

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness  
of the

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# DIVERSION PROGRAMME

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2006

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# DIVERSION PROGRAMME



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and

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## CONTENTS

Foreword by Assistant Commissioner Louis Harkin	5
Executive Summary	6
Membership and Terms of Reference	7
The Diversion Programme	8
Number of referrals to the Diversion Programme	9
Number of children referred to the Diversion Programme	11
Number of children referred by gender, region and division	13
Formal and Informal Cautions	14
Garda Restorative Cautions and Conferences	15
Children considered unsuitable for inclusion	17
Types of offences for which children were referred	18
Age profile of children referred	25
Training and Development	26
Observations and Recommendations	27

## APPENDIX

Human Resource structure	28
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## FOREWORD



Dear Commissioner,

It is my pleasure to present the 2006 Annual Report of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme as set out in Part 4 of the Children Act 2001.

The total number of incidents referred to the Diversion Programme during 2006 was 25,080 an increase of 3,583 or 16.6% on 2005. The total number of individual children referred to the programme was 20,016 which was an increase of 2,449 or 13.9% from the 2005 total. The vast majority of this increase can be accounted for by the increase in road traffic legislation enforcement. There was an increase in speeding detections from 151 in 2005 to 730 in 2006 and for no seatbelt or no helmet detections the increase was from 65 detections to 444.

With the exception of these road traffic offences, there was little or no change in the age profile or the type of offence for which children were referred. It is pleasing to note that the percentage of children deemed unsuitable for inclusion and referred on to the courts system continues to decrease and is now at 14% a decrease from 19% in 2002. This is in keeping with Garda policy of diverting children away from the formal courts system where a different intervention can be employed and is appropriate.

Alcohol related offences (20%) and theft (16%) continue to be the two main categories of offence for which children were referred.

The Garda programme of restorative justice continues to evolve with Juvenile Liaison Officers facilitating 307 restorative events.

I want to thank the committee, the Director of the Diversion Programme, the staff at the National Juvenile Office and the Juvenile Liaison Officers throughout the country for their dedication and work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louis Harkin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chairperson.

Louis Harkin, Assistant Commissioner

## Executive summary

- The total number of incidents referred to the Diversion Programme during 2006 was 25,080.
- The total number of individual children referred to the programme was 20,016.
- 15,129 (76%) children received a caution for their behaviour.
- 2,828 (14%) children were considered not suitable for inclusion in the programme.
- 1,280 (6%) children required no further action.
- 779 (4%) children had a decision in their case pending.
- A further breakdown shows that 11,320 (57%) children had their cases dealt with by way of informal caution and 3,809 (19%) children had their cases dealt with by formal caution.
- There was an increase of 2,123 referrals for road traffic detections.
- Other than road traffic detections there was no significant change in the types of offences for which children were referred to the programme.
- Alcohol related offences (20%) and theft (16%) constitute the two main categories of offence for which children were referred.
- There was no significant change in the age profile of those referred with children aged 15, 16 and 17 comprising of 74% of all referrals.
- The Garda programme of restorative justice continues to evolve with Juvenile Liaison Officers facilitating 307 restorative events an increase of 45 cases from 2005.
- A comprehensive evaluation of the restorative justice programme was completed by the Garda Research Unit.
- All Juvenile Liaison Officers are now trained to level 1 mediation.
- The National Juvenile Office continued to pursuing the prospect of a third level course being made available to all Juvenile Liaison Officers.
- At the end of the year 87 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers and 8 Juvenile Liaison Officer Sergeants were working on the programme.

## Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee

In May 2002 a Ministerial Order was signed bringing Part 4 of The Children Act 2001 into operation. This part of the Act deals entirely with the Diversion Programme. In June of 2003, a Committee was appointed in accordance with Section 44 of the Act to monitor the effectiveness of the programme.

The terms of reference of the Committee are to:

- monitor the effectiveness of the Diversion Programme
- review all aspects of its operation
- monitor the ongoing training needs of the facilitators
- make annually a report to the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána on its activities during the year

In general the committee understands its main tasks are to

- examine the management and effective delivery of the Diversion Programme
- identify best practices in the administration of the programme
- assess best practices for the training of facilitators and monitor training delivery
- put in place methodologies for the evaluation and measurement of the programme's effectiveness
- advise on any relevant matters
- prepare an annual report

### Membership

The members of the Committee appointed in June 2003 for a period of four years were

- <sup>1</sup>Assistant Commissioner Patrick Crummey, Chairperson,
- Chief Superintendent Patrick Cregg
- Ms. Phil Hanna
- Mr. Martin Tansey
- Inspector Finbarr Murphy (Secretary)

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<sup>1</sup>Commissioner Patrick Crummey retired from An Garda Síochána in November 2006

## The Diversion Programme

Following the introduction of Part 4 of the Children Act 2001 the Juvenile Liaison Officer Scheme came to an end and was replaced by the Diversion Programme, which could be described as a package of measures for dealing with children under the age of 18 who commit an offence or offences. The Diversion Programme retained many of the tried and tested methods for dealing with children who commit offences, as well as introducing a number of new options. The Programme is managed by a Garda Superintendent appointed by the Commissioner and known as the Director of the Programme. (Section 20)

The Director must consider all cases and decide on the suitability or otherwise of each child for inclusion in the Programme..

In order to be admitted to the programme a child must

- be over the age of criminal responsibility and under 18 years of age
- accept responsibility for the offence(s) committed
- consent to being cautioned and supervised

If the child is deemed suitable for admission to the programme then s/he is given either a formal or an informal caution. In certain circumstances the victim of the offence may be invited to attend the caution or the J.L.O. may recommend that a family conference be held in relation to the child.

A child given a formal caution is placed under Garda supervision for a period of 12 months. This period of supervision may, in certain circumstances be varied by the Director. The caution will be administered either by a Garda not below the rank of Inspector or a Juvenile Liaison Officer who has received mediation training. An informal caution is administered by a Juvenile Liaison Officer and the child is not normally placed under supervision. In practice, both cautions are formal processes one accompanied by a period of supervision and the other without supervision.



## Referrals to the Diversion Programme

The total number of referrals received in 2006 amounted to 25,080. This is an increase of 3,583 or 16.6% on the 2005 figure.

