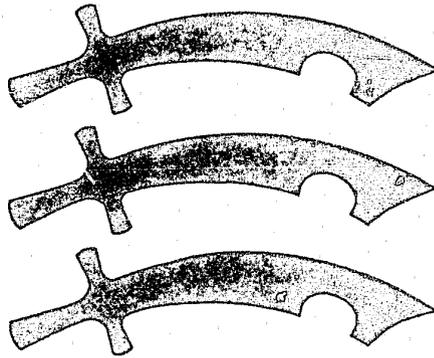
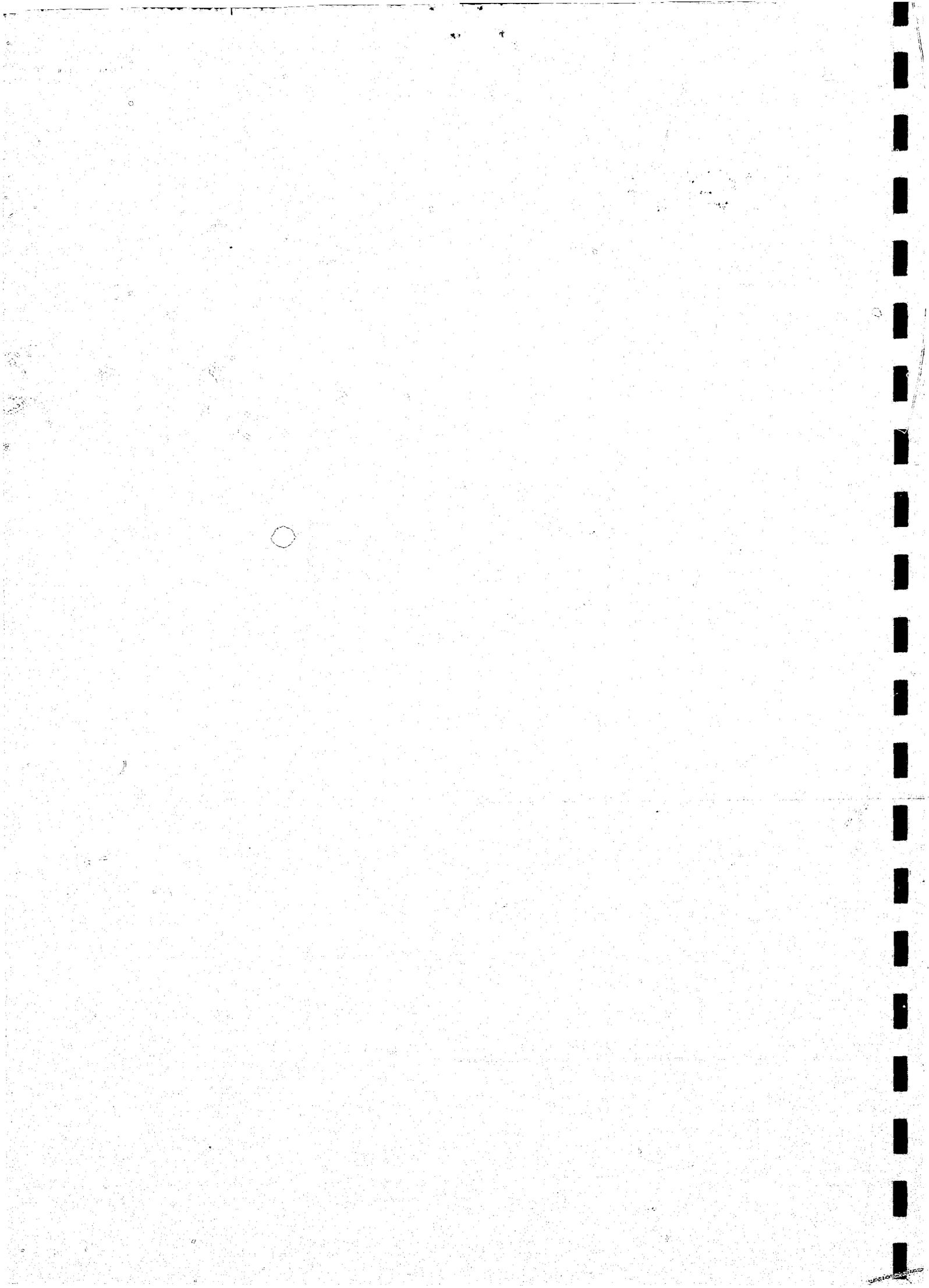


ESSEX POLICE



47339

CHIEF
CONSTABLE'S
ANNUAL
REPORT
1977



To the Police Committee of the Essex County Council

NCJRS

MAY 18 1978

ACQUISITIONS

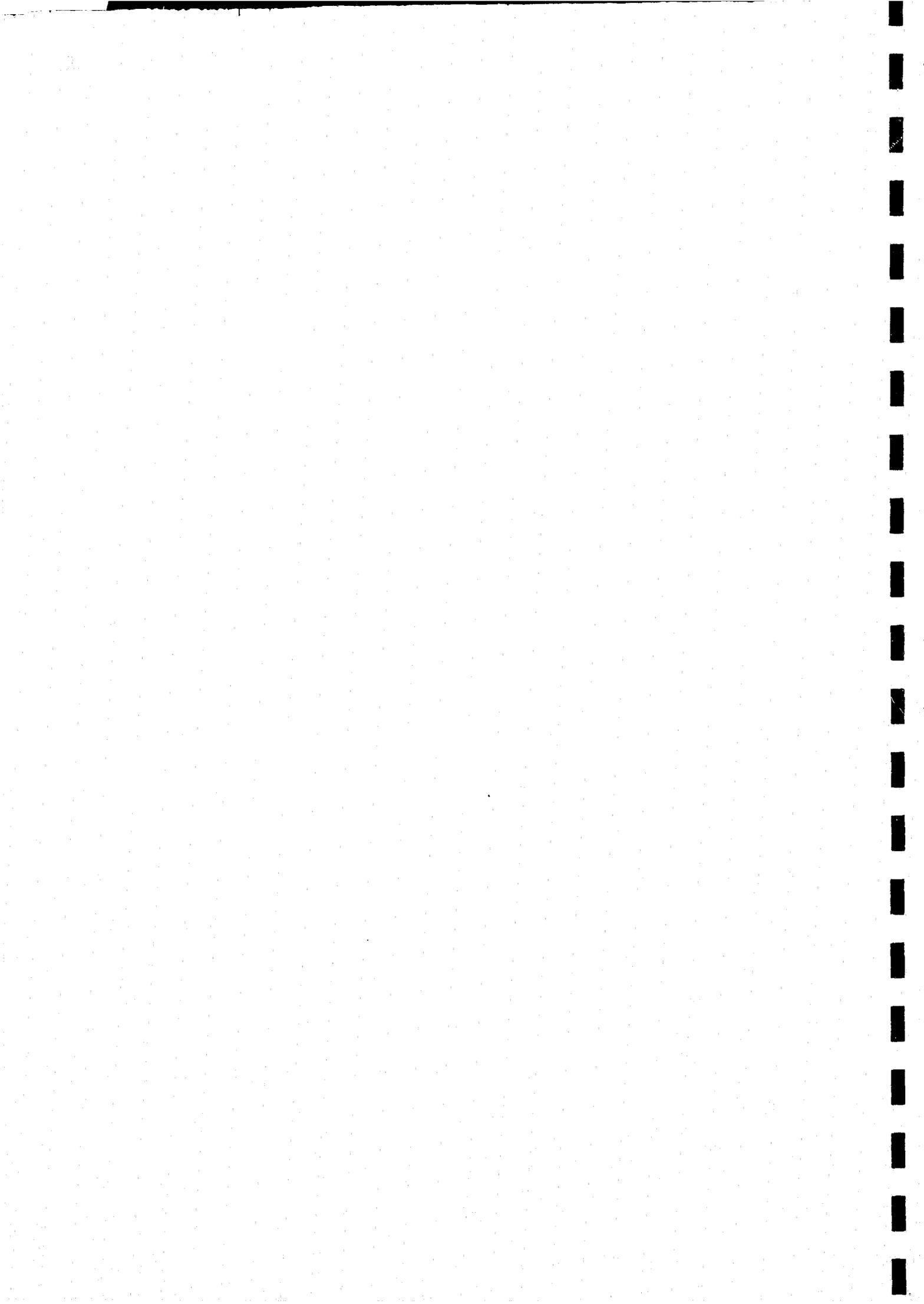
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to present my annual report on the work of the Essex Police in 1977. I would like to thank all the members and officers of the Committee for their support during 1977 and for the 20 years in which I have held senior rank in the Essex Force.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

J C NIGHTINGALE
Chief Constable



INTRODUCTION

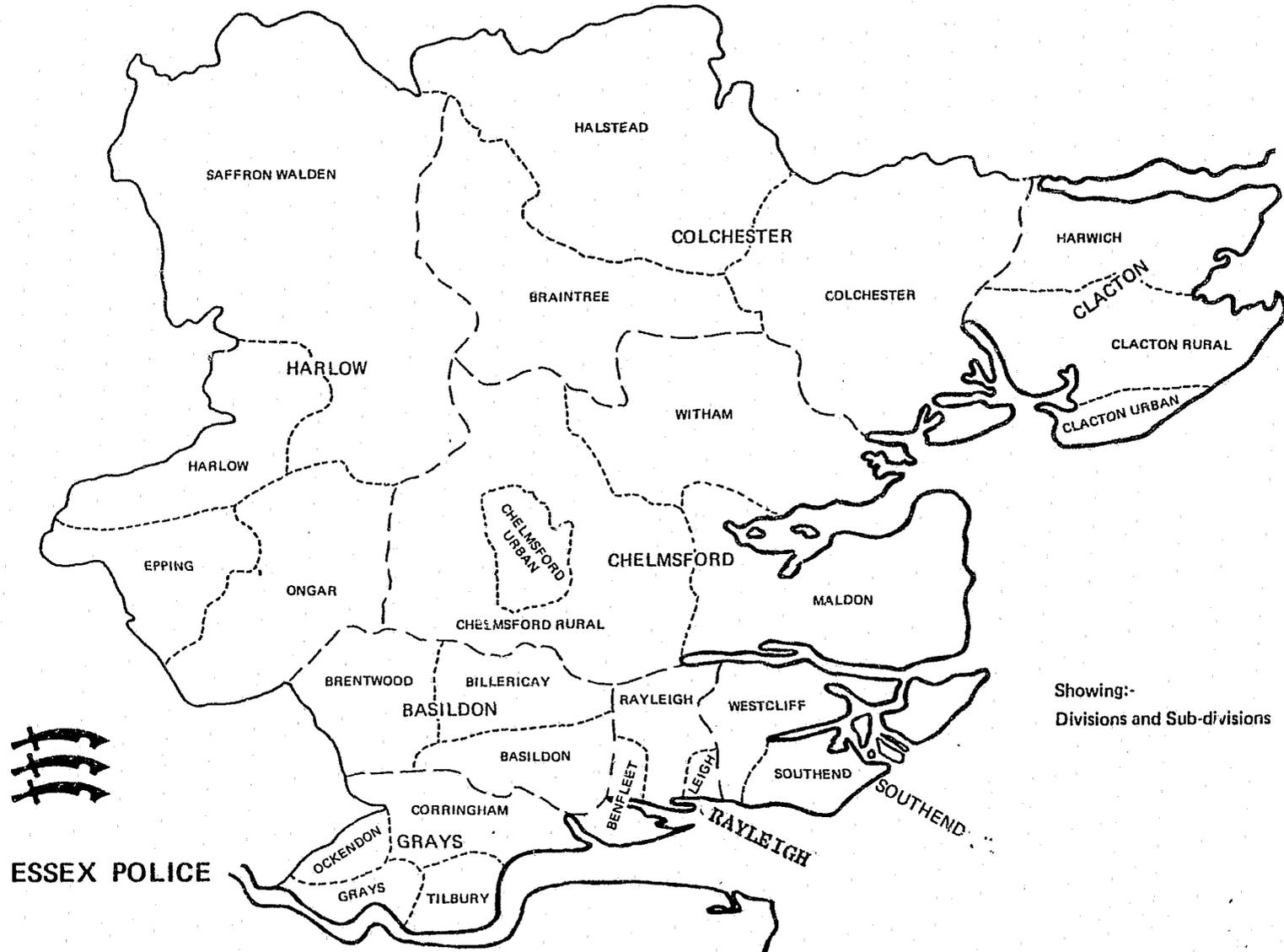
1977 has seen no alleviation of Police problems. On top of the increase in our workload and the financial difficulties of the past few years, we are now troubled by decreasing manpower. In the course of the year the strength of the Force has decreased by 17 and is continuing to diminish. At the same time crime increased by 10% and accidents by nearly 4%.

I have in earlier years referred to the devoted response of police officers in their difficulties. This response has remained at the same high level but there are those who feel that their efforts are inadequately rewarded and their reaction is to seek other employment. Wastage from the Police Force, both in Essex and at a national level, is now a most serious matter and if levels of recruiting cannot be maintained there are troubled times ahead.

For some years past the level of Police expenditure in Essex has steadily declined in relation to the national average expenditure. In 1969/70 it was 5% below the national average and for 1976/7, the last year for which actual figures are available, it was 16% below. According to figures provided by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Administration, the police expenditure in Essex per 1000 population is the lowest of any Police Authority in the country. This is primarily due to shortage of Police Officers. To a lesser extent pressures for economies within the County are partly responsible, but it is pretty clear that there is no scope for any further reduction in expenditure. If efficiency is to be maintained an increase is necessary.

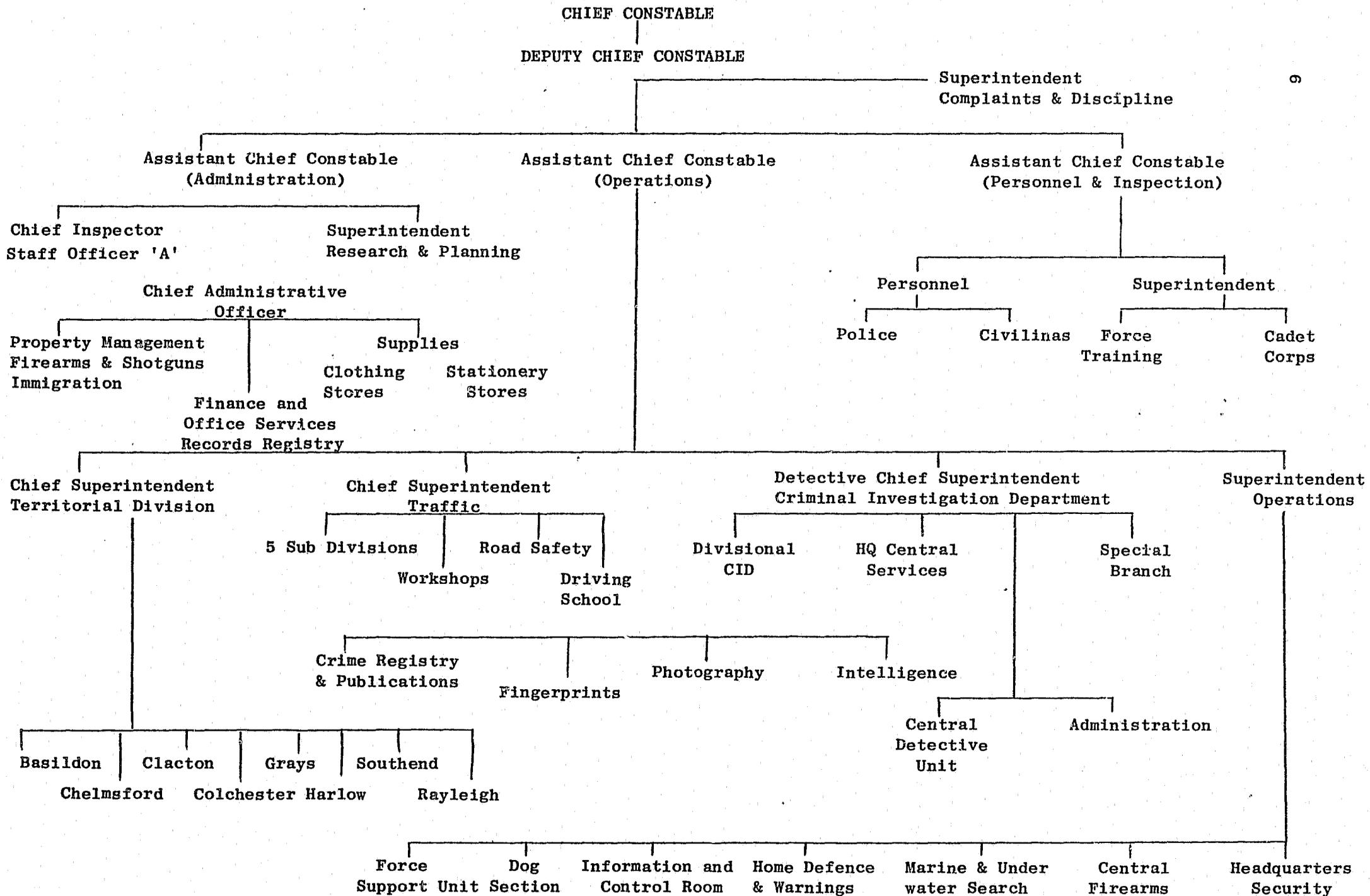
It is to be hoped that the pay problem will be resolved in the current year and I am sure that members of the Force will continue to give the loyal service they have in the past.

