

Further information and contact details

If you require any further information on the work of the Council please contact the Director at:
 4/5 Harcourt Road, Dublin 2, Ireland.
 Telephone: + 353 1 4760047
 Fax: + 353 1 4760080
 Email: info@crimemcouncil.gov.ie

Annex 1

Current membership of the National Crime Council

Mr. Padraic White – Chairman
 Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association
 Mr. Peter Fitzgerald, Deputy Commissioner, An Garda Síochána
 Reverend Gerard Godley, Kerry Diocesan Youth Services
 Mr. Sean Hegarty, President, Muintir Na Tíre
 Ms. Deirdre Kenneally
 Mr. John Kenny
 Mr. Philip Maguire, Assistant Dublin City Manager
 Mr. Jack Marrinan
 Mr. Fergus McCabe, National Drugs Strategy Team
 Ms. Lillian McGovern
 Mr. Ken O’Leary, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
 Judge Michael Reilly
 Ms. Mary Ellen Ring, SC
 Mrs. Rosemary Tierney
 Professor Dermot Walsh, Professor of Law, University of Limerick

Council Staff

Director: Ms. Mary Burke
 Research Officer: Dr. Francesca Lundström
 Assistant Research Officer: Ms. Sara Parsons
 Administrative Assistant: Ms. Harriet McGarry

Annex 2

Current membership of the subgroups

Domestic Abuse Study Sub-Group

Professor Dermot Walsh – Chairman
 Ms. Mary Ellen Ring, SC
 Ms. Lillian McGovern

The Criminal Justice System Sub-Group

Judge Michael Reilly – Chairman
 Mr. Ken O’Leary
 Deputy Commissioner Peter Fitzgerald
 Reverend Gerard Godley
 Mr. Fergus McCabe
 Mrs. Rosemary Tierney
 Mr. Jack Marrinan

Demographics and Crime Sub-Group

Mr. Philip Maguire – Chairman
 Mr. Tom Coffey
 Mr. Sean Hegarty
 Ms. Deirdre Kenneally
 Mr. John Kenny

(ii) The second strand of research will be undertaken at the request of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and will seek to:

- Establish the average time intervals involved in the processing of criminal cases by examining the time intervals from the time when an individual is detained and ultimately charged with a criminal offence to the coming to trial and disposal of that case;
- Identify the likely causes for the delays; and
- Examine best practice in other jurisdictions.

This research will be conducted in-house and the initial phase of the work will concentrate on examining some specific offences such as murder, manslaughter and rape. The Council expects to be in a position to present these initial findings with recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform by December, 2004.

(b) Subgroup to look at changing demographics and crime

This Subgroup is at present developing its thinking on a range of issues to be examined around the changing face of Irish society and how the emergence of different cultures impacts on crime. For example, ethnic groups as victims of crime; ethnic groups as perpetrators of crime and inter-ethnic strife. Further details will be added to the web site as the work of this subgroup is decided and developed.

Other work topics

The Council intends to re-evaluate its work programme in September, 2004 following the publication of the findings of the National Study on Domestic Abuse. Further areas such as an examination of the ‘*Fear of Crime*’ and ‘*White Collar Crime*’ will then be considered.

Updates

The Council will update its web site – www.crimemcouncil.ie - at regular intervals and our *What’s New* section will give current and new information.

National Crime Council Ireland Information Leaflet

The National Crime Council

Background

The National Crime Council was established in 1999 by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to facilitate broadly based and well informed discussion on crime on an ongoing basis and to serve as an important aid to policy formulation.

The Council has four key roles, namely:

- to focus on crime prevention, with particular emphasis on the underlying causes of crime and the development of partnerships and practical approaches which will be effective at community level;
- to focus directly on raising public knowledge and awareness of crime;
- to examine the 'fear of crime' and to address the issues including those relating to minorities which arise as a consequence of this fear; and
- to identify research priorities which could be commissioned by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

The Council's mandate is:

- 'advisory' and non-executive in relation to its crime prevention remit;
- to play a direct 'Public Role' in increasing public knowledge and awareness of crime; and
- to have regard to relevant developments in other jurisdictions in reviewing and identifying 'best practice' on a variety of issues.