**Table 1**

	TOTAL	UNSUITABLE	FORMAL	INFORMAL	NO FURTHER ACTION	PENDING
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>						
CARLOW/KILDARE	1039	155	180	586	79	39
LAOIS/OFFALY	560	141	130	240	20	29
LONGFORD/WESTMEATH	681	181	127	303	41	29
LOUTH/MEATH	1365	278	289	660	82	56
<b>EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>DUBLIN MET. REGION</b>						
EASTERN	1190	296	190	595	46	63
NORTH CENTRAL	771	307	115	271	38	40
NORTHERN	1678	265	321	947	56	89
SOUTH CENTRAL	571	218	106	184	44	19
SOUTHERN	2185	673	233	1098	120	61
WESTERN	2312	569	404	1109	116	114
<b>DUB. MET. REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>8707</b>	<b>2328</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>4204</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>386</b>
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>						
CAVAN/MONAGHAN	552	69	121	315	20	27
DONEGAL	977	204	168	492	75	38
SLIGO/LEITRIM	400	66	81	199	41	13
<b>NORTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>SOUTH EASTERN REGION</b>						
TIPPERARY	650	156	146	294	28	26
WATERFORD/KILKENNY	1496	333	262	701	121	79
WEXFORD/WICKLOW	867	130	180	458	57	42
<b>SOUTH EASTERN TOTAL</b>	<b>3013</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>1453</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>						
CORK CITY	1851	571	257	900	112	11
CORK NORTH	836	154	131	518	29	4
CORK WEST	615	78	134	359	42	2
KERRY	637	150	132	295	21	39
LIMERICK	1554	462	493	550	29	20
<b>SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>5493</b>	<b>1415</b>	<b>1147</b>	<b>2622</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>						
CLARE	580	169	136	222	24	29
GALWAY WEST	712	72	156	397	37	50
MAYO	537	94	98	286	48	11
ROSCOMMON /GALWAY EAST	394	51	93	219	24	7
<b>WESTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>OUTSIDE JURISDICTION</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25080</b>	<b>5849</b>	<b>4687</b>	<b>12225</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>939</b>

Figure 1

Number of cases referred 2002 - 2006

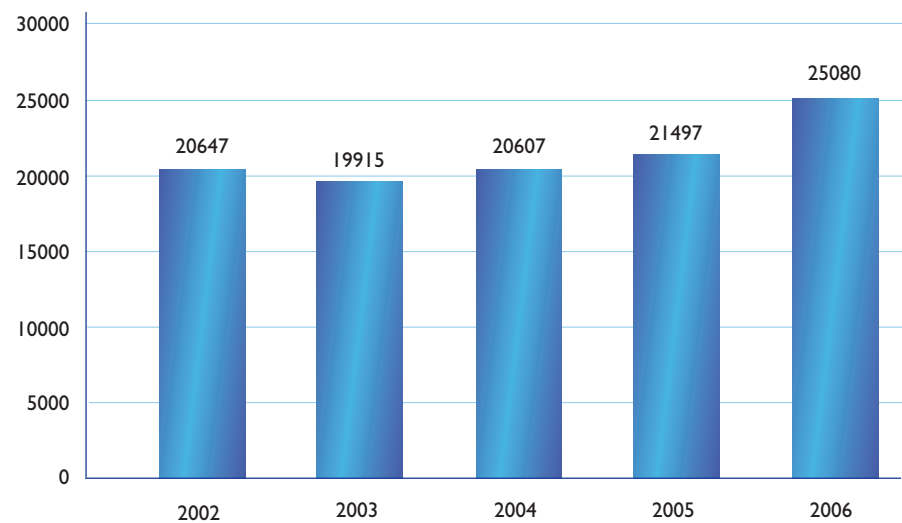
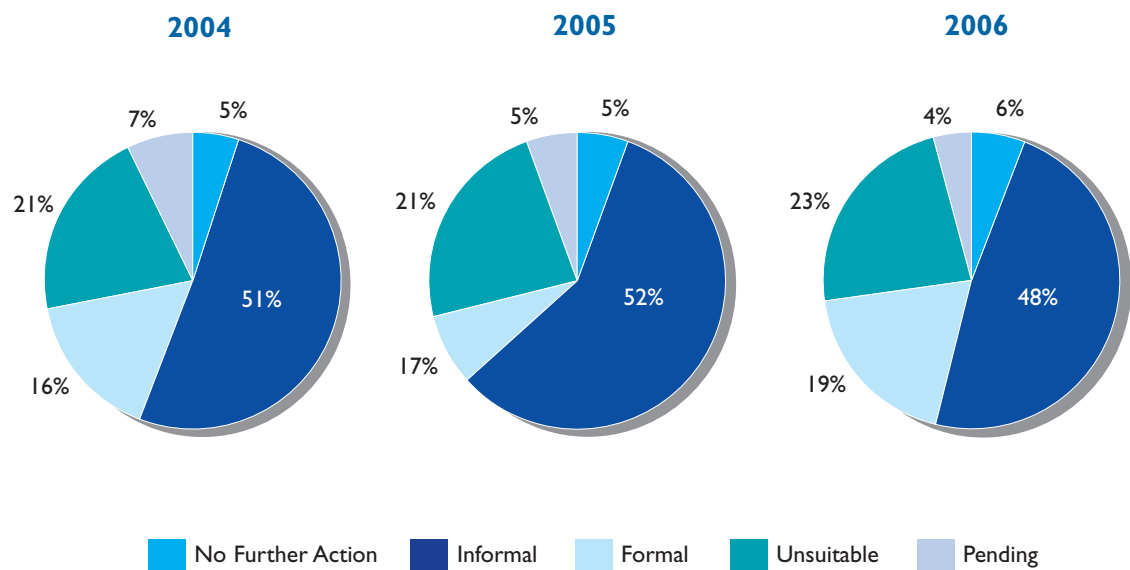


Figure 2

Case decisions as a percentage of total referrals 2004 - 2006



## Children Referred to the Diversion Programme

The total number of children referred in 2006 amounted to 20,016. This is an increase of 2,449 children (13.9%) over the 2005 total of 17,567.

