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OF

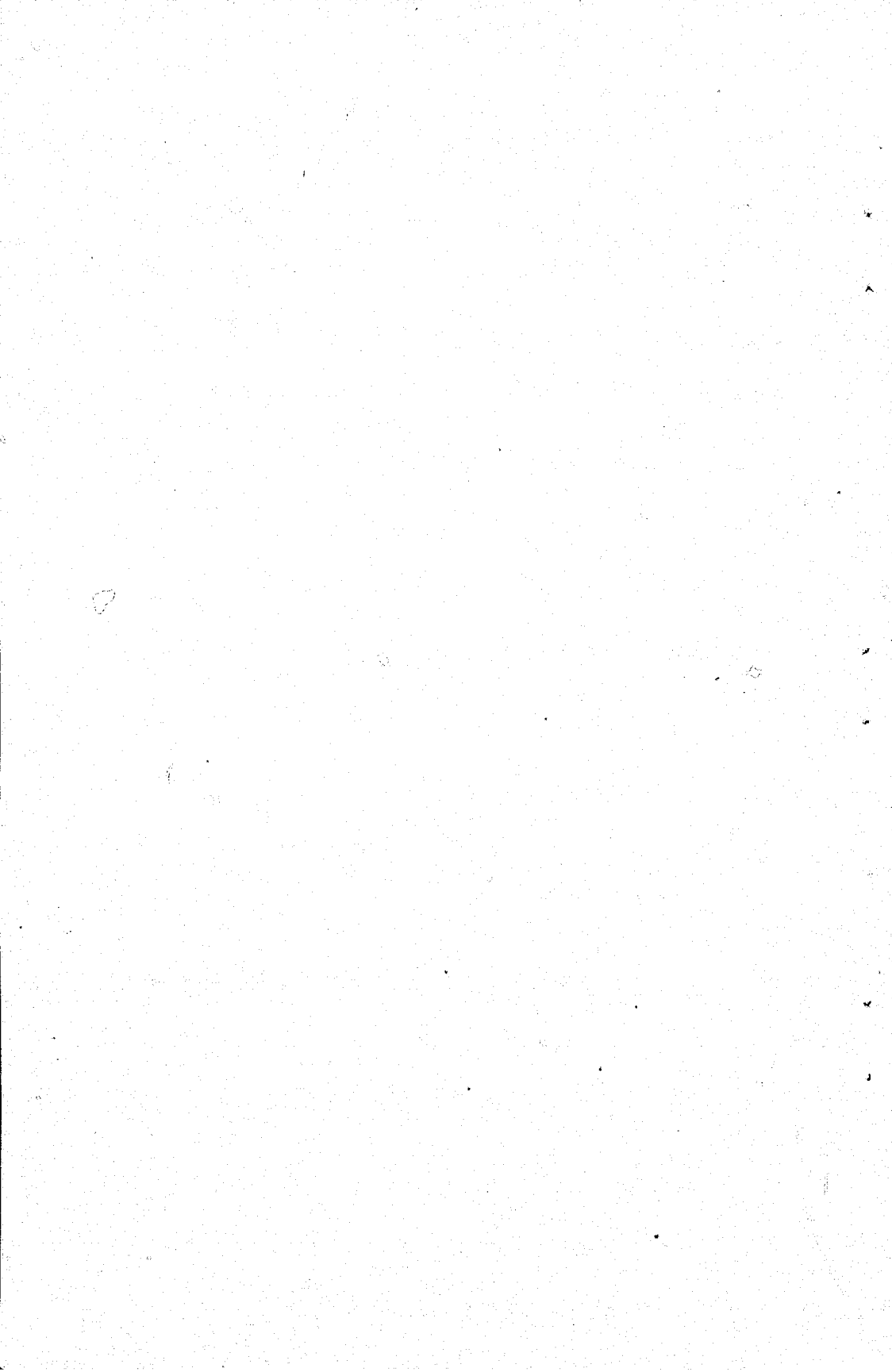
**THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

OF THE

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

1977

50174



**NCJRS**

**SEP 7 1978**

**ACQUISITIONS**

**REPORT**

**OF**

**THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**OF THE**

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

**FOR THE**

**YEAR 1977**

**Chief Constable's Office  
Lloyd House  
Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6NQ**



# WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

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## MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

**Chairman:** Councillor J A Gopsill (*Birmingham, Kings Norton*)

**Vice Chairman:** Councillor Mrs F M Milne (*Aldridge/Brownhills No.3*)

### Local Authority Representatives

#### Ward

Councillor D R H Birbeck (*Sutton Coldfield No.3*)  
Councillor J A W Bird (*Wolverhampton No.4*)  
Councillor J A Clark JP (*West Bromwich No.1*)

Councillor R J Griffiths (*Dudley No.4*)  
Councillor F T D Hall (*Birmingham, Sandwell*)  
Councillor W T Harris (*Dudley No.6*)  
Councillor D G Lewis (*Birmingham, Selly Oak*)  
Councillor P J Lynne (*Birmingham, Stechford*)  
Councillor P D Osborn B.Sc (Min Eng) (*Stourbridge No.2*)  
Councillor Mrs J A D Seccombe (*Birmingham, Acocks Green*)  
Councillor E T Shore (*Birmingham, Saltley*)  
Councillor Mrs M E Stoneman (*Coventry No.2*)  
Councillor A L Turner (*Birmingham, Longbridge*)  
Councillor J D Winn (*Walsall No.2*)

### Magistrate Members

F W Baker Esq JP  
K H Barker Esq JP DL  
Professor  
W E Cavenagh JP OBE  
A B Harper Esq JP  
Mrs P E Marshall JP  
J Martin Esq JP  
C F Redgrave Esq JP  
C I Teeling Esq JP

## Police Headquarters

Lloyd House  
Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6NQ

Telephone No. 021 236 5000  
Telex 337321

### Chief Constable

Mr P D Knights CBE QPM

### Deputy Chief Constable

Mr M Buck

### Assistant Chief Constables

*Operations*

Mr W Donaldson QPM

*Staff Services*

Mr J Radley

*Organisation and Development*

Mr R F Broome

*Crime*

Mr H Robinson QPM

*Administrative Support Services  
and Supplies*

Mr F L Jordan

### Criminal Investigation Department

Chief Superintendent T Meffen (*Operations*)

Chief Superintendent T Light (*Support Services*)

### Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Superintendent P C J Price MA (Oxon)

