

Justice and Defence

6

Introductory text	117	
Table 6.1	Indictable/headline offences and murders recorded	121
Graph	<i>Number of murders recorded</i>	121
Table 6.2	Headline offences and detection rate, 2002	122
Table 6.3	Homicide victims by age and sex, 2002	122
Graph	<i>Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2002</i>	122
Table 6.4	Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2002	123
Table 6.5	Robberies and aggravated burglaries	123
Graph	<i>Number of robberies and aggravated burglaries</i>	123
Table 6.6	Arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences	124
Table 6.7	Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána	124
Graph	<i>Number of arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences</i>	124
Table 6.8	Average daily number of prisoners in custody	125
Table 6.9	Prisoners in custody by age and sex, 2 December 2003	125
Table 6.10	Prisoners by length of sentence and sex, 2 December 2003	126
Graph	<i>Age and sex profile of prisoners in custody, 2 December 2003</i>	126

Table 6.11	Applications under the Domestic Violence Act	127
Graph	<i>Applications under the Domestic Violence Act</i>	127
Table 6.12	Details of asylum applications	128
Table 6.13	Defence Forces (permanent and reserve)	128
Graph	<i>Persons granted asylum</i>	128
Table 6.14	Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces	129
Graph	<i>Numbers in the Defence Forces</i>	129

6

Justice and Defence

- There were 106,415 headline offences in 2002, a 23% rise on 2001.
- Robberies involving firearms were up by 57% in 2002.
- 13,441 people were arrested for drunk driving in 2002, 39% of whom were convicted.
- Prisoner numbers grew by 21% between 1998 and 2002.
- The number of people granted asylum in 2003 was down 61% on 2002.

Introduction

The statistics in this chapter relate to a number of aspects of justice and defence. They have been obtained from the reports of the Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Prison Service, the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Defence Forces.

Crime figures up to 1999 reflect a former classification of crimes as indictable/non-indictable. With the introduction of the PULSE information system in the Garda Síochána, a new classification of crimes as headline/non-headline has been introduced. The figures for 2000 onwards refer to the new classification of headline crimes. While this reflects to a large extent what in the past was defined as indictable crime, the terms are not identical and so direct comparisons cannot be made between years prior to 2000 and subsequent years. Caution is required generally in looking at trends in crimes and offences over time, particularly when talking about the number of headline offences. There can be changes in recording rules and enforcement practices, and levels of reporting by the public. There were also changes in the definition of offences.

There were 106,415 headline offences recorded in 2002, of which 39 per cent were detected. This was a substantial increase on 2001 when the corresponding figure was 86,633. The detection rate varied considerably by offence group, ranging from only 20 per cent for burglary, to 84 per cent for homicide. There were 364 robberies (including burglaries) involving firearms in 2002, up 57% on 2001.

The average daily number of prisoners in custody has increased significantly from 2,610 in 1998 to 3,165 in 2002.

Table 6.1

The effect of a change in classification from indictable offences to headline offences is outlined in the chapter introduction.

Table 6.4

Rape Section 4 is a broader definition of the offence than that used in previous legal definitions. The victim may be male or female.

Table 6.8

Shanganagh Castle is closed since 20 December 2002.

Table 6.11

Annual figures refer to the period from 1 August in the previous year to 31 July in the current year.

In some cases, Interim Barring Orders have been granted on foot of an application for Protection Orders and vice versa.

Table 6.12

The figures in this table refer to first instance recommendations only. Figures for decisions on asylum applications granted and refused in any year may pertain to applications received in earlier years.

Table 6.14

Figures as at 31 March. Personnel in the naval forces have been entered at equivalent army rank.

Table 6.1 Indictable/headline offences and murders recorded

Year	Indictable/headline offences recorded	Number of murders
1950	12,231	9
1955	11,531	4
1960	15,375	3
1965	16,736	7
1970	30,756	11
1975	48,387	23
1980	72,782	21
1985	91,285	25
1990	87,658	17
1995	102,484	43
2000	73,276	39
2001	86,633	52
2002	106,415	52