**Table 2**

	TOTAL	UNSUITABLE	FORMAL	INFORMAL	NO FURTHER ACTION	PENDING
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>						
CARLOW/KILDARE	899	88	157	547	75	32
LAOIS/OFFALY	470	86	113	226	19	26
LONGFORD/WESTMEATH	502	77	90	278	35	22
LOUTH/MEATH	1072	123	211	612	78	48
<b>EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>2943</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>1663</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>DUBLIN MET. REGION</b>						
EASTERN	966	143	161	571	44	47
NORTH CENTRAL	535	129	97	242	33	34
NORTHERN	1421	145	271	878	54	73
SOUTH CENTRAL	415	97	89	173	37	19
SOUTHERN	1718	352	193	1006	116	51
WESTERN	1926	324	351	1040	109	102
<b>DUB. MET. REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>6981</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>3910</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>326</b>
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>						
CAVAN/MONAGHAN	482	40	101	296	20	25
DONEGAL	806	93	143	466	70	34
SLIGO/LEITRIM	313	24	62	178	38	11
<b>NORTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>SOUTH EASTERN REGION</b>						
TIPPERARY	503	72	110	271	27	23
WATERFORD/KILKENNY	1143	149	193	649	92	60
WEXFORD/WICKLOW	709	63	140	416	56	34
<b>SOUTH EASTERN TOTAL</b>	<b>2355</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>						
CORK CITY	1406	259	213	817	106	11
CORK NORTH	674	73	111	458	28	4
CORK WEST	506	41	106	317	40	2
KERRY	499	72	105	279	19	24
LIMERICK	1168	192	407	520	29	20
<b>SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>4253</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>2391</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>						
CLARE	432	71	108	206	20	27
GALWAY WEST	616	41	124	381	37	33
MAYO	439	41	78	266	46	8
ROSCOMMON /GALWAY EAST	330	27	72	202	22	7
<b>WESTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>OUTSIDE JURISDICTION</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20016</b>	<b>2828</b>	<b>3809</b>	<b>11320</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>779</b>

Figure 3

Number of children referred 2002 - 2006

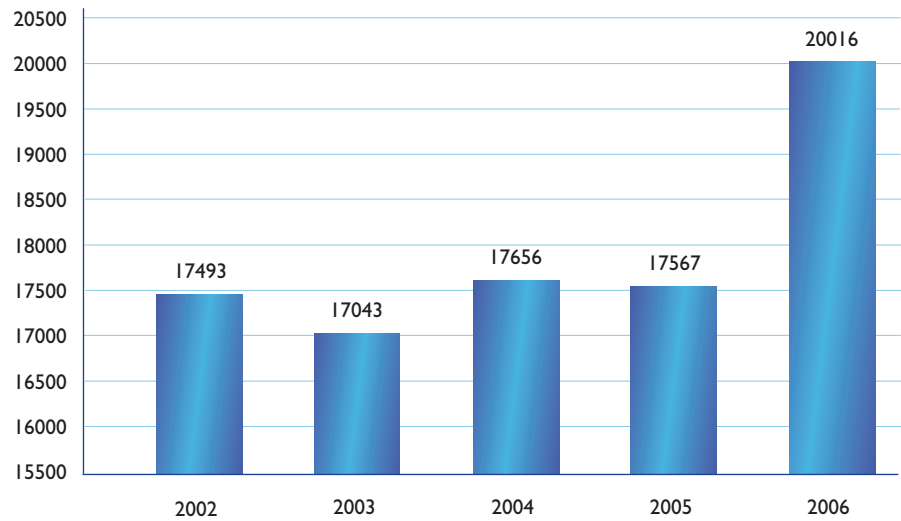
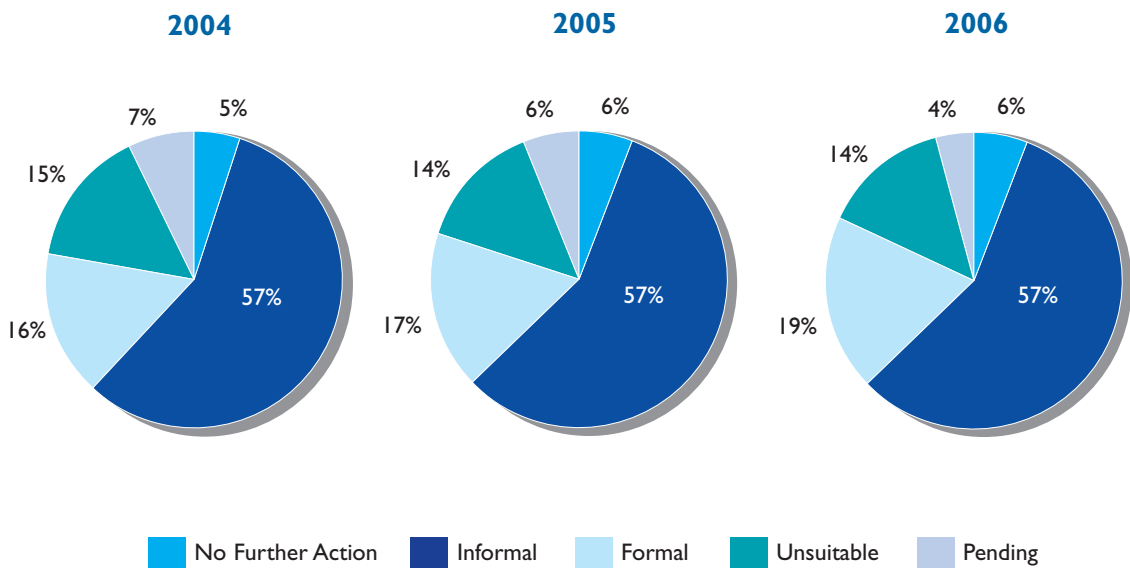


Figure 4

Case decisions as a percentage of overall number of children referred 2004 - 2006



