



DRAFT
Cork County Council Public Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

9th November 2020

Via MS Teams Meeting

Present:

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen Chair
Cllr. Sean O'Donovan
Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Joe Carroll
Cllr. Karen Coakley
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy
Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. Danielle Twomey

Cllr. Kevin Murphy
Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan
Cllr. Ian Doyle
Cllr. Aidan Lombard
Cllr. Michael Looney

Mr. Tim Lucey, Chief Executive
Ms Mairead Lucey, Senior Executive
Officer, Corporate Services.

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan TD
Deputy Thomas Gould TD

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin
Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers

Apologies:

Deputy Sean Sherlock TD
Deputy Pdraig O'Sullivan TD
Deputy Michael Moynihan TD

In Attendance:

Ms Patricia Liddy,
Director of Services, Corporate Services
Ms Claire Looney O'Sullivan,
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms Myra Heffernan,
Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

1. Welcome Address and Introduction by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen, Chairperson.

In the chairs opening address Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen welcomed everyone to the Public JPC meeting and extended a warm welcome to the CE Mr Tim Lucey, members of an Garda Síochána, including Chief Superintendents Barry McPolin, Con Cadogan, and Thomas Myers, County Councillors, Members of the Oireachtas, Staff of the County Council, Members of the PPN and a particular welcome to the members of the public.

The Chair said this is the 11th Annual Public Meeting in Cork County since the Joint Policing Committees were established in 2009 and owing to COVID 19 and the restrictions placed on



us all he is delighted that today's meeting can go ahead even if under very different circumstances. With Covid in mind the Chair mentioned some housekeeping issues to try and ensure that the meeting will run as smoothly as possible. These included the following: -

- During the meeting please ensure you are muted unless you are speaking
- If you wish to speak please indicate by raising your hand and when asked to speak take yourself off mute. Please call out your name before you speak.
- Members are encouraged to speak but to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.
- Please also note that no recording is permitted under GDPR.

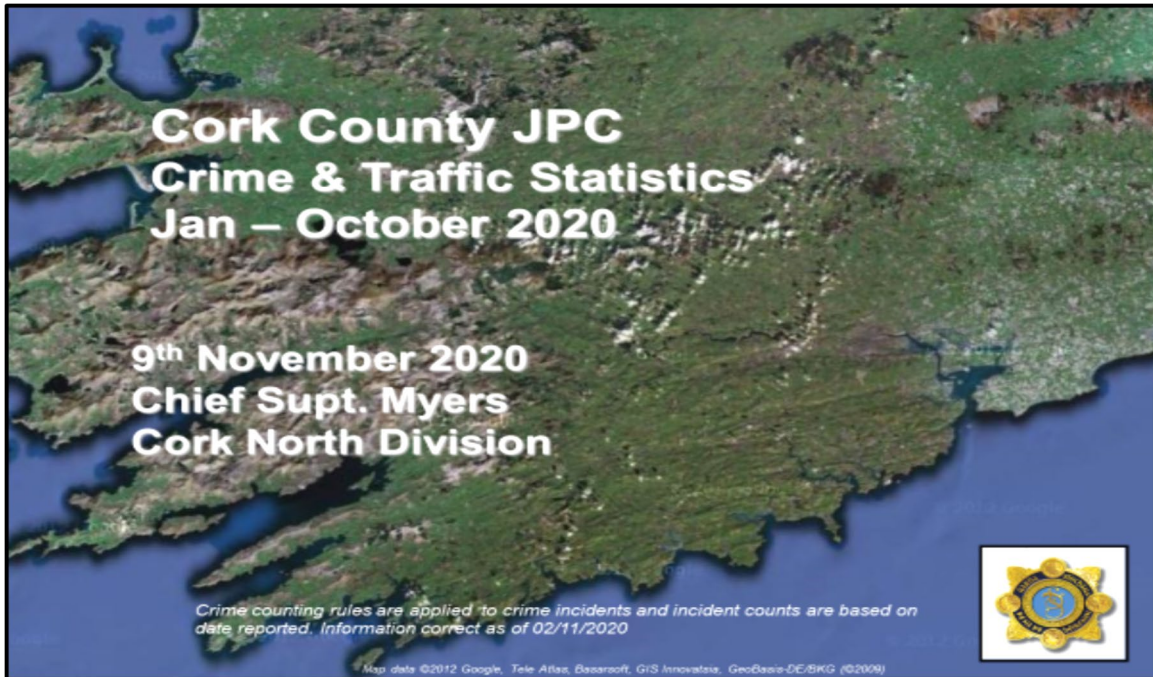
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen said the purpose of Joint Policing Committees is to develop greater consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and the Community and Voluntary sectors. Never has this cooperation being more important than over the last few months due to the problems caused by Covid. Over this period communities and voluntary groups have had to come together with the Local Authorities and with An Garda Síochána all working together to try and help as many people in our local communities as possible.

Cllr. Rasmussen then took the opportunity to thank all for the great work and support to so many people over the last few months during this national crisis. The Gardaí are the frontline service for policing and security, and he said we need to continue to support the Gardaí in whatever way we can to help keep our communities safe. Along with all the other frontline workers great credit and thanks is due to all for the exceptional efforts of so many during this crisis.

Cllr. Rasmussen then introduced the next item on the Agenda. Quarter 3 Crime Statistical Overview by An Garda Síochána and said these statistical reports to the JPC are important to identify underlying trends and patterns in crime and today's report will be presented by Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers which will be followed by questions and answers.

2. Garda Statistical Report on Crime in Co. Cork

Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers presented the Garda Statistical Report on Crime from January 2020 to October 2020. The report showed crime figures for the last eight months and outlines as follows: -