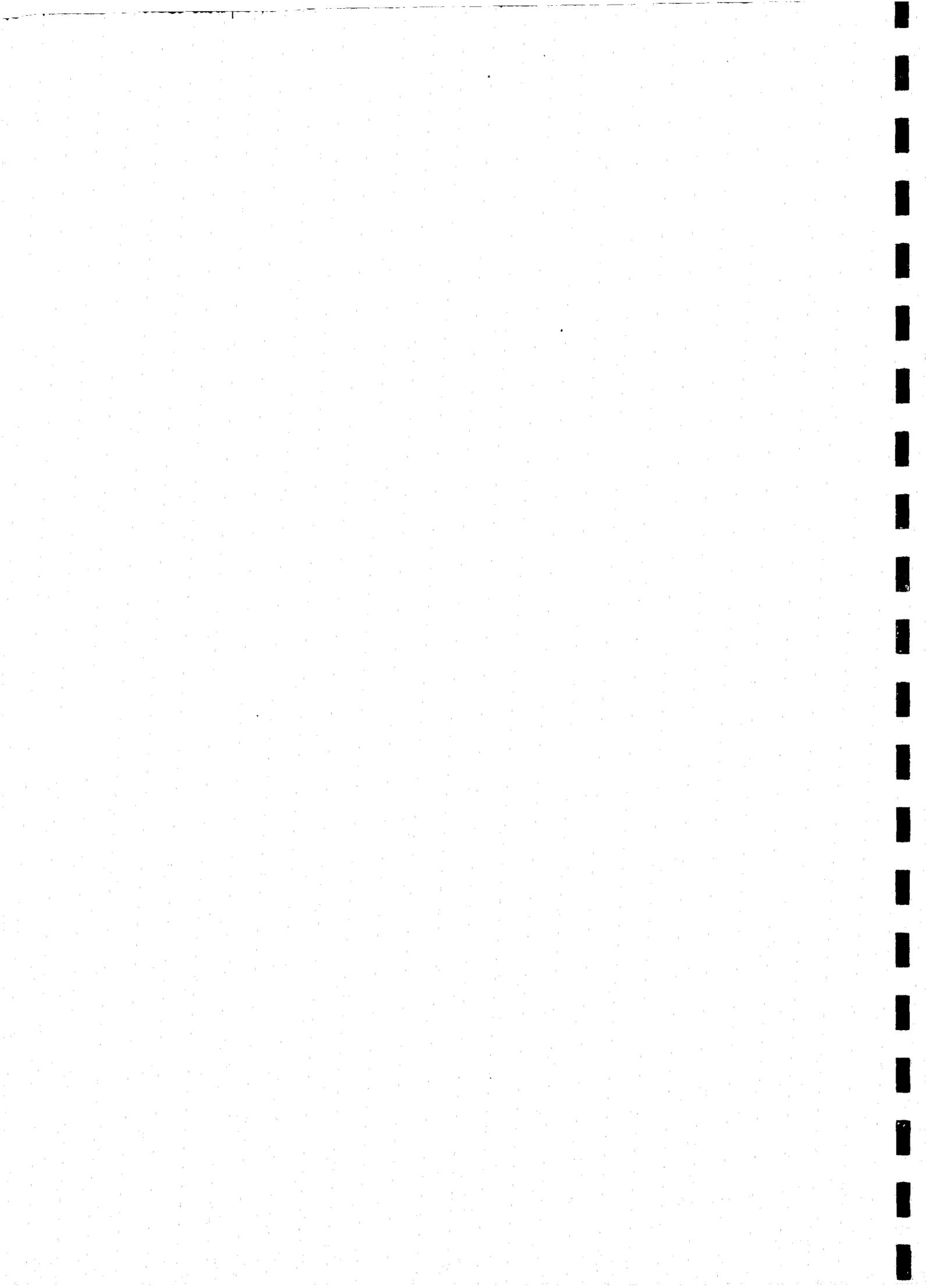




Showing:-
Divisions and Sub-divisions


ESSEX POLICE





CHAPTER 1

CRIME

Indictable Offences

Property Stolen

Young Persons

Cases of Interest

Central Detective Unit

Fraud Section

Major Investigation Section

Intelligence Section

Regional Crime Squad

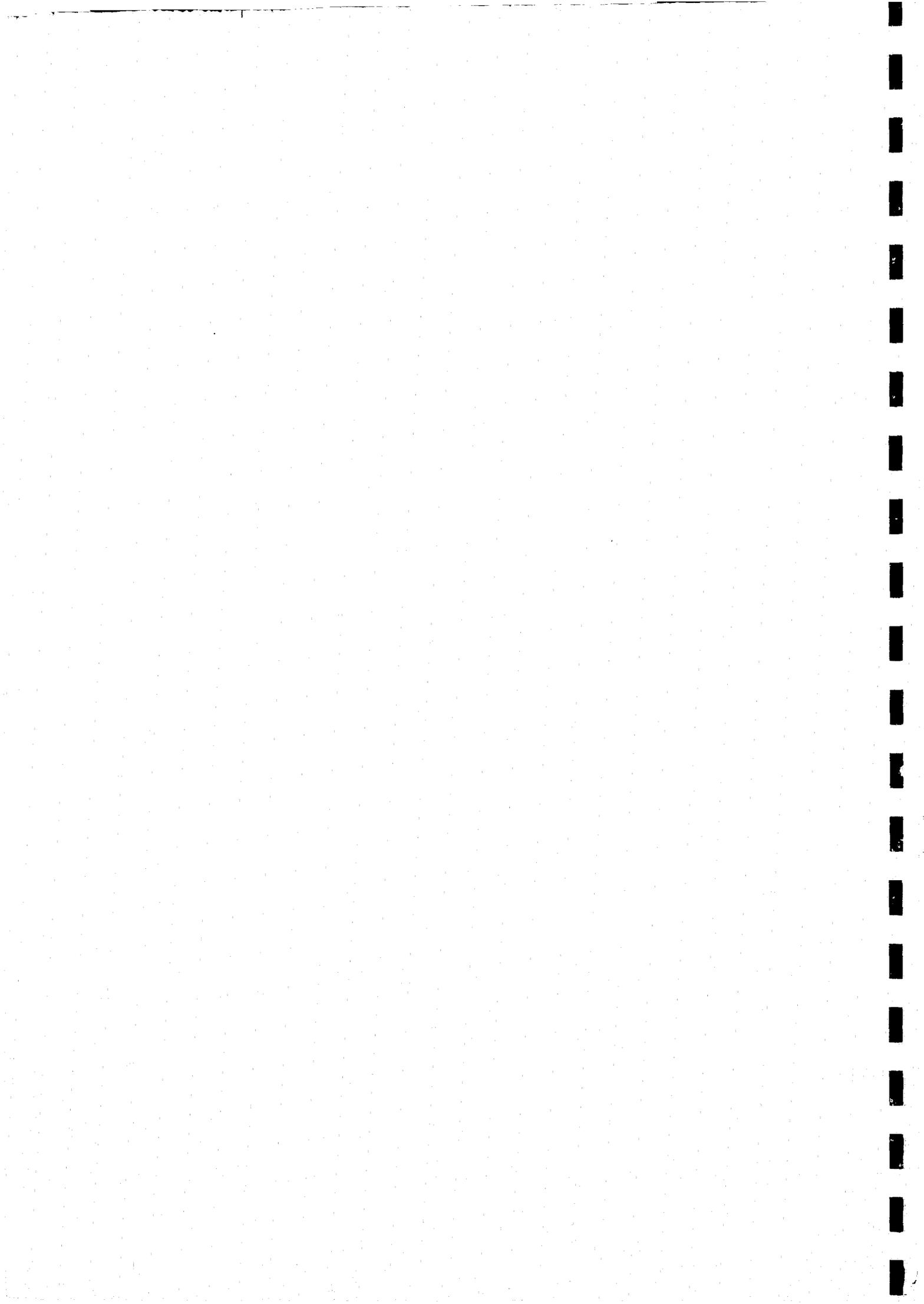
Crime Prevention

Forensic Science-Scenes of Crime

Crime Index and Publications

Incendiary and Explosive Devices

Technical Operations Department



INDICTABLE OFFENCES

During the year 52,307 indictable offences were recorded. This total surpasses that of any previous year and is an increase over 1976 of 5,048 offences or 10.7 per cent, due largely to more offences of burglary, shoplifting, thefts from vehicles, other simple thefts, frauds and criminal damage.

The total number of indictable offences reported to the Police during the year was 55,288. Of these 1,595 were not substantiated and were classified as 'No Crime'; 572 were recorded as 'Non Indictable' and 814 were otherwise classified.

Five years' comparative figures are shown below. The percentage of each class detected is shown in brackets. You will notice a disparity in the figures relating to detected crime for the years 1975-76 and 1977. During the latter part of 1976, a change was made in the crime recording procedure which had the desirable effect of substantially reducing the clerical work involved. Unfortunately a side effect of the procedure was to mask the true detection rate as the system was not sensitive to the increasing crime rate and the serious backlog of cases at the Crown Courts. Minor modifications have been introduced to rectify the procedure which have resulted in some 1976 detections being credited in 1977. However this effect will not be evident in the 1978 figures.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Offences against the person	2171 (80.8)	2352 (81.1)	2338 (79.8)	2515 (58.9)	2484 (90.2)
Offences against property with violence (Burglary)	7346 (40.3)	9175 (38.0)	9620 (35.1)	9156 (30.6)	10840 (34.9)
Offences against property without violence (theft, going equipped for theft and fraud)	23416 (46.1)	28075 (47.3)	30468 (46.4)	32275 (35.7)	35167 (51.1)
Other offences (Arson, forgery etc)	2213 (44.0)	2784 (45.6)	2919 (44.0)	3313 (30.1)	3816 (38.6)
	35146 (46.9)	42386 (47.0)	45345 (45.6)	47259 (35.5)	52307 (48.7)
Number of offences per 1,000 population	26.4	31.9	33.8	34.9	38.4

During the year proceedings at the lower courts were taken against 9,500 persons, a decrease of 438 over the previous year, resulting in:

6,988 were found guilty summarily

1,425 were committed for trial, and

1,087 were found not guilty or no evidence was offered.

At the higher courts, 974 persons were convicted and 164 discharged or no evidence offered.

PROPERTY STOLEN

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Value stolen (£)	2,631,639	3,299,261	4,225,047	4,743,705	6,278,996
Value recovered (£)	1,220,456	1,562,123	1,413,298	1,740,393	2,325,118
Percentage value recovered	46.4	47.3	33.5	36.7	37.0

YOUNG PERSONS

Comparative figures for years 1973 to 1977, inclusive, of offences known to have been committed by these persons:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Change during 1977
Offences against the person	454	399	421	321	425	+ 104
Burglaries	1550	2224	1632	1380	1898	+ 518
Thefts	4003	5419	5250	3774	6502	+ 2728
Frauds, Arson etc.	795	966	871	914	1015	+ 101
<i>TOTALS</i>	<u>6802</u>	<u>9008</u>	<u>8174</u>	<u>6389</u>	<u>9840</u>	<u>+ 3451</u>
Number found guilty of indictable offences	1486	2072	1851	1729	2013	+ 284
Percentage of detected offences committed by young persons	37.2	40.4	37.5	34.7	34.9	

CASES OF INTEREST

THEFT OF VACUUM CLEANERS AT ABRIDGE

During January 1977, a firm of hauliers in the Abridge area received a consignment of 400 vacuum cleaners valued at £18,000 for transportation to Yugoslavia. Whilst awaiting shipment they remained loaded on a lorry in the firm's yard.

Towards the middle of that month the lorry containing the cleaners was stolen. It was found abandoned minus the cleaners in the East End of London a few days later.

A team of officers from the Harlow Division commenced enquiries at the firm's premises and found that a lorry driver recently made redundant had contact with criminals in the Plaistow area. They then received information from an informant to the effect that vacuum cleaners, similar to those stolen, had been offered for sale in a public house on the Isle of Dogs.

With the assistance of Metropolitan Officers from Plaistow a number of suspects residing in East London were traced and interviewed. Subsequently it was established that the redundant lorry driver had given two criminals details of the cleaners. These criminals stole the cleaners and sold them to another criminal who disposed of them through markets and dealers.

A total of four men were arrested and on 12 July 1977 they appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court and were convicted of conspiracy to steal, offences involving the taking of motor vehicles and handling. Three of the men received sentences totalling three years' imprisonment and the other was sentenced to a total of six years' imprisonment.

THE MURDERS OF CORAL VIDLER AND JOAN FLORENCE SMITH

On 15 April 1977 the dead body of Coral Vidler, aged 16 years, was found in a rose garden at Hornchurch less than 100 yards from her home. She had suffered severe head and facial injuries but there were no signs of sexual molestation. Enquiries at the scene indicated that she had been attacked in a nearby alleyway and her body dragged into the bushes. A post mortem examination report showed a total of seven blows to the face with an instrument and severe pressure marks on the neck.

The Metropolitan Police, who are responsible for policing that part of Essex, instituted an enquiry during which 14,000 persons were interviewed.

On 19 July 1977 the body of Joan Florence SMITH, aged 36 years was recovered from a field at Stanford le Hope, after it had become entangled with a cutting machine. The body had been mutilated by the machine and was decomposing; however a post mortem report showed that prior to death the woman had suffered multiple stab wounds to the head and neck. She was identified as a woman reported missing from her home at Grays on 16 July 1977. A murder enquiry was instituted.

Just prior to these events on 14 July 1977 a man reported the theft of his Corsair motor car from a car park at Hornchurch. Three days later, two infants were playing in another car park in the area during the course of which they entered the stolen Corsair which was parked there. They found a bloodstained handbag in the car beneath a seat and threw it into some nearby bushes. The children told their father, who recovered the handbag and took it to the police. The police attended the car park immediately but found the Corsair had been removed. The handbag was identified as the property of Joan SMITH. A search was made for her, only to be discontinued when her body was found in the field at Stanford le Hope. The Corsair was found abandoned on the same day at Upminster

and subjected to scientific examination, the results of which became significant later on in the enquiry.

At the same time enquiries were being made in the vicinity of the car park where the Corsair had been found and eventually they centred upon a male employed at a nearby store. The officers were not satisfied with his explanations and after connecting him with a number of stolen cars were able to obtain indications that, during the period relevant to this enquiry, he had had possession of the Corsair containing the bloodstained handbag. His home was searched. Bloodstained clothing and a small axe were recovered.

Interviews were conducted by Essex and Metropolitan Officers at the conclusion of which a man was charged with the murder of both women. His trial is proceeding.

This enquiry illustrates the high degree of co-operation which exists between the Metropolitan and Essex Police at all levels.

THEFT OF MEAT

During the early hours of 2 May 1977 the police at Sevenoaks, Kent, were informed of the theft of a lorry laden with meat valued at £16,000. They circulated the particulars of the vehicle and later that day officers of this Force located the vehicle near a smallholding at Bicknacre. Initially the occupants of the smallholding disclaimed all knowledge of the vehicle but intensive enquiries in the vicinity indicated otherwise. These occupants, two men, were detained and later charged with handling the vehicle and the load of meat. Meanwhile specialist officers, following a microscopic search of the vehicle were able to connect another man with the theft of the vehicle.

Three men now await trial at Maidstone Crown Court. The case illustrates a high degree of co-operation between Kent Police and our own officers.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT HOCKLEY

During the early hours of 11 June 1977, a householder and his wife were awakened by noises in the grounds of their home. The householder opened the front door of his house and saw an intruder taking a ladder from his garage. He returned to his house and commenced to telephone for the police. Whilst he was doing this he felt a tap on his shoulder. He turned round and the intruder without warning stabbed him through the rib cage and into his heart. The intruder escaped.

The householder was conveyed to hospital and, following a long operation which involved a repair being effected to his heart, he survived.

Meanwhile officers were investigating the occurrence at the house. Timber and another ladder taken from other houses in the road were found. Specialist officers were able to find palm impressions which were not those of the householder or his family.

A number of suspects were interviewed and palmprinted, but without success. It was then decided to mount a large operation during which every male resident within a quarter of a mile and within a certain age group was palmprinted. This area was extended and it was not until 800 houses had been visited that an identification was made.

A man appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court on 21 November 1977 and was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for wounding and other offences.

ARMED ROBBERY AT ORSETT

During the morning of 24 February 1977, an employee of a security organisation was robbed by three men, armed with shotguns, of approximately £5,500 whilst delivering the money to Orsett Hospital. The three robbers made good their escape in a Cortina motor car.

Upon receipt of the alarm officers conducted a search of the area and found the Cortina motor car on the A13 road. Enquiries at a cafe proved fruitful and details of an Audi motor car were obtained. During the afternoon this vehicle was seen on the A127 road travelling in the direction of London. Attempts were made to stop the vehicle but the vehicle was driven across the central reservation into an unmade road, striking a police officer on the hip in the process. The vehicle was then pursued through country lanes and unmade roads at speeds in excess of 70 miles per hour and eventually it was stopped by a police van which rammed it. The two police officers in the van attempted to arrest the three male occupants of the Audi. One of the officers sustained severe facial injuries but managed to detain one man. The others escaped into the woods but were soon arrested by other officers.

Later, at Chelmsford Crown Court, two of the men were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment each and the third to eight years' imprisonment.

MURDER AT FOBHING

William Henry PHILLIPS, aged 64 years, lived alone in a terraced cottage at Fobbing. He was last seen alive between 7.0 pm and 8.0 pm on 20 May, 1977. About 5.0 am on the following day, neighbours noticed that panes of glass were broken in his front window. Later during the day they became concerned and the police were notified.

A Police Constable went to the house and found the dead body of Mr. PHILLIPS behind a bedroom door. He was dressed in pyjamas and his nose and mouth were buried in pillows.

A post mortem examination report showed that the deceased had suffered considerable injuries before death, including a dislocated shoulder and severe bruising to the head. The cause of death was given as asphyxia.

Local enquiries were made and it was found that a bunch of keys was missing from the house, plus some possible change from a sum of £20 withdrawn from a bank by the deceased prior to shopping for groceries. Officers soon became aware of a rumour, unfounded as they often are, to the effect that Mr PHILLIPS had a large sum of money secreted in his house.

In the absence of any other apparent motive for the murder, officers made intensive enquiries amongst local criminals and eventually arrested one of them for robbery and burglary at Doncaster. Each of this man's associates was subjected to the same procedure during the course of which a suggestion was made that a local criminal, now unemployed owing to injuries received in an accident, had been heard to indicate an interest in the deceased and his possible hidden money.

This man was identified and traced. Officers were able to establish that he had been missing from his usual place of sleeping during the night of the murder and that additionally, on the day following, he had shaved off his beard and effected a complete change of clothing.

This suspect was arrested and eventually charged with the murder, the enquiry disclosing that Mr PHILLIPS died for the sum of ten pounds and a bunch of keys.

On 16 November 1977 a man appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court charged with murder. He was convicted of manslaughter (Diminished Responsibility) and was sentenced to a period of imprisonment.

BURGLARIES SOLVED BY FOOTPRINTS

During March 1977 a series of burglaries took place in the Laindon area and on each one similar shoe impressions were found. Subsequently two men were arrested. Their shoes were sent to the Metropolitan Police Laboratory where they were found to be identical to the impressions found at the various scenes of crime. One man has since been sentenced to eight months imprisonment and the second is still awaiting trial.

THEFT OF FOODSTUFF FROM BRITISH RAIL FERRY

During the night of 30-31 May 1977 a bag containing onions, potatoes and butter was found concealed in a disused shed in Harwich Quay. Enquiries were made and a deck watchman was found to have pieces of onion skin and earth in his pocket. He denied all knowledge of the offence. The items were subsequently sent to the Metropolitan Police Laboratory, when a mechanical fit was found between a piece of onion skin from the man's pocket and an onion left in the bag. Soil examination also proved positive. The man was subsequently convicted at Harwich Magistrates Court for theft.

GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM ON A TRAIN

On the 10 September 1977 a young man was seen staggering from a train at Leigh Railway Station. Two men had been seen to board the same compartment of the train at Westcliff and return to a further compartment at Chalkwell. During the period they were in the same compartment as the aggrieved noises and banging had been heard.

On arrival of the police a man who had bloodstained clothing was seen, and, although he complained the blood was from his own cut hand he was arrested. A piece of palm mark found on a broken beer bottle in the

train was subsequently identified as belonging to the accused and blood found on the accused's clothing was identified as belonging to the aggrieved. The man was subsequently charged with grievous bodily harm.

CENTRAL DETECTIVE UNIT

This unit which consists of 36 officers available if required to provide assistance to Divisions on major crime investigations, is divided into three sections:-

Fraud Section

Major Investigation Section

Intelligence Section

During the year officers from the Unit assisted in eight Divisional serious crime enquiries.

FRAUD SECTION

During 1977, 14 fraud cases were finalised and 6 cases are awaiting trial.

17 major fraud enquiries are currently under active investigation involving money and property valued at approximately £1,450,000.

The Section has assisted Divisional Officers in 8 cases and dealt with 5 fraud enquiries received from other Police Forces.

MAJOR INVESTIGATION SECTION

This Section has conducted a number of operations regarding persons engaged in serious crime throughout the County and surrounding Forces. One such successful investigation undertaken in conjunction with Basildon Divisional Car Squad Officers resulted in 14 persons being arrested and convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court of numerous offences of theft of motor vehicles, tractors and accessories. 3 of the officers involved were commended by H.M. Judge for their zeal and efficiency in dealing with this complex enquiry.