Council Members and Staff

The Council has a membership of 16, chaired by Mr. Padraic White and a staff of four. For relevant details see Annex 1.

The work programme completed to date

Since its establishment the Council has undertaken a number of research projects and published its findings. **All our reports may be viewed and downloaded from our website.** In summary the reports published are as follows:

(i) "Crime in Ireland": published on the 14th November, 2001

This report examined crime trends in Ireland for a 48 year period from 1950 to 1998 and the research was undertaken on behalf of the Council by the Institute of Criminology at University College Dublin. The Council made a number of recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Two of the key recommendations i.e. the conduct of a national crime victimisation survey and the setting up of an Expert Group on crime statistics

have been accepted by the Minister and the Government. The report of the Expert Group on crime statistics is due to be presented to the Minister shortly and the first ever national crime victimisation study is expected to be undertaken later this year.

(ii) Consultation Paper entitled: "Tackling the Underlying Causes of Crime: A Partnership Approach: published on the 24th October, 2002; and

(iii) "A Crime Prevention Strategy for Ireland: Tackling the Concerns of Local Communities": published on the 27th June, 2003

In keeping with the Council's mandate to undertake in-house research, the Council developed its thinking over an 18 month period on the best way to tackle the underlying causes of crime and how a more integrated model of partnership might be developed at a local level. This resulted in the publication of a Consultation Paper in October, 2002 and a final report in June, 2003 which set out the Council's recommendations, including the establishment of a crime prevention structure within the existing County and City Development Boards.

(iv) "Public Order Offences in Ireland": published on the 9th May, 2003

This report looked at patterns of public order offending in Ireland for a period prior to the enactment of the 1994 Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act and the period since then. The research was undertaken on behalf of the Council by the Institute of Criminology at University College Dublin. The Council made a number of recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and our recommendations relating to the licensing laws assisted in the formulation of the Intoxicating Liquor Act, 2003. The Commissioner of An Garda Síochána has also taken on board the recommendations of direct relevance to the Force.

Work Programme

The Council's current term of office will expire in July, 2005 and the work programme proposed is focused on a range of issues that can be completed in this time frame having regard to human and financial resources. The broad parameters of the work programme of the Council are set out hereunder and will be divided into three strands:

Strand 1 Ongoing Role:

There is a need for the Council to keep up-to-date in relation to developments and progress made upon the recommendations it has published. Specifically, the following issues must be monitored:

(a) Crime Statistics:

The Council will have regard to a range of developments that will assist in the timely availability and understanding of crime trends including:

- The report of the Expert Group on Crime Statistics;
- The findings from other sources such as the CSO Crime Victimisation Module - Autumn 2003 - which are due to be published shortly and the findings from the recently published Garda Public Attitude Survey conducted in 2003;
- The Crime Statistics for recent years and the quarterly crime figures; and
- The relevant Crime Statistics Provisions in the Garda Síochána Bill, 2004.

(b) Implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy

The Council will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the report entitled **"A Crime Prevention Strategy for Ireland: Tackling the Concerns of Local Communities"**.

(c) Implementation of the recommendations from the Public Order report

The Council will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the report entitled **"Public Order Offences in Ireland"**.

Strand 2 National Study on Domestic Abuse:

The Council decided to undertake a national study on domestic abuse so that up-to-date national data would be available in order to provide the most appropriate range of supports for victims and to assist in dealing with perpetrators. The Council believe that the findings will give a better picture of the prevalence and range of abuse perpetrated by men and women in Ireland today. The Council commissioned the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) to undertake the data collection element of the survey following an open tender process. The fieldwork was undertaken in the period March to July 2003 and the data in respect of 3,077 respondents (55% women and 45% men) is with the Council. The Council's in-house research team is now analysing the data and it is expected that a report on the findings will be published in September, 2004.

Strand 3 Newly Designated Subgroups:

The following subgroups have been set up to progress certain topics. The membership of the subgroups is at Annex 2.

(a) Subgroup to look at issues relevant to the Criminal Justice System

This Subgroup will look at two strands:

- (i) **'community sanctions'**: the research will look at the use/appropriateness of the range of non-custodial sanctions available to the Courts; restorative justice; the implementation of the Children Act, 2001; and other initiatives aimed at assisting 'at risk' young persons. Work on this project has begun.