Source: Garda Síochána

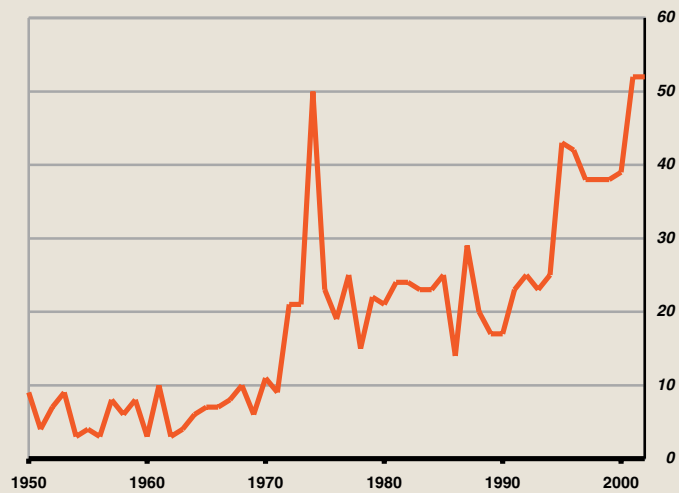
Number of murders recorded

Table 6.2 Headline offences and detection rate, 2002

Offence group	Number		
	Recorded	Detected	Detection rate %
Homicide	133	112	84
Assault	5,995	4,472	75
Sexual	3,161	2,180	69
Arson	1,486	316	21
Drugs	2,979	2,967	100
Larceny	58,180	20,685	36
Burglary	25,602	5,167	20
Robbery	2,939	1,055	36
Fraud	4,272	2,894	68
Other	1,668	1,167	70
Total	106,415	41,015	39

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.3 Homicide victims by age and sex, 2002

Age	Number			
	Murder		Manslaughter	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 10	0	0	0	0
11 - 20	5	2	1	0
21 - 30	19	1	2	0
31 - 40	9	2	3	0
41 - 50	8	4	0	0
51 - 60	2	0	1	0
61 - 70	0	0	0	0
71 and over	0	0	0	0
Total	43	9	7	0

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

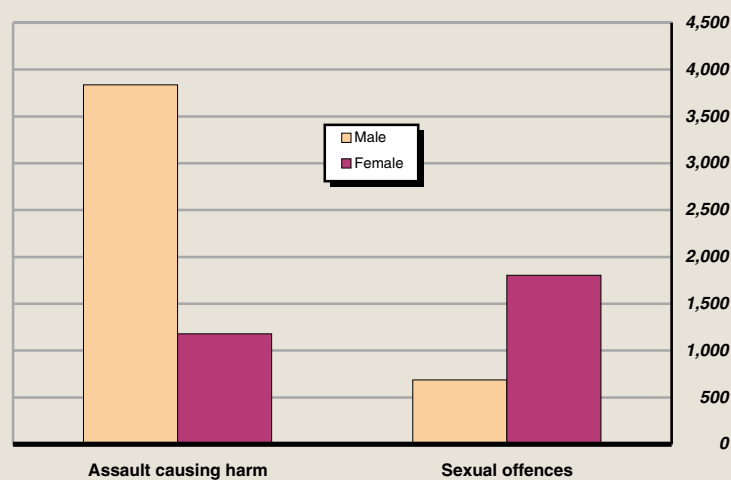
Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2002

Table 6.4 Victims of assault and sexual offences by sex, 2002

Offence	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
Assault causing harm	3,837	1,179	5,016
Sexual offences	686	1,805	2,491
Sexual assault	448	1,178	1,626
Aggravated sexual assault	4	20	24
Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person	3	9	12
Gross indecency	109	0	109
Buggery	86	8	94
Unlawful carnal knowledge	0	102	102
Rape Section 4	36	49	85
Rape of a female	0	412	412
Incest	0	27	27

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.5 Robberies and aggravated burglaries

Offence	Number					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Involving firearms	252	221	290	203	232	364
Robbery with use of firearm	88	61	133	152	171	284
Aggravated burglary with use of firearm	164	160	157	51	61	80
Involving use of syringe	893	442	384	361	371	221
Robbery with use of syringe	590	318	274	320	350	204
Aggravated burglary with use of syringe	303	124	110	41	21	17

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Number of robberies and aggravated burglaries

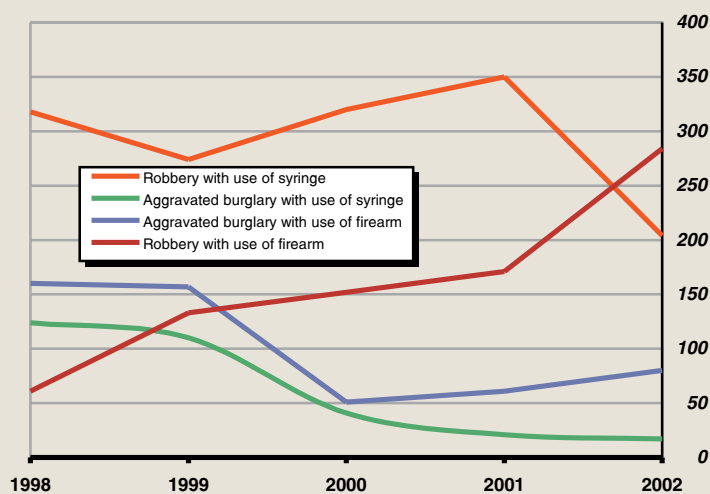


Table 6.6 Arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences

Year	Number of arrests	Number of convictions	Conviction rate
1997	7,541	4,379	58%
1998	8,707	5,756	66%
1999	9,570	5,853	61%
2000	10,433	6,593	63%
2001	12,841	6,790	53%
2002	13,441	5,212	39%