## Children Referred in 2006 by Gender, Region & Division

Table 3

	TOTAL	UNSUITABLE		FORMAL		INFORMAL		NO FURTHER ACTION		PENDING	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>											
CARLOW/KILDARE	899	83	5	137	20	440	107	56	19	27	5
LAOIS/OFFALY	470	77	9	99	14	184	42	15	4	25	1
LONGFORD/WESTMEATH	502	66	11	68	22	183	95	24	11	20	2
LOUTH/MEATH	1072	114	9	181	30	480	132	66	12	44	4
<b>EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>2943</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>DUBLIN MET. REGION</b>											
EASTERN	966	114	29	141	20	450	121	28	16	32	15
NORTH CENTRAL	535	116	13	81	16	179	63	25	8	32	2
NORTHERN	1421	140	5	239	32	674	204	48	6	67	6
SOUTH CENTRAL	415	86	11	79	10	130	43	32	5	16	3
SOUTHERN	1718	305	47	168	25	793	213	93	23	48	3
WESTERN	1926	275	49	317	34	794	246	68	41	88	14
<b>DUB. MET. REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>6981</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>											
CAVAN/MONAGHAN	482	29	11	82	19	235	61	15	5	18	7
DONEGAL	806	87	6	130	13	381	85	56	14	31	3
SLIGO/LEITRIM	313	23	1	52	10	144	34	30	8	8	3
<b>NORTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SOUTH EASTERN REGION</b>											
TIPPERARY	503	69	3	95	15	214	57	27	0	22	1
WATERFORD/KILKENNY	1143	127	22	150	43	489	160	63	29	54	6
WEXFORD/WICKLOW	709	58	5	124	16	335	81	52	4	32	2
<b>SOUTH EASTERN TOTAL</b>	<b>2355</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>											
CORK CITY	1406	222	37	180	33	629	188	76	30	10	1
CORK NORTH	674	64	9	98	13	355	103	19	9	4	0
CORK WEST	506	34	7	98	8	256	61	33	7	2	0
KERRY	499	63	9	90	15	208	71	13	6	22	2
LIMERICK	1168	180	12	353	54	393	127	24	5	19	1
<b>SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>4253</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>											
CLARE	432	65	6	92	16	153	53	17	3	21	6
GALWAY WEST	616	38	3	106	18	302	79	30	7	30	3
MAYO	439	37	4	67	11	202	64	39	7	5	3
ROSCOMMON /GALWAY EAST	330	22	5	62	10	161	41	18	4	7	0
<b>WESTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OUTSIDE JURISDICTION</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20016</b>	<b>2499</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>3292</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>8787</b>	<b>2533</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>93</b>

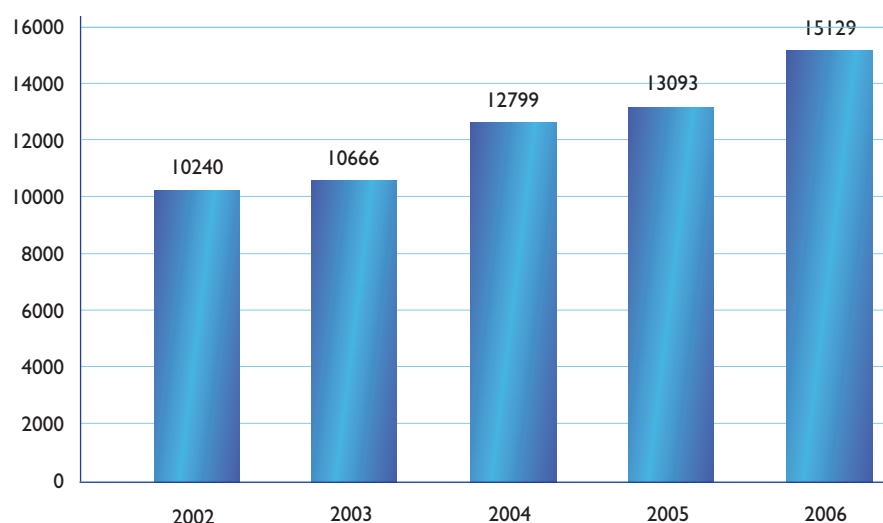
## Formal and Informal Cautions

As shown in Table 2, the total number of children who were cautioned either formally or informally in 2006 was 15,129. This equates to 75.5% of the total number of children referred. 11,320 (56.5%) received an informal caution and 3,809 (19%) received a formal caution. These figures compare with 57.5% and 17% respectively for 2005.

Figure 5 shows the number of children cautioned for each of the past five years and Figure 6 shows the percentage of children referred who were considered suitable for inclusion in the programme.

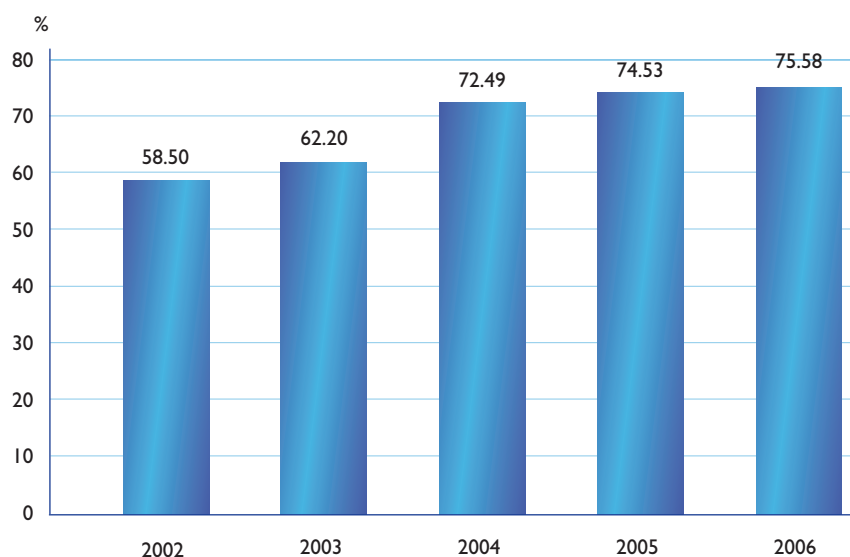
**Figure 5**

**Number of children cautioned 2002 - 2006**



**Figure 6**

**Percentage of children deemed suitable of inclusion 2002 - 2006**





## Garda Restorative Cautions and Conferences

The presence of the victim at a formal caution or at a family conference is provided for in the Children Act 2001 (sections 26 and 29 respectively) and it is here that the concept of restorative justice is introduced.

Restorative Justice is the term used to describe the process whereby the victim of an offence is given the opportunity to meet or have his or her views presented to the offender. It is hoped that the offender will realise that the offence was not merely an offence against law but against a person or a community. In addition to humanising the harm, the behaviour is challenged and an opportunity is afforded to the offender not only to apologise but to also take some action to repair the harm. This act of "restoration" may be by way of replacing goods stolen, compensating for a loss, mending damage caused or agreeing conditions for future behaviour designed to reassure the victim that the offending will not recur.

When the victim is invited to attend at the formal caution of a child it is known as a restorative caution. In certain circumstances victims may prefer to have their views represented by way of letter, by audio or video recording or by having a friend, supporter or other person represent their perspective.

