecutions during the year.

A number of crime prevention initiatives were put in place during the year :

Operation 'Passport', which targeted travelling non-national criminals who were suspected of committing distraction type offences, particularly in houses, shops and post offices in rural areas. The operation created an awareness of this type of crime and will continue into 2005.

Operation 'Ant', which commenced in 2003 targeted crimes of deception being committed against the elderly by rogue tradesmen, continued in 2004 resulting in a number of successful prosecutions. In October, a number of searches were conducted on the homes of the main suspects, and others, as part of an asset tracing operation by the Criminal Assets Bureau.

Through Operation 'Encounter' public order policing has continued to be successful throughout the Region particularly in eradicating public order problems in the northside of Limerick City. The maintenance of good public order on the streets of Cork continues to receive priority attention and the substantial downward trend experienced as regards serious assaults in 2003 has continued throughout 2004.

Road traffic law enforcement was also a priority throughout the Region during the year and the strategy of high visibility traffic policing has paid dividends in terms of driver behaviour with greater compliance with legislation in relation to speeding and the wearing of seatbelts.

Four (4) high level meetings were held in the Region during Ireland's Presidency of the EU.

In July, Cork City Division received a National Award for Public Service Excellence and Innovation from An Taoiseach at Dublin Castle in respect of the Cork City Public Order Policing Model which is a Public / Private Partnership.

In November the Lord Mayor of Cork hosted a civic reception for Cork City Gardai in recognition of the service given to the people of Cork by An Garda Síochána since the foundation of the State. This was an unprecedented honour for An Garda Síochána in the Region and received widespread media attention.



## Western Region

### WESTERN REGION IN FIGURES

<b>Population:</b>	445,389
<b>Area:</b>	17,739 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary/Secondary Roads:</b>	1328.2km
<b>Regional Crime 2004:</b>	7,127
<b>Crime per 1,000 population:</b>	14.89
<b>Regional Detections 2004:</b>	2,570
<b>Detection Rate:</b>	36%
<b>Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:</b>	55
<b>Road Traffic Offences:</b>	12,877
<b>Garda Strength:</b>	1,133
<b>Garda Stations:</b>	145
<b>Garda Districts:</b>	20

The first high profile meeting of Ireland's Presidency of the EU took place in Galway in January with a further three (3) meetings taking place in the Region in March, April and May. The Presidency culminated in the visit of President George W. Bush for the EU / US Summit at Dromoland Castle in June. A major security operation, 'Thomond' was put in place for the visit, which involved the deployment of approximately 3,000 members of An Garda Síochána, together with personnel from the Defence Forces. The operation impacted locally, nationally and internationally and was controlled from a dedicated incident room, based at Shannon Airport and was one of the largest security operations ever in the State.

Road deaths increased in the Region during 2004 but there was a significant reduction in the number of people seriously injured, from 162 to 103. A number of regional checkpoints were conducted during the year, including multi-agency checkpoints enforcing road transport legislation, targeting heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). In October a road safety initiative was commenced throughout the Region focussing on speeding, insurance and drink-driving offences. Thirteen (13) one-hour checkpoints were placed at locations previously identified as collision prone spots.

During 2004 the ongoing security operation at Shannon Airport continued. Four (4) anti-war protests were staged to coincide with the visit of President Bush, with further protests being held in October and November.





## Northern Region

### NORTHERN REGION IN FIGURES

<b>Population:</b>	315,129
<b>Area:</b>	11,306 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary/Secondary Roads:</b>	745.2 km
<b>Regional Crime 2004:</b>	5,368
<b>Crime per 1,000 population:</b>	16.25
<b>Regional Detections 2004:</b>	1,817
<b>Detection Rate:</b>	34%
<b>Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:</b>	68
<b>Road Traffic Offences:</b>	10,251
<b>Garda Strength:</b>	1,049
<b>Garda Stations:</b>	105
<b>Garda Districts:</b>	14

As there had been an increase in road fatalities within the Region, a concerted effort was made to reduce this carnage. In Donegal Division young drivers and 'company' cars were targeted and, in a four-month period, in excess of one hundred (100) vehicles were seized. In September an innovative video on road safety was produced and, before the end of December, this video had been shown in every secondary school in the Division. These initiatives have impacted on driver behaviour and undoubtedly contributed to the reduction in road traffic fatalities in the Division for 2004.

