

HOME OFFICE RESEARCH UNIT

Summary of Research within
the Unit and of Research
supported by Grant

31521

JUNE 1975

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FORWORD

The Criminal Justice Act 1948 authorised the Home Secretary to conduct, or support financially, research into the causes of delinquency, the treatment of offenders and matters connected therewith. From 1951 onwards, grants were made to various universities. In 1957, the Home Office Research Unit was established to initiate and carry out research and to extend the assistance given to outside research bodies. The Research Unit's responsibilities were further extended by the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, which included provision for expenditure on research into child care and adoption; by the Race Relations Act 1968 in respect of research on race relations; and by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Research Unit now provides a comprehensive service of research and professional advice in the social sciences, including criminology. It initiates and carries out research, mainly on delinquency and the treatment of offenders, but also on other social subjects in which research is needed for administrative purposes or for the formulation of policy. It provides advice and information to the Home Office about criminological research and other research in the social sciences, encourages and assists such research by universities and other organisations, and considers applications for research grants.

Universities and other institutions considering research projects of possible interest to the Home Office are invited to get in touch with the Head of the Research Unit to whom applications for grant should also be addressed. The Research Unit is the national authority for the Council of Europe criminological research fellowship programme.

This summary gives brief particulars of research projects in progress in the Home Office Research Unit (Part I), and of projects supported by Home Office grants administered by the Research Unit (Part III). Part II lists projects that the Unit has completed since publication of the last Summary in June 1974; and Part IV lists reports published in the Home Office series and gives particulars of government bookshops and agents in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and overseas, from which these reports can be obtained.

To facilitate the service of information given by the Unit, an information section has been set up and enquiries about research described in this Summary should in the first instance be addressed to this section at Room 531, Home Office Research Unit, Romney House, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DY.

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Staff are stationed in London, except for those marked *, who are in Manchester where research on the treatment of offenders will be mainly located from Autumn 1975, and **, who are in Edinburgh.

During the period to which this Summary refers, Dr R V G Clarke has oversight of social research, and Dr M S Folkard of research on treatment.

PART I

CURRENT RESEARCH

BY THE

HOME OFFICE RESEARCH UNIT

A. SOCIAL RESEARCH, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF CRIME

DAY SCHOOLS AND THE BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

K Heal
F P E Southgate
Miss J A Sturgess

Dates
1972-1975

The effect of transition from primary to secondary schools on the behaviour patterns of young people is being studied. The results should help to clarify the nature of the relationship between school environment and pupils' behaviour. It is hypothesised that this transition in the child's education will also be accompanied by changes in his peer group commitment and life style, both of which are regarded as important determinants of behaviour.

Information on the activities of children both during and after school hours has been obtained from a sample of children passing from primary to secondary education. These data were collected by use of self-report questionnaires. The analysis of this material is nearing completion.

STUDIES OF VANDALISM

a. VANDALISM ON HOUSING ESTATES IN LONDON

T F Marshall
Miss S Wilson

Dates
1973-1975

This study, in which the Department of the Environment is co-operating, aims to test the hypothesis that the design and layout of housing estates affects the rate at which they are vandalised. To establish the main influences on the incidence of vandalism, a study is being made of data on recorded damage to a wide variety of estates in two boroughs.

b. A SELF-REPORT STUDY OF VANDALISM AMONGST LIVERPOOL SCHOOL CHILDREN

T F Marshall
F J Gladstone

Dates
1973-1975

The aim of this study is to estimate what proportion of schoolboys aged 11 to 15 inclusive are vandals and what characteristics distinguish them from 'non-vandals'. The boys' involvement in vandalism and associated delinquent behaviour was investigated using a self-report questionnaire. The boys were also questioned about their neighbourhood peer group and school, which may be important influences on their behaviour. A representative sample of about 600 boys was drawn from Liverpool schools, and, after a pilot study, the questionnaire was put to them in the summer term of 1973. The data are being analysed.

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS

T F Marshall
C P Stevens
Miss J L Emerick

Dates
1975

This preliminary study, forming part of a larger study on the relations between the police and the community, aims to compare a sample of people from different community backgrounds who made complaints at Metropolitan Police stations during 1973. Information about differences between the sorts of complaints made and the circumstances in which they arose is to be derived from data held at New Scotland Yard. A further study is proposed relating the number of complaints made by coloured communities to demographic features of the police areas where the complaints arose.