### Personnel Department

Chief Superintendent R L Richards

### Traffic Department

Chief Superintendent D M Knight LLB

### Complaints Department

Chief Superintendent C Lenehan

### Management Services

Chief Superintendent P N Mincher

### Training Department

Chief Superintendent A M McDowall

### Operations Co-Ordinator

Chief Superintendent G Cockayne QPM

### Communications

Chief Superintendent LP Coates

### **'A' Division**

Steelhouse Lane Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 236 5000  
*Chief Superintendent J A G Smith*

### **'B' Division**

Bournville Lane Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 476 3141  
*Woman Chief Superintendent P E Wren MBE*

### **'C' Division**

Walsall Road Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 356 0431  
*Chief Superintendent C J Matthews*

### **'D' Division**

Queens Road Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 327 6551  
*Chief Superintendent J Bagnall*

### **'E' Division**

Acocks Green Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 706 8111  
*Chief Superintendent G J Mcb*

### **'F' Division**

Kings Heath Birmingham ..... Telephone No. 021 444 3344  
*Chief Superintendent N T Jones*

### **'G' Division**

Dunstable Road Wolverhampton ..... Telephone No. Wolverhampton 27851  
*Chief Superintendent H G K Longhurst QPM*

### **'H' Division**

Green Lane Walsall ..... Telephone No. Walsall 38111  
*Chief Superintendent R G Morris*

### **'J' Division**

New Street Dudley ..... Telephone No. Dudley 56900  
*Chief Superintendent J J Tonkinson*

### **'K' Division**

New Street West Bromwich ..... Telephone No. 021 553 2971  
*Chief Superintendent K J Evans*

### **'L' Division**

Homer Street Solihull ..... Telephone No. 021 705 7611  
*Chief Superintendent J P Bensley*

### **'M' Division**

Little Park Street Coventry ..... Telephone No. Coventry 22211  
*Chief Superintendent J B Glynn*

# ANNUAL REPORT 1977

Chief Constable's Office  
Administration Department

## POPULATION AND ACREAGE STATISTICS

Force Area in acres .....	222,250
Population .....	2,747,900
Acreage per Officer .....	34.1
Population per Officer .....	422.1
Rateable Value .....	£393,299,137

## Authorised Establishment of the Force

Regular Force .....	6,509
Cadets .....	280
Civilians .....	1,925
Traffic Wardens .....	688



**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

Police Headquarters  
Lloyd House  
Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham B4 6NQ

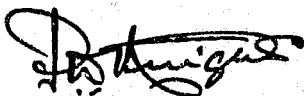
**To: The Chairman and Members of the  
West Midlands Police Authority**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I have the honour to present my report on the policing of West Midlands during the year 1977.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Obedient Servant



Chief Constable

## Contents

CHAPTER I	Page
INTRODUCTION .. .. .	11
RETIREMENT OF SENIOR OFFICERS .. .. .	11
ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT .. .. .	12
MANPOWER .. .. .	14
PUBLIC ORDER .. .. .	16
CRIME .. .. .	17
TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY	19
POLICE BUILDINGS .. .. .	19
TRAINING .. .. .	20
RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY .. .. .	21
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .. .. .	22

### CHAPTER II

#### Administration and Organisation

ORGANISATION OF THE FORCE .. .. .	24
ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH OF REGULAR FORCE .. .. .	24
SUPERNUMERARY AND SECONDED STAFF .. .. .	25
SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCE .. .. .	26
DISTRIBUTION	
<i>Regular Officers</i> .. .. .	27
<i>Civilian Staff and Manual Workers</i> .. .. .	28
RECRUITING .. .. .	29
<i>Advertising</i> .. .. .	30
<i>Graduate Entry</i> .. .. .	30
WASTAGE DURING THE YEAR	30
POLICE CADETS — ESTABLISHMENT .. .. .	31
CIVILIAN RECRUITING .. .. .	31
PROMOTIONS .. .. .	31
PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS	32
STAFF APPRAISAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT	32
HONOURS, COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS .. .. .	32
POLICE LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL	33
DEGREE AWARDS .. .. .	33
LETTERS OF APPRECIATION	34
DISCIPLINE .. .. .	34
COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS .. .. .	34
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS .. .. .	34
POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD	35
<i>Other Alleged Offences by Police Officers</i> .. .. .	35
COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE DEPARTMENT	35

Administration and Organisation (continued)	Page
MOUNTED BRANCH .. .. .	36
DOG BRANCH .. .. .	37
MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT .. .. .	37
FINANCE DEPARTMENT .. .. .	38
PUBLIC LIAISON DEPARTMENT	38
SPECIAL PATROL GROUP .. .. .	39
HOME DEFENCE DEPARTMENT	40
UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT	41
POLICE STORES .. .. .	42
SPECIAL CONSTABULARY .. .. .	42
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	43
ANNUAL INSPECTION .. .. .	43

### CHAPTER III

#### Training

TRAINING .. .. .	44
STAFF .. .. .	44
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING .. .. .	45
LAW RESEARCH .. .. .	45
PROBATIONER TRAINING .. .. .	45
<i>Induction</i> .. .. .	45
<i>Local</i> .. .. .	45
<i>Junior</i> .. .. .	46
<i>Intermediate</i> .. .. .	46
<i>Senior</i> .. .. .	46
<i>Basic Crime</i> .. .. .	46
REFRESHER COURSES .. .. .	46
SPECIALISED COURSES .. .. .	47
<i>Senior Officers</i> .. .. .	47
<i>Traffic Management</i> .. .. .	47
<i>University</i> .. .. .	47
<i>National Education Board</i> .. .. .	47
<i>Pre-Police College</i> .. .. .	47
<i>Sergeants Post Promotion</i> .. .. .	48
<i>Promotion Examination Classes</i>	48
<i>Home Defence</i> .. .. .	48
<i>Public Order Training</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Women Police Officers</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Tutor Constables</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Resident Beat Officers</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Station Officers</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Public Speaking</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Firearms</i> .. .. .	49
<i>Television</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Interview Technique</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Operational Use</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Pre-Retirement</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Joint Seminars</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Court Simulation Exercise</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Undergraduates</i> .. .. .	50
<i>Special Constables</i> .. .. .	51
<i>Waste Disposal Officers</i> .. .. .	51
<i>Water Bailiffs</i> .. .. .	51
<i>Forensic Science Symposia</i> .. .. .	51
<i>Outside Lectures</i> .. .. .	51
OVERSEA VISITORS .. .. .	51
VISITS .. .. .	51