3 Officers of the Section are occupied full-time assisting Divisional officers with the identification of suspect vehicles, making enquiries regarding thefts of valuable vehicles and examining relicensed vehicles previously notified to Licensing Authorities as 'total loss' vehicles.

The activity of the Section is illustrated by the following.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Relicence notifications received during year	931	999	1145	1267	1830
Relicence notifications not examined on 1 January	59	3	73	Nil	16
Examinations carried out	592	526	603	684	921
Number not examined due to age or value	370	380	589	527	814
Transferred to other Forces for examination	25	23	26	40	94
Awaiting examination at 31 December	3	73	Nil	16	17
Motor Vehicles Thefts - number investigated	378	217	602	579	415
Stolen vehicles recovered - number	37	30	64	77	59
Approximate value (£)	19,607	24,440	59,000	58,772	11,465

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

CRIME INTELLIGENCE

During the year the amount of criminal intelligence received and disseminated increased considerably. In conjunction with Divisional Officers and the Regional Crime Squad, a number of successful intelligence operations were carried out in relation to criminals suspected of serious crime.

CROSS CHANNEL LIAISON

Excellent co-operation has been maintained with the Dutch Police on behalf of the United Kingdom Forces by reciprocal visits. The interchange of information has enabled a number of enquiries involving crime and illegal immigration to be dealt with on both sides of the Channel.

DRUGS INTELLIGENCE

This section is primarily concerned with identifying the illegal suppliers of drugs and gathering sufficient intelligence information on them to result in arrest and conviction.

Officers of the Section, in conjunction with Divisional Officers, carried out an investigation into a large scale drugs ring within the County and the Metropolitan Police District. An illegal manufacturing source was discovered and 7 persons who were arrested are currently awaiting trial, charged with unlawful possession and conspiracy to manufacture controlled drugs.

OFFENCE	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Unlawful possession of Cannabis	278	236	185	155	143
Unlawful supply of Cannabis	45	42	13	19	25
Using premises for smoking Cannabis	13	19	12	23	13
Using premises for dealing in Cannabis	7	2	2	-	1
Importing & Excise Evasion Cannabis etc.	32	34	25	15	38
Possession with intent to supply*	4	51	16	12	12
Unlawful possession of Heroin & Methadone (including Optium)	13	13	13	10	5
Unlawful possession of Cocaine	-	6	1	1	-
Unlawful possession of Amphetamine	46	42	35	18	21
Unlawful possession of L S D	51	45	36	3	2
Unlawful possession of Mandrax	-	14	5	3	-
Unlawful supply of Mandrax	-	5	-	-	-
Unlawful supply of Amphetamine	3	18	5	4	5
Unlawful supply of L S D	9	15	4	-	1
Obstruction under Misuse of Drugs Act (Warrants)	1	1	1	-	-
Cultivation of Cannabis	5	19	12	9	17
Supply of Methadone - Heroin	2	6	2	-	-
Conspiracy to contravene Misuse of Drugs Act	2	-	-	2	9
TOTAL OFFENCES	511	568	367	274	292
Persons Detected	311	307	240	169	190
Miscellaneous crimes detected	102	95	29	19	58

* 1973/74 figures for procuring Cannabis

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
SEARCH WARRANTS					
Number Obtained	17	35	9	41	32
Number used	15	29	8	32	31
Negative	3	3	2	12	2
Persons arrested	23	65	14	53	67
DRUG TALKS					
To outside bodies	41	60	44	20	19
At Training School	40	38	45	44	42
STOP SEARCHES					
Positive	75	57	38	73	42
Negative	115	58	53	48	45
TOTAL	190	115	91	121	87
ADDICTS					
New Addicts	15	69	-	-	2
Re-registered	21	26	-	-	15
TOTAL	36	95	*233	*117	*17

* In 1975 and 1976 addicts were defined as those receiving daily treatment from a Drug Dependency Clinic. The figures shown for the year under review relates solely to notified addicts registered at the Home Office.

REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD

1 Detective Superintendent, 2 Detective Chief Inspectors, 2 Detective Inspectors, 8 Detective Sergeants and 9 Detective Constables are seconded to the Regional Crime Squad.

During the last 12 months the members of the Brentwood and Harlow Branch offices have been continuously engaged, under the direction of the Detective Superintendent (Operations), on OPERATION BRENT.

This Operation has evolved from information obtained from Charles Thomas LOWE who was sentenced to 11½ years for a series of robberies, thefts and other offences.

57 people have now been arrested for serious offences and property valued at £300,000 has been recovered.

In addition, a large quantity of drugs, of a street value estimated at £100,000 has been recovered. An enquiry as to the origin of these drugs is being carried out by officers from another Force.

CRIME PREVENTION

	1976	1977		
Surveys	1,224	1,059		
Talks to organisations	192	214		
Crime Prevention displays	24	23		
Crime Prevention lectures to police officers	31	21		
Force Alarms - usage	90	123		
- arrests	22	16		
Arrests resulting from commercial burglar alarms	46	90		
Alarms (direct and '999') - false	11,030	12,760		
- genuine	93	165		
Total number of alarm installations	3,002	3,179		
	1974	1975	1976	1977
Average number of false calls per system (direct and '999')	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.0

Measures introduced early in 1977 in an effort to minimise the number of false calls were not effective; a more stringent policy has been introduced.

Members of the County Education Officer's staff were advised on the suitability of anti-vandal alarms to be used in educational buildings. The Southend Crime Prevention Panel organised the Security Exhibition at The Kursaal Southend on Sea and a Youth Seminar in conjunction with the Community Education Officer.

Advice has been given to staff in large retail stores to help combat shoplifting.

FORENSIC SCIENCE - SCENES OF CRIME

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Searches for fingerprints	7,522	8,970	9,349	9,341	10,706
Fingerprints identification made	1,148	1,476	1,601	1,531	1,569
Searches for other scientific evidence	2,178	2,640	2,907	3,243	3,505
Photographic prints made	106,113	104,354	111,115	105,225	112,154
Usage of forensic science laboratory					
-for drink/drugs driving cases	1,725	1,592	1,757	1,352	1,507
-other scientific aid	597	507	478	491	706
-evidence called for drink/drugs driving cases	1,264	1,257	1,361	978	1,164
-evidence called on other occasions	237	252	229	361	432

Five officers attended Scientific Scenes of Crime Courses at the Metropolitan Detective Training School.

The Branch held a training course in photography and fingerprints which was attended by four officers from this Force. Lectures in these subjects were also given to courses attending the Force Training School and to selected outside organisations.

CRIME INDEX AND PUBLICATIONS

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
(1) Criminal Record Index, Persons recorded	86,297	93,219	100,831	108,465	116,219
(2) Nominal/Wanted Index					
Number of Searches	8,665	10,217	11,272	13,394	24,744
Number of Identifications	N/A	3,044	3,133	3,851	7,387
(3) Property and Cycle Indices					
Number of Identifications	85	140	150	147	165
(4) Force Information - Editions	272	271	257	247	142
(5) Special Bulletins - Editions	20	22	22	25	23
(6) Total of (4) and (5) published	110,100	112,720	105,910	101,560	56,129
(7) 'Photo-fit' Kits; Usage	153	146	184	175	180

INCENDIARY AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

There were 74 calls made to Scenes of Crime Officers to attend this type of incident. After initial screening nine calls were made for the attendance of a Home Office explosives expert.

On the evening of 13 November 1977 an anonymous '999' call was made to this Headquarters to the effect that there was a bomb under a vehicle at Thorpe Bay. Police investigations revealed a package under a Transit

van parked in a street. The area was evacuated and all emergency services were placed on alert. An explosives expert was called and after examining the object declared it to be safe. The object was a hoax device capable of causing serious alarm and fear to the public. The Explosives Officer highly commended the Essex Police for the action they had taken.

TECHNICAL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

This Department specialises in the use of technical equipment in the detection of crime. Apparatus used includes radio wallets, a night light intensifier, video closed circuit television, tape recorders and radio microphones.

During 1977, using this equipment, 25 persons, including 7 blackmailers were apprehended. The equipment is only used on the authority of a Senior Officer.

CHAPTER II
ROAD TRAFFIC

Road Accident Casualties

Road Safety

Motoring Offences

Drink and Driving (Road Traffic Act 1972)

Fixed Penalty System

Traffic Patrols

Traffic Patrol Vehicles and Equipment

Police Motor Vehicles

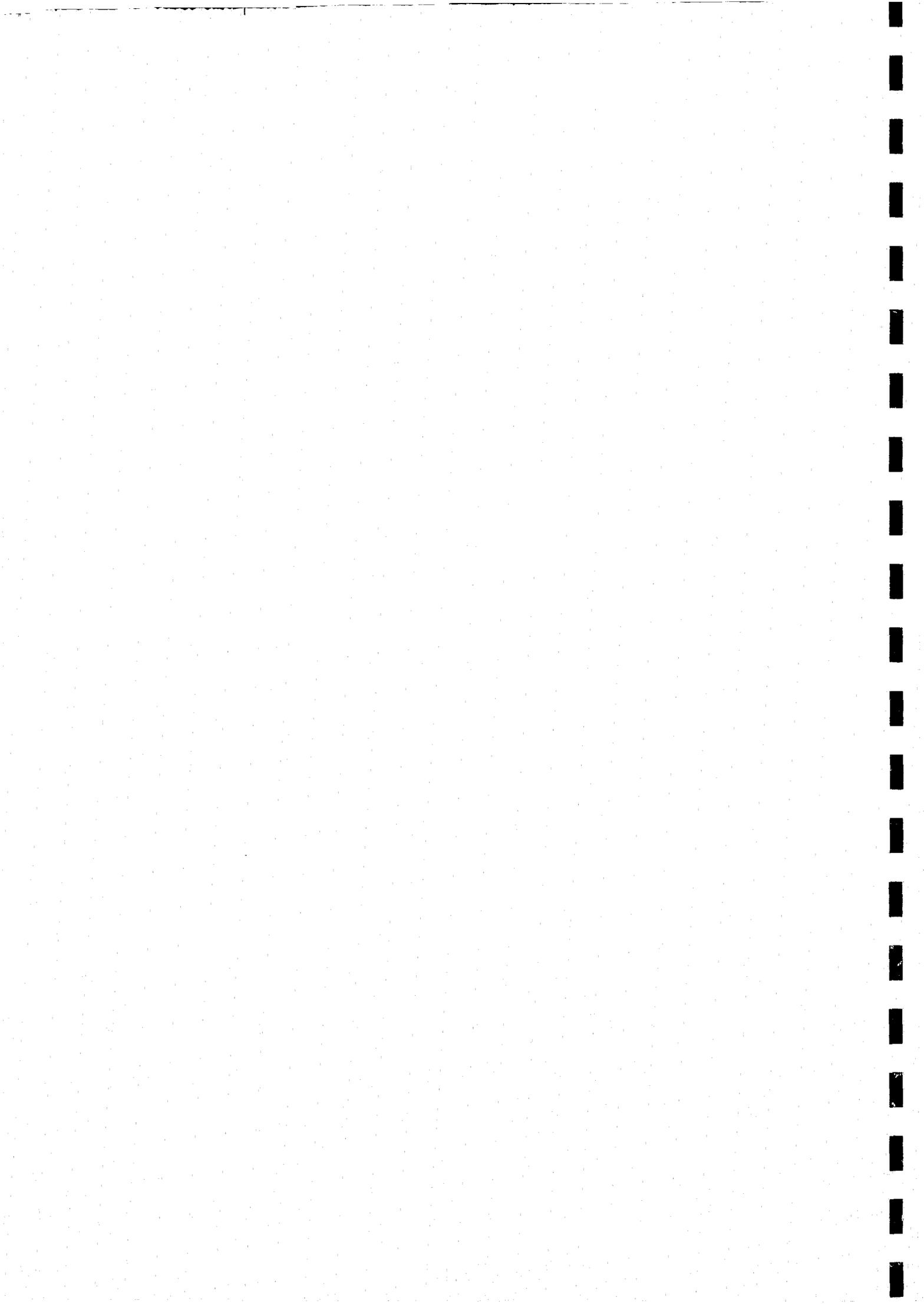
Vehicle Repair and Maintenance

Traffic Management

Traffic Wardens

School Crossing Patrols

Controlled Parking Zones



ROAD ACCIDENT CASUALTIES

Casualties from road accidents in the Force Area showed an increase of 257 or 2.8% compared with 1976.

The number killed was 128 compared with 159 for the previous year.

The total number of recorded fatal and injury accidents during the year was 6,868 an increase on 1976 of 234 and in those accidents the following number of persons were casualties.

TYPE OF ROAD USER	KILLED			SERIOUS			SLIGHT		
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
<i>UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE</i>									
Pedestrians	5	3	7	174	185	188	368	384	442
Pedal Cyclists	2	5	2	98	93	88	200	257	262
Other Persons	4	3	4	93	99	77	358	389	394
TOTAL	11	11	13	365	377	353	926	1030	1098
<i>16 YEARS AND OVER</i>									
Pedestrians	19	33	26	241	213	205	352	400	383
<i>Rider or Driver of:-</i>									
Pedal Cycle	6	3	5	107	118	110	210	227	277
Moped	5	3	4	177	196	198	319	452	399
Scooter	1	1	-	15	16	11	25	19	15
Motor Cycle	9	27	24	367	459	453	551	713	788
Combination	-	1	1	5	5	3	5	7	5
Car or Taxi	44	47	27	713	648	622	1475	1662	1858
P.S.V.	-	-	1	2	2	1	15	10	14
Goods Vehicle	2	3	6	99	94	90	223	254	234
Other Vehicles	-	1	1	5	10	10	33	16	28
TOTAL	67	86	69	1490	1548	1498	2856	3360	3618
<i>Passenger in or on:</i>									
Moped	-	-	-	1	3	1	10	12	3
Scooter	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	-	4
Motor Cycle	-	4	1	27	58	52	70	88	100
Combination	2	-	-	-	4	3	2	3	2
Car or Taxi	27	24	15	496	403	372	1096	1203	1310
P.S.V.	-	1	-	24	14	19	148	99	95
Goods Vehicle	2	-	3	38	42	35	100	101	100
Other Vehicle	-	-	1	9	4	4	22	18	14
TOTAL	31	29	20	596	530	487	1451	1524	1628
GRAND TOTAL	128	159	128	2692	2668	2543	5585	6314	6727
Variation	-25.6%	+24.2%	-19.5%	+3.8%	-0.9%	-4.7%	+6.8%	+13.1%	+6.5%

ROAD SAFETY

Both Headquarters and Divisional Police Road Safety Departments have maintained a full and varied field of Road Safety activities throughout the past year.

Resources have been directed primarily towards schools, particularly Infant and Junior Schools, the age groups most vulnerable to road accidents. Displays, lectures, static exhibitions, quizzes etc. have been undertaken to all sections of the community.

During 1977 Headquarters Road Safety Unit supplemented Divisional activities by giving school playground demonstrations to 27,850 pupils, and indoor demonstrations to 26,840 Infant/Junior pupils. Road Safety films were shown to 36,265 children of all ages.

Divisional Road Safety Officers gave further instruction to 42,221 senior pupils and 161,992 Junior/Infant pupils.

In this, the second year of the Essex County Cycle Training Scheme, police tested 5538 participants on public roads.

Of the 11,497 pedal cycles examined at schools 12.9% were found to be defective, compared with 18.9% in 1976.

In its last year of service the Essex County Council Mobile travelling exhibition bus visited 33 sites and was seen by 26,200 persons, whilst 17 static exhibitions have been arranged at Libraries, Factories, Garages, Police Stations, Schools, Fetes etc., where an estimated 38,800 persons attended.

The Mobile Cinema Unit visited 4 sites and was seen by approximately 2,000 persons, whilst the Auto Tutor Simulator visited 16 schools, where instruction was given to 904 pupils.

Headquarters Road Safety Inspector attended the ROSPA Course at Harrogate and the Road Safety Sergeant attended the ROSPA Conference at Brighton.

Police Representatives attended all Eastern Accident Federation Meetings, Essex County Council Highways Sub-Committee Meetings, Essex Schools Working Party Meetings and all District Council Road Safety Meetings held during the year.

3,139 Road Accident Reports and 95 Accident Returns were supplied to Local Authorities, Solicitors and Insurance Companies.

MOTORING OFFENCES

Prosecutions were instituted in respect of 54,829 offences, a decrease of 4.0% over year 1976, and written cautions were issued in respect of 6,496 offences, a decrease of 10.3%.

The principal offences subject to prosecution were:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Exceeding speed limits	14105	10576	9825	11137	11125
Obstruction and parking offences	5795	4368	3848	3069	1990
Driving Licence Offences	8463	7727	7121	7293	7098
Lighting Offences	4160	4455	2707	2611	2510
Vehicle Test Offences	5213	4415	4085	3833	3526
Insurance offences	7125	6665	6431	6556	6422

In addition, Police Officers dealt with many minor infringements by giving advice on the spot.

The figures for prosecution do not include cases under the fixed penalty scheme in which drivers paid the fixed penalty.

DRINK AND DRIVING (ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1972)

During the year 6,824 drivers of motor vehicles were required to take breath tests on the road under this Act, the results of which are shown in the following table:

		1974	1975	1976	1977
AT ROADSIDE	Number of requirements made for breath tests	4279	5231	5781	6824
	Number failed or refused	252	298	320	341
	Number proved positive	1805	1832	1431	1539
	Number arrested on impairment	79	56	67	58
AT POLICE STATIONS	Number of requirements made for breath tests	1911	2152	1773	1692
	Number failed or refused	183	199	206	214
	Number proved positive	1484	1631	1220	1376
LABORATORY ANALYSIS	Number of blood/urine cases proving positive	1268	1376	1106	1195

Prosecutions for driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of drink were instituted as follows:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	1690	1584	1734	1780	1511
Variation		-6.3%	+9.5%	+2.7%	-15.1%

FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Total tickets issued	48286	44549	48106	36519	38412
Penalties paid	36548(75%)	32569(73%)	36061(75%)	26348(72%)	22861(60%)
NFAS etc.	4668(10%)	4493(10%)	4813(10%)	4359(12%)	8478(22%)
Process issued	1857(4%)	1579(4%)	1668(4%)	1674(5%)	2697(7%)
Outstanding	5213(11%)	5908(13%)	5564(11%)	4138(11%)	4376(11%)

The 1977 figures show a changed pattern from previous years. The number of tickets issued in 1976 and 1977 fell probably due to a reduction in the number of Traffic Wardens and the increase in the penalty to £6.00.

Fixed Penalty tickets issued which have resulted in no further action, the issue of a caution or cancellation of the ticket, have increased due to the mandatory issue of Fixed Penalty Tickets by Traffic Wardens in cases of "failure to display Excise Licence". Often these are due to delays at the Swansea Licensing Centre or other acceptable explanations. This partially accounts for the reduced percentage of "penalties paid". The number resulting in issue of process has increased considerably thereby giving additional work to Process Servers.

TRAFFIC PATROLS

The establishment of the Traffic Division is 301 and at 31.12.77 the strength was 257. The number of personnel directly engaged on traffic patrol was 221, the remainder being employed on specialist duties such as Traffic Management, Road Safety, Driving School Instruction and Administration.