POLICE DECISIONS

a. CAUTIONING

K H Heal
J A Ditchfield
J M Hough

Dates
1974-1975

As part of a programme of research into aspects of decision making by the police, a preliminary investigation of official statistics of cautioning has been carried out. At present, research is concerned with variations in cautioning practice and the extent to which these variations reflect differences between forces in 'discretionary' policy.

b. DAY SCHOOLS

K H Heal
Miss J A Sturgess

Dates
1973-1975

As part of a larger study concerned with the relationship between schools and delinquent behaviour, information was collected from police records about all children of compulsory school age who came to the attention of the police during 1972 and 1973 within the area covered by the main study. This information is being used for a detailed examination of juvenile delinquency in the area, and the way in which the decision is taken to caution or to prosecute.

c. CAUTIONING IN CRAWLEY

Miss J W Mott
R Tarling
T J Hope

Dates
1965-1975

As part of a larger study two groups of juvenile offenders in Crawley, those cautioned by the police and those brought before the juvenile court, are being compared with each other and with a control group of non-offenders in terms of certain social and educational characteristics. All three groups have been followed up for five years for any further findings of guilt. The first report of the project is in preparation and examines the effects of age, sex, social history and type of offence on (i) the decision of the police to caution the juvenile or bring him before

the juvenile court, and (ii) the decisions reached by the juvenile court. In addition, the re-conviction rates during the follow-up period of those cautioned and those dealt with by the various courts are being compared.

ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC CRIME

Dr R J Baxter
C T Balogh

Dates
1974-1977

International concern and the growing realization of the scale and impact of 'economic' crimes have resulted in a considerable quantity of literature in recent years. The Eighth Conference of European Ministers of Justice, meeting at Stockholm in June 1973, recommended the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to instruct the European Committee on Crime Problems to undertake a detailed study of the question of economic crime, including specific areas such as tax offences and the problems raised by multi-national companies. It is at present proposed that member states assemble information on developments, especially on the nature of typical economic offences and the various preventive and punitive measures adopted.

Initially research in economic crime in this country will compare the trend of sentences passed for fraud with those for theft. The differences between fraud and theft and the origins of the distinct offence classification will be explored in the light of the evidence derived from this sentencing study. A second study of the network of official and non-official agencies responsible for 'policing' money is under way.

CRIMINAL SUBCULTURES IN A NORTHERN TOWN

T F Marshall
Miss J L Emerick

Dates
1973-1975

Data about known associations between persistent offenders, collected during the course of the Central Lancashire Family and Community Project (Director, Dr G Rose) are being used for a sociometric investigation of the existence and the nature of criminal subcultures in a northern town. The aims are to find out how far criminals interact socially, and how important this is in causing crime among adults and juveniles. The project will focus specifically on criminal careers and on juvenile recruitment to the criminal subculture.

SURVEY OF LITERATURE ON GAMBLING

Miss J W Mott
D B Cornish

Dates
1974-1975

The literature is being reviewed in order to examine the feasibility of undertaking research into aspects of gambling and social problems associated with it.

SURVEY OF LITERATURE ON RESEARCH INTO ALCOHOLISM

Miss J W Mott
T J Hope

Dates
1974-1975

A review of the literature on research into a alcoholism is being prepared, with a view to undertaking research into aspects of, and problems associated with, alcoholism.

OPIATE ADDICTS

Miss J W Mott

Dates
1975

A sample of males first notified as addicts by hospitals and penal establishments during 1969 has been followed-up for two years (page 17 of Summary of Research for 1974) following their first notification, for re-notifications, psychiatric hospital admissions and further criminal convictions. The follow-up period is now being extended to five years.

B. CRIMINAL PROCESS AND PENAL POLICY

DETERRENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Dr R J Baxter

Dates
1975

A small scale study is planned to examine the patterns of assaults on, and robberies from, staff and passengers in one or two areas of London Transport, especially on the underground. The impact of preventive measures taken by the police will be assessed.

STUDIES ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1972

Dates
1973 -
continuing

Research on a number of specific measures is under way. The aim is to describe the use made by the courts of these measures and to estimate their impact on the sentencing system. Preliminary work is also being carried out by the Statistical Department including a comparative study of sentencing effectiveness.

Three projects have been completed: see 'Community service orders' (page 24); 'Deferment of sentence' (page 24); and 'Imprisonment of fine and maintenance defaulters' (page 24).

Current research is described below.