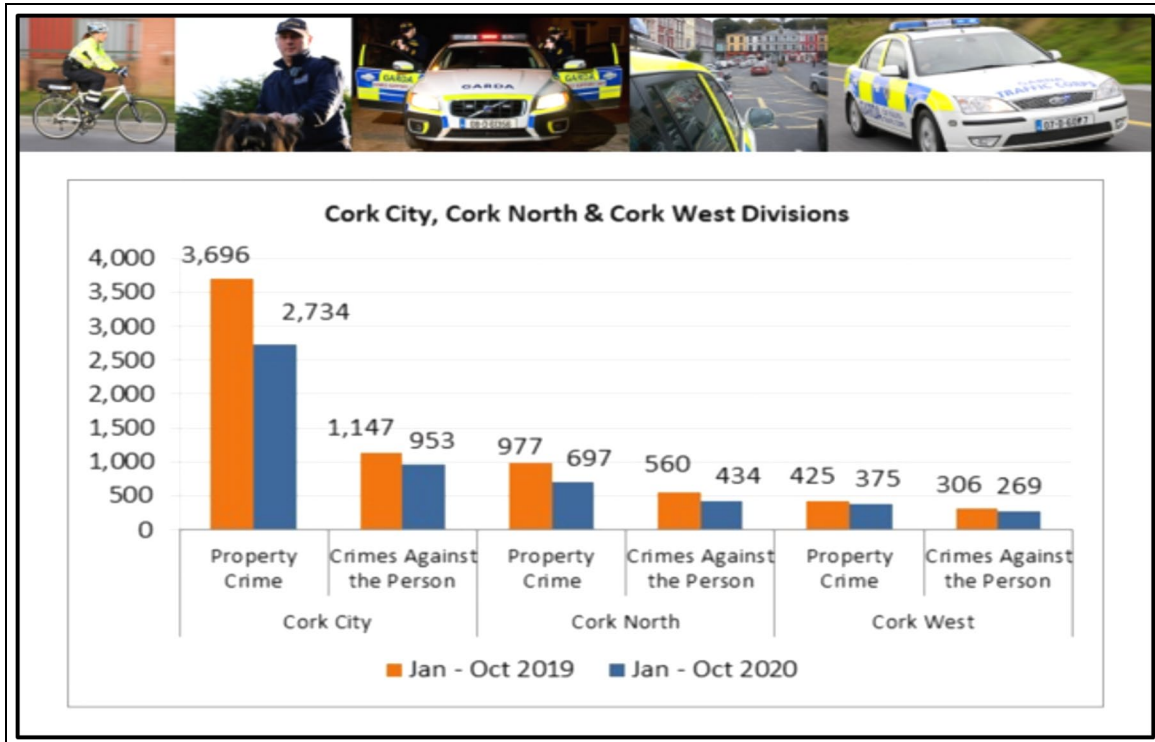


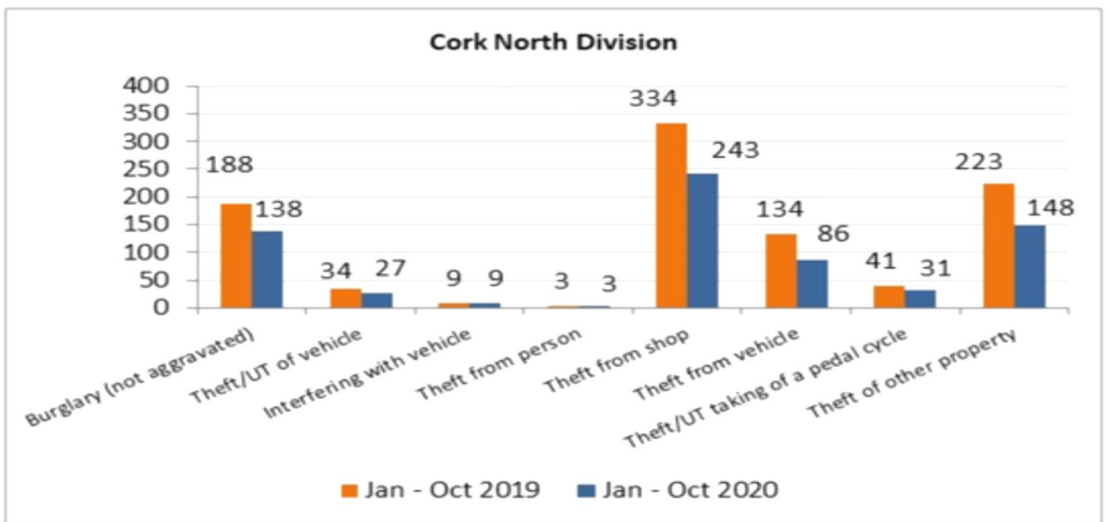
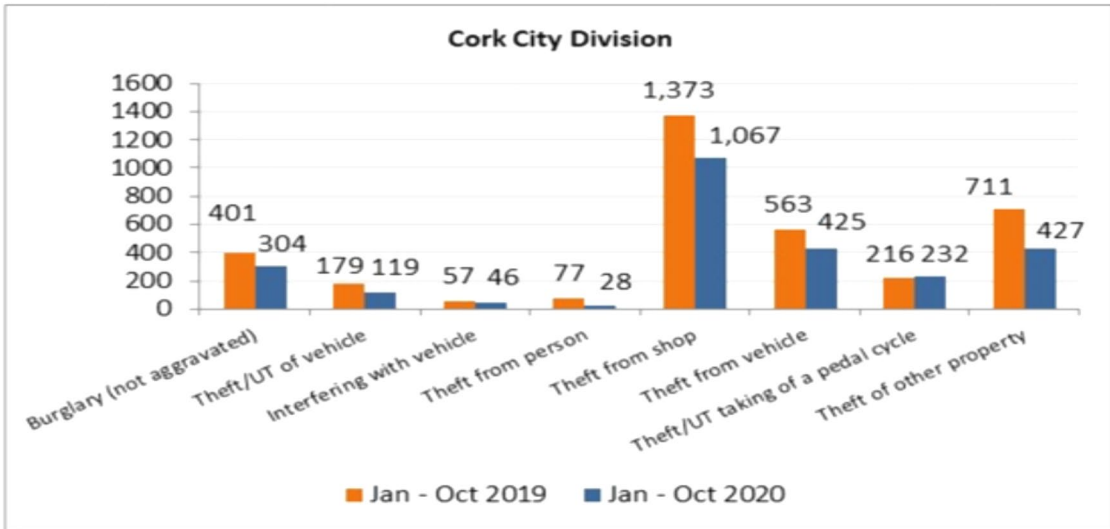
Cork County JPC
Crime & Traffic Statistics
Jan – October 2020

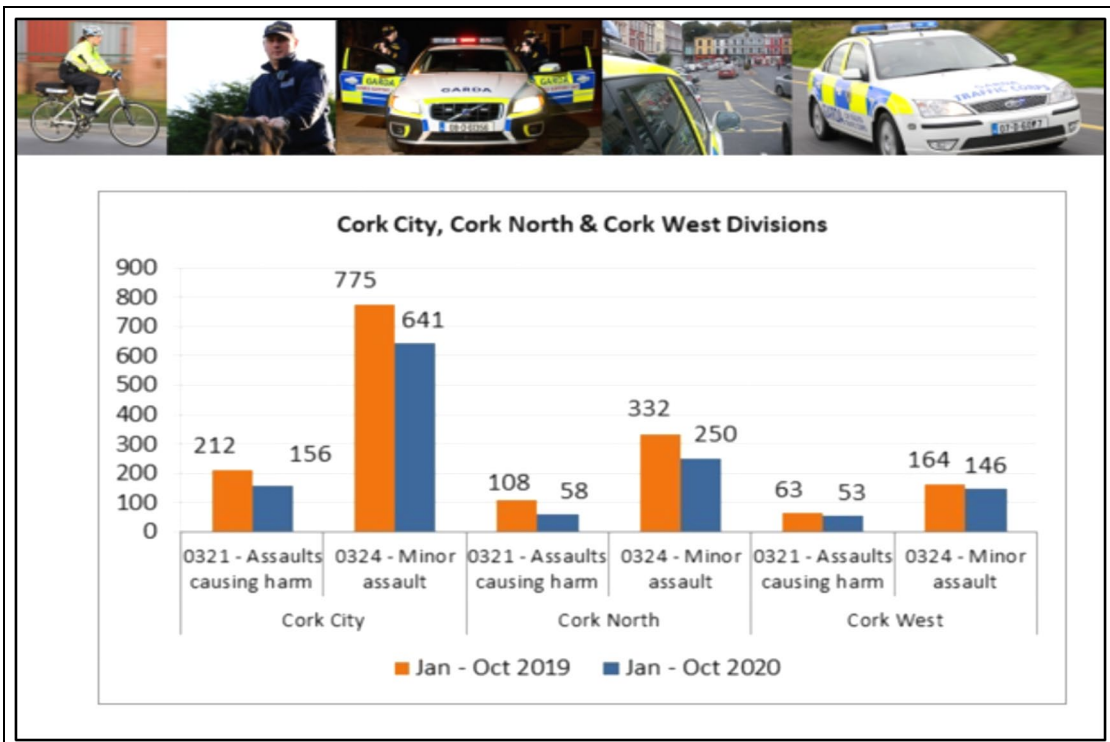
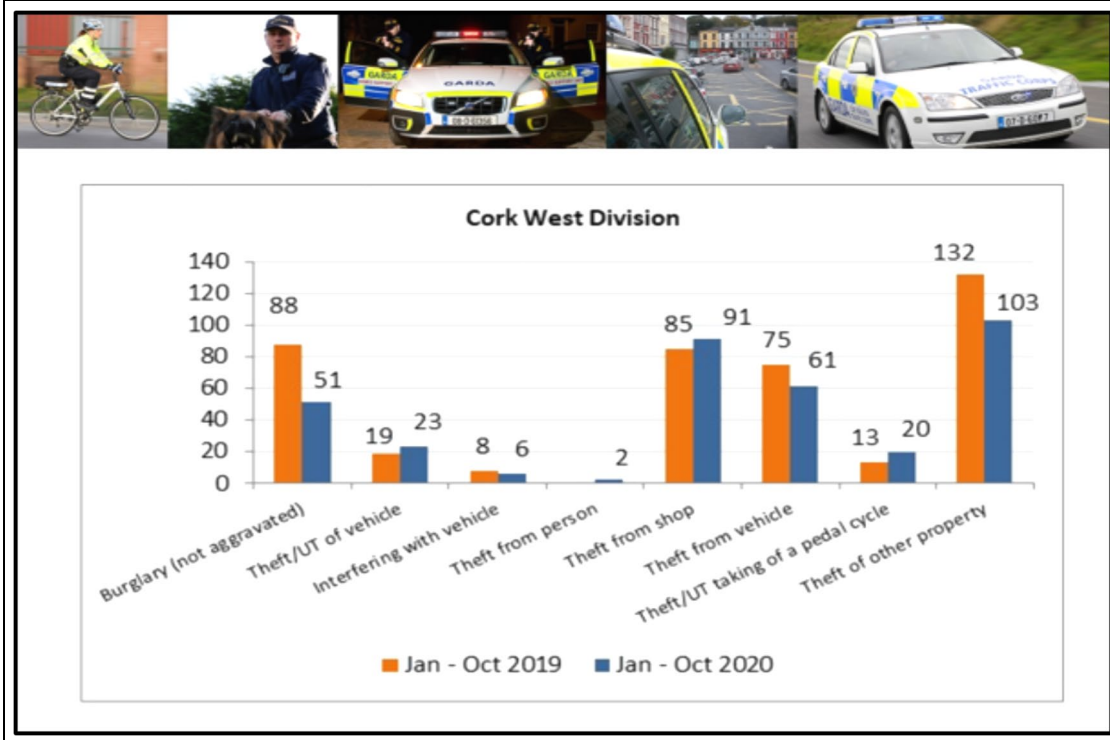
9th November 2020
Chief Supt. Myers
Cork North Division