Traffic patrols operated throughout the Force area from five sub divisions located at Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Laindon and Rayleigh (this sub division having moved from Southend with the opening of the new Divisional Headquarters). The sub divisions include smaller sections at Thorpe, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Tilbury. The Tilbury section

transferred from Grays into the new sub divisional station in May but will revert to Grays when the Divisional Headquarters now under construction is completed.

The duties of Traffic Patrols have continued to increase and officers have been involved in various emergencies and public order incidents. They have assisted in traffic control at major events including a Royal Visit, the County Show, Carnivals, Point to Point, Race Meetings and a large International Professional Cycle Race. This event, known as the 'Milk Race', started from Southend and was the first race of this size to take place in Essex. It required considerable police involvement and arrangements are already in hand for a similar event which is to be run from Glasgow to Southend in 1978.

Escorts were provided for abnormal indivisible loads, totalling 2020, for valuable loads and for high risk security prisoners.

The number of offences reported by patrol officers increased from 31,678 to 33,487 and arrests also rose from 1074 to 1580 of which 547 were for crime or other offences of a non traffic nature.

The increase in road accidents remains a cause for concern and the temporary lower speed limits do not now appear to be affecting the accident rate. The national 50 MPH speed limit was raised to 60 on roads other than dual carriageway. As speed is often a contributory factor in accidents, traffic patrols have paid special attention to this, resulting in 8929 drivers being reported for exceeding speed limits.

Alcohol is another major contributory factor in road accidents and the number of breath tests requirements of drivers for 'drink and drive' offences increased.

The investigation of some road accidents by the application of the laws of physics in analysing skid marks, damage and debris is now an accepted aid in determining the cause of accidents. It is applied to the more serious road accidents and requires considerable expertise. Another Inspector was trained as an Instructor and 20 additional officers have attended a course of instruction in this expert accident investigation.

In addition to the normal patrol work and with a view to reducing accident rate, traffic sub divisions have organised a number of 'Open Evenings', when drivers and riders have been invited to attend lectures, films and take part in discussions on driver behaviour. Officers also have attended schools and motor clubs for the same purpose. These are always well attended and help improve relations between Police and Public in the field of traffic law enforcement. Furthermore, some traffic sub divisions organise Road Safety Impact Campaigns when special emphasis is given to advising and warning motorists for minor infringements of traffic law. These have been well received and appreciated by the public.

The Fog Patrol Scheme instituted some years ago has again been operated on the A12 and A127 roads in peak traffic conditions. No multiple accidents have occurred in these weather conditions and several appreciative comments have been received from motorists who were assisted thereby.

Transport of dangerous substances by road continues to increase and although a number of these vehicles have been involved in incidents there have not been any serious consequences.

The number of foreign vehicles on Essex roads has steadily increased and some have been involved in road accidents during the year. Continental heavy goods vehicles travelling to and from ports are generally more compliant with British legislation since, in the absence of special laws to deal with them, a method was devised of bringing them before courts by effecting service of process through UK based agents. This has now been in operation for three years and in 1977 10 drivers were prosecuted, mostly for exceeding speed limits.

Heavy Goods Vehicles operations have generally increased and it has become more apparent that the licensing and control restrictions are being avoided by some firms who have resorted to forging the necessary documents. Special attention by patrol officers has resulted in the detection of some complex offences and it is intended to set up a small section within the Traffic Division to concentrate on and assess the extent of the problem.

The Department of Transport Vehicle Examiners and Consumer Protection Inspectors of the Essex County Council have held 298 static checks at various locations throughout the Police District. Traffic patrol officers assisted by stopping the vehicles and at the same time dealt with other aspects of legislation.

Further sections of the M11 Motorway were opened during the year and this road now runs from London to Bishops Stortford for a distance of 24 miles, 15 of which are patrolled from the Harlow Traffic Sub Division. Prior to the opening of these new sections in May, exercises were organised involving Fire Brigade and Ambulance personnel to cover motorway accident procedures. Construction work has started on other sections of the motorway between Bishops Stortford and Cambridge. These are due to be opened in 1979 and discussions are taking place to determine the policy for policing the part of the motorway. It may have to be patrolled by both Essex & Cambridgeshire Police Forces because of the location of turnaround points.

TRAFFIC PATROL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Vehicles

The traffic patrol fleet comprises cars, motor cycles and specially equipped accident vehicles. The patrol cars are Ford Granadas, Consuls and Cortinas, a Triumph Dolomite Sprint and two Range Rovers, an additional vehicle of this type having been purchased during the year for motorway patrol. In the absence of suitable British made motor cycles, all but one machine of the Traffic Patrol Fleet have now been replaced by BMWs manufactured in Germany.

Each of the sub divisions has an unmarked car which is used by uniformed officers to detect offences particularly of excess speed where the more conspicuously marked vehicles cannot effectively deal with this problem.

The accident vehicles are Ford Transit vans and a Land Rover which are

equipped with generators, flood lighting, hydraulic jacking gear and pneumatic cutting equipment. This equipment is used to release persons trapped in motor vehicles at road accidents.

EQUIPMENT

VASCAR (Visual average speed computer and recorder) has been fitted to 28 patrol cars and is widely used to detect offences of excess speed. Training of patrol officers in the Force continues and in addition Instructors from every other Force (except City of London) in England, Wales and Scotland have been trained by Essex Officers.

RADAR meters are still in use but are becoming less effective as with age they are more prone to breakdown. Two meters are owned by the Police Authority and a third is hired from the Home Office. These instruments are no longer made and no suitable alternative is yet available to supplement VASCAR and mobile patrols.

TACHOGRAPHS are not yet required by law to be fitted to goods vehicles but are becoming more widely used. In order that police officers should be familiar with the records provided by these instruments, which will eventually replace existing goods vehicle written records, one tachograph has been fitted to an accident vehicle and others will be acquired as more vehicles of this type are replaced.

POLICE MOTOR VEHICLES

The total fleet will be 563 vehicles on 31 March 1978.

- 52 Traffic Patrol Cars
- 30 Traffic Patrol Motor Cycles
- 7 Traffic Patrol Accident Tenders
- 1 Traffic Patrol Land Rover
- 2 Traffic Patrol Range Rovers
- 24 Driving School Cars
- 19 Driving School Motor Cycles
- 1 Driving School Personnel Carrier
- 1 Driving School Van
- 54 C.I.D. Cars (includes 14 Regional Crime Squad Cars)
- 8 C.I.D. Vans (includes 1 Regional Crime Squad Van and 2 Observation Vans)
- 1 C.I.D. Motor Cycle
- 21 Scenes of Crime Vans
- 15 Dog Vans
- 40 Area Patrol Radio Cars
- 33 Personnel Carriers (includes 1 Coach)

113 General Duty Cars (including Beat Cars)

42 General Duty Vans (including Beat Vans)

70 Unit Beat Policing Cars

29 Miscellaneous vehicles, includes:

2 Removal Vans	1 Mobile Workshop
1 Heavy Recovery Vehicle	2 Recovery Land Rovers
5 Workshop Vans	3 Divisional Goods Vans
3 Support Unit Vehicles	1 Firearms Unit Van
1 Mobile Kitchen	1 Canteen Van
1 Inshore Rescue Van	1 Underwater Search Unit Van
1 Civil Defence Car	1 Executive Car
1 Command Vehicle	2 Road Safety Vehicles
1 Prison Van	1 Estate Car

VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

The central workshop at Chelmsford provides staff and facilities for major overhauls of all vehicles in the fleet, the routine servicing of police vehicles based in the area and accident repairs.

A skilled mechanic is now employed full time to service and repair the 3 police launches and the 26 emergency generators installed at Police Stations throughout the Force District.

The district garages situated at Laindon, Colchester, Harlow and Southend provide limited facilities for service and minor repair of vehicles based in the areas.

The total number of staff employed at 31 December 1977 was as follows:-

HEADQUARTERS WORKSHOP	1 Foreman
	17 Mechanics (includes 2 apprentices)
	3 Drivers
	3 Unskilled handymen
	2 Technical vehicle examiners
	3 Storekeepers
DISTRICT WORKSHOPS	12 Mechanics
	5 Drivers
	3 Unskilled handymen

The mileage of the fleet was:-

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
10,918,706	10,684,392	11,127,689	11,067,894	11,499,355
+ 0.4%	- 2.1%	+ 4.1%	- 0.5%	+ 3.9%

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic Management enquiries of all descriptions continue to be dealt with from a central office situated at Police Headquarters.

That part of the Inspectors Police College syllabus relating to traffic management has been included in the pre-College courses at the Essex Police Force Training School and is directed by an officer from the Headquarters Traffic Management Unit.

The comparative figures for Traffic Regulation enquiries are as follows:-

1973	-	1065	
1974	-	1064	
1975	-	1005	-5%
1976	-	1149	+14%
1977	-	1121	-2%

TRAFFIC WARDENS

During 1977 19 Traffic Wardens left, giving a strength at year end of 116, compared with an establishment of 181. In accordance with manpower restrictions no replacements were engaged. This has produced an imbalance in the distribution of Traffic Wardens throughout the Force area.

They carry out the enforcing of "no waiting" orders, traffic control and relief School Crossing Patrols.

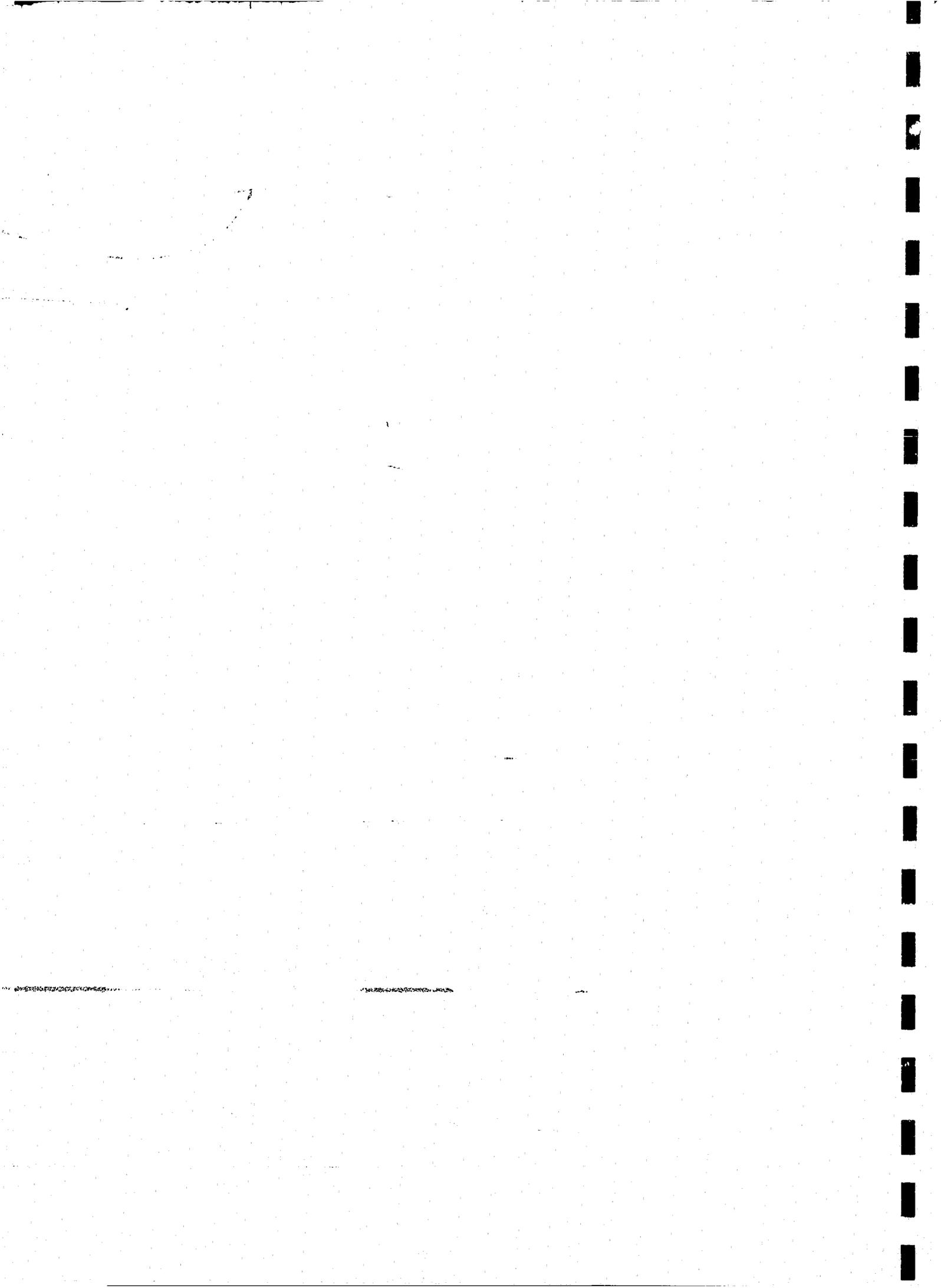
The shortage of wardens is having an effect on the level of enforcement of Road Traffic Law in the county.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS

316	Approved as at 31 December 1977
77	Enquiries during 1977
2	New sites approved during 1977
76	Posts resigned during 1977
15	Posts vacant as at 31 December 1977

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES

These are in Southend, Colchester and Chelmsford. In the last town they are being gradually extended. Manpower shortage makes enforcement less effective than it could be but generally there are few problems.



CHAPTER III

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FORCE

Force Establishment, Strength and Seconded Personnel

Civilian Staff

Job Creation Programme

Promotions

Appointments

Housing

Force Planning

Firearms and Shotguns

Immigration

Population and Acreage

Annual Inspection

Force Newspaper

Press Relations

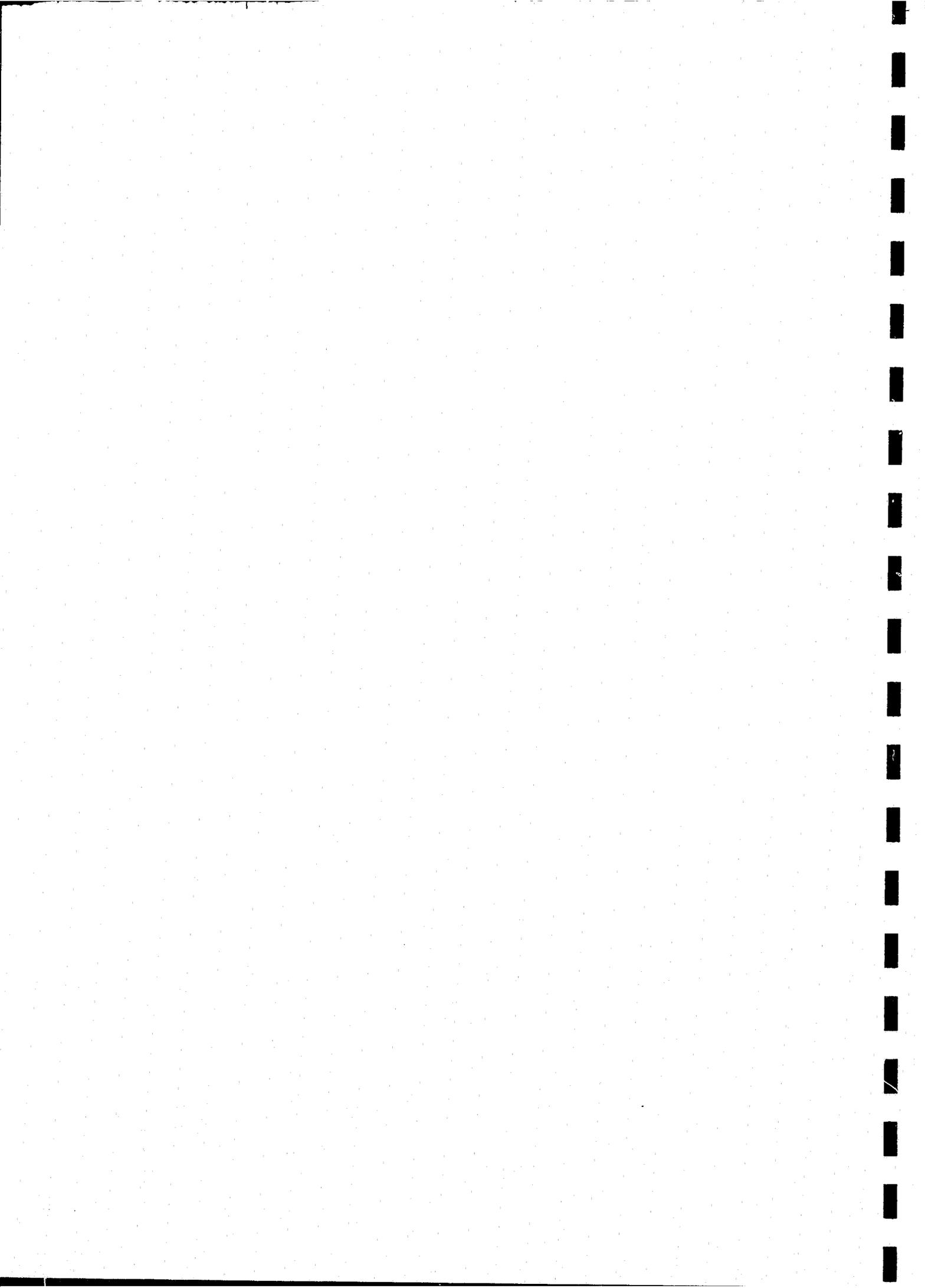
Public Relations

Capital Programme

Force Catering

Health and Safety at Work

Costs of Policing



FORCE ESTABLISHMENT, STRENGTH AND SECONDED PERSONNEL

The police establishment of the Force is now 2511 and the actual strength (including seconded personnel) on 31.12.77 was 2360, 2196 men and 164 women. The deficiency was 151 or 6.01%.

	Authorised Establishment	Effective Strength	Seconded Personnel
Chief Constable	1	1	
Deputy Chief Constable	1	1	
Assistant Chief Constable	3	3	
Chief Superintendent	11	11	1
Superintendent	25	23	3
Chief Inspector	60	60	3
Inspector	105	103	10
Sergeant	413	396	17
Constable	1892	1717	11
	-----	-----	-----
	2511	2315	45
	-----	-----	-----

The secondments from the Force were as follows:-

Regional Crime Squad	22
New Scotland Yard	5
Home Office	2
University	6
Central Service	8
Hong Kong	2

	45

CIVILIAN STAFF

The authorised establishment for civilian staff and the numbers in post on 31 December 1977 were:-

	Establishment	Strength
Traffic Wardens	176	116
Cadets	140	27
Others (Full time)	745	596
Others (Part time)	106	149

The turnover of civilian staff during the year was: engaged 135, left 129, of which 51 and 63 respectively were manual workers. 19 Traffic Wardens left during the year and none were appointed.

During the year a total of 399 man-days were lost through accidents at work.

JOB CREATION PROGRAMME

The Police Authority are participating in the Government's Job Creation Scheme and 41 posts were authorised.

Overall the standard of those selected for employment has been high, and a lot of work has been done which otherwise would have been left, particularly with regard to records. Some of the employees have been able to obtain permanent employment with the Authority, but only one person has left in order to take up a post with a different employer.