When the victim is invited to attend a family conference in relation to a child it is referred to as a restorative conference. The restorative conference is similar to a restorative caution in many respects. The victim is given a voice and the impact of the offending behaviour is humanised. Where it differs, is that the conference makes a greater effort to engage a broader range of expertise in an attempt to challenge the child's behaviour and to support any change that might come about as a result of the conference. For instance, those present at the conference might include not only the victim and the victim's supporters but also the child's schoolteacher, social worker, extended family or any other person who may have a positive influence on his or her future behaviour.

Collectively restorative cautions and restorative conferences are referred to as restorative events. A total of 307 restorative events were held in 2006 an increase of 45 on the 2005 total of 262. The 307 events comprised of 293 restorative cautions and 14 restorative conferences which involved 416 children. This increase is an indication that the principles of restorative justice are being applied more often by Juvenile Liaison Officers as a means of processing cases referred to the Diversion Programme. Table 4 shows the number of events on a regional and divisional basis.

Offence types for which restorative events were held included some very serious offences as well as some offences of a lesser degree. The type of offences included robbery, assaults, road traffic offences, breaches of public order, burglary, theft, criminal damage and nuisance phone calls.

The Committee is satisfied that good progress is continuing to be made in the development of the restorative justice element in accordance with Part 4 of the Act.

## Restorative Justice Events 2006 per Region and Division

Table 4

	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>				
CARLOW/KILDARE	3	7	7	11
LAOIS/OFFALY	4	10	6	8
LONGFORD/WESTMEATH	4	7	6	4
LOUTH/MEATH	1	13	10	14
<b>EASTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>DUBLIN MET. REGION</b>				
EASTERN	8	3	26	33
NORTH CENTRAL	0	1	6	4
NORTHERN	7	8	12	12
SOUTH CENTRAL	1	6	9	11
SOUTHERN	12	9	21	17
WESTERN	0	11	24	23
<b>DUB. MET. REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>				
CAVAN/MONAGHAN	1	6	1	6
DONEGAL	3	3	6	3
SLIGO/LEITRIM	3	7	4	0
<b>NORTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SOUTH EASTERN REGION</b>				
TIPPERARY	4	3	3	4
WATERFORD/KILKENNY	11	11	14	10
WEXFORD/WICKLOW	5	2	6	8
<b>SOUTH EASTERN TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>				
CORK CITY	11	19	20	39
CORK NORTH	2	1	13	12
CORK WEST	13	20	29	42
KERRY	0	8	4	8
LIMERICK	0	4	13	11
<b>SOUTHERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>				
CLARE	0	0	0	1
GALWAY WEST	5	6	5	4
MAYO	11	5	8	10
ROSCOMMON /GALWAY EAST	9	7	9	12
<b>WESTERN REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>307</b>

Events include both cautions and conferences under section 26 and 29 of the Children Act



# Children Considered Unsuitable for Inclusion

2,828 children were deemed not suitable for inclusion in the Diversion Programme. This is an increase of 313 over last year. However the percentage of children referred who were deemed unsuitable for inclusion fell slightly to 14.1%, continuing the downward trend since 2002.

A case is recorded as unsuitable if the child does not meet the conditions for eligibility or

- the child does not accept responsibility
- it would not be in the interests of society to caution the child
- the child is offending persistently

These matters are then referred to either the D.P.P. or local Garda management to be considered for prosecution

Figure 7

Number of children considered to be unsuitable for inclusion 2002 - 2006

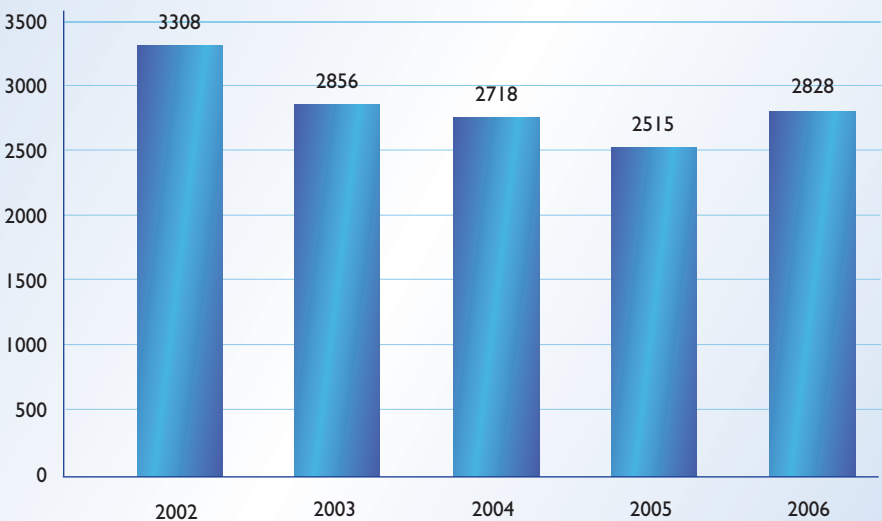
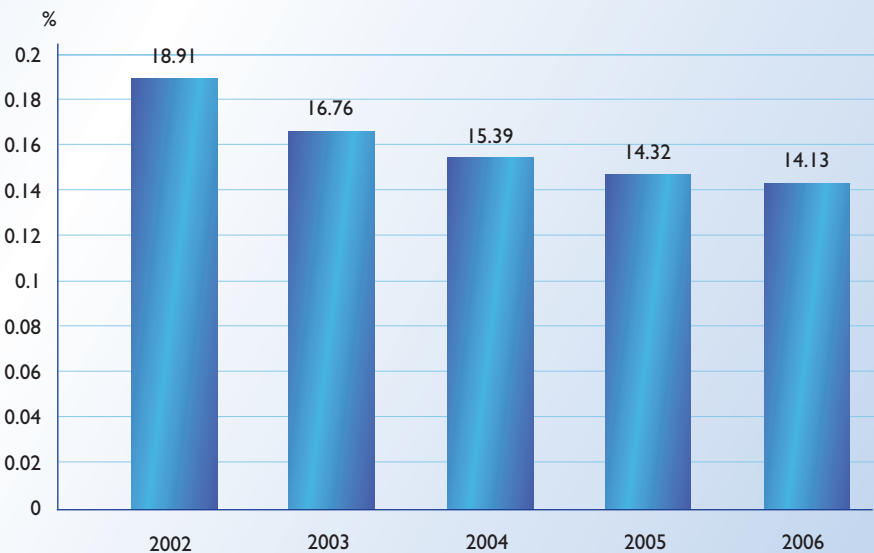