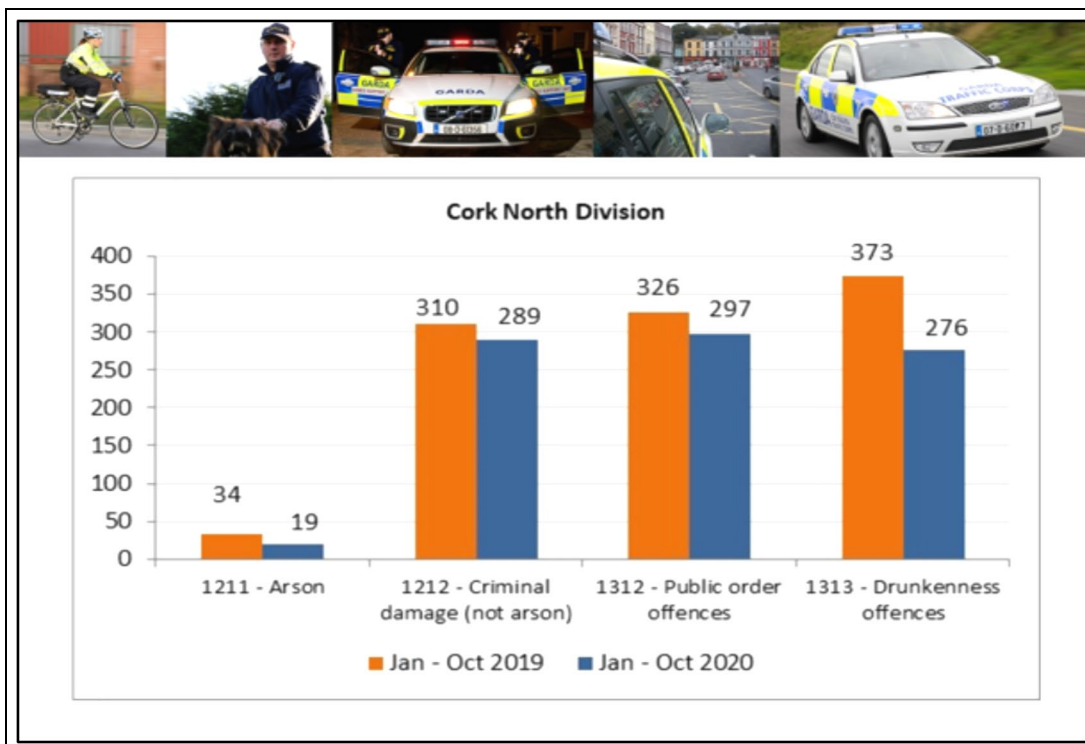
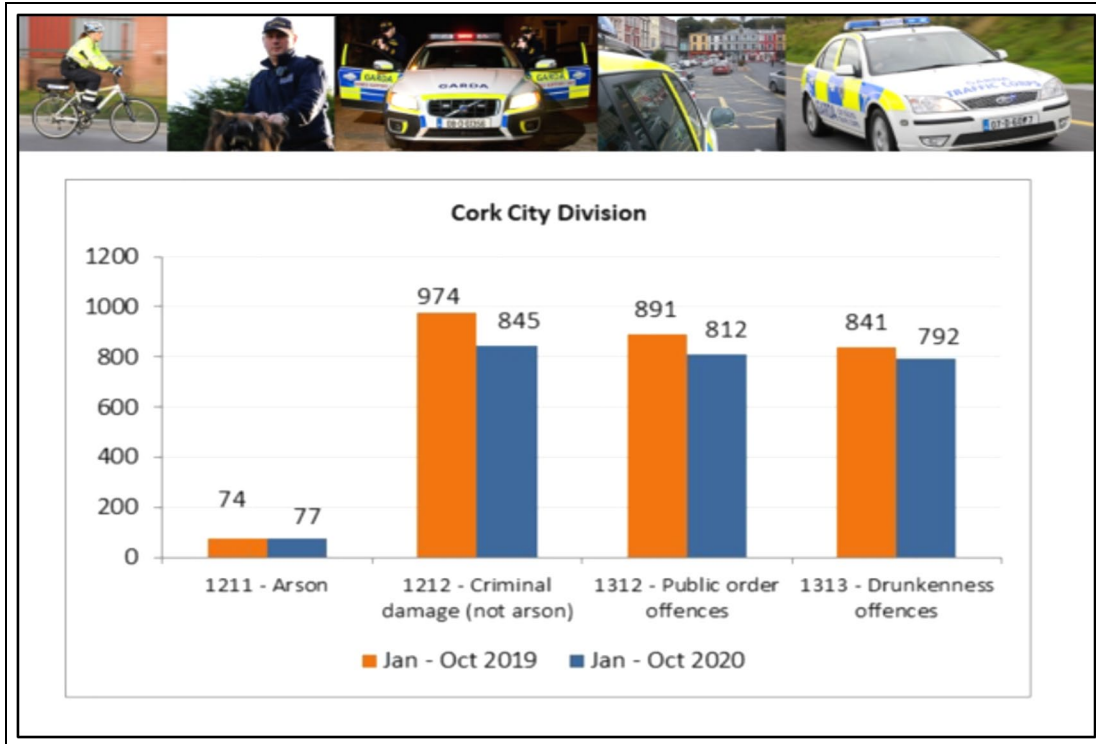
Crime counting rules are applied to crime incidents and incident counts are based on date reported. Information correct as of 02/11/2020

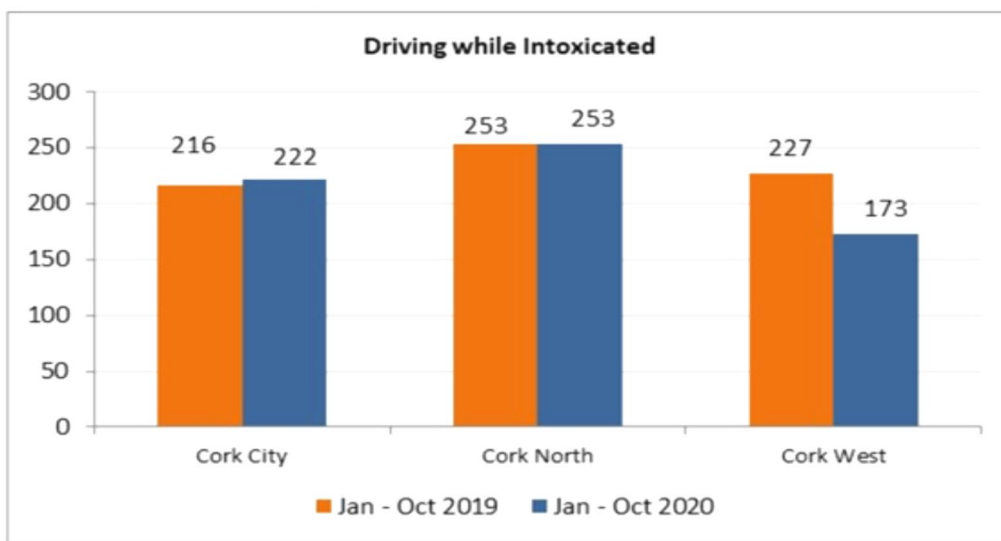
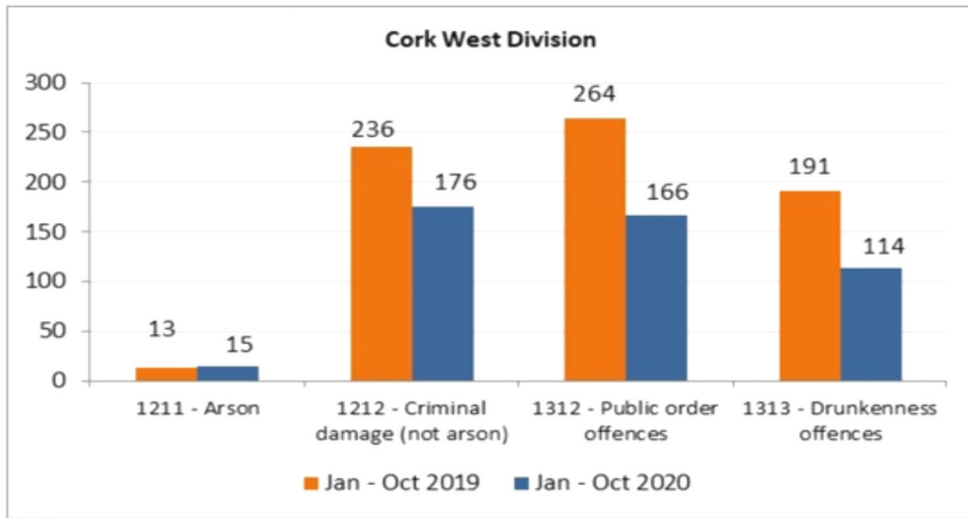
Map data ©2012 Google, Tele Atlas, Basepoint, GIS Innovations, GeoBears-DE/8KG (02/09)