Training (continued)	Page
COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING	52
DRIVING SCHOOL .. .. .	52
CID TRAINING .. .. .	53
POLICE COLLEGE COURSES	53
CID COURSES .. .. .	53
CRIME PREVENTION COURSES	54
MANAGEMENT COURSES ..	54
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COURSES .. .. .	54
GAMING ACT COURSES .. ..	54
COMMUNICATIONS COURSES	54
SENIOR OFFICERS	
APPRECIATION .. .. .	55
AIRCRAFT CRASH DRILL ..	55
BRAKES .. .. .	55
ACCIDENT PREVENTION ..	55
T V PRODUCTION .. .. .	55
SENIOR OFFICERS .. .. .	55
FIRST AID .. .. .	55
LIFE SAVING .. .. .	55
POLICE CADETS .. .. .	56
Establishment .. .. .	56
Induction Courses .. ..	56
Cadet Training .. .. .	57
Academic Training .. ..	57
General Training .. .. .	57
Physical Training .. .. .	58
Adventure Training .. ..	58
First Aid .. .. .	58
Voluntary Activities .. ..	59
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme .. .. .	59
Sport .. .. .	59

#### CHAPTER IV

##### Crime

STRENGTH AND DISPOSITION	61
RECORDED CRIME .. .. .	62
CRIME STATISTICS .. .. .	63
CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES .. .. .	67
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON .. .. .	67
Homicide .. .. .	67
Woundings .. .. .	67
Sexual .. .. .	67
Robbery .. .. .	67
OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY .. .. .	67
Burglary .. .. .	67
Theft of and from Motor Vehicles .. .. .	67
CRIMINAL DAMAGE .. .. .	67
VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN .. .. .	69
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT .. .. .	70
Operations .. .. .	70
Support Services .. .. .	70
ANTECEDENT HISTORY DEPARTMENT .. .. .	70
HEADQUARTERS ADMINISTRATION .. .. .	71

Crime (continued)	Page
COMMERCIAL BRANCH .. .. .	71
CRIME PREVENTION DEPARTMENT .. .. .	71
CRIME INTELLIGENCE .. .. .	
DEPARTMENT .. .. .	72
DRUG SQUAD .. .. .	72
PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT .. .. .	73
SCENES OF CRIME DEPARTMENT .. .. .	74
SCIENTIFIC AIDS .. .. .	74
SERIOUS CRIME SQUAD .. ..	75
STOLEN VEHICLE SQUAD .. ..	75
SOCIAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT .. .. .	76
CENTRAL CONVICTIONS DEPARTMENT .. .. .	76
ROBBERY SQUAD .. .. .	77
REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD .. ..	77
MIDLAND CRIMINAL RECORD OFFICE .. .. .	77

#### CHAPTER V

##### Proceedings

PROCEEDINGS AND RELATED MATTERS .. .. .	78
INDICTABLE OFFENCES .. ..	78
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES ..	78
MOTORING OFFENCES .. .. .	80
DRUNKENNESS AND KINDRED OFFENCES .. .. .	81
ASSAULT ON POLICE OFFICERS .. .. .	81
JUVENILE OFFENDERS .. .. .	82
OFFICE OF CHIEF PROSECUTING SOLICITOR ..	85
PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT ..	86
Service of Summons .. .. .	86
Execution of Warrants .. ..	86
CORONERS DEPARTMENTS ..	86

#### CHAPTER VI

##### Traffic

ROAD TRAFFIC .. .. .	87
MILEAGE AND ROADS .. .. .	87
TRAFFIC DIVISION .. .. .	87
Personnel .. .. .	87
Traffic Patrols .. .. .	88
Motorway Policing .. .. .	88
Vascar .. .. .	89
Other Speed Meters .. .. .	89
Removal of Vehicles .. .. .	89
Department of Environment Vehicle Checks .. .. .	90
Police Vehicle Examiners ..	90
Abnormal Loads .. .. .	90
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT .. ..	90
ACCIDENT RECORDS .. .. .	91
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT .. .. .	91
SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS ..	91
ROAD SAFETY .. .. .	92

Traffic (continued)	Page
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT	92
ACCIDENTS INVOLVING.. ..	93
POLICE VEHICLES .. ..	94
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO	
POLICE VEHICLES .. ..	94
TRAFFIC WARDENS .. ..	94
ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS	94

## CHAPTER VII

### Communications

COMMUNICATIONS	
DEPARTMENT .. .. .	99
Telephones .. .. .	99
Telex .. .. .	99
Radio .. .. .	100
Command and Control	
System .. .. .	100
Police National Computer ..	106
Casualty Bureau .. .. .	100
Emergency Service .. .. .	101

## CHAPTER VIII

### Welfare

POLICE BUILDINGS .. .. .	102
New Police Buildings .. ..	102
Future Building Programme	102
Dis-Used Police Buildings ..	103
Housing .. .. .	103
Alterations and Improvements	103
Energy Saving .. .. .	103
FORCE WELFARE OFFICER	104
SICKNESS .. .. .	104
OBITUARIES .. .. .	105
POLICE FEDERATION .. ..	105
FUNDS .. .. .	105
CONVALESCENT HOME .. ..	106
POLICE PENSIONS .. .. .	106
HEALTH AND SAFETY	
AT WORK .. .. .	106
SPORTS AND RECREATION	107
The 'Holbrook' Trophy .. ..	107
Association Football .. ..	107
Cricket .. .. .	108
Rugby Football .. .. .	108

Welfare (continued)	Page
---------------------	------

Athletics and Cross	
Country Section .. .. .	109
Hockey .. .. .	109
Shooting .. .. .	110
Golf .. .. .	111
Table Tennis .. .. .	111
Motor Club .. .. .	111
Judo .. .. .	112
Flying .. .. .	112
Angling .. .. .	112
Chess .. .. .	113
Choral Singing .. .. .	113
Choral Society .. .. .	114
Dance Orchestra .. .. .	114
'M' Division Brass Band .. ..	114
Pipe Band .. .. .	114
SOCIAL EVENTS .. .. .	114

## CHAPTER IX

### Licensing

LICENSED PREMISES .. .. .	115
LICENCES GRANTED .. .. .	115
REGISTERED CLUBS .. .. .	116
THEATRES AND CINEMAS .. ..	116
VISITS TO LICENSED PREMISES	116
BETTING AND GAMING .. .. .	116

## CHAPTER X

### Miscellaneous

IMMIGRATION AND	
NATIONALITY DEPARTMENT	117
PEDLARS CERTIFICATE .. ..	117
LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY	117
EXPLOSIVES AND FIREARMS	
DEPARTMENT .. .. .	118
MISSING PERSONS .. .. .	119
VICE .. .. .	119
HOUSE TO HOUSE AND	
STREET COLLECTIONS .. ..	119
STRAY DOGS .. .. .	119
ATTENDANCE CENTRES .. ..	119
PRESS RELATIONS .. .. .	120
ROYAL VISITS .. .. .	121
DUKE OF EDINBURGH	
AWARD SCHEME .. .. .	121

## Chapter I

# Introduction

1977 was a very busy and challenging year for the West Midlands Police. Whilst the demands being made on the force were constantly increasing, at the same time its manpower was noticeably decreasing. This report details those demands and the ways in which the force responded to them.