MONETARY PENALTIES

The two projects, (a) and (b) below, are based on a national sample of all persons aged 17 and over summarily convicted during one week in 1974 for theft, burglary, obtaining property by deception, criminal damage, wounding and assault.

a. THE USE AND ENFORCEMENT OF MONETARY PENALTIES

Miss M J Shaw
P Softley

Dates
1974-1977

This is the main study. It will examine, inter alia, the use of fines and orders for compensation, in relation to the characteristics and circumstances of the offenders, and the effectiveness of methods of enforcing payment.

b. VICTIMS' PERCEPTIONS OF COMPENSATION

Miss M J Shaw
P Softley
Miss J Vennard

Dates
1974-1975

A small sample of victims, selected from the national survey, have been interviewed to investigate their needs, and their attitudes to, and experience of, compensation.

c. THE USE OF COMPENSATION IN THE CROWN COURT

Miss M J Shaw

Dates
1974-1975

A study of the use of compensation orders in 1972 and 1973 by Crown Court centres in London is nearing completion. Its aim is to discover factors associated with the use of compensation, and to measure changes after the implementation, on 1st January, 1973, of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1972.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND

P J Didcott
Mrs M J Rushforth

Dates
1974-1975

This study is an attempt to ascertain some of the reasons which underlie the recent pressure for places in List D schools (formerly approved schools) in Scotland. It involves an examination of the school population, of schools' policies and of admission procedures.

OPERATION OF THE REPORTER'S OFFICE AND CHILDRENS' PANELS IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

P J Didcott
Mrs M J Rushforth

Dates
1974-1975

This is a study of the way in which the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 operates in relation to juveniles in the West of Scotland, particularly in Glasgow. Particular attention is being paid in the first place to children who progress through the various stages of the system and to reoffending and 'successes'. Depending on the availability of resources it is hoped to examine the backgrounds of children referred, the kinds of decisions made about them and the criteria on which decisions are reached, and the way in which the main agencies (particularly the Reporter's Office) operate and relate to one another.

SENTENCING IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Miss M J Shaw
R Tarling
Mrs M Weatheritt

Dates
1974-1976

A number of recent administrative and research developments have suggested that work on differences between sentences passed between courts would be of value. The major changes in the powers of the courts and the range of disposals available to them introduced by the Criminal Justice Acts 1967 and 1972, suggest the need to investigate how the courts view and make use of these disposals.

The research covers three stages:

- a. an investigation of the use of disposals among the larger magistrates' courts in England and Wales over the period 1971-1973;
- b. an study of the characteristics of offenders in relation to sentencing patterns for a smaller sample of courts, in an attempt to account for major discrepancies between courts; and
- c. an detailed study of a small sample of courts to investigate those factors which might impinge on magisterial decisions, including the organisation of court services, and the characteristics of the court catchment area.

ATTITUDES OF SENTENCERS TOWARDS SENTENCING POLICY

Dr R J Baxter
J N Burrows

Dates
1975

Some preparatory work is being carried out with a view to gathering information about the attitudes of the judiciary and the magistracy to sentencing policy and crime.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Miss M J Shaw
G R Walmsley
Miss K E White

Dates
1974-1976

This research consists of four linked studies in which special attention is being paid to the age of consent. The aims are:

- a. to distinguish the more serious offences from the less serious and to identify those cases in which the age of consent is a relevant consideration;
- b. to show how seriously courts regard consensual heterosexual and homosexual offences where at least one party is below the age of consent;
- c. to discover, for each indictable sexual offence, the amount of variation in prosecution practice in England and Wales; and
- d. to study the types of sexual offence covered by the press and the nature of the coverage.

SOCIAL INQUIRY REPORTS

Dr K G Pease
Mrs J Thorpe
I Earnshaw

Dates
1975-1977

The purpose of the research will be to examine:

- a. the content and format of a representative sample of social inquiry reports;
- b. the variation in the use of social inquiry reports between areas, type of court and type of offender with special reference to:
 - i. the proportion of cases upon which reports are written;
 - ii. the distribution and use of written reports; and
 - iii. any association between written reports and sentencing;

and

- c. what information the court needs to reach a 'rational' sentencing decision.

BAIL

Miss C Simpson

Dates
1975-1977

Research is being undertaken in connection with an experimental project set up by the Inner London Probation and After-Care service, in collaboration with the Vera Institute of Justice (New York).

