

NEW MOVES TO COMBAT RISING CITY CRIME

By EUGENE PHELAN

GARDA authorities, disturbed by a 13 per cent rise in crime in Limerick, have confirmed that new measures were being enforced "to bring the situation to an acceptable level."

More surveillance and patrols at night are to be introduced, following the bad news of the crime rise, over the past nine months.

While the Gardai will not officially comment, it is understood that there has been no increase in "crimes against the person."

This category includes assaults, murders and other such serious incidents.

However, what is of concern to the gardai in particular is thefts from cars, shoplifting and handbag snatching.

"We still can't seem to get the message across to people not to leave valu-

ables in cars," said one senior garda officer.

The gardai also admit to having problems with shoplifting. Professional gangs and also young people are causing havoc in city shops, continually stealing items.

Break-ins to homes and the theft of television, videos, jewellery and other items is another major headache.

Handbag snatching by groups of young people is another high on the Gardai hit list.

Gardai believe that more patrols at night and more surveillance will have immediate effects.

While crime has

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