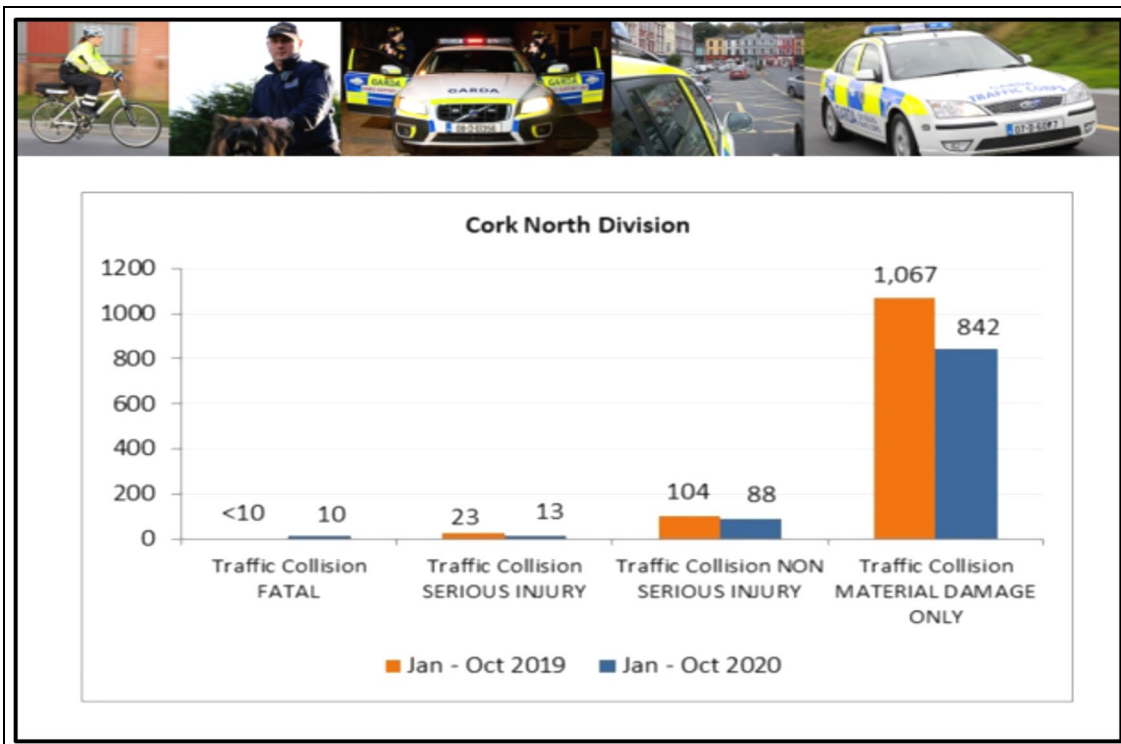
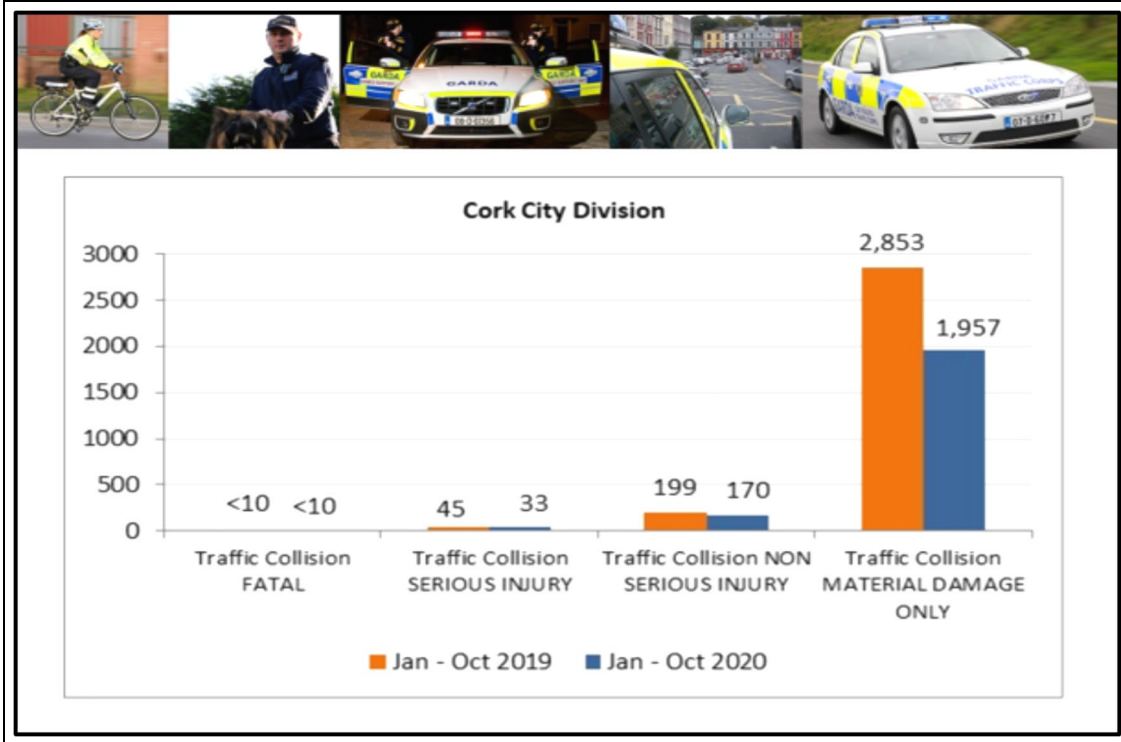