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

Table 6.7 Numbers in each rank of the Garda Síochána

Year	Number					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Commissioner ranks	12	13	13	13	13	13
Chief Superintendents	44	46	46	46	47	47
Superintendents	163	168	168	169	170	171
Inspectors	263	262	263	293	289	294
Sergeants	1,844	1,866	1,876	1,897	1,933	1,928
Gardaí	8,462	8,880	9,092	9,222	9,362	9,447
Total	10,788	11,235	11,458	11,640	11,814	11,900

Source: Garda Síochána Annual Report

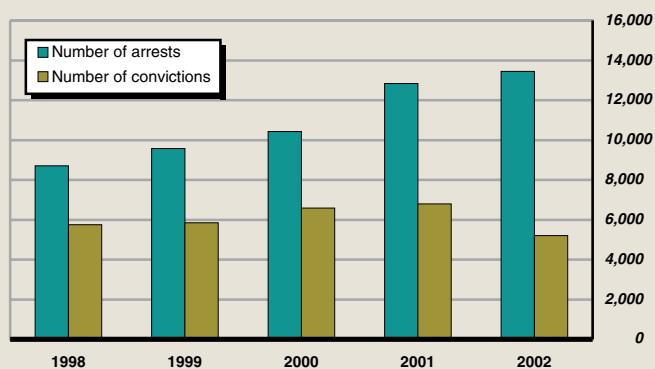
Number of arrests and convictions for drink/driving offences

Table 6.8 Average daily number of prisoners in custody

Institution	Number						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Arbour Hill	139	139	138	139	135	137	138
Castlerea	25	109	195	190	186	193	195
Cloverhill	–	–	–	213	374	386	375
Cork	268	262	271	267	274	267	268
Curragh	72	94	93	94	98	92	98
Fort Mitchel	101	101	100	89	95	84	94
Limerick (male)	132	182	226	225	171	171	169
Limerick (female)	12	12	14	13	14	16	16
Loughan House	70	48	56	66	72	70	71
Midlands	–	–	–	–	241	375	384
Mountjoy (male)	650	729	826	723	504	441	460
Mountjoy (female)	51	59	70	59	82	88	81
Portlaoise	164	155	148	167	145	137	128
St. Patrick's	208	187	194	193	206	179	188
Shanganagh Castle	48	41	39	28	27	23	–
Shelton Abbey	47	47	46	25	27	47	50
Training Unit	85	85	87	89	89	91	86
Wheatfield	350	360	368	368	372	368	375
Total	2,422	2,610	2,871	2,948	3,112	3,165	3,176

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.8

TABLE 6.9

Table 6.9 Prisoners in custody by age and sex, 2 December 2003

Age	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
15 - 16	16	0	16
17 - 20	344	7	351
21 - 24	549	15	564
25 - 29	537	18	555
30 - 39	645	21	666
40 - 49	263	6	269
50 and over	215	4	219
Total	2,569	71	2,640

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

Table 6.10 Prisoners by length of sentence and sex, 2 December 2003

Number

Sentence	Male	Female	Total
Life	163	3	166
10 years or more	177	1	178
5 up to 10 years	586	8	594
3 up to 5 years	554	15	569
2 up to 3 years	277	11	288
1 up to 2 years	386	15	401
6 - 12 months	281	8	289
under 6 months	145	10	155
Total	2,569	71	2,640