PROMOTIONS

During 1977 the following promotions were made:-

Constable to Sergeant	53
Sergeant to Inspector	21
Inspector to Chief Inspector	11
Chief Inspector to Superintendent	9
Superintendent to Chief Superintendent	3
	<hr/>
<i>TOTAL</i>	97
	<hr/>

APPOINTMENTS

On transfer to other Forces:

- 31.8.77 Deputy Chief Constable J DUKE, Q.P.M. to
Chief Constable, Hampshire Constabulary.
- 31.10.77 Chief Superintendent P J NOBES LL.B to
Assistant Chief Constable, West Yorkshire (Metro)

To this Force

- 15.12.77 Assistant Chief Constable R S BUNYARD, DMS
MIPM, MBIM, Leicestershire Constabulary to
Deputy Chief Constable

HOUSING

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
a) Owner Occupiers					
New applications to purchase	133	92	93	121	149
In occupation	946	952	1027	1030	1021
Permission given but not yet taken up	92	50	51	22	80
Applications deterred	6	3	5	6	7

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
b) Houses declared surplus					
County owned - police occupied	25	3	2	5	1
County rented - police occupied	13	1	1	3	1
On short term lease to other authorities	70	106	80	160	183
c) Houses modernised	13	34	6	15	-
d) Houses built	11	8	1	9	2
e) Status at year end of houses for police purposes					
County owned - pre war	*133	*128	97	97	96
County owned - post war	*946	*956	952	957	955
County hired	13	12	17	14	17

* includes property used as offices

The increase in owner occupation by officers of the Force was not maintained during 1977 but there is some sign that the number of applications to purchase will increase with the higher rent allowance now payable (£21.79 per week instead of £12.68 per week for Federated ranks).

There are also a large number of officers who have been granted permission to purchase their own houses, but have not yet taken this up, and it is expected that these will shortly become owner occupiers. With such a large number of houses on lease the Chief Constable will be reviewing the housing stock with a view to selling some of them in accordance with the policy approved by the Police Authority. The capital raised by the sale of surplus houses may be applied to improving those remaining in police occupation. A number of houses have had existing solid fuel heating systems replaced with gas fired systems and this is one area of improvement that will be continued.

FORCE PLANNING

The Research and Planning Department is staffed by Superintendent, two Inspectors and a Sergeant who are concerned with all aspects of Force planning.

Throughout the year there was a continuous need to examine potential economies and subsequently implement them. This has taken up a considerable amount of time. Wherever possible these projects have been conducted in consultation with those likely to be affected.

The continuing review of printed forms has been maintained.

A Force suggestion scheme has been implemented and is being administered and monitored by the Department. The scheme encourages all staff, police or civilian, to submit ideas for improved efficiency or economies. If such proposals are implemented the originator qualifies for consideration for a monetary award. In 1977, 29 suggestions were received - 8 were wholly or partially adopted and 3 are being evaluated.

The Department has continued to monitor the development of new ideas and equipment. Where suitable they have been introduced to assist in either operational or administrative duties. One particular example of this was the examination of the implications of changes in handling data and records with automatic data processing equipment.

A review of the administrative functions within territorial divisions has been undertaken, including consideration of the arguments for centralisation of the Process and Fixed Penalty Ticket Offices.

An experiment is currently being undertaken in two divisions with a view to cost saving in the execution of warrants. It is hoped that this may save time for civilian process officers and police officers in addition to reducing the distance they travel.

Talks upon the work of the Department are given to officers attending courses at the Force Training School at Headquarters.

Responsibilities of the Planning Department in respect of future police buildings include close liaison with County Estates Officer and Valuer, County Architects Department, County Treasurer, Police Authority and Home Office and when projects are approved in principle liaison between individual police departments and County Architects acting for the Contractors. This involves the overseeing and ordering, purchasing and installation of equipment and furniture much of it specialist, i.e. photograph/fingerprints, communications etc.

Building projects completed recently or currently under way are as follows:-

A new Divisional Headquarters at Rayleigh was completed and taken into use in July 1977.

A new Sub-Divisional Headquarters at Tilbury was completed and taken into use in May 1977.

A new Detached Beat House and Office at Great Waltham was completed and taken into use in January 1978.

The two current major building projects are Phase III of the Force Headquarters complex which will incorporate new Operations, Communications Departments (Force Control Room) and amenity block which should be completed in late 1978 and the new Grays Divisional Headquarters which is well up to schedule and will be completed early 1979.

Approval has been received for an extension to Basildon Divisional Headquarters and negotiations for the necessary land are going ahead.

Specific plans are being considered for a new Detached Beat House and Office at Theydon Bois.

Further in the future new Divisional Headquarters for Colchester and Clacton are envisaged but preparation for detailed drawings for Colchester have been halted by the current economic restrictions imposed by Central Government.

FIREARMS & SHOTGUNS

Current Certificate Holders	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Firearms	4,850	4,946	5,024	5,073	4,988
Shotguns	25,145	24,126	24,975	25,217	25,744
New certificates granted					
Firearms	454	500	493	517	429
Shotguns	2,274	2,153	2,258	2,322	2,103
Certificate Renewals refused					
Firearms	30	19	21	19	9
Shotguns	13	17	19	20	22
Certificates cancelled					
Firearms	643	385	423	468	*521
Shotguns	1,644	3,155	1,409	2,080	+1599

* Includes 7 revocations

+ Includes 23 revocations

There is some evidence of a reduction in new applications, particularly for Firearm Certificates. This may be due to the large increase in the fees payable under the Firearm Rules 1976. The fee for the grant of certificates increased from £7.00 to £12.00. in the case of Firearm Certificates and from £2.00 to £5.00 in the case of Shotgun Certificates. There was a correspondingly large increase in the fees for renewals.

IMMIGRATION

Force Headquarters Central Register of foreign nationals shows:

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
2,164	2,114	2,226	2,196	2,343

15% of the registered aliens are citizens of an E.E.C Country.

POPULATION AND ACREAGE

The population of the area policed by the Essex Police was as follows:-

1973	-	1328810
1974	-	1339200
1975	-	1341600
1976	-	1355000
1977	-	1362500

The average is 888,114

ANNUAL INSPECTION

Her Majesty's Inspector L BYFORD, QPM., LLB, inspected the Force from 22 to 25 November 1977. He visited Headquarters, Traffic Headquarters, Chelmsford, Colchester and Rayleigh Divisions.

W/Chief Superintendent P SIGSWORTH, Staff Office to H. M. Assistant Inspector of Constabulary visited Force Headquarters and Chelmsford Divisional Headquarters on 22/23 June 1977 where she saw women officers from each division.

FORCE NEWSPAPER

"The Law" continued to provide news and official policy presented informally. It is distributed to all police officers, civilian employees, members of the Special Constabulary, cadets, pensioners, members of the Police Committee and various interested outside bodies.

PRESS RELATIONS

Relations between the Force and the Press, both at local and national level, have been cordial.

Press arrangements were put on a more formal basis in October with the appointment of a Chief Inspector as Public Relations Officer with responsibility for press relations among other things, with a Sergeant as assistant. The Public Relations Officer deals with press enquiries and issues press releases on non-routine operational matters.

There are daily Press Conferences held in Divisions.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Essex Police Association of Cadet Forces consists of Police Officers who are actively engaged with the Sea Corps, Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. On 10-12 June 1977 the Associations held a weekend camp combined with a Tattoo at Danbury Park for Cadets of the three Services as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. About 400 staff and Cadets attended. The guest of honour was the Chief Constable who took the salute at the final march past. Other guests were the High Sheriff of Essex, the Chairman of Chelmsford District Council and the Commandant of the Essex Army Cadet Force.

FORCE CATERING

Police Canteens cater for resident and visiting police officers and staff at Force Headquarters, Southend, Chelmsford and Harlow. A Central Canteen Committee, on which the Treasurer is represented,

formulates policy and monitors Income and Expenditure Accounts, whilst Local Canteen Committees handle the day to day running of each Canteen.

During the Firemen's strike, police personnel worked longer hours creating a heavy demand for additional catering over extended hours. The regular catering staff and volunteers responded well. Where canteen facilities were not available arrangements were made with local commercial restaurateurs to provide meals for those officers on extended duty.

The Mobile Canteens were used regularly for outside operations and training exercises. In particular the large Mobile Canteen attended at a major fire at Tilbury Power Station on 16 November, 1977 for 24 hours when nearly 300 meals were served to police officers, soldiers, firemen, ambulance staff and Electricity Board employees.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

In accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, a representative Committee has been formed which will meet quarterly to ensure that the various requirements of the Act are complied with.

COSTS OF POLICING

Year	Net Cost	Net Cost per 1000 Population		
		Force Area	Police Authorities National Average	Percentage Variation
	(1) £	(2) £	(3) £	(4) %
1969/70	2,774,290	2,228	2,347	- 5.1
1970/71	3,384,111	2,658	2,802	- 5.1
1971/72	3,844,411	2,980	3,257	- 8.5
1972/73	4,483,853	3,405	3,676	- 7.4
1973/74	5,002,485	3,765	4,218	-10.7
1974/75	6,026,072	4,500	5,269	-14.6
1975/76	7,809,493	5,821	6,875	-15.3
1976/77	9,299,756	6,863	8,188	-16.2
*1977/78	10,513,530	7,708	8,475	- 9.1
**1978/79	11,586,300	8,494	not yet available	-

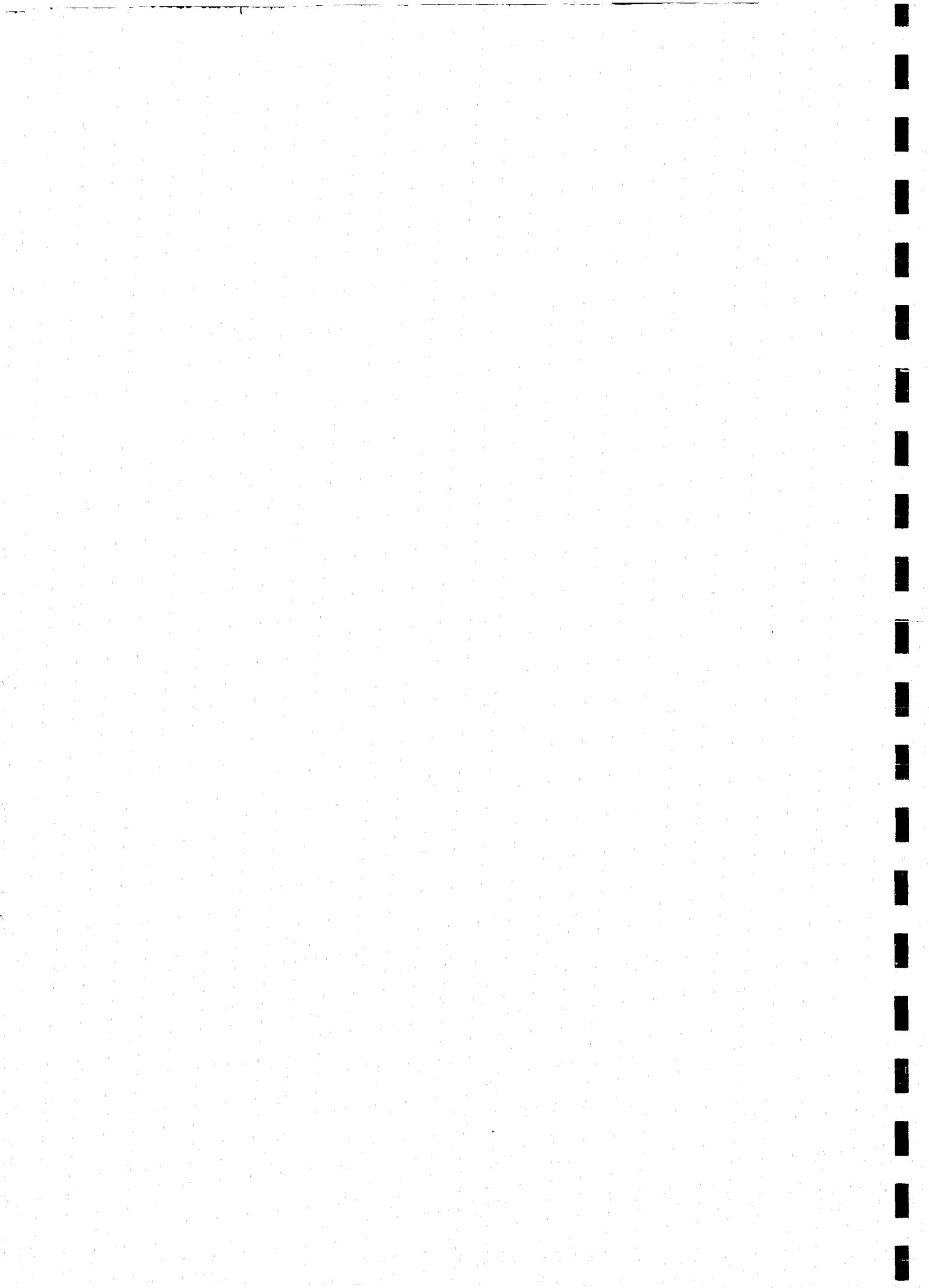
Years 1969/70 to 1976/77 - Net Costs (Col.1) are actual

* Columns (1) and (2) are revised estimates, column (3) is original estimate.

** All figures shown are estimates

Columns (2) and (3) have been calculated using the Registrar General's Yearly Population Estimates where these are available.

All amounts in column (1) represent about half of total police costs, the bulk of the remainder being met by specific grants from Central Government.



CHAPTER IV
RECRUITING AND TRAINING

Recruitment

Retirements and Wastage

Schools and University Liaison

Training

Driving School

University Training

Detective Training

Police College and Higher Training

Traffic Management Courses for Senior Officers

Training Probationary Constables

Police Training Centres

Weapon Training

First Aid Training

Cadet School

Career Conventions

Police Promotion Examinations

Personnel Appraisal

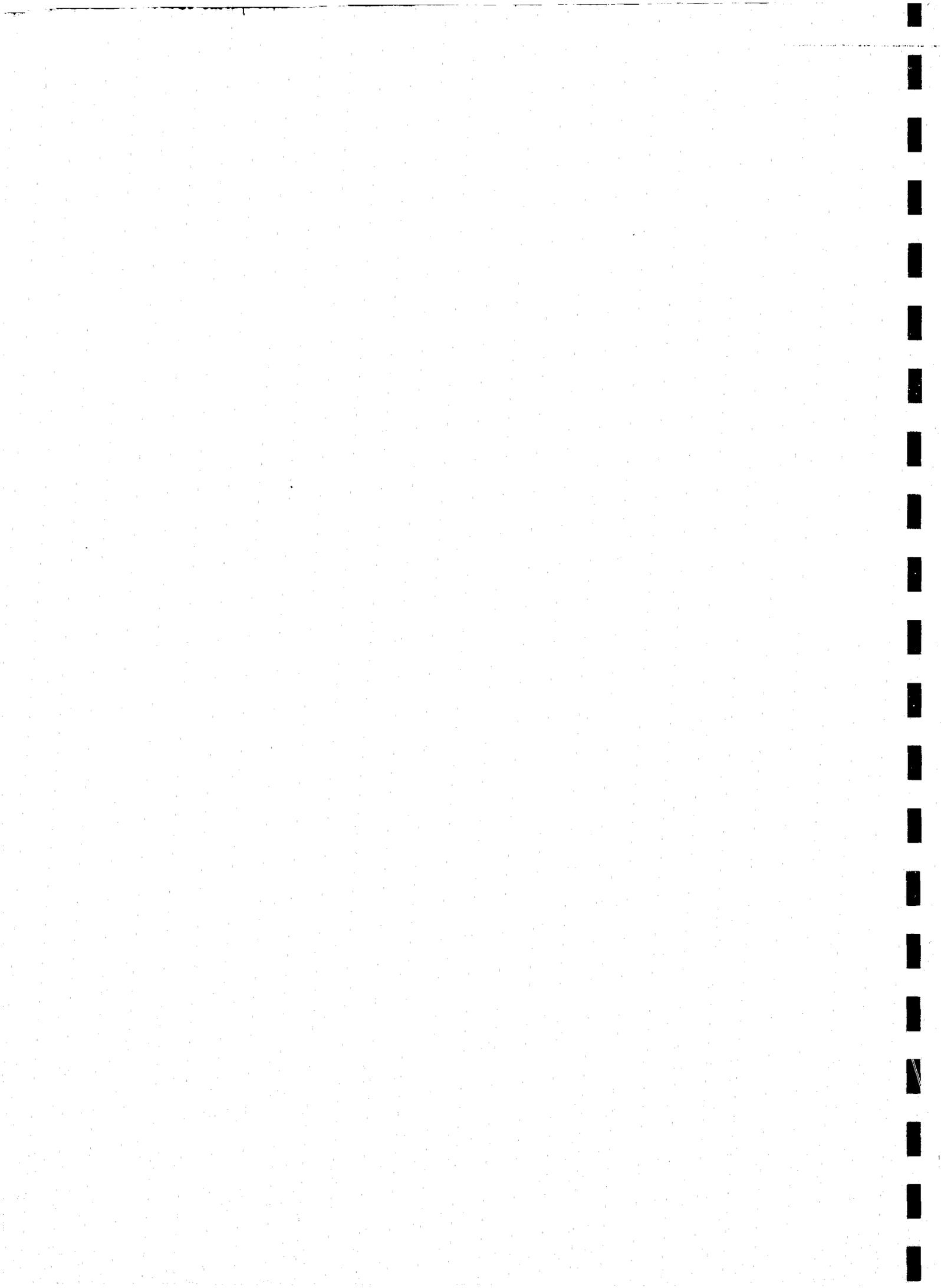
Officers Studying in their own time

Visits by Foreign Police Officers

Training in Aircraft Crash Drill

Home Defence

Civilian Training



RECRUITMENT

During the year recruitment has continued to decline. The 1977 figures are 33 below those of the previous year. A further development has been the increase in the proportion of women applicants.

Wastage has again been high and by the end of the year the strength of the Force was reduced by 17 compared with an increase of 22 in 1976 and 141 in 1975.

National Recruiting was arranged by the Home Office and limited local advertising took place. Of the 143 enquiries received in response to local advertising, 9 officers have been recruited.

RECRUITING DETAILS ARE SHOWN BELOW

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Applications pending on 1 January	71	55	70	104	85
Application forms issued	739	785	1658	1451	1215
Forms not returned	406	425	884	660	649
Forms returned	404	415	844	791	566

These completed applications were dealt with as follows:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Failed to reach required standard (physical, educational etc.)	172	152	406	439	235
Pending at 31 December	55	70	104	85	86
Called for interview	177	193	334	267	245
Rejected by Police Surgeon	3	4	5	15	5
Rejected by Selection Board	18	15	44	24	30
Withdrawn after acceptance	6	8	5	16	10
Selected for appointment	150 ^a	166 ^b	280 ^c	212 ^d	200 ^e

- a includes 18 accepted for appointment in 1974
- b includes 24 accepted for appointment in 1975
- c includes 48 accepted for appointment in 1976
- d includes 32 accepted for appointment in 1977
- e includes 37 accepted for appointment in 1978

BREAKDOWN OF THOSE APPOINTED

	1973		1974		1975		1976		1977	
	Men	Women								
Appointed from civilian sources	94	13	88	16	158	28	148	36	100	41
Transfers from other forces	9	-	6	1	8	1	5	-	19	1
Transfer on promotion	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reinstatements	4	-	6	1	1	-	5	-	9	1
Former cadets (local)	35	6	32	9	42	18	24	10	21	3
Transferred from British Airports Authority Constabulary (Stansted)	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	142	19	132	28	220	47	182	46	149	46

The average ages of appointees in 1977 were 22.4 years men and 20.5 years women. 36.0% of the men and 10.8% of the women were married.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Recruits with GCE'A' level passes	8	16	18	26	15
Recruits with GCE'O' level passes	73	84	110	94	80

RETIREMENTS AND WASTAGE

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Retirement on Pension	14	24	37	83	74
Voluntary Resignations without Pension or gratuity					
(a) Probationary Constables	33	18	27	49	45
(b) Over 2 years Service	23	32	23	31	66
Transferred to other Forces	13	23	24	17	9
*Required to resign	5	7	12	16	11
Dismissed	-	-	2	-	-
Died	-	3	-	5	4
Discharged on PR16	-	-	-	1	-
Pensioned on Medical Certificate	-	2	1	4	5
Discharged on gratuity - ill health	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	88	109	126	206	214
As percentage of strength at beginning of year	4.2	5.0	5.7	8.7	9.0
* Includes officers on probation who resigned as an alternative to dismissal under PR16	4	7	11	15	11

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY LIAISON

Contact has been maintained with career advisers at schools, colleges and educational establishments.