Information about the community ties of defendants who are liable to be remanded in custody is to be presented, on an experimental basis, to magistrates in certain courts in the Inner London area. The practicality and effectiveness of procedures for gathering, verifying, and presenting the information will be studied. Assessments will be made of the effect that informing courts more fully has on the rate at which they remand defendants on bail, and on defendants' non-appearance and further offence rates. The project will also be concerned with defendants remanded in custody.

C. TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

EVALUATING TREATMENT

D E Smith

Dates
1975

Preliminary consideration is being given to research into criteria, other than reconviction, for evaluating treatment.

"IMPACT" EXPERIMENT (Intensive Matched Probation and After-Care Treatment)

A J Fowles
D E Smith
D D Smith

Dates
1971-1976

An experimental research project is being carried out in four probation and after-care areas - Dorset, Inner London, Sheffield and Staffordshire - to evaluate the provision of more intensive and matched treatment for high risk offenders. Samples of offenders include male probationers aged 17 years or older, generally with two or more previous convictions and on probation for two or three years. In Sheffield small samples of female probationers and borstal after-care cases are also being studied. Emphasis is being given to situational treatment in the family and the areas of work and leisure, with extended use of ancillaries, voluntary workers and other agencies. In London and Sheffield the experimental treatment is provided through specialised units comprising one senior probation officer and five probation officers. In Dorset and Staffordshire, one experimental officer provides special treatment in each of four towns within each county. The design of the project has been described, and an interim evaluation made. (Home Office Research Studies, No 24, IMPACT, Volume I). Results and a general evaluation will be published in volume II in due course.

An associated project in Liverpool is concerned with men serving sentences of imprisonment of between three and twelve months. There are two distinct experimental designs, first, the provision of intensive prison welfare work, and secondly, the provision of planned treatment from the first day of imprisonment through to discharge and after-care. A comparison will be made between these types of treatment. Results should be available towards the end of 1976.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

Dr K G Pease
S C Billingham

Dates
1975-1976

The Criminal Justice Act 1972 empowered courts to order community service (unpaid work during offenders' spare time) for persons aged 17 or over convicted of offences punishable with imprisonment. The scheme was introduced experimentally in six areas in 1973 and its use there has been described (Home Office Research Studies, No 29).

It is now intended to evaluate community service in terms of the reconviction rate and the seriousness of any further offence. The study will compare the seriousness of further offences committed by persons who has previously been considered for community service with those of persons previously considered for community service but dealt with by other means (custodial or non-custodial). It is hoped thus to gain some indication of the success or failure of community service in affecting criminal careers.

DAY TRAINING CENTRES

Dr K G Pease
D Payne

Dates
1972-1975

The Criminal Justice Act 1972 newly empowered the court, when making a probation order, to require the probationer to attend full-time at a day training centre (run by the probation service) on not more than 60 days.

The research will describe the four existing centres (Mid-Glamorgan, Liverpool, Inner-London, and Sheffield) in respect of:

- a. administration and staffing, course content and training strategies;
- b. type of offender selected for training, his previous record and the type of personal problems he brings with him to the centre;
- c. social atmosphere as perceived by staff and offenders; and
- d. possible effects upon the offender as indicated by psychological tests, problem checklists, views of centre probation officers, views of the offender himself, and reconviction data.

The centre staff will be asked about their attitudes and opinions as have the local field probation officers. The project will include a comparison between the centres as presently existing and the intentions expressed in Parliament during the debates on the Bill. Account will also be taken of similar centres conducted under voluntary auspices. An examination will be made of the relationship between referrals by field probation officers for selection by the centres, acceptance or rejection by the centres, and acceptance by the courts.

OFFENDERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Dr C Banks
R Sapsford
Miss J Worth

Dates
1969-1975

A manual index of men serving life imprisonment was set up to provide a statistical basis for research and information for management. During the last year this has been used extensively.

Current research aims: a. to identify factors related to length of stay in prison; b. to forecast the size of the 'lifer' population, and to estimate the number of places needed for lifers in the various types of institutions; c. to describe and compare special groups of lifers; and, d. to examine the reactions of the prisoners at various stages of sentence.

PART II
RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED
BY THE HOME OFFICE RESEARCH UNIT
JUNE 1974 - MAY 1975
AND FOR WHICH REPORTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED

A. SOCIAL RESEARCH, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF CRIME

NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURY TO CHILDREN

K H Heal
Miss J A Sturgess

Dates
1974-1975

The purpose of this study has been to determine the nature of the involvement of the probation service with offenders responsible for crimes commonly known as 'child battering', and to provide information about such crimes. Probation officers in 55 probation and after-care areas completed questionnaires on which the study was based.

