behind

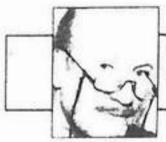
'Limerick crime: figures show that crime in Limerick is

Waterford Kilkenny, Carlow

Kildare and Cork

Dublin.

Crime is a problem but not a crisis



SPECIAL REPORT

AGGRAVATED burglaries in Limerick where firearms were used fell by exactly a third in 200 as compared to 1999. But robberies and aggravaved burglaries overall rose in Limerick by 60 per cent. The figures encompass both city

and county areas. General reported burglaries were up by 13 per cent. Larcenies from shops and unattended vehicles, though high at 261 incidents, was still down 13 per cent on the year

Limerick is by no means the crime capital of Ireland, but it has much to be concerned about. according to latest Garda figures. The final figures for the year 2000 may be a year behind time, but

they are definitive. For the purpose of comparison, we took five areas: Dublin city and county, Limerick city and county, Cork city and outskirts, , West Galway, including the city, and the Louth Meath division. Beginning with killings, Dublin had 12 murders and five manslaughters; Limerick had four murders; Cork City had three murders and a manslaughter: West Galway had one manslaugh-ter, and Louth / Meath had seven murders. Rapes resulted as fol-lows: Dublin 78; Limerick, 5; Cork city, 22; West Galway, 16, and Louth Meath 18. Armed robberies are an increasing phenomenon everywhere:

Dublin 127; Limerick, 12; Cork city, 6; West Galway, 2, Louth Meath, 22, Burglaries: Dublin 9,213; Limerick 984; Cork city 1,069; West Galway 552 and Louth Meath 1,526. It looks so far that Louth Meath isn't doing too well. Larcenies from shops and unattended vehicles; Dublin 4,934; Limerick, 261; Cork city, 892; West Galway, 216, and Louth Meath. Domestic violence shows Limer ick in a particularly bad position. but again miles better than Dublin: Dublin, 8,070; Limerick, 510; Cork city, 240; West Galway, 120 and Louth Meath, 365. When we come to drugs, we have

quite a fascinating set of differ ences across the country; almost different fashions, in fact. The most striking in the whole thing is that, in 2000, the heroin and cocaine plague was still largely a -Dublin city phenomenon. Limerick had a liking for cestasy. while Galway appeared to be a devotee of cannabis. Cannabis, including resm and plant: Dublin, 1,277; Limerick, 183; Cork city, 615; West Galway, 315; Louth - Meath, 272, Heroin: Dublin, 692; Limerick, 3; Cork-city, 1; Galway, 0; Louth Meath; 0. Cocaine: Dublin, 120; Limerick, 1; Cork city, 15; Galway 5; Louth Meath 4, And, finally, etabs: Dublin, 277; Limerick, 102.

Cork city, 271; West Galway, 89, and Louth Meath, 281. But the word in Limerick is not all gloomy Across Limerick there are pockets in the city and in the towns and parishes where wrong doing is common, and other areas where crime is rare. But these individual districts cannot be isolated from official figures, which give details only in units of whole chief superintendancies. In summary, therefore: Limerick's official crime rate city and county was 16.75 offences per head of population. The highest in the country is Dublin North Central with 124; Dublin South Central is on 97, 19 with the other four Dublin areas also ahead of

Limerick per head of population, Carlow Kildare, 18:23; Waterford Kilkenny, 20.05, and Cork city on 20.93 were also all ahead of Lim erick.

Roscommon Galway East, with 8.27, was the lowest recorded in

the country. Commenting on the national figures overall, the Cork office of Victim Support said that the rate of increase in murder had added a considerable pressure to ensure that there was a full complement of trained members, not only in Dublin, but in every county in Ire land. There was also extra pres sure on the service which accompanied such as rape victims to



BY MARTIN BYRNES