Figure 8

Percentage of children considered unsuitable for inclusion 2002 - 2006

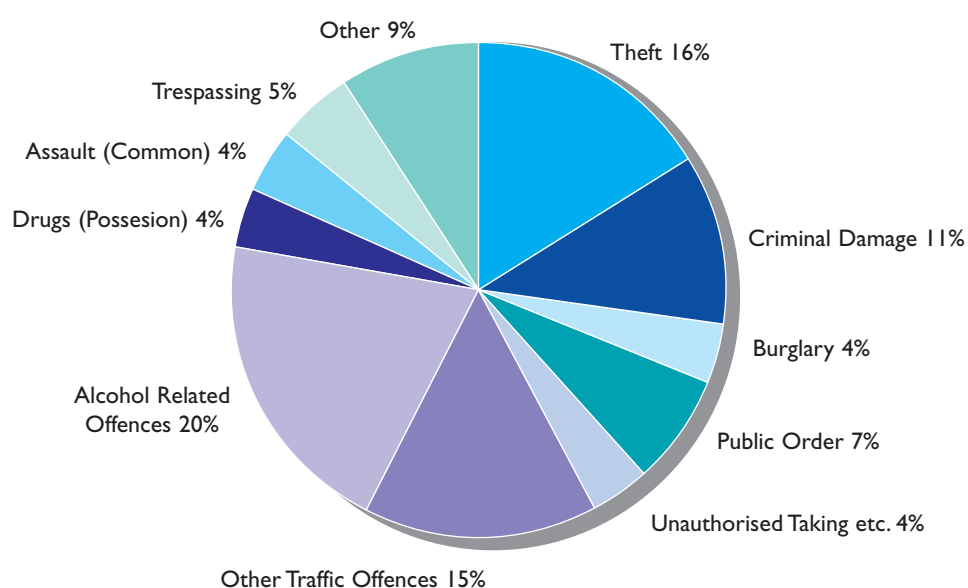


## Types of Offences for which Children were Referred

Alcohol related offence remain the most common category of offences for which children were referred, making up 20% of all referrals. Theft 16% is the second most commonly referred offence. Other Traffic Offences account for 15% of referrals to the Programme. This is a significant increase from 2005 when they accounted for only 8% of referrals. The main contributory factor to this is the additional offences (parking offences, driving whilst holding a mobile phone etc ) which are now processed under the Fixed Charge Penalty System since April 2006. Figure 9 shows the percentage breakdown of offences for which children were referred.

**Figure 9**

**Principal offences in respect of which referrals were made in 2006**



Percentages rounded to nearest whole number, hence the sum total is not 100%.

The 9% 'other' in the pie chart above is the combined total of other offences, none of which accounted for more than 4% of the overall total. The type of offence and percentage amount can be found in table 5.

Table 5 shows the main offence categories for which children were referred. Some of these categories are further broken down in Table 6.

**Table 5**

	Number	Percentage
Theft	4,136	16.5%
Fraud related offences (see Table 6 E)	153	0.6%
Possession of articles with intent	44	0.2%
Robbery (incl. demanding money with menaces)	225	0.9%
Burglary	1,079	4.3%
Aggravated burglary	8	–
Handling stolen property	306	1.2%
Criminal damage	2,664	10.6%
Arson	110	0.4%
Unauthorised taking/carriage/interference with M.P.V	935	3.7%
Traffic offences (see Table 6A)	3,775	15.1%
Alcohol related offences (see Table 6B)	4,974	19.8%
Public order (see Table 6C)	1,878	7.5%
Drugs (Possession)	995	4.0%
Drugs (Sale/Supply)	142	0.6%
Possession of offensive weapons etc.	345	1.4%
Firearms related offences	102	0.4%
Assault minor	1,094	4.4%
Assault on Garda	24	0.1%
Serious assault (see Table 6D)	391	1.6%
Begging	90	0.4%
Sexual offences (see Table 6 F)	82	0.3%
Casual trading offences	47	0.2%
Trespass/found on enclosed premises	1,209	4.8%
Railway Acts (trespass line, stone throwing, non-payment of fare)	24	0.1%
Street and house to house collections	3	–
Public mischief (incl. hoax telephone calls)	63	0.3%
False imprisonment	2	–
Offences against animals	2	–
Miscellaneous	178	0.7%
	<b>25,080</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 6**

<b>(A) Other traffic offences</b>	
Insurance offences	799
Dangerous driving	282
Careless driving	130
Pedal cycle offences	7
Public Transport (PSV) offences	3
Drunk driving offences	119
No driving licence	167
Hit and run traffic accident	28
No helmet/seatbelt	444
Speeding	730
No road tax	425
Dangerous driving causing death	3
Miscellaneous	638
<b>Total</b>	<b>3775</b>
<b>(B) Alcohol related offences</b>	
Purchase/possession/consumption of alcohol	1953
Intoxication in public place	2964
Drunk and disorderly/danger to traffic	3
Simple drunkenness	0
Found on licensed premises	54
Miscellaneous	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4974</b>
<b>(C) Public order offences</b>	
Affray	14
Riot	4
Urinate in public	16
Disorderly conduct in public	124
Threatening behaviour etc.	1202
Failure to comply with Garda direction/Obstruction	348
Wilful obstruction	4
Violent disorder	20
Other	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>1878</b>

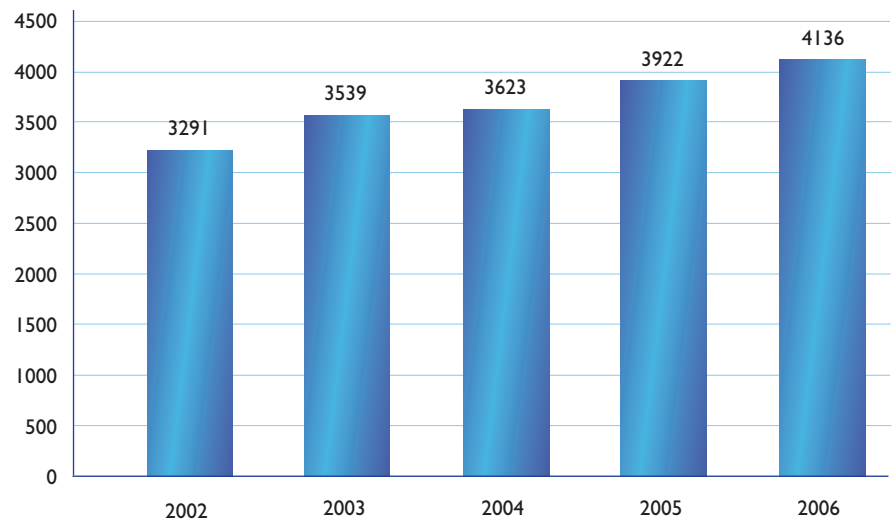
Table 6 (continued)