### Retirement of Senior Officers

The year saw the retirement of a number of the Force's Chief Superintendents.

Mr J S Brown, Q P M, after completing 36 years' service, retired on 2 June from his post as Chief Superintendent of the 'K' Division. Mr Brown began his career in the Staffordshire County Police in 1941 and after three years' military service returned to that Force in 1945 to serve in the Uniform Branch and later in the Administration Department. In 1966 he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent in the post of Deputy to the divisional Commander and took up the post in which he retired, in 1968. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1977.

On 12 June Mr P G Brown, M M, Q P M, retired from his position as officer in charge of the 'M' Division, after completing 31 years' service. He joined the Warwickshire Constabulary in 1946 serving mainly in the Criminal Investigation Department, and attained the rank of Detective Superintendent in 1965, after which he was in charge of a Sub-Division at Rugby. He became the officer in charge of the Coventry Division in 1972 where he remained until his retirement. For 12 months during this period he was acting Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) in the then Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary. He was awarded the Q P M in 1973. Mr A Brannigan also retired on 12 June, having completed 38 years' service mainly in uniform duties in the Birmingham City and West Midlands Forces. He became a Sub-Divisional Superintendent in 1959 and a Divisional Chief Superintendent in 1964. He was appointed Operations Co-ordinator at Force Headquarters in 1974.

The month of June also brought the retirements of Chief Superintendents F Bunting and C V Smith, the Divisional Commanders of 'L' and 'B' Divisions respectively. Mr Bunting served firstly in the Warwickshire Constabulary, which he joined in 1946, his early service being predominantly in the C I D, and after periods as Divisional Deputy he became Chief Superintendent in 1974. Mr Smith's career also began in 1946 but in the then Birmingham City Police and was almost

exclusively in the Uniform Branch. He became a Sub-Divisional Superintendent in 1970, Divisional Deputy in 1973 and assumed command of the 'B' Division of the newly formed West Midlands Police in April 1974.

Chief Superintendent J H Martin retired from his post as head of the Personnel Department on 5 October. Mr Martin joined the Walsall Borough Police in 1949 and had a varied career during which he served in the Administration Department, and in an administrative capacity in both C I D and Traffic, and ultimately in Personnel.

Temporary Chief Superintendent R A Holdaway retired on 26 September 1977 after 30 years' service. During his career Mr Holdaway was on a number of occasions seconded to District Training Centres, retiring in the post of Commandant at Eynsham Hall.

We take this opportunity of wishing all of them and their wives a long and happy retirement.

Additionally, although not on retirement, the year also saw the departure of Chief Superintendent C B J Sutton LLB who was appointed Assistant Chief Constable in the Leicestershire Constabulary.

## **Administration and Development**

The new systems, originated in 1976 and 1977, designed to ensure that all ranks could be involved in planning and implementing new procedures, were strengthened during the year by the reintroduction of Divisional Conferences on a regular basis. Quite apart from enabling the Divisional Chief Superintendent and his Sub-Divisional Superintendents to discuss with their officers the problems facing the Division, these conferences are also an excellent opportunity for senior officers from Headquarters to exchange views with operational officers on a wide range of subjects. Either the Chief Constable or one of the Assistant Chief Constables invariably attends these conferences. In my last report I commented on the need for a news-sheet to help in properly communicating ideas and policies to the force and encouraging officers to use the improved facilities being provided. Happily the Police Authority has provided the necessary finance in its budget for 1978/79 and it is hoped that regular issues of a Force Newspaper will start during the Summer of 1978. Regular meetings of the Chief Constable's Management Team have continued and have dealt with such diverse matters as the reorganisation of the Special Constabulary following the issue of the Report of the Working Party of the Police Advisory Board, reorganisation of the Uniformed Divisions and Sub-Divisions, the provision of facilities to hire and use helicopters, reorganisations of the C I D Administration Department and

the Dog Section, joint training with members of Social Service Departments, the rejuvenation of the Force Crime Prevention Panels and Public Order Training, to list but a few.

A new venture this year was the acceptance of an offer of help from the Work Research Unit of the Department of the Environment to study problems of communication between people in such a large organisation as the force and by the end of the year a project was well under way to analyse the job of the Uniformed Constable and to identify ways in which his 'Job Satisfaction' might be improved.

Many of our investigations require the assistance of trained O and M and Work Study officers. We are very grateful for the help given to us by the staffs of the County Secretary and the County Personnel Officer in this regard. They provided all the O & M input to a major study into the administration of the C I D, conducted by a firm of Consultants, which led to decentralisation of many of the clerical procedures, and the Works Study Staff have assisted us in connection with incentive bonus schemes for our mechanics and are currently engaged in a major examination of the cleaning requirements of our 100 or so buildings, which it is anticipated will result in a saving of approximately £180,000 per annum.

In the report for 1976 I referred to the setting up of a new Central Registry at Headquarters. Work has continued on this throughout the year and some progress made towards linking it with the files held on Divisions. It is hoped that 1978 will see the completion of this project which is vital to the proper administrative control of the force. A major examination of our canteen facilities was also conducted during the year, culminating in the acceptance by the Police Authority of a plan to develop a programme to ensure that, so far as possible, properly cooked and attractive meals may be available for all officers on duty, when they require them, and in singlemen's quarters. This plan provides for the appointment of an experienced Force Catering Officer to oversee the arrangements and to advise the Police Authority and the senior Officers of the force in this very important field. During the year also considerable progress was made in setting up a Technical Support Unit, designed not only to serve the West Midlands Force but also the Staffordshire and West Mercia Forces. The technical equipment now available to assist in Police operations is so diverse and expensive, that it is only good economic sense to bring it under proper control and to make it available to a wider area than ours in order to ensure that it is utilised to the full rather than being under-used because the opportunities to use it are limited by narrowly drawn boundaries.