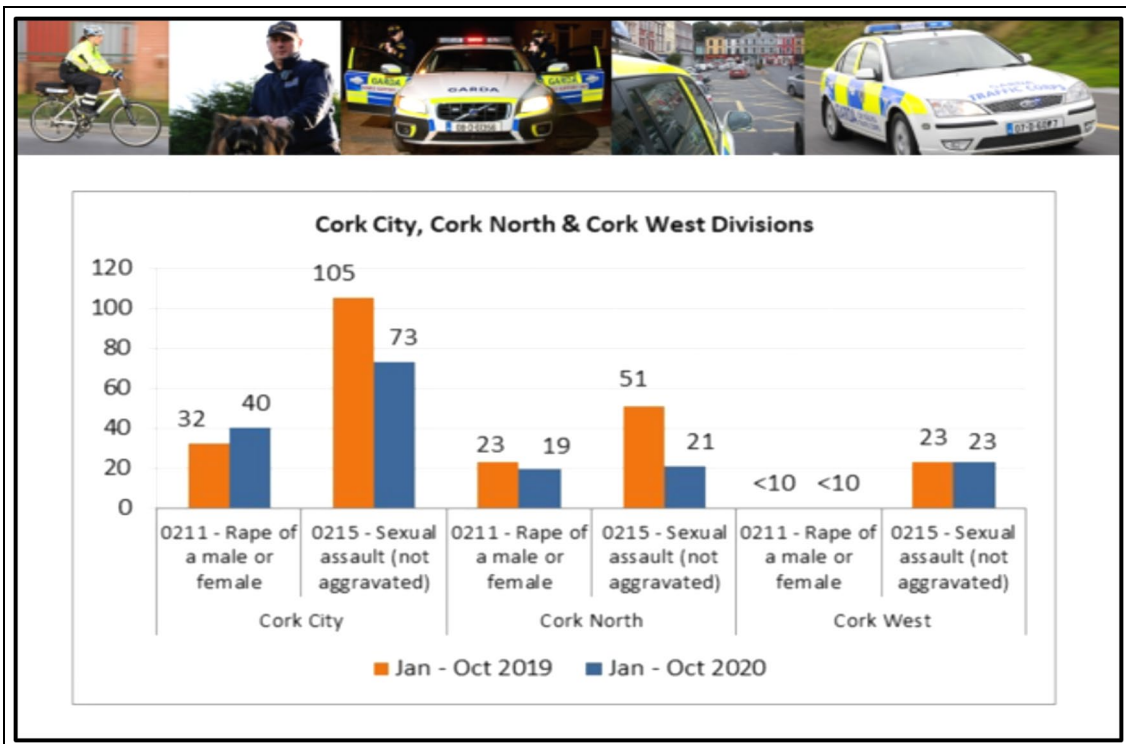
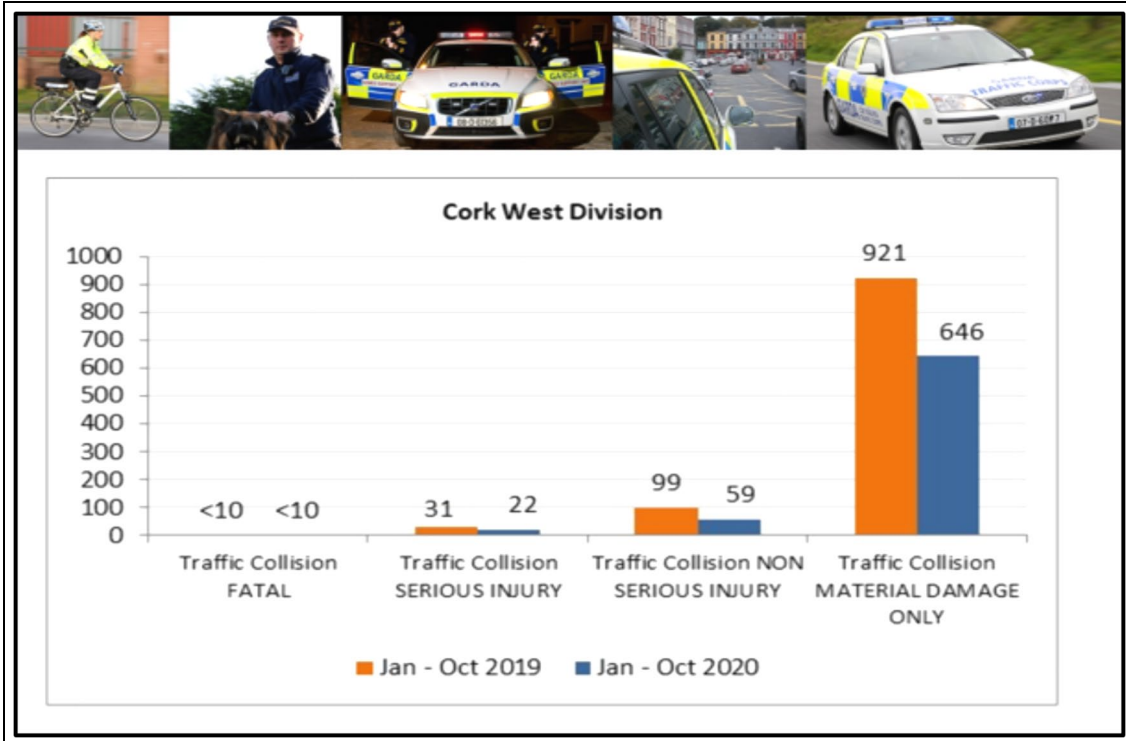


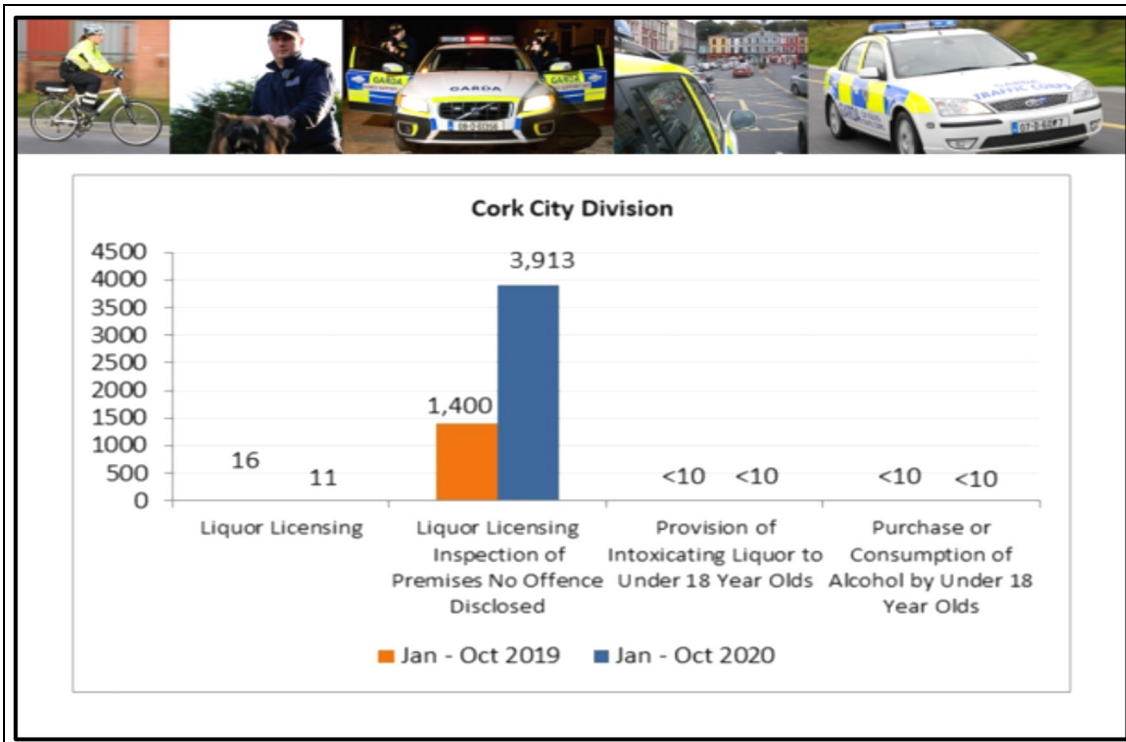
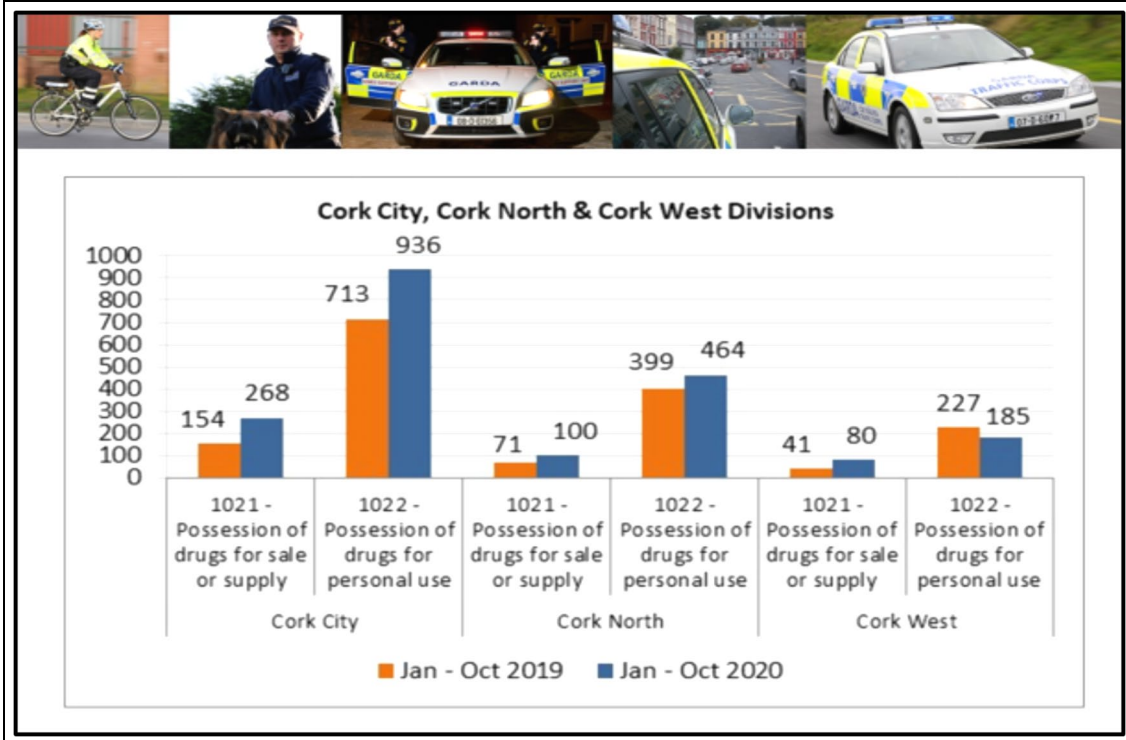


