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Crime in city is on decline

NEW initiatives taken by the Gardai have led to a spectacular drop in the number of cars stolen in the first three months of the year.

Chief Superintendent Michael Fitzgerald revealed last night that for the first quarter of this year car thefts had been down 25%.

He said that new initiatives taken including moving "civilian staff" from offices to beat duty were now having effect on the crime in the city.

And he praised members of the force for their "positive response" to different new initiatives to curb crime in the city.

Chief Supt. Fitzgerald was speaking after Junior Justice Minister Willie O'Dea last night launched the first edition of Limerick Neighbourhood Watch News.

Chief Supt Fitzgerald asked for the support of the public in trying to eliminate

thefts from cars and in particular ensuring the safety of our senior citizens in their homes.

While official crime statistics for last year have yet to be published, it is understood that there was an increase of around seven per cent.

"The figures for the first three months of this year have been encouraging, crime is down," the Chief Superintendent confirmed.

His colleague Superintendent Liam Quinn said that crime levels in Limerick had stabilised and were reducing. This was the opposite to what was happening throughout Europe, where crime levels are soaring.

There are now 49 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in city and Minister O'Dea urged areas who had not joined in the scheme to contact their local Garda station to find out details on how to do so.

ANGER AT TASK

ment and proposed functions of the traffic task force.

Ms McDonnell said that in October 1992 the establishment of the Task Force