All these new schemes have meant considerable activity for the Management

Services Department. Additionally, the Departmental Staff have been heavily involved in planning and preparing for the restructuring of the Birmingham Divisions, due to take place, together with the introduction of new systems of policing, in 1978. They have also been concerned in the development of the new Command and Control Computer scheduled to be commissioned later in the year. In this connection the Chief Inspector from the department visited Sweden, Germany and Holland by way of a bursary from the Police Bursaries Trust to study Management Information Systems. It is imperative that we should ensure that the information captured in our new Computer Complex should be imaginatively analysed and displayed to enable senior operational officers better to deploy their forces to meet the problems of crime, traffic accidents, public order and vandalism. Another major task they tackled was a complete reorganisation of our system of recording and storing 'found property', designed to ensure that property handed in was not only properly stored but kept for the minimum period possible.

## Manpower

Probably our biggest disappointment in 1977 was the way in which our manpower, after two years in which we had gained a total of 478 officers, fell away so rapidly that despite recruiting 465 men and women we experienced a net loss of 22 officers over the year. It is difficult to understand, at a time when the level of unemployment was at its highest for years, why the Police Service should be so unattractive as a career. A major factor was undoubtedly the levels of pay, which as a result of Government financial policies had fallen markedly in comparison with what could be earned in other forms of employment far less demanding than that of a Police Officer. This was not the sole answer; for various other reasons Police morale during the year generally was seriously depressed. The fact that because of the events of 1976 there was no effective Police Council did not help, and eventually Lord Justice Edmund Davies was appointed to chair a Committee of Enquiry, whose terms of reference not only embrace levels of pay but also the machinery for negotiating other matters and the whole constitution and rights of the police representative associations.

Whilst we all hope that his report, when it comes, will restore if not improve on the former relativities of Police pay, there will also be a major effort required of everyone to repair the damage done to general morale.

In my report for 1976 I drew attention to the increasing numbers of women being recruited. This trend continued very strongly in 1977, in fact without it our strength position at the end of the year would have been even worse in that whilst our net loss was 22 the net loss of men was 59, offset by a net increase of 37 women. The 'smoke screen' clouding our true manpower position



which the recruitment of women is creating cannot be ignored much longer.

Just as dangerous, however, is the effect the wastage of experienced men is having on our uniform patrol strength. More and more it is becoming composed of probationary constables, many of whom are not yet 20 years of age and an increasing proportion of whom consists of women. In a Metropolitan County such as West Midlands an adequate number of men is vital, and any deficiency in this area cannot be balanced entirely by a corresponding number of women. Last year also I hinted at the problems which were being produced in the Public Order field by this increasing number of women in the force. As a result of the disorders during the Ladywood Bye Election, referred to elsewhere, and where policewomen came under physical attack to no lesser extent than male officers, it was decided that in future they would not be exposed to such dangers. This makes it all the more important, of course, that we build up our male strength as quickly as possible. It is a sign of the times that no less than 51 of the officers assaulted in 1977 were women.

It was not only in the area of the regular force, however, that we found ourselves in difficulties. When the Home Office restrictions on civilian staff recruitment, designed to accommodate the Government's financial policies, were published in 1975 we sought to maintain our civilian strength to service the then growing number of police officers, and to achieve the desired economies by cutting back on cadets. With the slowing down of recruiting to the regular force in 1976, we were able to maintain a viable cadet corps and this continued into 1977, but civilian recruiting had by then become as difficult as that to the regular force. Every month we saw a reduction in the number of staff in post and over the year we suffered a net loss of 76, finishing with a total deficiency, compared to our authorised establishment, of 32.4%.

I am grateful to the County Personnel Officer and his staff for the help they gave us in trying to reverse this trend, as deficiencies in civilian support staffs inevitably mean police officers being diverted from operational police work into offices, thus thinning out even more our protective patrol force. Again it is difficult to say why this trend should have developed, but I believe it is connected with the general lowering of morale in the service as a whole, which developed during the year.

It is vital of course that our manpower, whether regular force or civilian staff, is used to full advantage and to this end an Establishment Review Team, headed by a Chief Inspector, was established during the year as part of the Management Services Department. Jointly with staff from the County Personnel Department their role is to continually audit the way in which our personnel is being employed and to examine and advise on all applications for increases in

establishment and regrading of posts.

## Public Order

During the year there was a number of occasions when the force was faced with the likelihood of major Public Disorder, and on the occasion of the Stechford Bye Election, when the National Front held a demonstration, it was necessary to stop the leave of all officers in the force. It would be quite wrong to assume this was an isolated incident, for in all a total of seven demonstrations, generally marches, had to be policed to prevent possible political confrontation. Three of the marches were organised by the National Front, the remainder by those parties which are opposed to their policies. Such occasions necessitated the use of all available manpower and this resulted in much overtime being incurred, thus making the policing operations extremely costly.

In addition to marches and demonstrations, the National Front held a number of meetings, one of which in particular, held on the occasion of the Ladywood Bye Election, led to serious public disturbances. Many arrests of anti-National Front demonstrators were made and a considerable amount of damage to property was committed, many police officers receiving injuries during the skirmishes. Although the meetings and demonstrations were well policed the unprecedented attitudes of the crowds created quite unexpected confrontations and for the first time in this police area protective shields had to be issued to police officers. Society would do well to reflect on what this means to them because it is not just police officers who are being attacked—it is our whole concept of political democracy. The lowering of police morale referred to earlier and which has partly led to our manpower problems, is itself one of the results of these constant attacks on the police, both physically and by way of complaints generally, and in particular about the way they conduct themselves on these occasions. Quite rightly police officers expect that, if they are to be called upon to face up to physical violence when merely trying to discharge their accepted responsibilities for keeping the peace, they should be supported in what they do and protected as adequately as may be possible against physical attack without turning them into 'Riot Squads'. In furtherance of this, considerable resources were diverted into evaluating and purchasing equipment such as shields and reinforced helmets. Additionally, in order to improve our control facilities and mobility the Police Authority authorised the purchase of additional personnel carriers, a coach, an incident control vehicle and a mobile canteen.

Unfortunately, the immediate future does not appear to show any signs of respite from these difficulties, but very valuable experience has been gained by my officers who are now well trained and equipped to deal with these problems as they arise. Let us all hope that the violence in our society will soon show

signs of decreasing and that once again police officers will be allowed to concentrate on their basic responsibilities of safeguarding the public from the criminal rather than the hooligan and the vandal.