DEPRIVED AREAS IN CITIES

T F Marshall
F J Gladstone

Dates
1973-1975

This study grew out of the Liverpool self-report vandalism project. Data from various sources has been re-analysed using multivariate techniques, to identify different types of deprived area.

THE PREVALENCE OF SELF-REPORTED DRUG MISUSE

Miss J W Mott

Dates
1974

Published, and some unpublished, papers describing the prevalence of self-reported drug misuse (among those sub-samples of the population that have previously been surveyed) have been reviewed for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

THE INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS ON CRIME

Miss J W Mott

Dates
1974

A paper, which includes a review of the literature, was presented to a conference in Strasbourg, organised by the Council of Europe in November 1974.

CRIME AND URBAN AREAS

Miss M J Shaw

Dates
1974

Literature on crime and urban areas has been surveyed, and a critical review prepared of the methodology and findings of criminological research in an urban setting.

MEASURING VANDALISM IN THE COMMUNITY

T F Marshall
A Sturman

Dates
1972-1975

Manchester, and some other local authorities, have implemented schemes in the community with the aim of reducing vandalism. Exploratory research was undertaken with the co-operation of the local authorities to devise ways of evaluating such schemes. Because the success of any evaluation would be affected by how accurately rates of vandalism could be measured in different areas and over different periods, initial research concentrated upon comparing methods of measurement. In a particular estate where there is a community development officer, data on recorded vandalism have been obtained from local authority departments, the police and the Post Office. Residents on the estate have also been interviewed about their experience of vandalism.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STEERING COLUMN LOCKS

Dr R V G Clarke
Mrs P M Mayhew
J M Hough

Dates
1974 - 1975

Since 1971, all cars manufactured in this country have been fitted with steering column locks as standard equipment. This study examined the effect of this measure on patterns of car theft. The report of the study considers the relationship between vehicle theft and opportunities for it presented by increasing numbers of cars on the road; and also the question whether crime prevention measures which physically inhibit the commission of an offence actually reduce crime or simply shift its pattern.

EYE INJURIES CAUSED BY FIREWORKS

A F C Crook
C T Balogh

Dates
1974

The official statistics of firework injuries from 1962 to 1973 inclusive were examined with a view to explaining the cause of the recent increase recorded in severe eye injuries.

B. CRIMINAL PROCESS AND PENAL POLICY

DETERRENT EFFECT OF A SEVERE SENTENCE

C P Nuttall
Dr R J Baxter

Dates
1974

A small study was carried out into the effects of a sentence of 20 years' detention passed in 1972 upon a youth who had been convicted of a "mugging" offence. The research appeared to show that the sentence had no evident general deterrent effects, but there was some indication that police measures in Liverpool and Manchester in mid-1972 had by contrast had an impact on the number of "muggings". The report was published in "New Society" in January 1975.

SURVEY OF LITERATURE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SENTENCING POLICY

Miss M J Shaw
S R Brody

Dates
1974-1975

The literature on the effectiveness of different types of disposal has been reviewed, primarily for use within the Home Office.

OUT-PATIENT SERVICE FOR THE PREPARATION OF MEDICAL REPORTS ON PERSONS REMANDED ON BAIL

Miss A Dunlop

Dates
1973-1975

The out-patient service, set up at Holloway Prison in August 1971, enables a large number of London courts to obtain medical reports on women remanded on bail. The operation of the scheme, and in particular, the reasons why some courts do not use it, has been examined in co-operation with the medical staff at Holloway.

BAIL AND CUSTODY BEFORE TRIAL IN SCOTLAND

P J Didcott
M Melvin

Dates
1972-1975

The Procurators-Fiscal have completed a questionnaire in respect of all persons either released on bail or committed to custody in all sheriff courts in Scotland between 1 February 1972 and 31 January 1973. This has provided basic information on the relative incidence of bail and custody; lengths of bail; amounts fixed for bail; opposition to bail; and so on. It has also provided information about the personal and social circumstances and criminal histories of those granted bail and those committed to custody. Information has been collected on abuses of bail; the intention is to produce predictive measures of good and bad bail risks.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

Dr M S Folkard
Dr K G Pease
P Durkin
I Earnshaw
D Payne
Mrs J Thorpe

Dates
1972-1974

The Criminal Justice Act 1972 introduced a number of new measures for dealing with offenders. The Research Unit is studying the operation of several of these measures and in 1975 published the first results in the Home Office Research Studies - No. 29, "Community Service Orders".