(D) Serious assault	
Murder	3
Assault causing serious bodily harm	15
Assault causing bodily harm	373
Assault with intent	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>
(E) Fraud related offences	
Forgery/uttering/fraud	89
Fraud Deception	64
Embezzlement	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>
(F) Sexual offences	
Aggravated sexual assault	0
Sexual Assault	48
Indecency	8
Rape/unlawful carnal knowledge (including attempt)	26
Loitering for purpose of prostitution	0
Soliciting for purpose of prostitution	0
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

The following figures show the number of referrals received over the past five years for theft, criminal damage, public order, vehicle offences and alcohol related offences.

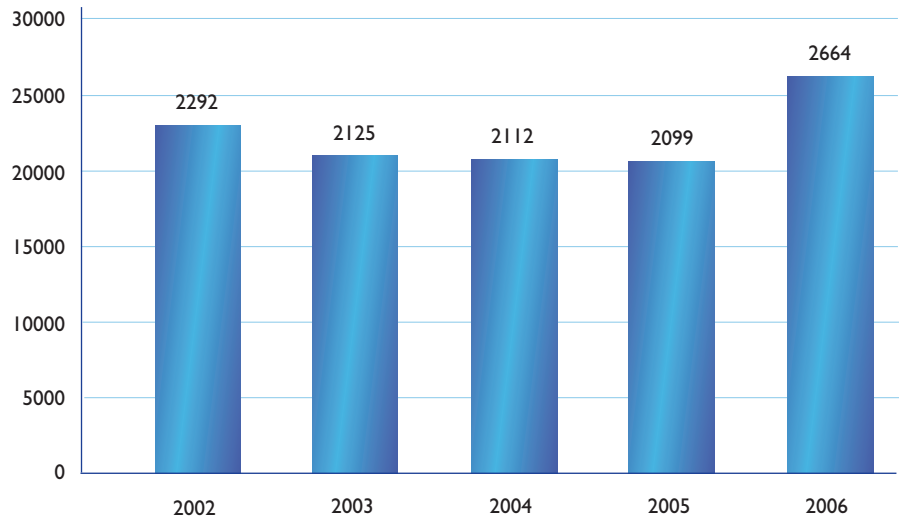
**Figure 10**

**Referrals for theft 2002 - 2006**



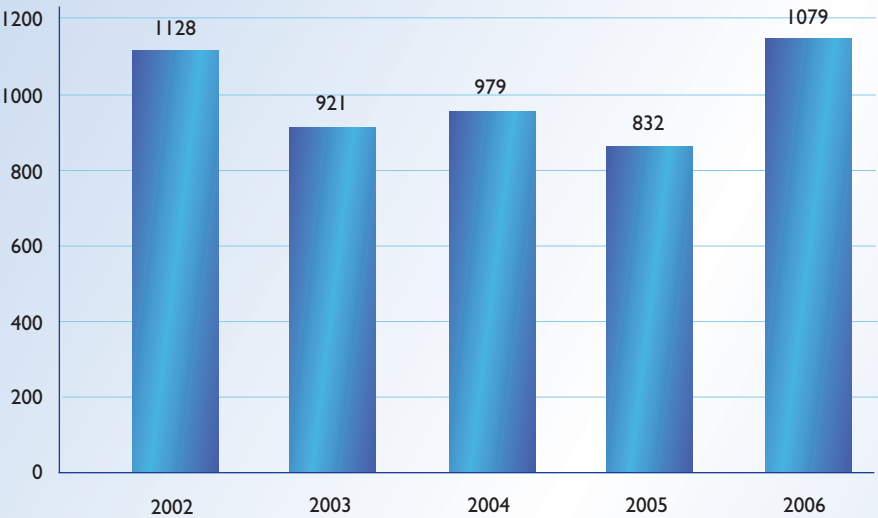
**Figure 11**

**Referrals for criminal damage 2002 - 2006**



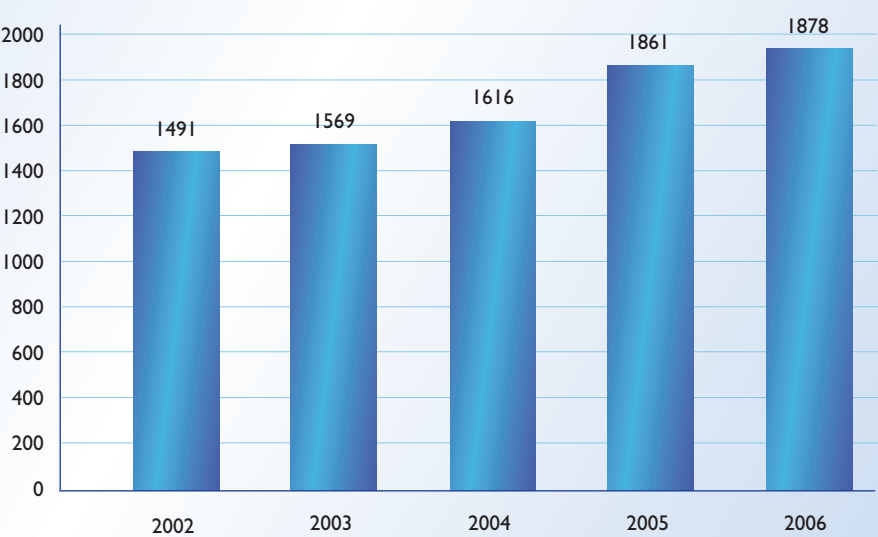
**Figure 12**

**Referrals for burglary 2002 - 2006**



**Figure 13**

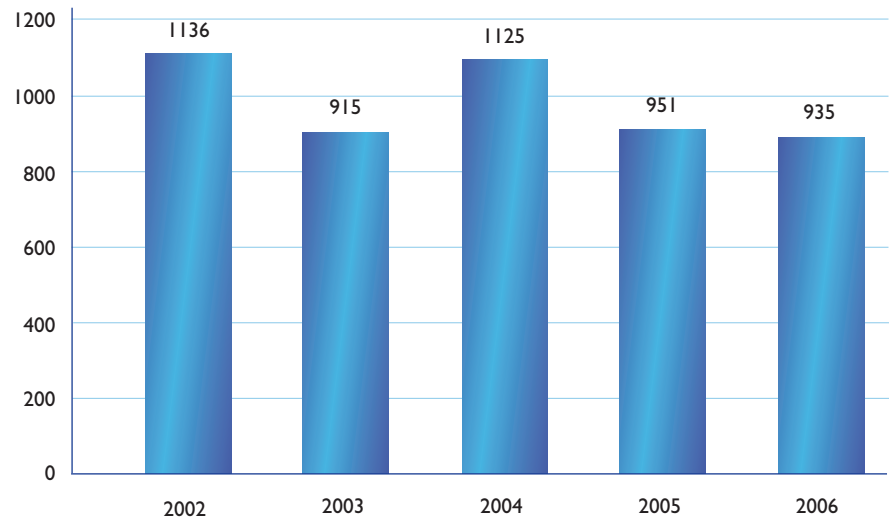
**Referrals for public order 2002 - 2006**



The following figures show the number of referrals received over the past five years for theft, criminal damage, public order, vehicle offences and alcohol related offences.

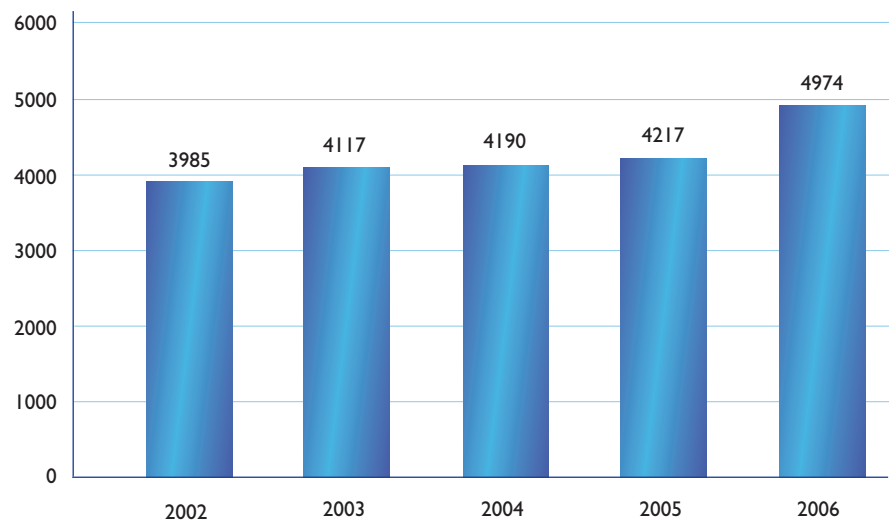
**Figure 14**

**Referrals for vehicle offences 2002 - 2006**



**Figure 15**

**Referrals for alcohol offences 2002 - 2006**





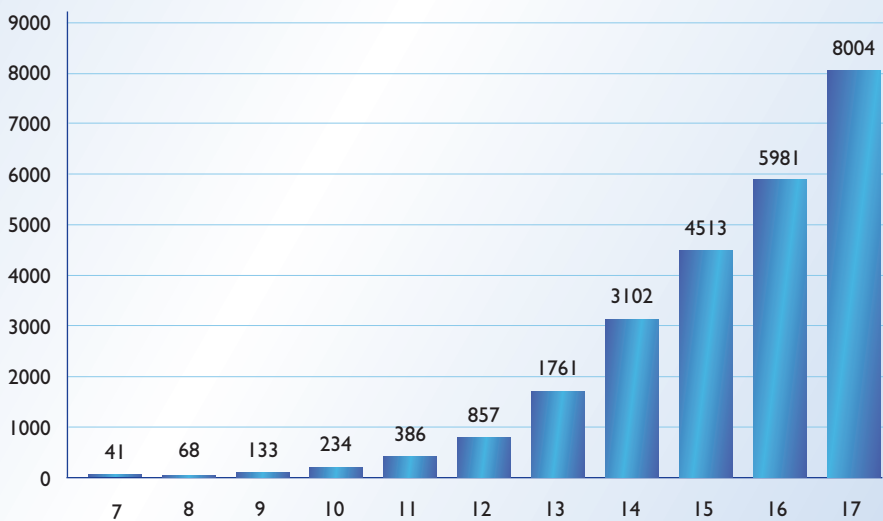
# Age Profile of Children Referred to the Diversion Programme

The chart below outlines the age profile of children referred to the Diversion Programme. Of those referred the following are the percentage of the children in each age category.

- 31.9% were aged 17 years
- 23.8% were aged 16 years
- 18% were aged 15 years
- 12.4% were aged 14 years
- 7% were aged 13 years
- 3.4% were aged 12 years
- 3.4% were under 12 years

Figure 16

Age of children referred