Students, trade unions and other protestors held a total of six marches and although these did not present direct public order problems they still required the use of police manpower already hard pressed because of our undermining. Also during the year we saw the first national strike called by the National Union of Firemen. It was orderly throughout and the members of the Fire Service are to be complimented on this, but again it did necessitate the attention of many police officers who otherwise would have been used in their normal role of protecting the public and its property.

In addition to these types of problems, a total of 232 football matches had to receive special policing attention and with five First Division teams within the County (more than in any other police area) this obviously presented us with further manpower difficulties. Fortunately the disorder aspect was well contained, but even so the police sustained many unnecessary casualties whilst controlling the inevitable clashes which today appear to be an accepted happening when rival fans meet.

The National Exhibition Centre continues to produce new responsibilities for the Force and in 1977 it brought world sport to the West Midlands for the first time since 1966, when some of the world football cup games had been played in Birmingham. On this occasion, it was the staging of the world table-tennis championships. Whilst causing no difficulties from the public order point of view, it did entail a major security operation bearing in mind the varied national parties who were present.

The outstanding event of the year, however, was undoubtedly Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee Visit to the County. Starting at Wolverhampton the Royal Party visited all seven Metropolitan Districts and the visit concluded with a Banquet at the National Exhibition Centre. No-one who was present is likely to forget the loyal welcome which the citizens of West Midlands gave to Her Majesty and Prince Philip. Although a major police operation (some 1,900 police officers were employed patrolling the royal route and controlling the enthusiastic crowds) the whole day passed off very happily.

## **Crime**

In 1977 the number of crimes recorded rose to an unprecedented 154,141, an increase of 29,000 or 23.2% over the figure for 1976. Whilst any increase in crime is disturbing, I am particularly concerned about an increase of this

magnitude in a period of 12 months. Crime is, of course, an offence against society as a whole. It is an expensive burden which in the long run affects everyone.

This disturbing increase was present across the whole range of offences; without exception every crime classification showed a substantial increase, especially offences involving dishonesty. In fact, of our total increase offences involving dishonesty (thefts and breaking offences) accounted for no less than 23,000. The frightening aspect of the increase, however, was its rate of acceleration. We started in January 1977 with an increase of 3.8% compared with the same month in 1976 (the total annual increase in 1976 it will be recalled was 2.4%) but in February the increase was 13.9%. It then increased every month, except for a small drop in April and May, until in November the monthly rate of increase was 40.4%. In December the figure was 38.6%. If this rate of increase continues into 1978 it is quite obvious that, unless additional manpower can be made available, if only to do nothing more than cope with the simple physical business of recording it, we are in very real danger of being completely overwhelmed, and the day must be coming very near when some minor crimes at least will not be enquired into at all.

Unhappily I report that the downward trend in the number of burglaries of dwelling houses in 1976 was reversed in 1977 with an increase of 26%, whilst burglaries in buildings other than dwellings rose by 31%. In an attempt to stem the increase in offences of robbery a 'Robbery Squad' was formed in April 1977, initially as a temporary measure, to co-ordinate these enquiries on a Force basis, and it did achieve some degree of success. Nevertheless the number of offences of robbery rose by 30%.

Nearly one-third of all the crime recorded during the year related to thefts of and from motor vehicles. This occurred despite publicity campaigns designed to highlight this problem and to increase public awareness of the vulnerability of unattended motor vehicles. Sensible precautions could prevent many of these offences occurring.

There is some slight consolation to be had in that offences of violence did not increase to the same extent as those of dishonesty. Serious woundings increased by 16% whilst assaults and the less serious woundings increased by 12%.

Although during 1977, 51,231 crimes were detected, which is 3,107 more than in 1976, unhappily the overall increase in crime has reduced the detection rate by 5.3% to 33.2% of recorded crime. This is accounted for to some extent by the demands made upon the police in a difficult year with an overwhelming increase in their commitments. Of the detected crimes, 15,281 were committed

by juveniles, which represents 31% of the crimes detected, an increase of 2% over the preceding year.

### **Traffic and Road Safety**

Unfortunately the decrease in road accidents experienced in 1976 was not maintained in 1977. A substantial increase of 16% in the number of accidents brought the total for the year to 32,989, but fortunately the greater proportion, i.e 14%, of the increase involved damage only accidents. The number of fatalities was the same as in 1976 at 239, but the figures of people injured rose by 4.4% to 13,721.

The escalation in two-wheeled vehicle accidents experienced in 1976 continued into 1977 with an 11% increase, so that the last two years have seen in fact a 23% increase in this category. The situation gives much cause for concern, and the figures again indicate the need for a continuing effort in this particular field of road safety education. Proper preparation and training for learner motor-cyclists has never been more necessary.

Police Road Safety Officers have concentrated their efforts on the younger school-children during the year but it remains a matter of regret that the position in relation to the County Council as to the areas of responsibility in road safety has still not been resolved. I reiterate the hope expressed in my previous report that such an agreement should be achieved as quickly as possible so that scarce resources can be more usefully employed in this very important field of police work.

### **Police Buildings**

The continued restrictions on capital expenditure have had a disastrous effect on our building programme. The last completely new building, the sub-divisional police station at Wednesbury, was opened by the Home Secretary on 5 August 1977 and the only new project now proceeding is a small extension to Erdington Police Station in order that it can accommodate a new sub-divisional Headquarters. Apart from planning work which is still proceeding on the Central Garage project, new building work has now ceased, as have any major alterations to existing buildings. When one sees the conditions under which police officers are still having to work in some of our older buildings (and they include major divisional Headquarters in some cases) one can well understand how these surroundings affect morale. Fortunately the Police Authority has made finance available to ensure that, old and inadequate though they may be, at least they are reasonably furnished, decorated and maintained, although there are deficiencies even in this area, and in 1978 we intend to concentrate on this aspect of our

programme in the light of our inability to do any major works.

We intend also to pursue a programme for refurbishing Police Headquarters. When the building was occupied in 1972 no new furnishings were provided and many of its 11 floors are now badly in need of modern furniture and equipment. Whilst it can never provide all the facilities required of a modern, purpose-built Police Headquarters, and little if anything can be done about its deficiencies so far as heating and air conditioning are concerned, nevertheless it is essential that we do all we can to provide the staff with working conditions that are as pleasant and attractive as we can make them within these limitations.

