

Minister to open new Garda station

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

THE Minister for Justice, Nora Owen, is to open Bruff's new Garda station in two weeks' time.

The premises, which cost £750,000, is to serve as the administrative headquarters for East Limerick, and is one of the most modern Garda stations in Ireland.

It is equipped with the most advanced technological aids, and is the first Garda headquarters to be equipped from foundation stage for a new era in information technology in the Force.

Supt Michael O'Keeffe took over his desk at the new station this week, accompanied by Sgt Bill Harhen and Sgt Martin O'Rourke.

Supt O'Keeffe heads a staff of 20, including uniformed gardai, plain-clothes officers and clerical staff.

He described the move, as "a massive change" from the old station, built in 1872, and which served first as an RIC barracks and later as a Garda station.

"This station is a top asset for the Force in the area," he said.

The district stretches from Murroe and Pallasgreen to Ballylanders, and from Bruree to Barringtons Bridge near the Dublin Road. There are Garda stations in most of the villages in the area manned under the rural policing scheme.

The new Bruff headquarters is a 24-hour station and will work in co-ordination with other divisions. It will be used as an interrogation centre, and is the only station in the division to have special interview facilities for juvenile offenders.

It is a bright, airy building designed to be customer friendly to the public, and easily accessible.

The Gardai moved into the new building this week



New station: Supt Michael O'Keeffe in the new Garda station in Bruff with Sgt Bill Harhen, Garda John O'Mahoney and Garda Gary Browne. (LL)

Bruff divided on fate of Garda station

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OPINION is divided in Bruff over the future of one of the town's best known landmarks—the Garda station which has stood there since post-Fenian days.

As the 20 gardai in the town moved out to the