Two senior officers are responsible for advising applicants on the Police Graduate Entry Scheme.

TRAINING

COURSES RUN WITHIN THE FORCE

Type of Course	Duration in weeks	No Held	Students				Total
			Essex M	W	Others M	W	
Essex Command Course	9 days	2	21	-			21
Inspectors Pre-College Courses	5	4	16	-	38	1	55
Sergeants Refresher	2	4	29	2			31
Sergeants Preparatory	3	4	49	-			49
Examination Preparatory -Sergeants	2	1	11	1			12
Examination Preparatory -Constables	2	1	16	-			16
Constables Refresher	2	18	239	11			250
Probationer Training Stage 1	1	9	102	34			136
Probationer Training Stage 2	1	10	124	35			159
Probationer Training Stage 3	1	8	88	23			111
Additional Probationer Training	1	3	13	4			17
CID Selection	3	3	54	4			58
Dealing with Women and Children	1	6	-	48	-	36	84
Recruits Induction	1	9	124	44			168
Recruits Local Procedure	1	10	134	41			175
Teleprinter Training	2	18	91	18	43	7	159
First Aid Lay Instructors	1	1	10	-			10
National First Aid Competition Training	2	1	7	-			7
Pre-retirement	3 days	4	58	1			59
National First Aid Competition Training - Policewomen	1	1		6			6

The number of student weeks was:

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
1,882	1,995	2,355	2,476	2,486

DRIVING SCHOOL

STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

	Number of Courses	Number of Students	Number of Weeks
<i>CARS</i>			
Instructors	3	15	90
Advanced Refresher	6	73	146
Advanced	8	108	432
Standard Refresher	6	111	222
Standard	8	144	720
Standard (Elementary)	7	42	210

	Number of Courses	Number of Students	Number of Weeks
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MOTOR CYCLES

Instructors	1	2	12
Advanced Refresher	3	8	16
Advanced	5	15	45
Standard	1	3	9

Of the above number for 1977 only 5 students failed to qualify

TRAFFIC LAW

Traffic Patrol Refresher	4	55	110
Traffic Patrol	4	60	300

OTHERS

Advanced Traffic Patrol (City & Guilds)	1	8	16
H G V Class 1 and 111	9	25	12
Accident Investigation	1	21	42
<i>Grand Total 1977</i>	67	690	2382
<i>Grand Total 1976</i>	62	624	2363
<i>Grand Total 1975</i>	77	682	2343
<i>Grand Total 1974</i>	68	642	2299
<i>Grand Total 1973</i>	71	683	2390

98 tests not associated with courses of instruction were conducted for various driving and riding permits. 7 of the officers tested failed to reach a satisfactory standard.

48 statutory driving/riding tests were conducted, resulting in 48 passes.

25 Heavy Goods Vehicle driving tests were conducted resulting in 25 passes.

1189 routine eyesight tests were given to holders of driving permits.

23 Senior Cadets received Standard Driver training before joining the Force.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING

The University Training Scheme agreed by the Police Authority has continued and at the end of the year 6 officers were undertaking degree courses at Essex University. One Inspector and one Sergeant are in their first year, one Inspector and one Sergeant are in their second year and two Inspectors are in their final year of study.

Inspector M N CURTIS and Inspector S J LABEDZKI graduated from Essex University in 1977 and returned to the Force.

Inspector M N CURTIS was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Upper Second Class Honours in Government and Inspector S J LABEDZKI was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Upper Second Class Honours in Sociology.

The Officers' University careers are closely followed and I consider that the aims of the scheme are being fulfilled.

DETECTIVE TRAINING

Three courses, each of three weeks' duration, to assess the suitability of applicants for detective duties, were held at Headquarters during the year.

Training courses at the Home Office Detective Training Schools at Preston, Wakefield and Birmingham were attended during the year by seven Detective Sergeants and twenty-nine Detective Constables.

POLICE COLLEGE AND HIGHER TRAINING

During the year Superintendent K E HUNTER B.A. and Superintendent G P RAVEN attended a Command Training Part I Course at the Police College.

10 Inspectors attended Inspectors' Courses at the Police College.

Sergeant 304 P R BARTLETT attended the 14th Special Course at the Police College.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COURSES FOR SENIOR OFFICERS

During 1977 two senior officers from the Traffic Division attended the No.5. Region Traffic Management Course at Hampshire Constabulary Headquarters, Winchester. The Chief Superintendent of the Traffic Division attended as a member of the Directing Staff.

Another senior officer from the Traffic Division attended the TRRL Course for Senior Officers on Traffic and Safety Research at Easthampstead Park Training Centre, Wokingham, Berks.

TRAINING PROBATIONARY CONSTABLES

Training for Probationer Constables has now been centralised. Probationers attend three 1 week residential courses during their first 2 years of service. Additional training is given occasionally if an individual need is established.

POLICE TRAINING CENTRES

Students from the Force attended various Police Training Centres in the following numbers:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Initial Courses	121	44	165
Continuation Courses	173	38	211

The below named are seconded to District Police Training Centres:

Inspector M FROST	Central Planning and Instructors Training Unit, Pannal Ash
Sergeant B DAYMOND	Police Duty Instructor, Eynsham Hall
Sergeant S F BIRD	Police Duty Instructor, Eynsham Hall
Sergeant G NISBET	Police Duty Instructor, Eynsham Hall
Sergeant R M HILL	Police Duty Instructor, Eynsham Hall

WEAPON TRAINING

Five 5 day residential courses were held at Colchester during February, March, September, October and November. 60 men attended.

One 5 day residential course for 12 women was held at Headquarters in April using Wick North range.

Two hundred and sixty four officers from the Force Support Unit, Headquarters, CID, Special Branch, Regional Crime Squad and Divisions have received both practical and tactical firearms training at regular intervals.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Training has continued for officers on Divisions so that nearly all below the rank of Chief Inspector hold a valid certificate.

All training has been given by those officers qualified as Lay Instructors. Their modern teaching techniques have produced a marked increase in interest in First Aid from the officers receiving instruction.

A First Aid Lay Instructors Refresher Course was run at Headquarters in November 1977.

The Force Competition (The Chief Wardens Cup) was competed for by four teams and was won by Rayleigh team.

During the year the Force First Aid Team has entered several competitions and finished well placed in all. These included the No.5 Region Eliminating Competition, Hertfordshire Police Open and several other local competitions.

The Force team again organised the annual competition at Colchester on behalf of the Ipswich First Aid Competition Committee, the winners being presented with the Essex Police Shield.

The Rayleigh Divisional First Aid Team won a local competition, being awarded the Lily Herbert Trophy.

Several officers continue actively in their own time with First Aid through the St. John Ambulance Association.

CADET SCHOOL

Course No.7 passed out of their residential phase of training in July and this brought residential training to an end. The remaining cadets then went on to complete programmes which included attachments to police departments, social services and commercial organisations as well as physical and adventure training.

During 1977 24 cadets joined the Force and 2 resigned.

As no new cadets had been recruited lifesaving training was completed in 1976, but personal survival awards were gained by 14 cadets, including 11 at gold standard and 2 honours.

Driver training courses were completed by 23 cadets during 1977.

No use was made of outside courses in adventure training but the Cadet School staff conducted courses in various parts of England and Wales to assist in the assessment of Cadets.

In GCE examinations at 'O' and 'A' level taken in July, 39 cadets attempted 130 subject entries. Of these 60 passes were gained at 'O' level and 14 at 'A' level subjects.

The Police Related Studies course at Chelmsford College of Further Education has continued. In 1977 9 students completed the course successfully and have already entered or applied for recruitment into the Police Service.

CAREER CONVENTIONS

During the year both Divisional and Training School Staff have attended numerous career conventions throughout the County which were well supported and invaluable for recruiting and public relations purposes.

POLICE: PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

CONSTABLE TO SERGEANT

Held in November	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Sat	251	237	321	311	338
Passed	21	18	37	45	49
Percentage	8.4	7.6	11.2	14.5	14.5

TO INSPECTOR

Held in January	1973		1974		1975		1976		1977	
	Sgts	Pcs	Sgts	Pcs	Sgts	Pcs	Sgts	Pcs	Sgts	Pcs
Sat	33	55	36	60	40	38	35	24	71	70
Passed	11	16	4	3	7	5	2	2	10	7
Percentage	33.3	29.1	11.1	5.0	17.5	13.2	5.7	8.4	14.1	10.0

Pre-Examination Residential Courses were arranged. All students for this course were selected by the results of an eliminating test.

	1972/73		1973/74		1974/75		1975/76		1976/77	
	Pcs	Sgts								
Attended Course	40	12	38	20	18	15	19	15	22	12
Passed Examination	26	8	16	4	8	2	12	-	15	4
Percentage	65.0	66.7	42.1	20.0	44.4	13.3	63.2	-	68.2	33.3

PERSONNEL APPRAISAL

The Personnel Appraisal schemes for both police officers and civilians have continued and no problems have been encountered.

OFFICERS STUDYING IN THEIR OWN TIME

During the year encouragement and financial assistance have been given to officers studying in their own time.

A total of 35 officers were studying on approved courses which included Law, Social Sciences and Modern Languages.

Five officers were studying for external degrees, eight for degrees under the Open University, six for one or more 'A' Level G.C.E., one for one or more 'O' Level G.C.E. and the remainder were undertaking other miscellaneous courses.

Successes during the year included one officer obtaining a Diploma in Management Studies; two obtained 'A' level G.C.E. passes, one in Sociology and one in Government and Political System; and one officer

obtained an 'O' level pass in Sociology.

Seven officers for various reasons have withdrawn from the Scheme.

VISITS BY FOREIGN POLICE OFFICERS

I have again this year been pleased to welcome visitors from overseas police forces.

In April 5 senior police officers from Finland visited the Force for 2 days studying the Criminal Investigation Department, Scenes of Crime and mutual aid between Forces.

In August a group of 24 German Police Cadets visited Force Headquarters for a day to study structure, administration and operations.

Also in September 2 police officers from Belize and Botswana visited the Force for 4 days studying the working of the Criminal Investigation Department.

TRAINING IN AIRCRAFT CRASH DRILL

There is a continuing need for training in crash drill procedures. During the year 17 senior officers attended specially designed courses of 5 days duration at the Civil Aviation Authority's Fire School at Stansted Airport.

HOME DEFENCE

Home Defence continues on a "Care and Maintenance" basis.

The following 5 day courses held at the Home Defence College, Easingwold, were attended by senior officers.

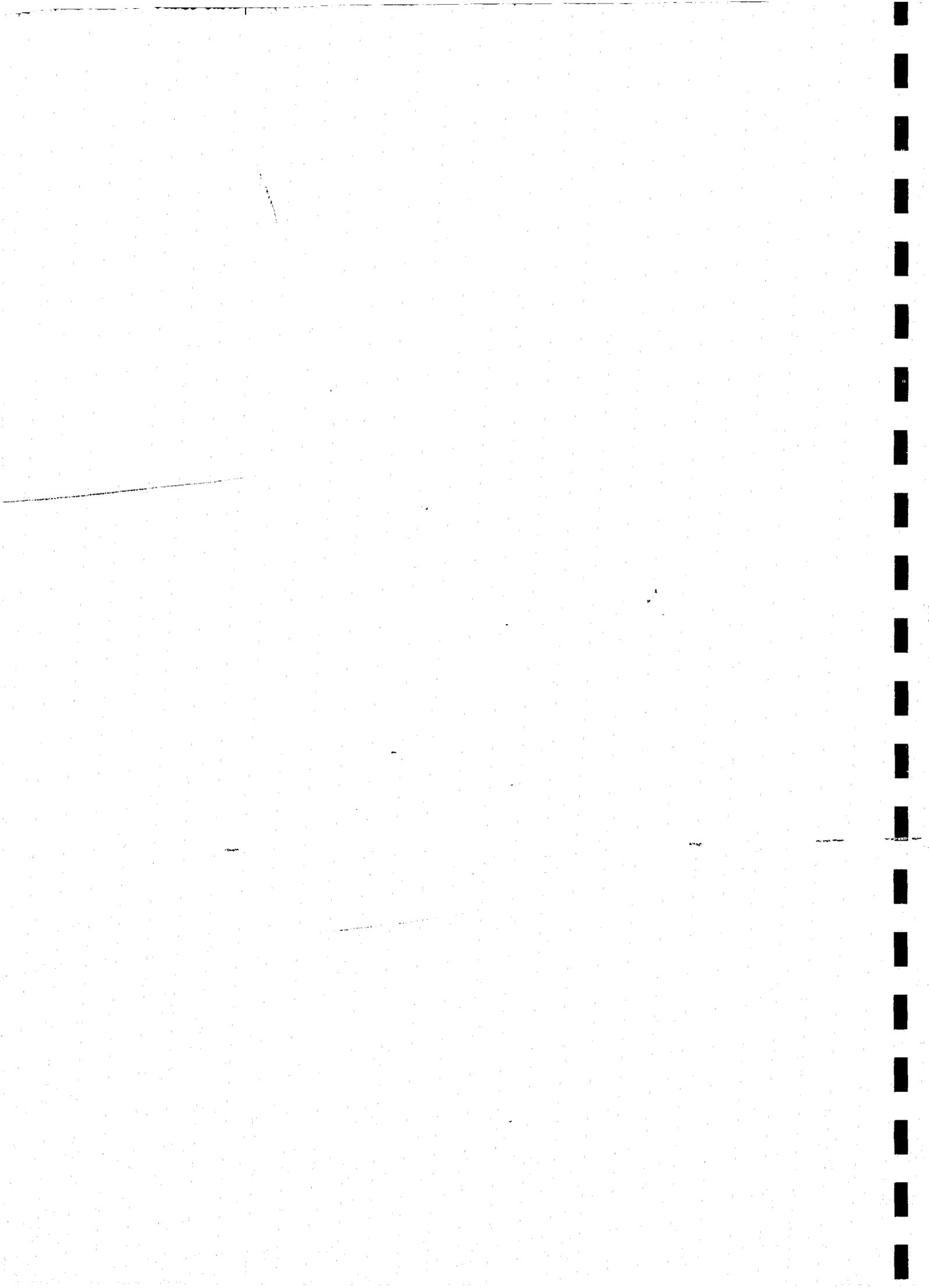
Senior Police Officers Seminars	-	2 officers
Police Home Defence Courses (This re-named course replaces the National War Duties Course)	-	4 officers
Standard Home Defence Course	-	1 officer

Eight Inspectors attended a 5 day Regional War Duties Course at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Deputy Chief Constable completed a 12 months course at the Imperial Defence College immediately prior to his appointment to this Force.

CIVILIAN TRAINING

At present nine members of the civilian staff are attending local colleges on day-release and for evening classes. Two apprentice mechanics successfully completed their training in August, and were appointed as mechanics at the Headquarters workshops. A further two youths commenced as apprentices in September.



CHAPTER V

OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Community Relations

Juvenile Liaison

Police Dogs

Mounted Section

Marine Section

Support Unit

Central Firearms Unit

Unit Beat Policing

Communications

Licensing

Centralisation of Driver Licensing

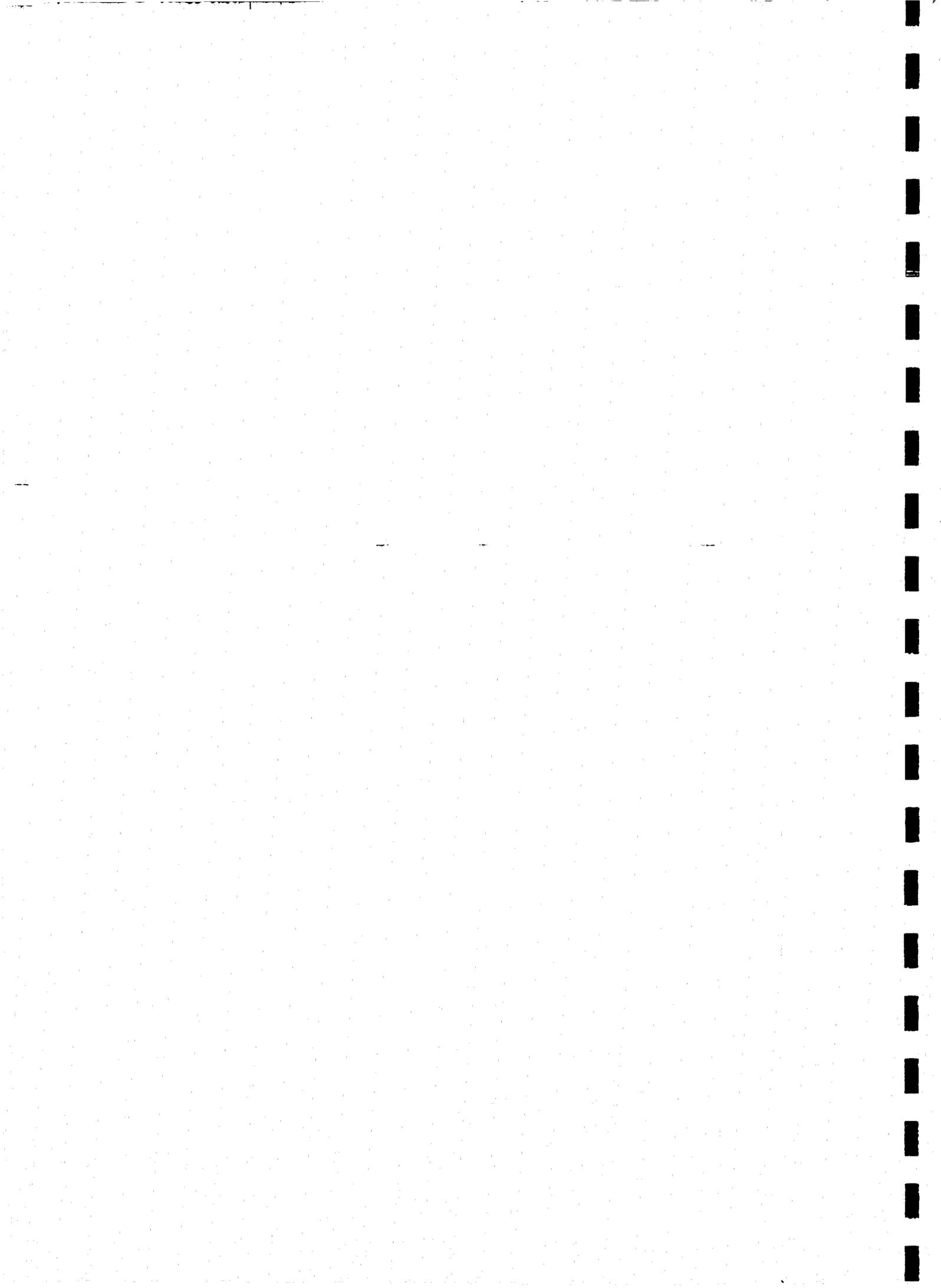
Process Servers

Special Constabulary

Royal Visits

Attack Warning System

Flood Warning System



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Involvement Units at Basildon and Colchester continue to operate effectively. A considerable amount of time is spent in schools on the social education of children and young persons as an investment for the future in the hope of providing basic good relationships between the Police Service and the men and women of tomorrow.