The community service scheme was brought into experimental operation in six probation and after-care areas early in 1973: the Unit evaluated it during the first 18 months of its operation and reached the conclusion, recorded in the report, that the scheme is viable. The report describes the efforts made by all concerned, and in particular the probation and after-care service in the six experimental areas, to give a fair test to the scheme. The use made of it by the courts, the offenders they chose to apply it to, the help given by local voluntary and official agencies in making appropriate tasks available, the reactions of some of the offenders, and some of the difficulties encountered are all examined.

DEFERMENT OF SENTENCE

Miss M J Shaw
Miss C M Simpson

Dates
1973-1975

Courts in Greater London made a return whenever a sentence was deferred in the second quarter of 1973 and again when sentence was passed; these returns give details of the offences and offenders, the circumstances of the deferments and the eventual disposals. The information thus collected has been augmented by information on the social and criminal background of the offenders.

IMPRISONMENT OF FINE AND MAINTENANCE DEFAULTERS

Miss M J Shaw
P Softley
Miss J Vennard

Dates
1974-1975

A preliminary investigation of men imprisoned in default of payment of fines or maintenance arrears was carried out during 1974. Its purpose was to ascertain the feasibility of carrying out a larger project on the extent to which defaulters are imprisoned through an inability, rather than refusal, to pay a sum of money owing.

STUDIES OF CRIMINAL HISTORIES

Dr W H Hammond

Dates
1962-1974

In the course of various research studies, the Research Unit has obtained details of the criminal histories of samples of offenders of all ages. These samples have been followed up for varying periods, and by a comparison of one group with another it may be possible to identify general patterns which describe individual offenders, preferably at an early stage in their career.

C. TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

SURVEY OF THE PRISON POPULATION

Dr C Banks
S Brody
Miss J Emerick
Miss S Fairhead

Dates
1971-1974

A survey of men in prisons in the south-east region was undertaken to provide systematic descriptions of a representative sample of the prison population, in order to identify and delineate 'types'. This analysis has three main uses: a. to provide estimates of the numbers of men of different types who have to be catered for, and to suggest methods for identifying them; b. to provide indications for treatment; and c. to suggest what information from prison records is necessary for research.

CONTROLLED TRIAL OF A THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY IN AN APPROVED SCHOOL

Dr R V G Clarke
D B Cornish

Dates
1965-1975

In 1965 research was commenced to evaluate the effectiveness of a therapeutic community programme which had been established at Kingswood Training School, an approved school near Bristol. A research worker employed by the School managers set up an experimental design which would allow comparison of the results of the therapeutic community with those of a more traditional approved school regime operated by one of the other houses at the school.

In 1967 the Research Unit became involved in the project and a paper was published describing some of the methodological and practical problems to be met with in running controlled trials ("The Controlled Trial in Institutional Research - paradigm or pitfall for penal evaluators?" Home Office Research Studies, No. 15, 1972).

A second report has been prepared for publication giving detailed results of the Kingswood controlled trial. The findings are considered, together with those from other evaluative studies, in the context of an examination of the effectiveness of institutional intervention in reducing delinquent behaviour. An environmental/learning theory approach to the modification of delinquent behaviour is discussed.

STUDY OF CHILDREN SENTENCED UNDER SECTION 58A OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1937

P J Didcott
Mrs M J Rushforth
C C Richards

Dates
1972-1975

Since the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 came into force, most of the children placed in List D ('approved') Schools have been sent there by children's panels. A minority however are placed there by the Secretary of State as a result of a court order deriving from an amendment (section 58A) of the 1937 Act.

The aim of this research was to find out whether children placed under a section 58A order differed to any extent from those placed by children's panels.

ADULT PROBATION HOSTELS

Dr M S Folkard
Dr K G Pease
Miss J E Andrews
S C Billingham

Dates
1974-1975

An enquiry has been made in connexion with the proposed expansion of the number of places in adult probation hostels. Wardens of hostels were interviewed about residents and a comparison was made with information available about a sample of prisoners.

PART III

CURRENT RESEARCH SUPPORTED BY HOME OFFICE GRANT

Total of grants for the listed projects: £618,315.