## Training and Development

### Training

The following outlines the current training programme for Juvenile Liaison Officers

- Two weeks induction training for new appointees. All Juvenile Liaison Officers complete this training.
- Three days training in the 'Real Justice' Programme of cautioning and the principles of Restorative Justice. All Juvenile Liaison Officers complete this training.
- Ten days generic mediation training to Level I accreditation from Mediation Institute Ireland (M.I.I.) delivered over a four month period to allow members practise their skills. All Juvenile Liaison Officers complete this training.
- Two days victim/offender mediation training

The Committee recommends that the present level of training continues.

The Committee is aware that efforts by the National Juvenile Office are continuing to develop a third level qualification for Juvenile Liaison Officers. The Committee fully supports the endeavours of the National Juvenile Office in this regard.

## Observations and Recommendations

The committee is satisfied

- with the leadership shown and the efforts made by the Director of the Programme and the staff of the National Juvenile Office with regard to the development of the Diversion Programme as set out in the Act.
- from information coming to the Committee that Juvenile Liaison Officers are operating Part 4 of the Children Act, in particular the concepts of restorative justice and that they are availing of the opportunity to increase their skills by way of additional training.

The Committee recommends that

- The National Juvenile Office continues with its endeavours to secure a suitable third level qualification for Juvenile Liaison Officers.
- The numbers of Juvenile Liaison Officers employed in each Garda Division be kept under review.
- a comprehensive policy document be produced in respect of all sections of part 4 of the Children Act and
- comprehensive guidelines and procedures are produced in respect of Part 4 of the Act

## Appendices – Human Resource structure