Community Involvement Officers, by a regular performance of duty in a specific area, provide good policing, good public relations and establish themselves in the image of the 'Village Constable'. This has stimulated local residents to participate and co-operate in crime reporting and crime prevention. Criminal Intelligence has also increased, to the mutual benefit of the Community Involvement Unit, Uniform patrols and the C.I.D.

Officers attend case conferences relating to juveniles, involving the Medical, Education and Social Services.

Among the Units' activities have been lectures to Nurses, Youth Leaders, Welfare Officers and senior officers of other Police Forces.

A charity football match organised by the Unit at Basildon raised over £300 for the Billericay Hospital Burns Unit and a further £100 for a Children's party.

The Colchester Unit provided sports facilities for some 400 children during the six weeks' summer holiday period and was responsible for organising children in clearing a half mile stretch of the Bourne Mill Brook of all rubbish and bankfalls to improve the environment. Elementary driving instruction with theoretical and practical instruction has been undertaken at a comprehensive school.

The Police Section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the responsibility of these Units, and its success can be judged from the long waiting list of prospective participants.

These Units continue to receive co-operation from all sections of the public and the interest of the media.

JUVENILE LIAISON

The Juvenile Liaison Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily and has now been accepted by shopkeepers, parents and schools as perhaps the most effective method of preventing the first criminal offender from becoming a recidivist. Its effectiveness can best be judged by the fact that recent years have shown a decrease in the number of juveniles coming to notice, with a corresponding decrease in crime committed by them. The 14 to 15 year age group still presents problems, being the largest group of delinquents. Thefts, particularly those from shops, and minor burglaries are by far the most common offences committed by juveniles, but a marked increase in offences of criminal damage (vandalism) gives cause for concern. The Juvenile Liaison Scheme remains one of the main links between schools, clubs and young offenders, encouraging a very good Police/Public relationship and it is hoped in the long term, a means of preventing juveniles drifting into crime.

POLICE DOGS

The Unit consists of 33 handlers with 33 police dogs, 1 drug dog and 1 explosives search dog. Two handlers have been promoted off the Unit during the year.

One handler attended a basic dog training course organised by Surrey Constabulary and a further six handlers attended basic courses at Sandon. In addition two handlers were trained with re-allocated dogs at Sandon. Four dogs had to be withdrawn from service prematurely, but by early 1978 all replacement dogs were operational.

In addition to assisting at the scenes of crime and searching for missing persons, the Unit has increasingly been used in combating public disorder. Many observations have been undertaken. The drug and explosives search dogs have assisted in searches when required.

The work of the handlers and dogs is shown below

Incidents attended	3915
Foot patrols	254
Mobile patrols	4892
Arrests	425
Arrests by other branches with the assistance of dogs	337
Missing persons found	49
Incidents where property was found	103
Process	47

CASES OF INTEREST INVOLVING POLICE DOGS

TRACK/PROPERTY RECOVERY/LOCATION

Pc BOORMAN and 'Prince' who had completed their basic training at Sandon six days previously, were called to a crashed stolen car. One man had been arrested and a second had escaped. 'Prince' tracked for approximately one mile over wasteland and through a housing estate. Along the track 'Prince' indicated a pair of shoes. The track led to a private house where 'Prince' located a man, who was later charged, hiding in the loft.

SEARCH

Pc GOLDSMITH with 'Max' was called to a large departmental store which had been broken into. Within a few minutes 'Max' located the suspect who had concealed himself under boxes in a storeroom.

PROPERTY RECOVERY

Pc TERRY with 'Oscar' was called to a suspected poacher's car near a wood. The car contained an empty gun case but the owner would not admit

any offences. 'Oscar' was put to search and quickly found the gun which was in a plastic bag buried beneath a pile of dead leaves.

MARATHON TRACK

Pc GILFILLAN and 'Drummer' attended a break-in at a large country house. 'Drummer' followed a track for over six miles until it was lost in a built up area. On checking over the length of the track evidence was discovered which positively identified the suspect.

MOUNTED SECTION

This Section consisted of 4 Constables and 3 horses in 1977. It performs varied duties including police representation on ceremonial occasions.

MARINE SECTION

MOTOR LAUNCHES

The Southminster and Tilbury sections have maintained the same three boats and manpower as in 1976. During the year over 1,000 patrols have been performed. The launch Vigilant II used in the River Thames is approaching the end of its useful life.

CRIME

There has been an increase in the number of persons dealt with for thefts together with an increase in the recovery of stolen property.

Launches Alert II and Watchful both played a full part in H M Customs operations.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Four bodies have been recovered and over fifty persons have been rescued including a person attempting suicide. The crews have been called out on a number of occasions at the request of H M Coastguard with whom a daily liaison is maintained. The involvement in water safety has continued thereby enhancing the reputation of the unit held by the public. Over 30 craft have been recovered for their owners in circumstances other than theft.

SPECIAL DUTIES

Assistance has been given to the Home Office Wireless Regulating Branch, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, the Port of London and other Harbour Authorities.

The Officers of the Marine Unit have been called upon to support other sections of the Operations Department in times of emergency.

All of the launches have assisted on Royal occasions. Vigilant II participated in the Royal Pageant at London and Her Majesty's Review at Lambeth, and Alert II was in attendance when Her Majesty The Queen visited Harwich and Felixstowe in the Royal Yacht 'Britannia'.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE UNIT 1977

During the first complete year of the activities of this Unit, thirteen stolen outboard motors, three boats and other accessories have been recovered to the total value of over £7,500. Almost one thousand outboard engines have been checked to achieve this and every dealer in the County has been visited at least once.

Five persons have been dealt with in Essex Courts and at least three persons in Courts of other Forces.

A Boat Index covering over three thousand vessels and a Persons Index containing over two thousand names have been compiled. A close working relationship has been established with H M Customs and this Unit is being used increasingly by members of the public, the trade, this Force and other Forces.

In yachting circles, Essex Police are regarded with respect in the field of crime and its prevention. A feature on the Marine Intelligence Unit was produced by Anglia TV and the Unit has a column in the twice monthly Yachting and Boating.

UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY UNIT

The Unit has attended 98 operational dives and 28 training dives. Assistance has been given to Hertfordshire on three occasions, searching for property and persons.

Property, motor vehicles and bodies have been recovered in Essex waterways.

On 2.12.77 W/Pc SMITH became the first full time woman officer engaged on this type of duty.

Refresher courses were carried out at H M S Vernon, Portsmouth.

20 Lectures were given to various organisations.

4 Diving displays were given.

SUPPORT UNIT

The Unit received almost 200 requests for assistance from divisions and central units, covering a wide variety of police work.

The Unit has undertaken house to house enquiries in the investigation of murders and rapes, public order duties, both large and small, regular duty at Football League grounds, drugs raids, raids on licensed premises, numerous observations in connection with crime, some of which carried on for up to 6 weeks and a large number of armed guards on high risk prisoners.

The Unit has organised surveillance courses within the Force and has developed crowd control training to include the use of riot shields. Senior officers on the Unit regularly lecture at the Force Training School on a variety of subjects.

CENTRAL FIREARMS UNIT

The Central Firearms Unit, based at Headquarters, consists of an Inspector, six Sergeants and sixteen Constables.

The Unit is highly trained in the use of firearms and firearms tactics and is available to attend any incident in the County involving the use of or suspected use of firearms. During 1977 the Unit was called out on 48 occasions in connection with the following incidents:

Armed robberies	27
I.R.A. bomb factories	2
House searches for armed persons wanted for crime	18
Animal destruction (Bull)	1

Ten persons have been arrested. No shots were fired on operations other than those for the destruction of the animal.

UNIT BEAT POLICING

In the towns of Basildon and Colchester, the duties previously part of the Unit Beat Policing system are now performed by the Community Involvement Units.

Elsewhere the system is prejudiced by having to deploy Unit Beat officers on to other duties from time to time because of manpower shortages.

COMMUNICATIONS

TOTAL MESSAGE TRAFFIC (EXCLUDES RADIO MESSAGES)

YEAR	NO OF MESSAGES	INCREASE	INCREASE %
1973	364,622	78,142	27.3
1974	428,095	63,473	17.4
1975	533,360	105,265	24.6
1976	586,478	53,118	10.0
1977	624,558	38,080	6.5

TELEPRINTER NETWORK

The automatic system installed in 1976 has worked well. The Headquarters installation handled 102,798 messages in 1977.

TELEPRINTER MESSAGES

YEAR	TOTAL	INCOMING		TOTAL	OUTGOING	
		NO	%		NO	%
1973	103,969	25,569	32.6	90,428	28,124	45.1
1974	101,963	-2,006	-1.9	91,993	1,565	1.7
1975	111,623	9,660	9.5	98,464	6,471	7.0
1976	96,394	-15,229	-13.6	75,254	-23,210	-23.6
1977	63,587	-32,807	-34.0	39,211	-36,043	-47.9

The decrease in the number of messages is due to the use of the Police National Computer for obtaining vehicle information; also the Private Automatic Telegraph Branch Exchange (PATBX) enables stations to dial directly to each other rather than by using H.Q. Teleprinter service to relay.

TELEPHONES

Development of the County Police Telephone Network continues as finances allow. Installation work on the new switchboard at Police Headquarters was deferred due to delay in the new building programme.

Current projects include installing an automatic system throughout Rayleigh Division, the replacement of inadequate and obsolete switchboards at Braintree and Colchester and the re-engineering of the Grays Divisional Scheme based on equipment to be installed in the new Divisional Headquarters.

PRIVATE WIRES

Increasing use of this private network has reduced telephone costs. During 1978 an additional line to New Scotland Yard and into the National Telephone Network will be provided.

POLICE NATIONAL COMPUTER TRANSACTIONS

YEAR	VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS			DATA PRINTERS		
	TOTAL	NO	%	TOTAL	NO	%
1974	95,010(est)			5,758(est)		
1975	147,070	52,060	54.8	15,660	9,902	172.0
1976	225,738	78,668	53.5	29,239	13,579	86.7
1977	370,266	144,528	64.0	40,968	11,729	40.1

During 1977 the Criminal Names File went active and on 1 April 1978 the "Wanted/Missing" Index is expected to become operational. A considerable further increase in traffic is forecast.

UHF RADIO

Personal Radio Schemes throughout the County continue to serve the needs of patrolling officers. Modifications and additional engineering are constantly being carried out.

VHF RADIO

The new radio mast and equipment room at High Garrett were completed in 1977 and will be operational during the early weeks of 1978 providing greatly improved central Essex coverage.

The new mast now approved for Rayleigh Station will provide additional VHF and UHF cover for the area and compensate for the eventual loss of the Benfleet site.

A new radio room at Great Bromley located outside the USAAF Security perimeter now contains all our base station equipment and office facilities.

Efforts continue to provide a site to solve transmission/reception problems in the Lea Valley area. A site at North Weald has received technical approval from the Home Office but other alternatives are now available which are being considered. Co-operation with the Home Office Directorate and the Hertfordshire Police continues in attempting to solve joint problems.

During the latter part of 1977 the Police VHF Network was called upon to act as a communications link between Army Fire Units and the Fire Brigade Control at Hutton. Police radio cars stationed with Army Units acted not only as escorts but also as radio links to Police Headquarters and thence to Fire Brigade Control. Such was the flexibility of the Police system that additional equipment was available in a matter of hours and the system gave excellent results throughout the period of the emergency.

NUMBER OF '999' CALLS.

YEAR	TOTAL	MOTORWAY CALLS INCLUDED	VARIATION NO	VARIATION %
1973	48,128		3,815	8.6
1974	49,813		1,685	3.5
1975	48,018		-1,795	-3.6
1976	52,277	1,108	4,259	8.9
1977	54,977	2,700	2,700	5.2

During the Firemen's strike at the end of 1977 the Police Headquarters '999' system was organised to accept fire emergency calls if it became necessary to transmit such calls to appliances and Fire Brigade Control. The ability to do this was found to be well within our capacity.

VISITS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Due to the lack of space within the Control Room visits were restricted during 1977 to 8.

LICENSING

LICENSED PREMISES

Intoxicating liquor licences in force in the Force area at the year end were:-

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Full publicans' licences	1,370	1,330	1,313	1,332	1,334
Publicans' licences with conditions	174	186	215	219	238
'ON' Beerhouses	2	2	2	2	2
'OFF' Beerhouses and 'OFF' licences	644	657	696	721	730
Restaurant licences	238	235	251	277	290
Residential combined with restaurant licences	54	53	52	55	49
Residential licences	36	34	32	42	37
Licensed clubs	66	65	63	61	62
Registered clubs	604	603	609	619	625
Wine and spirit dealers	6	5	5	1	2
Theatre licences	4	5	5	4	4
Seamen's Canteen licences	2	2	2	2	2
<i>TOTAL</i>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,177</u>	<u>3,245</u>	<u>3,335</u>	<u>3,375</u>

No of Special Hours Certificates			94	78	105
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LICENSING OFFENCES

	1973	1974	Persons		1977
			1975	1976	
Supplying liquor after hours	14	3	-	1	2
Failing to quit licensed premises upon request by licensee	18	-	-	13	6
Consuming liquor after hours	3	1	-	8	6
Supplying liquor to unauthorised persons	5	2	-	1	2
Purchasing liquor when under age	5	1	-	4	1
Purchasing liquor for an under age person	1	-	-	4	-
Consuming liquor when under age	1	-	-	8	-
Allowing consumption of liquor to person under age	-	-	-	-	-
Selling liquor without a licence	11	4	-	-	-
Unlicensed entertainment upon licensed premises	1	-	-	-	1
Adults convicted for being drunk drunk and disorderly or drunk and incapable	495	504	585	542	641
Young persons under 18 convicted for drunkenness	17	26	25	33	30

BETTING

Licensed facilities for betting in the Force area were:-

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Bookmakers' permits	153	152	156	144	164
Betting agency permits	1	1	1	1	1
Track Betting licences	3	3	2	2	2
Betting Office licences	227	229	229	206	219
Betting Offences	-	-	-	1	-

GAMING

Different licences issued under
the Gaming Act 1968 (includes
Casino Licences in Southend)

	363(3)	364(3)	385(3)	393(3)	397(2)
Offences	-	-	14	-	-

CENTRALISATION OF DRIVER LICENSING

Response times are improving and the Swansea organisation is giving reasonable satisfaction. However there are still some delays in renewing driving licences; also some Court cases are delayed due to details of drivers' records not being available on time.

PROCESS SERVERS

In 1977 the 18 Process Servers dealt with 81% of the 11,069 Warrants issued and with 57% of the 9,663 Summonses requiring personal service, thereby relieving police officers for operational duties.

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Strength at 1.1.77	363	46	409
Enrolments during 1977	35	13	48
Resignations during 1977	47	13	60
Strength at 31.12.77	351	46	397

The Annual Special Constabulary Competition was held in May when Harlow Division won the 'De Rougemont' and 'Salter' Cups. Chelmsford Division were the runners-up and were presented with the 'Nelson L Mitchell' Shield.

The 'Neville Trophy' Competition was staged by the Metropolitan Police at Romford in June. Harlow Division represented the Force and won the Competition.

'Open Day' was again held at Headquarters in conjunction with the May Competition. The Inspecting Officer for this occasion was Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, CBE., DSO., DFC.

ROYAL VISITS

H.R.H. The Princess Margaret attended the Circus Tavern, Purfleet, on 14 April 1977 for a Charity Show in aid of the Docklands Settlements.

H.R.H. The Princess Margaret visited Southend General Hospital on 26 June 1977 and toured the Sita Lumsden Cardiac Unit, the Hospital's Radio Service and the Lady McAdden Screening Unit. Her Royal Highness then travelled on to Spains Hall, Finchingfield, and after taking lunch with the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John RUGGLES-BRISE Bt went to R.A.F. Wethersfield, where she reviewed the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales attended the Circus Tavern, Purfleet on 29 November 1977 for a Charity Show in aid of the Queens Silver Jubilee Fund.

ATTACK WARNING SYSTEM

Throughout the year the attack warning system has been maintained at a state of readiness. Regular tests of GPO lines and equipment were carried out and generally proved to be satisfactory. "Flick" testing of all sirens each month has also been carried out.

A programme to replace pre 1947 sirens was commenced during the year and is now nearing completion.

Five sirens were dismantled for various reasons and will be re-sited at suitable alternative locations.