A number of crime prevention initiatives were put in place during 2004 including :

Operation 'Cougar' which targeted persons engaged in kidnappings and subsequent thefts of cash from financial institutions along the border area. The theft occurred in Northern Ireland but gang members adopted the strategy of having large sums of money delivered to pre-arranged locations in this jurisdiction, creating a cross-border dimension to their crimes.

Operation 'Segund' was a cross-border operation focused on persons engaged in illegal dumping and culminated in searches of key locations being conducted simultaneously north and south of the border with successful results.

Operation 'Norman' targeted travelling criminals and achieved major successes by targeting and profiling some major criminals and in intelligence-gathering.

Operation 'Nora' was run in conjunction with the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation and targeted cross-border criminals engaged in the sale and distribution of illegal animal remedies. Nationwide searches were conducted resulting in several seizures of such products.

Special operations were conducted in Sligo / Leitrim Division targeting thefts from vehicles, which had attracted adverse media publicity and resulted in a 24% reduction in this type of crime.

A simulated major emergency exercise was held at Sligo Airport in November to test and update regional preparedness for such a major emergency.

Other major events in the Region in 2004 included :

The Donegal International Rally in June, which attracted over 50,000 visitors over a three-day period. The All-Ireland Sheep-shearing Championships took place in July with 10,000 visitors and the Ireland Pipe Band Championships were held in Letterkenny. The West of Ireland Amateur Golf Championship was held over the Easter week-end at Rosses Point, Sligo and was attended by many international visitors. The Riverstown Vintage Festival, held in June, was attended by over 8,000 visitors.





## Eastern Region

### EASTERN REGION IN FIGURES

<b>Population:</b>	599,894
<b>Area:</b>	12,864 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary/Secondary Roads:</b>	1,117.6 km
<b>Regional Crime 2004:</b>	15,167
<b>Crime per 1,000 population 2004:</b>	21.40
<b>Regional Detections 2004:</b>	4,660
<b>Detection Rate:</b>	31%
<b>Road Traffic Fatalities, 2004:</b>	85
<b>Road Traffic Offences:</b>	28,457
<b>Garda Strength:</b>	1,378
<b>Garda Stations:</b>	126
<b>Garda Districts:</b>	19

Eight (8) high profile Ministerial meetings were held in the Region during Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, including the Ecofin meeting of Foreign Ministers, held at Punchestown in April with another meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Tullamore, also in April.

Operation 'Cleanstreet', targeting drug dealing at street level, was put in place in Longford. A number of searches were conducted which resulted in quantities of cannabis resin, amphetamine powder and cash being seized. Eight (8) convictions under Section 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Acts have been secured and the Criminal Assets Bureau has placed restraining orders on a number of properties and tax assessments have also been served.

In association with the Regional Health Authority, Gardaí have launched a Hospital Watch scheme at Portlaoise Regional Hospital.

Divisional Scenes of Crime units became fully operational in Laois / Offaly and Longford / Westmeath Divisions during 2004, providing a professional and prompt service to victims of crime, while enhancing criminal investigations, from a forensic science perspective.

A number of other major events took place in the Region during 2004 including :

The National Ploughing Championships, held at Grangeford, Tullow, Co. Carlow in September, with over 200,000 people attending over three (3) days.

The third 'Oxygen' music festival was held at Punchestown Racecourse, with an attendance of over 100,000 and camping facilities provided for over 50,000 on each day of the Festival.

The European Golf Tournament was held at the 'K' Club from 1st / 4th July, with over 90,000 people attending.

The Irish Open Golf Championship was held at Baltray Golf Club, Co. Louth between 21st / 25th July and attracted a large number of spectators and major interest from the world's media.



## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE – Ireland's Presidency of the European Union and other Events.

### European Union Presidency

Over 240 meetings were held in here during Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, in the first half of 2004, from the Flag Raising Ceremony at Dublin Castle on 1st January to the EU / US Summit, with President George W. Bush, on 26th June. Eleven (11) high profile meetings and a total of 200 medium / low profile meetings were held in Dublin alone. Key locations requiring extensive policing included Dublin Castle, Farmleigh, Dublin Airport and Phoenix Park. Policing of events and meetings were performed by uniformed and plain-clothes personnel with the Regional Traffic Unit, Dublin Castle having a significant role in the escorting of VIP's.

### Chiefs of Police Task Force and The Madrid Bombings

Following the terrorist bombing in Madrid on 11th March the European Justice and Home Affairs Ministers requested the Irish Presidency to hold a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Group, which was held in Dublin and chaired by D/Chief Superintendent, Security & Intelligence.