Source: Irish Prison Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.10

Age and sex profile of prisoners in custody, 2 December 2003

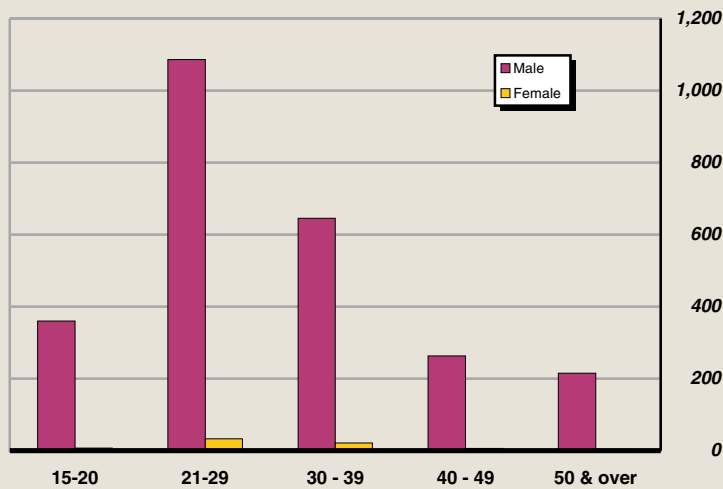


Table 6.11 Applications under the Domestic Violence Act

	<i>Number</i>					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Barring orders						
Applications	4,792	4,668	4,908	4,470	4,067	3,586
Granted	2,004	2,219	2,319	2,067	1,740	1,575
Protection orders						
Applications	4,409	3,619	4,381	4,263	3,677	3,109
Granted	3,474	3,390	3,467	3,711	3,248	2,814
Safety orders						
Applications	1,779	2,039	2,336	2,903	2,814	2,557
Granted	837	970	988	1,232	1,187	1,108
Interim barring orders						
Applications	733	1,120	506	1,159	852	629
Granted	677	1,002	415	1,007	706	531

Source: Courts Service Annual Report

TABLE 6.11

Applications under the Domestic Violence Act

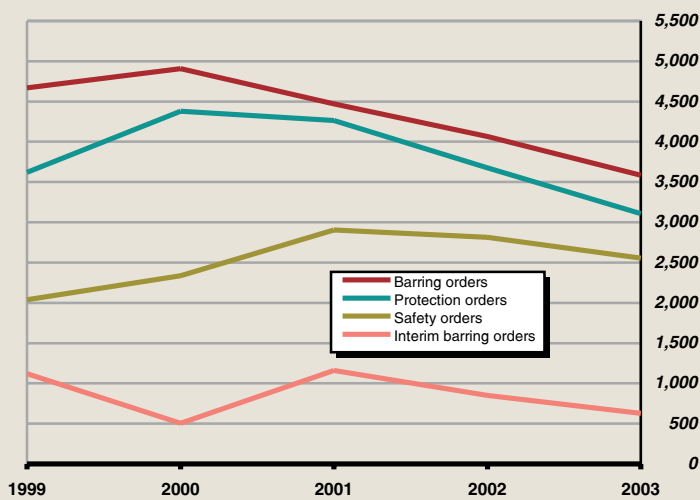


Table 6.12 Details of asylum applications

Year	Applications	Number	
		Granted asylum	Refused asylum
1998	4,626	128	1,202
1999	7,724	166	4,737
2000	10,938	211	6,282
2001	10,325	458	6,501
2002	11,634	893	7,469
2003	7,900	345	7,847

Source: Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner

TABLE 6.12

Table 6.13 Defence Forces (permanent and reserve)

Year	Number	
	Permanent Defence Force	Reserve Defence Force
1960	8,965	24,569
1965	8,199	21,946
1970	8,574	20,253
1975	12,059	17,221
1980	13,383	19,249
1985	13,778	16,358
1990	13,233	15,982
1995	12,742	16,188
2000	10,958	13,967
2001	10,675	13,076
2002	10,559	13,365
2003	10,498	13,941

Source: Defence Forces

TABLE 6.13

Persons granted asylum



Table 6.14 Numbers in each rank of the Defence Forces

Rank	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Commissioned Officers	1,346	1,296	1,246	1,243	1,270	1,303
Lieutenant-General	1	1	1	1	1	1
Major-General	3	2	3	3	3	3
Brigadier-General	8	9	7	8	9	8
Colonel	38	36	32	37	38	41
Lieutenant-Colonel	133	133	130	131	140	145
Commandant	429	434	444	440	442	423
Captain	486	434	392	355	327	324
Lieutenant	183	176	165	174	211	257
2nd Lieutenant	65	71	72	94	99	101
Non-Commissioned Officers	4,289	4,102	4,117	3,985	3,962	3,967
Sergeant-Major	43	40	45	48	49	47
Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant	50	46	48	51	48	52
Company Sergeant	235	229	236	248	265	271
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	315	293	273	258	279	278
Sergeant	1,403	1,346	1,336	1,291	1,354	1,395
Corporal	2,243	2,148	2,179	2,089	1,967	1,924
Private	5,715	5,715	5,476	5,296	5,194	5,090
Cadet	84	96	119	108	133	138
Total Permanent Defence Force	11,434	11,209	10,958	10,632	10,559	10,498
Total Reserve Defence Force	14,854	14,514	13,967	13,097	13,365	13,941
Reserve of Officers (First Line)	215	203	194	179	186	179
Reserve of Men (First Line)	293	280	283	287	267	230
Reserve (Second Line) All Ranks	14,346	14,031	13,490	12,631	12,912	13,532

TABLE 6.14

Source: Defence Forces

Numbers in the Defence Forces