Three large scale fallout exercises organised by the Home Office United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisations were held during the year in which the Police participated. The exercises were all held at weekends and from the Police point of view proved to be very satisfactory.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

The flood warning sirens and the control system for their operation have been tested monthly throughout the storm tide warning season (August - April) and are constantly at a state of readiness.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Complaints against the Police

Disciplinary Proceedings

Letters of Appreciation

Visits to Police Stations and Talks to outside Organisations

Awards and Decorations

Commendations

Joint Consultation

Officers with Degrees

Participation in Youth Organisations

Royal Humane Society

Society for the Protection of Life From Fire

Certificate of Commendation of Meritorious First Aid

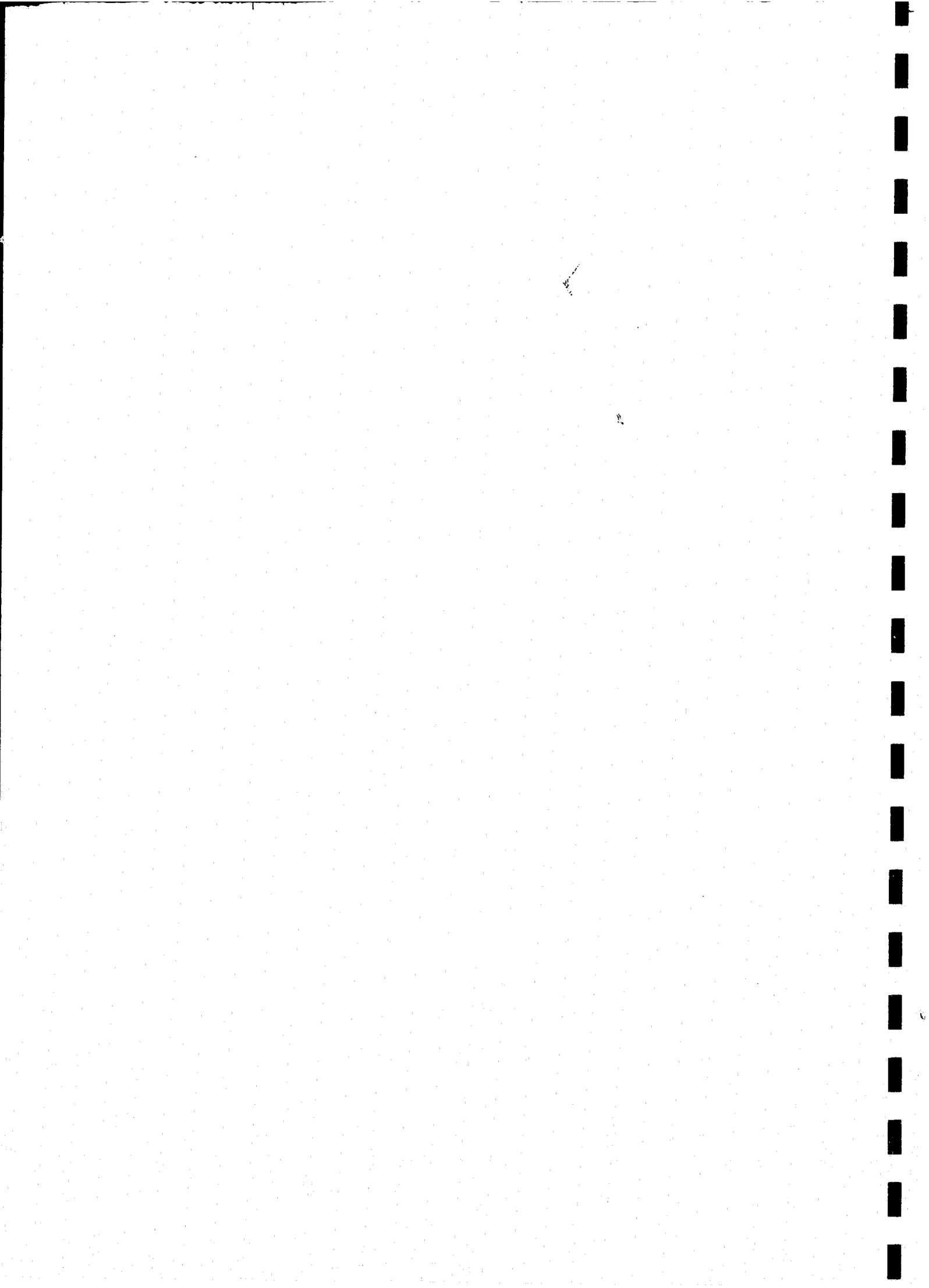
Force Welfare

Force Sports

Force Trophies

Force Band

The National Association of Retired Police Officers



COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE

The procedure for dealing with complaints made by members of the public against Police Officers was provided by Section 49 of the Police Act 1964 but with effect from 1 June 1977, the Police Act 1976 added an independent element by way of the Police Complaints Board. The Board receives and considers the report of the investigation into every Section 49 complaint and reviews the decisions made by the Deputy Chief Constable in respect of disciplinary charges that should be brought against the officer concerned. The Board is empowered to recommend that disciplinary charges should be brought and as a last resort may direct that this should be done.

The Police Complaints Board concerns itself only with consideration of disciplinary matters arising out of complaints made by members of the public and not with internal discipline, whilst criminal allegations against police officers are still the province of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Each complaint is fully investigated and on every occasion since the introduction of the Police Act 1976 on 1 June 1977 the recommendation of the Deputy Chief Constable has been accepted by the Police Complaints Board.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OVER FIVE YEARS

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Complainants	367	302	257	208	273*
Complaints	512	436	384	329	425*
Substantiated	61	30	17	15	8*
Not Substantiated	451	406	367	314	268*
Outstanding					149

*Some adjustment to these figures will be necessary when cases still under investigation are finalised.

The apparent increase in complaints during 1977 compared with 1976 is about 30% but the statistics are not strictly comparable because of the new method of recording and investigating complaints introduced on 1 June 1977, when the Police Act 1976 came into force. Under the present system a number of complaints may be shown to have arisen out of one incident where before they would have been classified as one complaint. Thus where a complaint is made as to an officer's attitude and some remarks he made, this is now classified as two complaints, one of 'improper attitude' and the other of 'incivility'. Complaints details are also entered at an earlier stage in the Central Complaints Register at Police Headquarters and a much higher proportion are subsequently withdrawn or not pursued. For example, where a letter is received to the effect that "I wish to bring to your attention the conduct of a certain police officer" this is now entered immediately as a complaint against Police whereas previously it was not recorded as such until the author had been seen. The consequence is that while in 1976 the percentage of complaints withdrawn was about 34%, the 1977 figure is approximately 65%.

OUTSTANDING COMPLAINTS

It will be noted that a large number of complaints are outstanding and there are two main reasons for this. Reports of complaints investigations have to be referred to the Police Complaints Board and this produces a delay of from six to eight weeks. Furthermore, under the new system, most complaints from people who are to appear before a Court cannot be investigated until after the conclusion of the case and this means that a number of complaints are at present pending a court hearing. In general, in any case where the complainant is a defendant who has been committed to the Crown Court on bail, there will be a period of six months before the case is resolved and the complaint investigation commenced.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

The formal disciplinary procedure for dealing with alleged breaches of discipline is the responsibility of the Chief Constable. Minor matters of discipline are dealt with by Divisional Commanders by way of admonishment or where appropriate suitable advice.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
CAUTION	2	-	-	-	-
REPRIMAND	5	2	4	3	3
FINES	1	3	5	1	4
REDUCED IN RANK	1	1	-	1	-
REQUIRED TO RESIGN	2	-	1	2	-
DISMISSED	-	-	2	-	-
FOUND NOT GUILTY	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Members of the public often write expressing their appreciation of the service they have received from members of the Force.

These totalled:-

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
1244	1051	948	1055	1033

VISITS TO POLICE STATIONS AND TALKS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

During 1977 the following visits were made to Headquarters

EVENING	170 visitors in 6 parties
PART DAY	60 students in 3 parties; 39 visitors in 3 parties
ALL DAY	10 Army Personnel in 1 party
	6 Members of Southend Job Centre Staff

258 visits to police stations were made by various groups

The practice of centralised talks to Societies and Organisations has been discontinued. These are now covered by Divisional Personnel and during 1977 talks were given on 405 occasions.

Instructors from the Force Training and Driving Schools have given lectures at the County Ambulance Training School on matters of common interest to the police and ambulance services.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During 1977 the following Awards and Decorations were made:

Member of the Order of the British Empire	to	Detective Chief Inspector P.C.B.WILLIAMS for services to the Regional Crime Squad
The Queens Jubilee Medal	to	77 Officers 7 Members of the Special Constabulary 21 Civilians
The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal	to	50 Officers as a mark of Her Majesty's Appreciation of long and meritorious service.

COMMENDATIONS

Members of the Force received commendations during 1977 as follows:-

	No of Commendations	No of Officers
By Chief Constable	30	52
By Courts (including H M Judge of Crown Courts H M Coroner or Justices)	40	93
<i>TOTAL</i>	<u>70</u>	<u>145</u>

JOINT CONSULTATION

The representative bodies whom I consult are the Superintendents' Association, the Police Federation and the Civilians Consultative Committee.

Subjects discussed during 1977 included the giving of character references, the advertising of civilian staff vacancies, compassionate leave, the new Complaints Procedure, a Force Housing policy review, selective overtime and the provision of protective clothing and footwear for garage workshop staff.

OFFICERS WITH DEGREES

As at 31 December 1977 there were 22 members of the Force with one or more University Degrees.

LL.B. Bachelor of Law	3
M.A. Master of Arts	1
B.A. Bachelor of Arts	18
M.Sc. Master of Science	1
B.Sc. Bachelor of Science	1

PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Exclusive of those officers engaged in the Basildon and Colchester Community Involvement Schemes, 110 Officers are engaged voluntarily in activities which assist youth organisations.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

The following awards of the Society were made to members of the Force during the year:-

Pc 300 H R LENNON	Certificate of Commendation
Pc 659 I WELLER	Certificate of Commendation

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE

During 1977 the Society awarded certificates to:-

Pc 1411 J E VINEY	Pc 1091 T A WEAVERS
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On 12 December 1976 at 9.50 am Police Constables VINEY and WEAVERS were in Charlton Court, Whiston Road, London, to carry out an enquiry into certain road traffic offences when they saw smoke pouring from a second floor flat at 12 Charlton Court, Whiston Road, London N.1. It was believed there was a child still in the flat and despite the extreme heat and smoke the two officers made several attempts to enter the flat but were unable to do so.

The Fire Brigade then arrived and entered the flat with breathing apparatus and were able to establish there was no one left in the flat, the child having left earlier that morning without the father's knowledge.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION OF MERITORIOUS FIRST AID

The Certificate of Commendation was awarded to Pc 458 T C BRAND for his action in giving first aid to a man who collapsed with a heart attack.

FORCE WELFARE

FORCE WELFARE OFFICER

This duty was performed by a Police Sergeant until his retirement in May 1977 and is now performed by a Police Constable.

The Force Welfare Officer assists members of the Force, including civilians, with personal problems. He is the Gurney Fund Representative and Secretary of both the Force Benevolent Fund and the Combined Welfare Fund. During the year he has dealt with Police Dependant Trust claims for this and other Forces, Benevolent Fund claims and admissions to the Hove Convalescent Home.

Many Police widows and pensioners of this and other Forces resident in Essex have been visited and assistance has been given where necessary.

WELFARE FUNDS

POLICE DEPENDANTS TRUST

This is a National Fund which was established to provide financial assistance to Police Officers injured on duty and to the dependants of others killed on duty. Income is raised through voluntary subscriptions by Force members, fund raising schemes and donations received from members of the public. This year donations to the Trust also included a sum which the Police Committee decided should be allocated from monies available in the 'Prisoners Property Fund'.

For this Force:-

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Numbers assisted	13	9	11	15	10
Total of Grants made (£)	1300	995	2215	1985	3147
Contributions to the Trust (£)	5669	1724	1393	1320	2972

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

A committee of elected Divisional representatives operate this Fund, which is a registered charity, and members of the committee are also trustees of The Essex Police War Memorial Fund. Income derives mainly from contributions from serving officers supplemented by a grant from the National Police Fund and donations from members of the public.

The Benevolent Fund has now taken over the responsibilities of the former Essex Police Orphans' Fund. The aims will be maintained, namely to make annual grants to orphans of former members of the Force.

In 1977, £2,475 was allocated to the Convalescent Police Seaside Home at Hove; 42 serving officers and one pensioner attended the Home as patients and a total of £627.28 was paid out for travelling and

out-of-pocket expenses.

The Benevolent Fund made the following grants during 1977.

Serving Police Officers	£1,255.67
Dependants	£1,810.99
Orphans	£2,400.00

THE ESSEX SPECIAL CONSTABULARY BENEVOLENT FUND

The fund, founded in 1944 and registered with the Registrar of Friendly Societies, is managed by a Committee of Special Constables under the chairmanship of the Commandant. Membership is open to all serving Special Constables within the County and currently approximately a third belong (there is a separate Southend-on-Sea Special Constabulary Association). The Fund assists Special Constables and their dependants in times of sickness and distress and made grants amounting to £220 in 1977. The annual subscription is 50p and income from this source and investment interest amounted to £136 last year while donations of £127 were received. The assets of the Fund amount to £1,130 and are invested with the East Anglian Trustee Savings Bank.

CIVILIAN STAFF WELFARE FUND

During 1977 membership increased from 797 to 858, each member paying 3p per week/13p per month, and total assets as at 31 December 1977 amounted to £1626.67p. Grants totalling £627 and loans totalling £340 were made during the year in 21 cases of genuine need which were brought to the attention of the Executive Committee by Divisional Representatives.

The Fund's Divisional representatives, with the Force Welfare Officer, also assist with general welfare, particularly in visiting the sick.

CIVILIAN STAFF INSURANCE SCHEME

This has been operating since 1976 and now has 633 fully paid up members.

FORCE SPORTS

ANGLING - SEAWATER

The Sea Angling Section has had a good year in which interest increased and members enjoyed their sport. Not only have members supported organised Force Matches, but they have arranged regular fishing trips locally and to some of the South East coastal resorts. The Essex Team finished sixth in the No.5. Region P.A.A Sea Angling League. This year the section was host in the P.A.A. No.5. District Eliminator which was held at Southend on Sea. The Essex B Team won and continued through to the finals which were held in Durham in September 1977. They were eventually placed 12th.

ATHLETICS

The Force team won the Regional Athletics Trophy for the eighth

successive year and also contested Division 4 of the Southern Counties League, being placed seventh. Individuals also competed in various other championships including the P.A.A.

BADMINTON

Little interest is being shown in this section. Entries were made in the P.A.A. Competitions but no other fixtures could be arranged.

BOWLS

Inter-divisional matches have been keenly contested in this popular sport together with annual matches against Police Pensioners and other clubs.

BOXING

The Club was formed in May 1977 and has since been training regularly at Headquarters gymnasium. In November members took part in gym shows, thus gaining their first experience of boxing in front of an audience.

CRICKET

In the Regional P.A.A. 6 a side contest, the Force team won their way into the final where they lost to Kent. Inter-divisional matches continue to be keenly contested, although the Force team was obliged to withdraw from Two Counties Leagues due to lack of support.

FOOTBALL

After winning the Olympian League in 1976, the Force team enjoyed a less successful season and during the latter part of the year were eliminated from the various Police Cup Competitions in which they take part.

GOLF

Six matches were arranged this season by the Golfing Section which was well represented at the Regional P.A.A. Championships. The society held three meetings - Spring, Summer and Autumn. The Force Championship Cup was retained by Pc J STRANGER, Saffron Walden Traffic.

HOCKEY

Six matches were played this season.

LIFE-SAVING

The Force team entered five open competitions this year. The women's

team qualified for the National Police Competition Finals held at Cardiff where they were placed sixth. Pc K.P.NOWELL of Billericay attended a selection/training weekend held at Hendon for the Royal Life Saving Society National Team.

RACE WALKING

The Force Team won the open team race in the Police Barking to Southend Race. It competed in Denmark, Germany, Austria, France and the Channel Islands as well as all over Britain during 1977. Pc M DUNNION, Witham, represented Great Britain as a senior against Sweden.

SAILING

The main events of the year were the P.A.A. Regional Sailing Competition and the Essex Police Regatta, both held at Southend and both well supported. Three Essex Police boats competed in the National Police Competition at Herne Bay and throughout the year members have been sailing in Regattas throughout the Country.

SHOOTING - PISTOLS

Seven officers from Essex Police have regularly represented this Force in competitions in 1977. gaining many successes. We have three members currently in the National Police Squads, one of whom, Pc WEBB of Colchester, is the reigning National British Police Champion. Essex Police now have one of the strongest pistol teams in Great Britain.

SWIMMING

The long distance swim from Westcliff to Leigh was held in August 1977. It was won by Pc K P NOWELL of Billericay. The team cup, presented for the first time this year, was won by Headquarters. The Swimming Gala was held on 22 January 1977 at Chelmsford Pool.

TABLE TENNIS

The Force table tennis championships were held this year at Southend when Grays Division won the Quick Trophy. In February, Southend were hosts at the No.5 District P.A.A. Championships.

TENNIS

In spite of several matches being affected by poor weather, this

Section had a moderately successful season. They entertained teams from various parts of the country and played return matches in each case.

VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball Club was formed in 1975. It has a squad of eighteen players drawn from all over the County. The team is in good form and welcomes new players.

FORCE TROPHIES

The Bennett Trophy, presented by the Late Sir William Bennett, CBE, JP, DL is awarded annually to the probationer gaining top marks in a competition consisting of written and oral examination. It was won by Pc 1584 A B ODELL of Basildon Division.

The Sir Jonathan Peel Trophy, awarded annually to the constable gaining the highest marks in the national promotion examination, was won by Pc 17 P W STANLEY of the Traffic Division.

The Chief Wardens Cup, presented by the Chief Warden of the County during the 1939/45 war and awarded annually for Inter-Divisional First Aid was competed for on 24 April 1977. Four teams took part. The cup was won by Southend Western Division.

The Murray Shield, presented by Councillor Trevor Murray to be awarded annually to the winner of the Obedience Section of the Force Police Dog Trials, was won by Pc 336 A W G GILFELAN with 'Drummer'.

The Wilson Trophy was donated by the late W W Wilson Esq., of St. Cleres Hall, Stanford-le-Hope and is presented for the most meritorious deed by an Essex policeman during the year. For 1977 it was awarded jointly to Ps 229 R H WILLIAMSON and Pc 1053 A COLLINSON of Headquarters Division, Operations.

The Millard Trophy which was presented by Alderman S Woodfull Millard, is awarded annually to the member of the Regular Force who has made the greatest contribution to social service in the community or to Police/Public Relations during the year. For 1977 it was awarded to Ps 340 N J HARBOUR of Rayleigh Division.

The Betts Trophy presented by Mrs Betts to the Traffic Warden who performs the most meritorious action when assisting police officers was awarded to Traffic Warden 108 M J TERRY.

The Dooley Trophy was donated by the relatives of the late Special Superintendent Norman Dooley for the most meritorious act or for service to the community of Essex of an exceptional nature. It was awarded to Special Constable 400 S J SMITH of Harlow Division for the most meritorious act.

FORCE BAND

The Band again enjoyed a successful year in 1977 having undertaken some 24 public engagements of varying kinds from formal parades to concerts, garden parties and charity events. It played at the Special Constabulary Muster Parade, the Cadet Passing Out Parade, The Police Pensioners Garden Party, No.3 District Metropolitan Police Sports Club Gymkhana, The Royal British Legion Jubilee Parade, and the Garden Parties given by The High Sheriff and the Chairman of the Essex County Council. Operational commitments limit the number of engagements which can be undertaken but special efforts are usually made to assist at charity concerts.

Membership of the Band now comprises 24 serving Police Officers of various ranks and 8 civilians employed or closely associated with the Essex Police Authority.

The vacancy for a Band Master which occurred in January 1977 when Mr J BEARMAN was unable to continue through a change in occupation, was filled by Mr Geoffrey BROOM currently a Band Sergeant in H.M. Regiment of the Irish Guards.

The Band remains a voluntary Trust organisation not sponsored from public funds.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS

Four pre-retirement Courses were attended during the year. The talks were most helpful and resulted in increased Membership which now stands at Chelmsford 620, Colchester 226 and Southend 340.

Three delegates attended the Annual Conference at Blackpool on 1-3 September. This was instructive and gave delegates an opportunity to see for themselves the untiring efforts put in by the National Executive Committee on behalf of pensioners.

Two important Motions were put forward and carried unanimously (i) the National Executive Committee to urge the Government to abolish the age limit of 55 years for pension increases, and (ii) the National Executive Committee to urge the Government that Police Widows who married after retirement to be classed as, and receive police widows' pensions.

One member, Charles Stanley HAVERS, Chelmsford Branch, aged 87 years, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Association for outstanding service.

The annual precept from Branches towards the Central fund is 50% of subscriptions received for the year.

The Garden Party held at Police Headquarters in July was well attended by over 600 pensioners and their wives and proved very successful. Hopes are expressed that this event will become a permanent feature of our social activities.

The implications of the Social Security Act 1975, which comes into operation on 6 April 1978 are not yet fully known but the National Executive Committee will take action to ensure that negotiations are carried out with any new negotiating body formed under the Act.

Police Pensioners Housing Association - the weekly lottery is proving very successful. The first two lotteries yielded £2,200 and with increasing membership the aim is a 'full house' which could yield £5,000 per week.

END