## Training

The Force Training School continued to work at full pressure as later pages of this report show. A major expansion of communications training was organised to ensure that there are sufficient trained officers available when the new Control Centre and Sub-Divisional Controls are inaugurated in 1978. New courses were introduced for newly-promoted Sergeants and Inspectors and a major effort was made to tackle the specialist training needs of the Uniform Branch in the form of courses for Resident Beat Officers, Tutor Constables and Station Officers. The Uniform Branch, like any of the other specialist branches, has its own unique training needs and we have ignored them too long. In this field too new ground was broken during the year by the establishment jointly with the Director of Social Services for the City of Birmingham of seminars for police officers and social workers, where they can meet together to discuss problems of mutual interest. More and more police officers are finding themselves working with other agencies of local government and if misunderstandings, and resultant inefficiency, are to be avoided it is essential that varying philosophies, attitudes, duties and responsibilities be explored together, and mutual respect and trust built up in training situations. There is every indication that these first steps are proving useful and it is hoped that during 1978 these sessions can be extended to include the other Metropolitan Districts and other disciplines, such as the Probation Service. During the year also steps were taken to strengthen our connections with teacher training colleges in the County in order that the advantages to be gained by the inclusion of police officers in school curricula can be discussed with the student teachers.

As appears to be the case every year, considerable time and effort had to be devoted in training all members of the Force in new legislation and the practical steps required of police in implementing it. We saw, for example, the passing into law of the Bail Act, 1977, and the Criminal Law Act, 1977, both of which necessitated significant changes in police procedures. One wonders

whether any thought is given when major legal changes of this kind are being debated by politicians to the additional demands which their introduction is going to make of the already hard-pressed police officers. I do not think there can be much doubt as to what the answer is!

## Relations with the Community

One of our constant problems throughout the year was to ensure that relationships between the Police and the community, particularly in the many immigrant areas within the Force, were maintained at a proper level. This is not an easy task in the light of the many pressures, particularly political ones, which play on them. Events such as those at Ladywood, referred to earlier, can have serious consequences for everyone unless rapid steps are taken to discuss with the responsible leaders of the community the implications of and reasons for such incidents. At Ladywood in particular they found it difficult to understand why an organisation such as the National Front, with policies which to them were both frightening and offensive, should be permitted to meet within their community area, and I am grateful to everyone who helped to 'defuse' such situations during the year.

Conscious as we are of the need to ensure that young police officers are properly prepared for these new experiences, we asked Miss Nadine Peppard, Race Relations Adviser to the Home Office, to visit us and look at our training to make sure we were getting full advantage from the considerable amount of effort we put into it. She expressed herself as being very satisfied with what we were doing and our instructional methods. Nevertheless, with the Community Relations Councils, with whom we sought to forge even stronger links during the year, we are hoping to make our training sessions even more practical and useful in the future.

During the year, with assistance from the Barrow and Geraldine S Cadbury Trust, a report, "Shades of Grey", was prepared by Mr John Brown of The Cranfield Institute of Technology, after a careful examination of the relationships between the Police and the community in Handsworth. A number of very useful recommendations was made. Those relating to Police were immediately implemented, and the others are being examined in consultation with the other social agencies involved. There is no doubt that the social problems which are to be met in some urban areas today cannot be resolved by Police alone; they need a joint approach of many agencies and in many areas the Police are, rightly or wrongly, being looked upon to take the lead in this work. The fact that the Police have a part to play in all this work was recognised clearly during the year when I was asked to serve on the Officers' Steering Group of the Birmingham Inner City Partnership and to be in attendance at the meetings of the

## Partnership Committees.

There are areas of the County, other than Handsworth, of course, where the social and environmental conditions are such that levels of crime, vandalism and hooliganism are seriously affecting the lives of the residents. In two areas, particularly, special initiatives were taken by Police in an attempt to involve the community more in the joint efforts which are necessary to overcome many of these problems, with promising results.

Police officers continue to run the four Attendance Centres in the County and at the end of the year discussions were proceeding with officers of the Home Office regarding the possibilities, firstly, of extending the age range of the young people ordered to go to them and, secondly, of opening a second Centre to serve the Birmingham area owing to the demand for places at the existing ones.

Proper police relations with the community depend to a considerable extent, of course, on accurate and informed reporting of our activities by the Press. I am pleased to say that during the year our associations with the representatives of all the media were close and cordial. Quite apart from day-to-day reporting, a wide range of feature articles was produced, many of them on a regular basis, particularly in the many local papers circulating within the County. I regard these local accounts of our affairs and activities as being particularly valuable. I am grateful to all those concerned in these matters, editors, feature writers, reporters and photographers, for all the help they give us in our daily efforts to inform the public of West Midlands what we are doing on their behalf.

## Acknowledgements

Successful policing of an area as large and complex as the County of West Midlands requires a joint effort by many people. I am particularly grateful for the help and support of the members of the Police Authority who have always given a sympathetic hearing to every request we have made of them. In this connection I would like to pay a special tribute to the former Chairman, Councillor Charles Clarke, and his colleagues who formed the original Police Authority in 1973, and many of whom, including Councillor Clarke, went out of office following the May 1977 Local Government Elections. They laid a sound foundation for the West Midlands Police to be built on and I am very grateful for all the work they did in the early formative years of the Force.

My thanks are due also to the Chief Executive and the officers and staff of the County Council for all the assistance they gave during the year.

The District Council staffs too have played a very important part at local level.



In Metropolitan Counties such as West Midlands, the District Councils must be particularly involved in policing matters concerned as they are with the personal services such as Social Services, Education and Housing with which we must inevitably interact in the total business of maintaining the peace.

Finally, the Force itself. Everyone has played a full part, be they regular officers, civilian staffs, cadets or special constables. Their families too must not be forgotten. Police duty is always demanding of an officer's family, but those of them who had to sit at home and fear the worst when their husbands and fathers were engaged on some of our more violent incidents, which almost means every Saturday afternoon during the football season, are particularly to be thanked for their support in our work. The Superintendents' Association and the Police Federation have, as always, co-operated wholeheartedly in our policy making and in acting as a channel of communication between the senior officers and the members of the Force, a very difficult thing to arrange successfully in an organisation as large as ours.

The Deputy Chief Constable and the Assistant Chief Constables have given me loyal support in both the duty and social demands made of us, and I am very grateful to them for all they do to further the efficiency and good name of the West Midlands Police.

## Chapter II

# Administration and Organisation

### ORGANISATION OF THE FORCE

The West Midlands Police cover the County of West Midlands. The Force is divided into 12 territorial Divisions, six of which, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull and Coventry, conform to a District Council area. The remaining six Divisions are within the Birmingham District.

The Solihull and Birmingham Divisions are each divided into two Sub-Divisions—the other Divisions have three Sub-Divisions each. A Traffic Division covers the whole Force area and is divided into four Sub-Divisions, one of which is responsible for policing the motorways within the Force area.