A. SOCIAL RESEARCH, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF CRIME

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: PENAL RESEARCH UNIT

THE DEFINITION AND EXPLANATION OF CRIME

Dr R Hood
Mrs S F McCabe
Miss M McIntosh
D Steer
F Sutcliffe

Dates
1971-1976

The following studies are being carried out as part of a five-year programme:

- a. The criminal incident from the point of view of the public and the police. The object of this study is to discover who exactly the 'customers' of the police are, what those identified as 'customers' ask of the police, and whether their complaints and reports result in crime 'definition'. Data have been gathered from records and participant observation. Research to date had focussed on the way in which the police responded to reports from the public. Future emphasis will be on attitudes of the public to the action taken by the police on their reported complaints, and their relationship with the police.
- b. The definition of crime as a function of police activity. This study had involved participant observation of the work of a divisional CID and the collection of a random sample of about 500 'crimes known to the police' - the investigation of which has subsequently been followed. These offences are being further classified so as to facilitate the investigation of how offences come to light, how they are detected and in what way the police contribute to the number of crimes recorded as known and offenders processed.
- c. Public control and the organisation of prostitution.

This study (which is funded by the Home Office with a grant to Nuffield College for one appointment of a Research Fellow) aims to examine the ways in which law and law enforcement affect:
(i) the organisation of prostitution; and (ii) the self-definition of prostitutes. The theoretical analysis has been completed and the work is now focussing on the categorisation of prostitution in terms of the ways in which contact was made with clients, and on an examination of the organisational correlates of these types of contacts. Historical material has also been studied, and a report written for internal use. The problem of explaining changes in prosecution policy is to be examined in the light of relevant findings of the Home Office Working Party on Vagrancy and Street Offences, and discussions with senior police officers currently concerned with this area of crime.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND ADMINISTRATION

SECURITY OF PROPERTY IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Professor M Banton
Dr G L Millerson
R J Workman
Miss J E M Hopkins

Dates
1971-1976

The main object of this research is to investigate the nature and extent of the problem of security of property in industry and commerce.

The research includes investigations of: attitudes towards, and extent of, losses; factors leading to prosecution; attitudes to security (including those of the public); and security methods and related problems. (The research will not cover industrial espionage).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

THE CAMBRIDGE STUDY IN DELINQUENT DEVELOPMENT

Dr D J West
Dr D P Farrington
Mrs G Gundry

Dates
1961-1976

This project, originally known as the Family Development Study, aims to elucidate some of the factors responsible for juvenile delinquency and maladjustment. The original plan was for a long-term study of the progress of 411 school boys from the age of 8 until the age of 15, with reference to the development of delinquent behaviour and other forms of social disturbance. These boys were all originally attending primary schools in the area of one local education authority. A first report, "Present Conduct and Future Delinquency", which followed the sample up to the age of 11, was published in 1969; and a second report "Who becomes Delinquent?" which followed the sample up to the age of 16 was published in 1973.

The extended project, which maintains the original aim of the study, is to follow the sample until the age of 21. This will involve collecting information concerning work history, current living circumstances, leisure pursuits and social contacts, and physical and mental health, in addition to that about delinquency. Information has also been obtained on aggressive behaviour among the boys in the sample.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE

Professor J C Wood CBE
F G W Lidstone

Dates
1975-1976

A grant has been awarded for research to start later this year on four inter-related studies. These are:

- a. an analysis of complaints and a study of cases leading to disciplinary proceedings;
- b. a survey of substantiated complaints not leading to proceedings;
- c. a survey of unsubstantiated complaints; and
- d. a survey of officers against whom complaints have been made.

A fifth study, involving library research only, will compare other police forces and professional bodies.

The main aim of the research will be to seek an answer as to why complaints arise. Unstructured interviews with the complainant and the police officer will be recorded and transcribed into a case history of the complaint. A questionnaire, designed to test the attitude of the complainant to the police, and the police to the public, will be put to either party involved in the complaint.

