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Violence file.

# Getting it right on local crime image

LIMERICK has long felt wronged by the image portrayed of it being a crime-ridden city.

There is crime in Limerick. Sometimes serious crime. But for years the Garda Commissioners report has clearly spelt it out that Limerick is a safer city than Dublin and Cork. And now Galway has a bigger escalation in crime than Limerick.

So how does one get the message across to those who persist in perpetuating the crime label.

Undoubtedly it's a label of convenience for some in the media who will not flinch from rubbishing Limerick at

every opportunity.

The reality of the crime picture is set out in detail within the blue cover of the Commissioners report.

Serious crime is assessed per 1,000 of population.

The report published last week contains the figures for 1991 and the figures for the four cities were, Dublin 49.9, Cork 30.5, Limerick 21.9 and Galway 19.1.

And significantly the rising spiral of crime in Cork and Galway was greater than the increase in crime in Limerick.

I know that bare figures will be of little comfort to those who have been violated by the activities of criminals and to

those who live in fear of the criminal.

But it is important to bear in mind that Limerick, contrary to myth, is not a safe haven for criminals.

And it is also worth noting the observations of Chief Supt Michael Fitzgerald that thefts for unattended cars accounted for about 35% of the increase in Limerick crime last year. This is a very preventable type of crime.

He said the Gardai aim to tackle it by placing more foot patrols on duty. But the public have an equally important role by ensuring that property is not left visible to preying thieves.

THE level to which EC law has become an unwelcome intrusion is mindboggling. Simple procedures are entangled in lengthy bureaucratic demands.

But now it appears the simple sausage may not survive the Brussels scalpel.

Limerick butcher, Noel O'Connor has warned that EC regulations about the use of certain meats will curtail sausage making and pudding making.

I thought long and hard before voting Yes for Maastricht. But if I had known that Europe had designs on terminating the sausage and black pudding, as sure as I'm sitting here, I'd have voted No.