Also in March, the European Council mandated the European Chiefs of Police Task Force, in the context of measures to reinforce operational co-operation and the role of the Task Force in co-ordinating measures in response to, and prevention of, terrorists acts to undertake two key tasks : a) to review how operational capacity can be reinforced and to focus on pro-active intelligence and b) to draw up, with the assistance of experts from Intelligence Services and Europol, a report on the terrorist attack on Madrid. The Commissioner chaired a meeting of the Chiefs of Police Task Force in Dublin which undertook to address these two tasks resulting in proposals for improving the operational effectiveness of the Task Force being submitted to the Council of Ministers and which formed the basis for subsequent agreement for the re-structuring of the Task Force within the Council profile. The expert report on the Madrid Bombings was also submitted to the Council of Ministers.



### May 1st, Accession Day

One of the high points of Ireland's Presidency was the celebrations to mark the accession of ten (10) new countries as members of the European Union on 1st May. The Heads of States for Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as those from the remaining fifteen (15) Member States were at Áras an Uachtaráin for the Accession Ceremony where the flags from all 25 States were raised for the first time.

During the Anti-Globalisation protests to mark May Day, which coincided with the Accession Day celebrations, water cannon, which were on loan from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, were used as an effective deterrent by Public Order Units, when protestors, including international groups of anti-globalisation and anti-establishment protestors, gathered on the Navan Road, in Dublin in an attempt to gain access to the celebrations at Áras an Uachtaráin. A 'stand-off' situation had developed and once the water cannon were deployed, the groups dispersed within a short time.

### Meetings chaired by An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána chaired a meeting of the Europol Management Board during the EU Presidency and, following the accession of the ten (10) additional Member States on 1st May, **Europol** received applications for membership, nine (9) of which were processed and

approved during 2004, resulting in an increase in the volume of intelligence on terrorism and organised crime being exchanged. An Garda Síochána also chaired meetings of the Multi-Disciplinary Group on Organised Crime, the Police Co-Operation Working Party as well as the Police Working Group on Terrorism. An historic Heads of Sirene meeting was hosted by Ireland, attended for the first time by delegates from the enlarged **Schengen** family of 27 Member States, including Iceland and Norway.

### Visit of President George W. Bush – EU / US Summit

The Presidency culminated in the visit of President George W. Bush for the EU / US Summit at Dromoland Castle in June. A major security operation, 'Thomond' was put in place for the visit, which involved the deployment of approximately 3,000 members of An Garda Síochána, together with personnel from the Defence Forces. The Public Order Units, Operational Support Units and water cannon, again on loan from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, were also deployed for the duration of President Bush's visit. The operation impacted locally, nationally and internationally and was controlled from a dedicated incident room, based at Shannon Airport and was one of the largest security operations ever in the State.

### Asian Tsunami, 26th December, 2004

On 26th December, 2004, reports began to filter through of the Asian Tsunami, an underground earthquake, measuring 9 on the Richter scale, which resulted in huge tidal waves, reaching up to 500 miles an hour, coming ashore, from the West coast of Indonesia to the East coast of Africa killing over 250,000 people. Successive reports, together with images being broadcast on Sky News, slowly let a horrified world know the true enormity of the catastrophe.

In consultation with the Departments of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Foreign Affairs the Commissioner sent a Detective Superintendent from the Garda National Immigration Bureau and a Detective Sergeant, from the Garda Technical Bureau, a fingerprint expert, to Thailand on 5th January, 2005 to assist in the identification of any possible Irish victims. To assist them they brought with them ante-mortem information on possible victims. Here, an incident room was established by An

Garda Síochána in Dublin Airport, where efforts were made to establish the whereabouts of Irish citizens believed to have been caught up in the disaster.

On arrival in Thailand the members met with the relatives of the missing Irish people and with personnel from the Department of Foreign Affairs. They established themselves in the Incident Room set up by the Irish Ambassador, Mr. Dan Mulhall, at the Pearl Hotel, Phuket and passed information on to the Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) information management centre where in excess of 200 personnel from over 25 countries were based, matching ante and post mortem information in order to identify the victims' remains, which were being preserved in temporary morgues awaiting identification.

Four Irish people were identified as victims of the tsunami, they were Éilis Finnegan, who had been identified before the arrival of the Irish delegation; Conor Keightley, from Northern Ireland, who was identified shortly after; Lucy Coyle and Michael Murphy who were identified shortly thereafter. Once the identification process was complete, the Thai authorities then released the bodies to be returned to Ireland, where post-mortem examinations were then conducted in order to establish the cause of death, which will be finalised when the Coroner holds inquests.



