

Minister Shatter publishes the Annual Report of the Committee appointed to monitor the effectiveness of the Garda Diversion Programme 2011

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., today published the 2011 Annual Report on the Garda Diversion Programme.

The Minister welcomed the reduction in the number of children coming to the attention of An Garda Síochána in 2011 compared to the previous year. The figures show that 5,177 less children came to the notice of An Garda Síochána in 2011, representing a 28.79% decrease on 2010. The Minister also welcomed the expansion of the restorative justice process with a 14% increase in practice on 2010 figures.

The Minister noted that the majority of children who were admitted to the Programme were given an informal caution, i.e. a caution without JLO supervision (6,944). This represents a reduction of 25.59% on the previous year. A caution without supervision is generally applied for a first offence or a repeat minor offence.

2,777 children were given a formal caution, with a period of JLO supervision. 1,835 children were deemed unsuitable for diversion and these files were returned to the local Superintendent for possible prosecution.

The top 3 youth offence categories for 2011 were Public Order and Social Code Offences (29%), Theft and Related Offences (24%) and Damage to Property and the Environment (11%). These offence categories are broadly in line with the previous year.

The Minister noted that the Programme for Government makes clear the determination of this Government to tackle anti-social behaviour and the plague of low level crime that is so destructive of community life. The Government is committed to continuing its work under the Programme to impact on youth crime and on anti-social behaviour.

21 January, 2013

ENDS