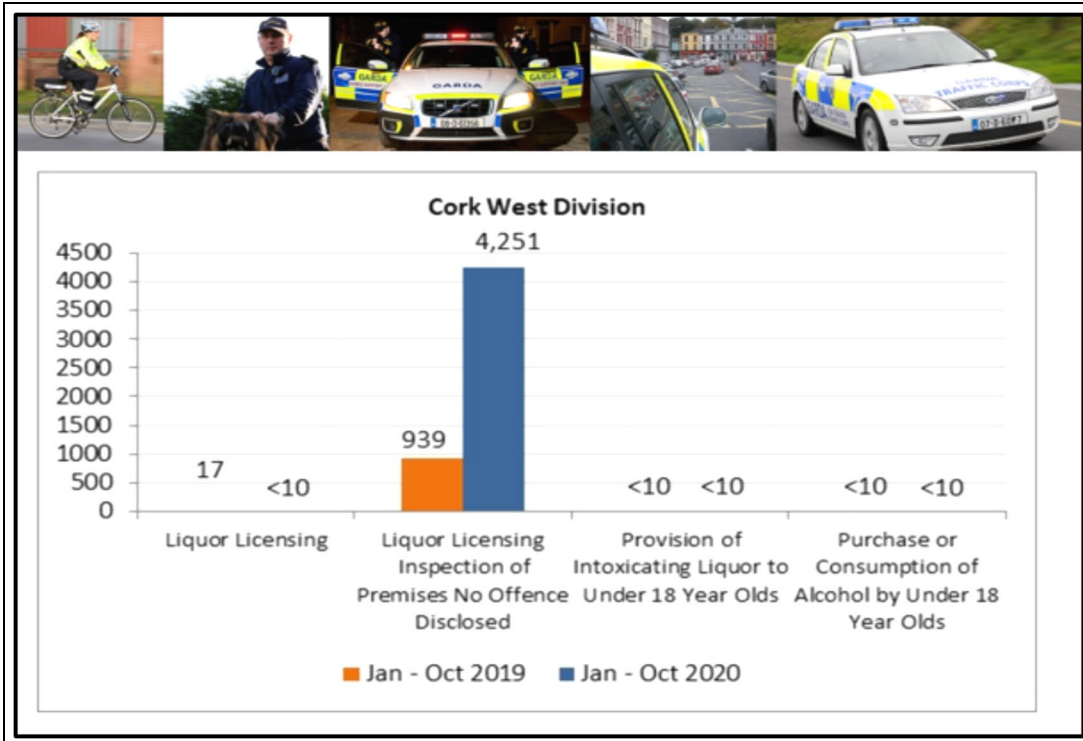
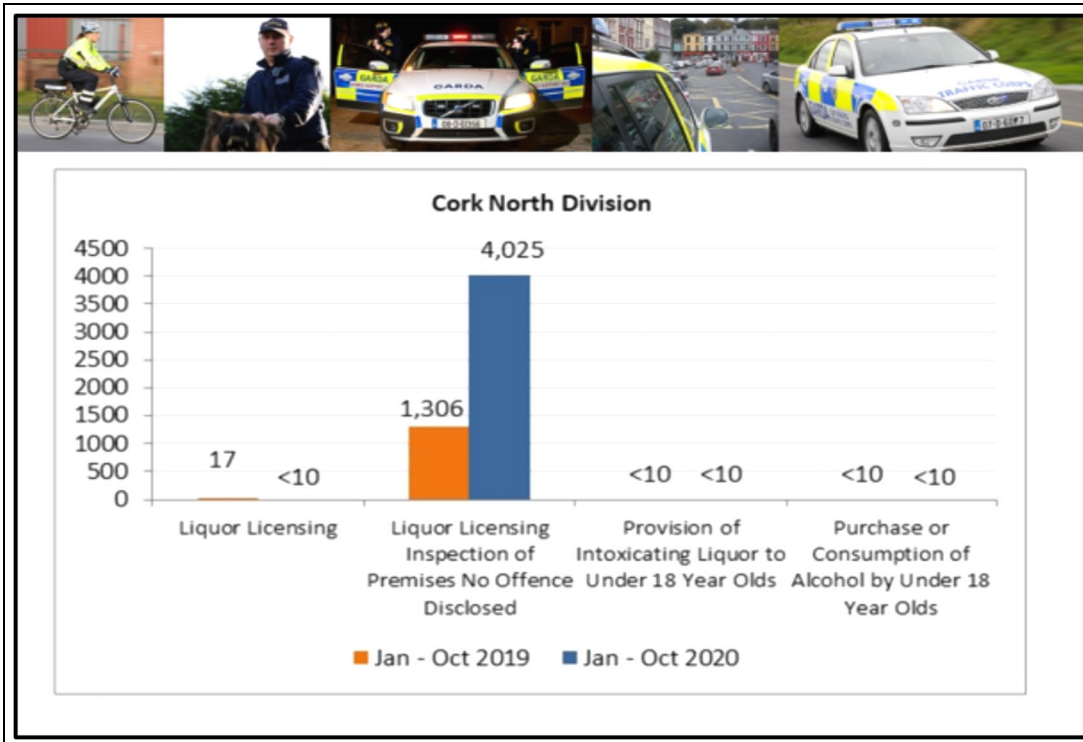


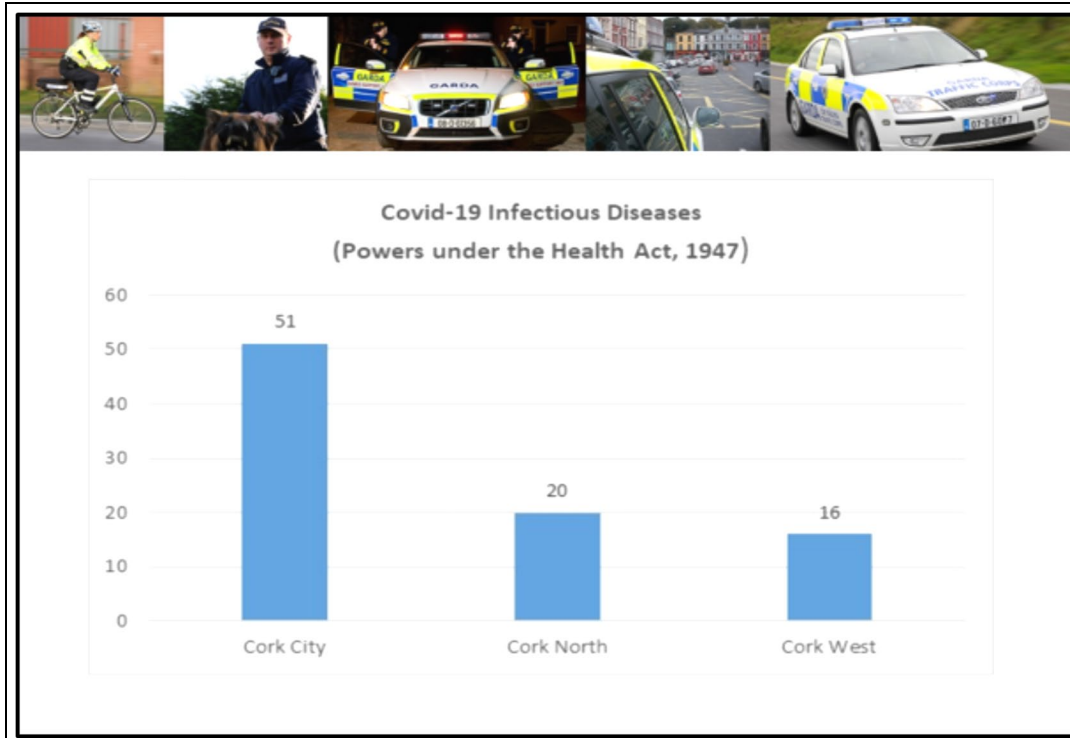
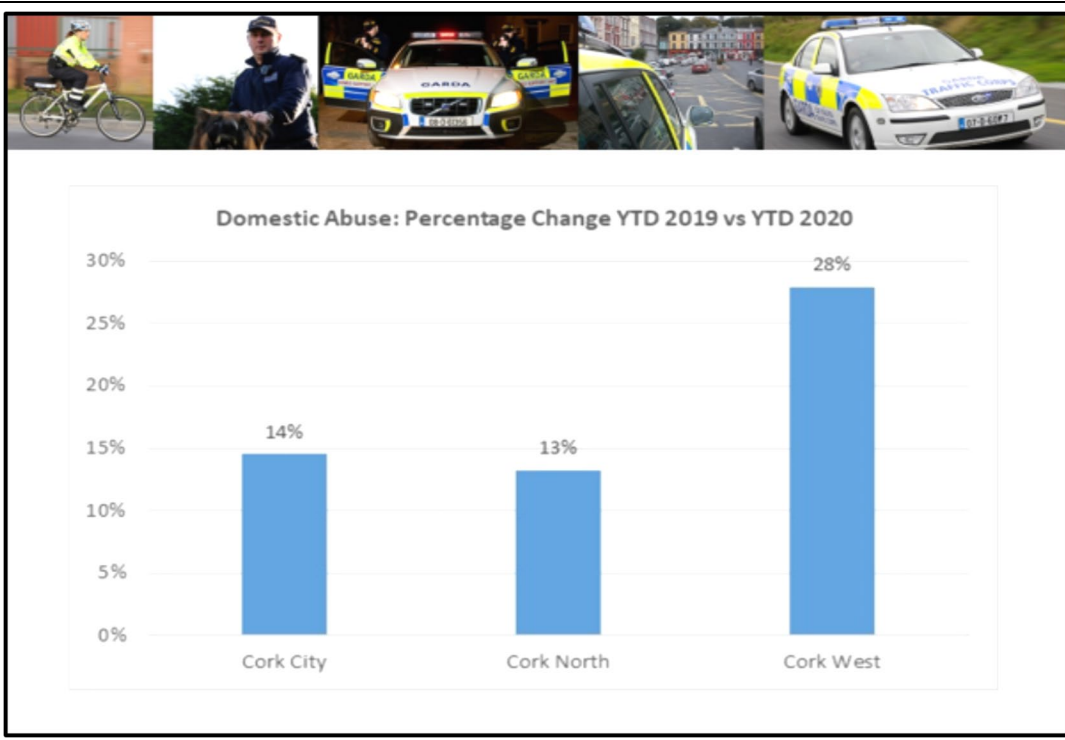