B. CRIMINAL PROCESS AND PENAL POLICY

THE UNIVERSITIES OF CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH CRIMINAL LAW

Sir Leon Radzinowicz
Dr R G Hood
V Bailey

Dates
1974-1977

A grant for three years' research into the history of the English criminal law and its administration. Though grounded upon and integrated into the already published works by Sir Leon Radzinowicz between 1948 and 1968, this piece of research will culminate in the production of a comprehensive and self-contained survey covering the period from approximately 1860 to the present day.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON: KING'S COLLEGE

CONCEPT OF CRIME

Miss J Shapland

Dates
1975-1978

The Home Office have made a grant to the College for a research fellowship for the study of the concept of crime.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

DETERRENCE

Professor N D Walker

Dates
1975-1977

The programme for this research has not been finalised, but it is expected that the first part will consist of a review of literature and the preparation of an annotated bibliography.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

ACQUITTALS IN CONTESTED TRIALS

Professor G J Borrie
Dr J Baldwin
M McConville
Miss K Bristow
Miss M A Keith

Dates
1974-1976

This study aims to examine the reasons for the apparently high rates of acquittals in jury trials. At the same time the research seeks to identify at what point in the criminal justice process a decision could have been taken to terminate cases prior to the trial, and to determine whether there might have been a conviction had certain proposals of the Criminal Law Revision Committee been put into effect.

A study is being made of a sample of cases which are being followed from the committal stage in the magistrates' court to the conclusion of the Crown Court proceedings. Questionnaire and interviewing techniques are being used for data collection.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Professor R A Parker
M A Murch
Mrs S Kriefman

Dates
1975-1976

A preliminary analysis of the returns from magistrates' courts concerning legal aid is being undertaken with a view to mounting further research to:

- a. determine whether the 'Widgery criteria' are being observed;
- b. examine the extent of defendants' awareness of their right to legal aid;
- c. examine the reasons for discrepancies in the use of legal aid in different courts; and
- d. see whether legal aid affects the outcome of cases in magistrates' courts.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

SENTENCING POLICY OF THE COURT OF APPEAL
(CRIMINAL DIVISION)

D A Thomas

Dates
1963-1976

This is a study of the principles underlying the decisions of the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal. A report, "Principles of Sentencing", was published in 1970. An index of current decisions of the Court is being maintained and a supplement to the main report is being prepared for publication.

C. TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

THE LITERACY AND NUMERACY OF PRISONERS

Professor G C Drew
Miss G Keir

Dates
1975-1977

Some preliminary work was carried out in 1972-73 to determine the need for new tests of literacy and numeracy to educational attainments in the custodial population of youths aged between the ages of 17 and 25 years, and examine the feasibility of a programme of research into devising new attainment tests for use in establishments for young adults. A report was submitted to the Home Office in 1973; since then more exploratory work has been undertaken and the project will detail the work necessary for the development of these tests.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - INDUSTRIAL TRAINING RESEARCH UNIT

INDUSTRIAL REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

Dr E Belbin

Dates
1975-1978

The project involves both research and development features, and aims to offer courses intended not so much to train prisoners for employment on release (though work skills are included in the programme), but rather to influence their personal behaviour and their attitudes to themselves and to work. The courses are to be offered to offenders nearing the end of their sentences in two or three prisons and will involve co-operation with the prison establishments concerned. A day training centre and a probation home will also be involved.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

EVALUATION OF LONG LARTIN PRISON

Professor Howard Jones
C Archer
P Cornes
R J Murphy
Mrs S Seale

Dates
1973-1976

The aim is to investigate the functioning of a new prison designed for the custody of long-term prisoners. Certain innovations at Long Lartin have been based on recommendations for a greater degree of freedom within the prison, made possible by maximum security measures confined to the prison perimeter.

The research will include a study of life in prison on a comparative basis with an existing traditional prison, and a study of the effects of the regime on individuals.

PART IV

REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE HOME OFFICE SERIES

REPORTS PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
IN THE HOME OFFICE STUDIES IN THE CAUSES OF DELINQUENCY
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by Steven Folkard, Kate Lyon, Margaret M Carver
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8. Trends and Regional Comparisons in Probation
by Hugh Barr and Erica O'Leary (1966)
9. A Survey of Group Work in the Probation Service
by Hugh Barr (1966)
10. A Validation Study of Hewitt and Jenkins' Hypothesis
by Elizabeth Field (1967)
11. Studies of Female Offenders
by Nancy Goodman and Jean Price (1967)
12. The Use of the Jesness Inventory on a Sample of
British Probationers
by Martin Davies (1967)
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 - i. After-care units in London, Liverpool and Manchester
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in a Borstal Sample
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by Margaret Shaw (1974)
23. Delinquency Amongst Opiate Users
by Joy Mott and Marilyn Taylor (1974)
24. IMPACT Intensive Matched Probation and After-Care
Treatment. Volume 1. The design of the probation experiment
and an interim evaluation.
by M S Folkard, A J Fowles, B C McWilliams, W McWilliams,
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