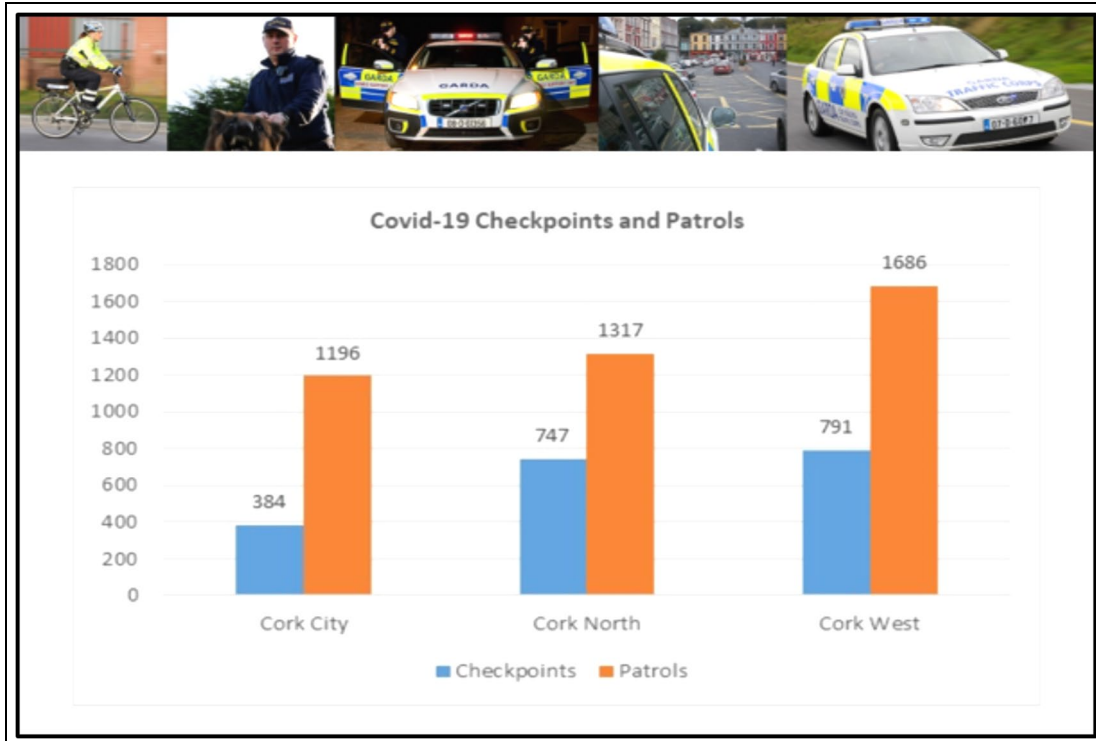
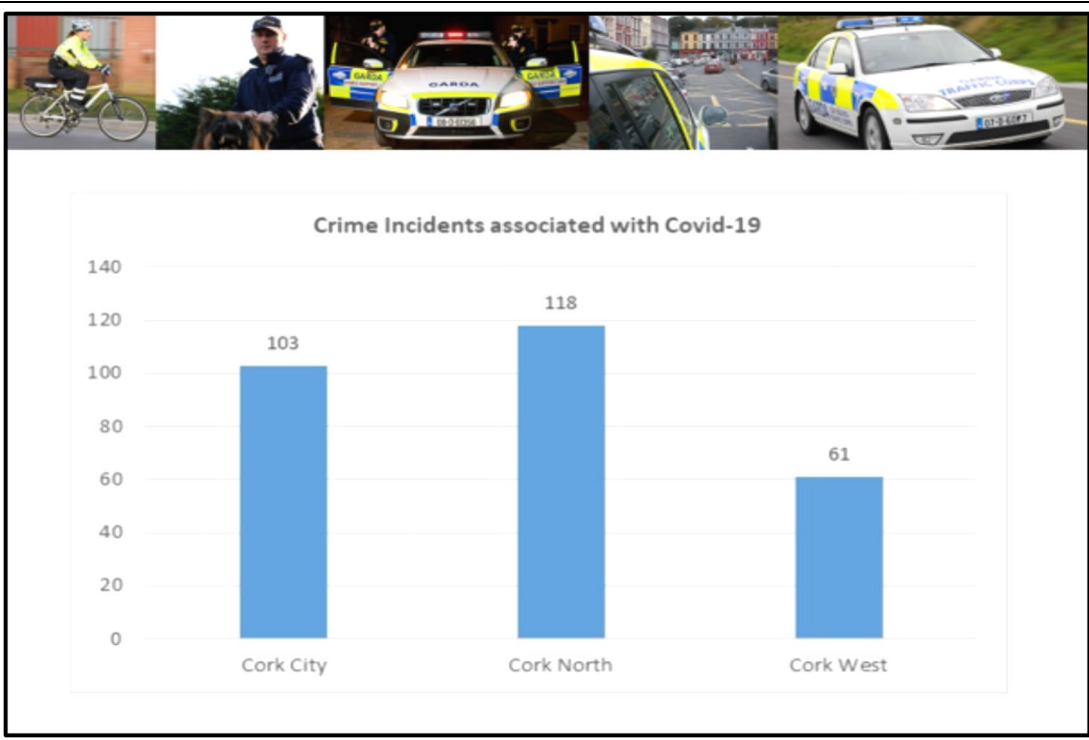


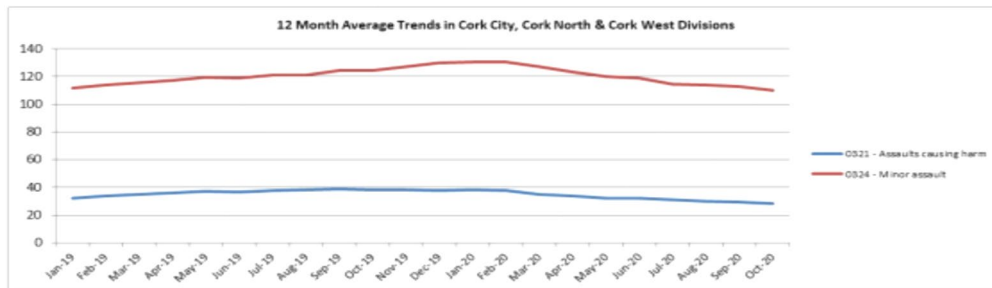
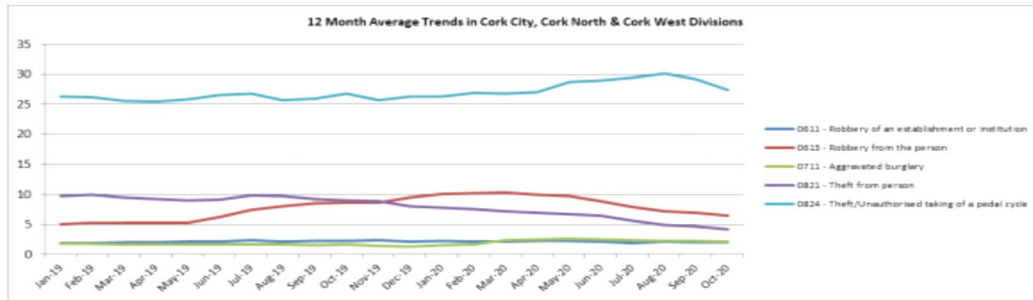


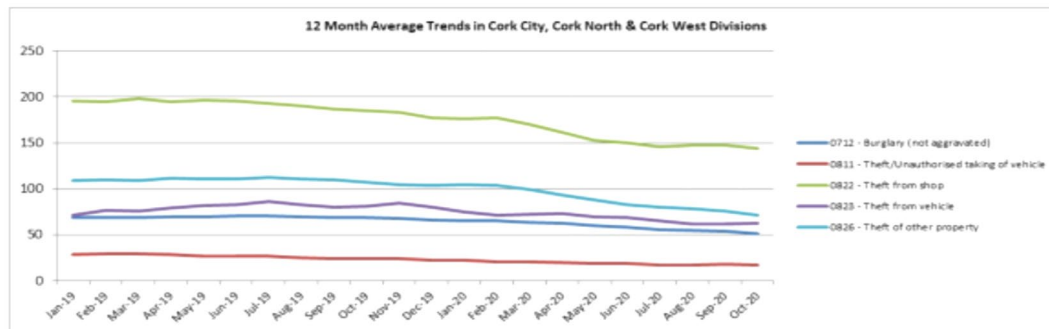
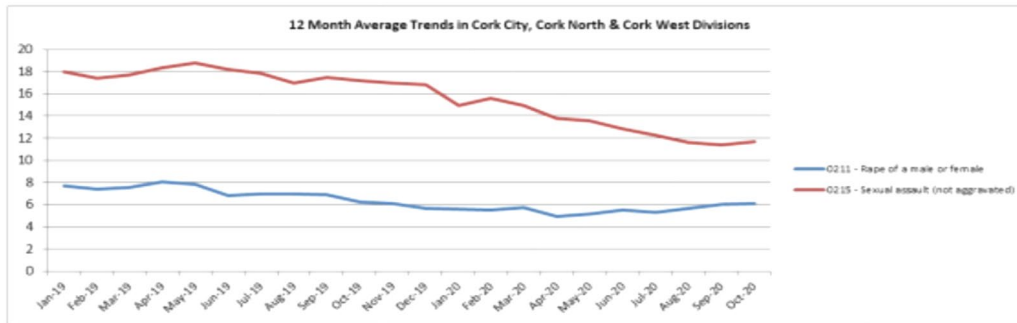














Councillor Cathal Rasmussen chair of the JPC thanked Chief Superintendent Myers for the comprehensive overview of crime and traffic statistics from January to the end of October. This he said is very much appreciated. Members of the floor discussed the following: -

- Domestic abuse incidents have increased significantly across the three Cork districts with 1,151 cases in the city, a 14% increase, 548 in Cork North a 13% increase and a 28% increase in West Cork. this is very worrying especially in the big increase in the West Cork area.
- The increase of domestic violence is not related to the size in population as the City has a far less increase in numbers compared to West Cork.
- Rape cases increased in the city, with forty cases reported between January and October compared to 32 for the same time period last year. This is extremely worrying. What can be done about the increase and upward trend?
- Are public houses and off – licenses complying with Covid 19 restrictions?

Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers said it was important to assure anyone who reports a domestic violence complaint that they will be treated with empathy in a professional manner and all other information supports will be made available to them saying there is a Garda Protected Unit situated in each division. The pandemic has been a very challenging time for the Gardaí with the increase in domestic violence incidents. Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers said the Gardaí are treating all instances of domestic abuse as a priority and encouraged the public to report all incidences of domestic abuse.

Chief Superintendent Myers said 648 people have been arrested on drink or drug driving charges since January 2020. The Gardaí are continuing to be very active on the roads and the message going out is if you drink and / or drug driving you will be caught, and the sanctions are severe. The drop in incidents of arson, criminal damage, public order and drunkenness offences were due to lack of night – time activity and the increase Covid – 19 Garda patrols and checkpoints which have deterred gangs of travelling criminals and the results of restriction on what the Chief Superintendent termed as “the night – time economy. There were 448 people arrested for drug dealing and 1,585 for possession in the first 10 months of this year. Cannabis remained the number one drug seized, followed by heroin and cocaine.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said Domestic Abuse involves all family members and the Protective Services Units are working closing with organisations like Tusla and many others to assist the victims. Recent investigations of abuse in Cork will give an increase in numbers but it is easier to incorporate the three divisions for these crimes.

Members acknowledged the great work being carried out by the Gardaí.



3. Notices of Motion

Cllr. Danielle Twomey

“In accordance with the new Covid level 5 regulations around the 5km travel limit, I would ask the Gardaí to give assurance to the public that, and according to the exemptions given by government that members of the public are allowed to travel for Food Shopping. This includes travelling beyond their 5km limit for the purchase of fresh and organic food from retailers that may not operate from supermarkets specifically, for example farm shops etc. And that under this exemption members of the public can travel freely to purchase such items and will not be fined for doing so”.

Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers said travelling for food shopping outside the 5km is acceptable and although it may not be the spirit to travel long distance to shop the purpose of buying food outside the 5km limit is allowed.

Cllr. Danielle Twomey said she is not advocating for people to travel outside the 5km, but it is important to support local farm shops.

Members asked were there many fines issued to people in relation to travelling outside their 5km or with retailers selling non-essential goods.

Chief Superintendent McPolin said under the present legislation the Gardaí do not have the power to issue fines for people travelling outside their 5km. However, with the introduction of Covid – 19 restrictions across the county, Gardaí carried out almost three times the amount of inspections on public houses than they did in the same period last year. Most public houses are complying with Covid -19 restrictions despite the challenges with just a small number of files being forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Some retailers were not aware the items they were selling were non-essential and when told they complied with the rules.

Deputy Thomas Gould

“That the Gardaí, the local authority, the Fire Bridge and youth work services are to meet weekly to identify areas where anti-social behaviour and criminality are occurring and devise an action plan to target these areas and divert this behaviour with an aim of enhancing community safety and reducing anti-social behaviour and criminality”.



Questions from Deputy Gould.

How many Gardai are in the county in total?

How many additional Gardai were assigned in 2020?

How many Gardai have left the force in 2020?

How many community Gardai are in the county?

How many Gardai are expected to leave the force in the next 12 months due to retirement etc?

How many Gardai are expected to be allocated from 600 allocation of Gardai in Budget 2020?

What are the hours, and days, of operation of the Community Gardai?

Are the Community Gardai fully resourced (cars etc)?

If there was a full complement of Gardai in the county, how many Gardai would this consist of?

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin told the meeting that many of the agencies mentioned in Deputy Gould's notice of motion are already working with An Garda Síochána and although they would not meet on a weekly basis the Gardaí are very much aware of the anti-social behaviour and they liaise with the Community Gardaí and work very closely together.

Deputy Gould acknowledges the great work the Gardaí are continuing to do and would like to build on the great work by including all organisations. It was agreed Deputy Gould would arrange a meeting with Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin.

4. A.O.B

Ballinspittle Road Improvement

Cllr. Kevin Murphy said the original wall surrounding the Garda Station in Ballinspittle should be removed and replaced with another one to make the road safer for pedestrians in the village. Cllr. Murphy wants to know who is responsible for the wall as there was an agreement that it should be removed and replaced. Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said the OPW owns the land and it is down to an argument as to who will pay for the replacement wall when the old one is demolished.

The CE Mr. Tim Lucey said Cork County Council wanted to do the work and had the funding in place but could not get an agreement from the OPW.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said the OPW will give permission but it is Cork County Council's responsibility to remove and replace the wall.

CCTV



Cllr. Ian Doyle asked for an update on CCTV being installed in villages. The Chief Executive Mr. Tim Lucey said Cork County Council is not able to do anything at present as **awaiting national guidance on legal issues. The CE also advised that there may be significant costs to the Council** in the region of three quarters of a million euro.

Increase in Garda Resources for the Togher District.

Correspondence was sent to the Minister for Justice regarding an increase in Garda Resources. To date no correspondence was received.

A reminder letter will be sent to the Minister for Justice.

***This concluded the business of the meeting
Next meeting Public Meeting 2021***