Each Division is under the control of a Chief Superintendent and a Superintendent has operational responsibility for each of the Sub-Divisions.

### ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH – REGULAR FORCE

Set out below is the authorised establishment and actual strength of the Force as at 31 December 1977, excluding seconded staff:

Ranks	Authorised	Actual	Vacancies
Chief Constable	1	1	—
Deputy Chief Constable	1	1	—
Assistant Chief Constables	5	5	—
Chief Superintendents	21	22	+1
Superintendents	78	80	+2
Chief Inspectors	97	93	-4
Inspectors	350	337	-13
Sergeants	1,041	934	-107
Constables	4,915	4,271	-644
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,509</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>-765</b>

The authorised establishment was altered in September 1977 to provide for an increase of one Superintendent and one Inspector in Complaints and Discipline Department. The Traffic Division was reduced by two constables.

## SUPERNUMERARY AND SECONDED STAFF

At 31 December 1977 the following officers were supernumerary to the authorised establishment of the Force:—

Seconded to New Hebrides Government	—	1 Superintendent
No 4 Regional Crime Squad	—	1 Superintendent
	—	3 Chief Inspectors
	—	1 Inspector
	—	23 Sergeants
	—	26 Constables
Midland Criminal Record Office	—	1 Superintendent
	—	2 Chief Inspectors
	—	2 Inspectors
	—	7 Sergeants
	—	18 Constables
Home Office		
Forensic Science Laboratory	—	1 Sergeant
Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration	—	2 Inspectors
Police Training Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore	—	1 Chief Inspector
	—	1 Inspector
	—	11 Sergeants
	—	2 Constables
Police Training Centre, Eynsham Hall	—	1 Constable
Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea	—	1 Superintendent
Central Planning Unit, Harrogate	—	1 Inspector
Police National Computer School, Hendon	—	2 Sergeants
Crime Prevention Centre, Stafford	—	1 Chief Inspector
Sponsored University Scholarships	—	6 Inspectors
	—	1 Sergeant
Police Dog Training Centre, Stafford	—	1 Sergeant
Commission Against Corruption Hong Kong	—	3 Sergeants

# SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCE

(Including seconded officers)

	Under 5 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-19 years		20-24 years		25-29 years		Over 30 years	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Chief Constable														1
Dep. Chief Constable												1		
Ass/Ch. Constables									2		2			1
Ch. Superintendents							3		4		11	1		3
Superintendents					1		7		31		39	1		5
Chief Inspectors					4	1	26	1	34	1	23			10
Inspectors			9		57	2	109	4	99	3	53	1		12
Sergeants	4		106	11	319	11	237	1	176	6	107	3		3
Constables	1454	371	980	83	638	20	334	10	260	4	163			1
Grand Total—5864	1458	371	1095	94	1019	34	716	16	606	14	399	6		36

# DISTRIBUTION

At 31 December the distribution of the Force was as follows. (Figures in brackets denote authorised establishment where it differs from actual strength).

Department	CC	DCC	ACC	Ch. Supt	Supt.	Ch. Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	P.C.	TOTAL
Administration	1	1	5	2	2 (11)	2	3 (7)	3 (32)	—	19 (51)
Personnel and Recruiting	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	3 (11)	2 (—)	12 (8)
Complaints	—	—	—	1	4	1	7 (5)	3	—	16 (14)
Management Services	—	—	—	1	1	1	5 (3)	—	—	8 (6)
Summons and Warrants	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5 (4)	28 (22)	37 (30)
Lock Up	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	20 (28)	32 (41)
Plain Clothes	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	1 (3)	4 (12)	13 (36)	18 (52)
Training	—	—	—	1	2	5 (6)	13 (17)	33 (44)	33 (15)	87 (85)
War Duties	—	—	—	—	1 (—)	(1)	1 (—)	1	—	3 (2)
Mounted and Dogs	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	30 (37)	40 (47)
Coroners	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	6	11
SPG	—	—	—	—	(1)	1	3	9 (15)	71 (108)	84 (128)
CID	—	—	—	2	4	13	27	72 (81)	155 (139)	273 (266)
Traffic	—	—	—	1	6	6	22 (24)	56 (67)	335 (537)	426 (641)
Communications	—	—	—	1 (—)	1	4	17 (5)	13 (4)	28 (20)	64 (34)
Recruits in Training	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	43
Public Liaison	—	—	—	—	1	—	(1)	—	—	1 (2)
Headquarters	1	1	5	10 (9)	23 (22)	40 (43)	112 (108)	218 (280)	764 (749)	1174 (1418)
Divisions										
A	—	—	—	1	4	3	20	49	298 (329)	375 (406)
B	—	—	—	1	4	3	14 (15)	48 (60)	266 (294)	336 (367)
C	—	—	—	1	4	4	14 (16)	52 (65)	286 (335)	361 (415)
D	—	—	—	1	4	4	16 (17)	54 (67)	279 (307)	358 (390)
E	—	—	—	1	4	4	14 (16)	53 (69)	298 (328)	374 (400)
F	—	—	—	1	4	4	15 (16)	55 (67)	265 (313)	345 (376)
G	—	—	—	1	6	5	24 (25)	72 (79)	285 (330)	393 (452)
H	—	—	—	1	6 (6)	4 (5)	23	65 (60)	281 (302)	380 (405)
J	—	—	—	1	5	5	22 (24)	67 (74)	289 (315)	389 (422)
K	—	—	—	1	6	6	23 (25)	73 (78)	348 (420)	457 (542)
L	—	—	—	1	4	5	16 (18)	49	198 (210)	273 (295)
M	—	—	—	1	6	6	24 (27)	79 (88)	413 (462)	529 (598)
TOTALS	—	—	—	12	57 (66)	53 (64)	225 (242)	716 (761)	3507 (3960)	4570 (5091)
	1	1	5	22 (21)	80 (78)	83 (97)	337 (350)	934 (1041)	4271 (4918)	5744 (6809)

# CIVILIAN AND MANUAL STAFF

The Authorised Establishment and Actual Strength of civilian staff and manual workers as at 31 December is as detailed below:—

	SENIOR OFFICERS & A.P.		CLERKS		TYPISTS		MISC.		TECH.		TOTALS				GRAND TOTAL		
	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	Est	Str	NON-MANUAL		MANUAL		Est	Str	
											Est	Str	Est	Str			
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b>																	
Administration	4	3	12	6	12	9	11	4	—	—	39	22	—	—	39	22	
Personnel/Training/ Recruiting	7	7	19	15	10	5	1	1	1	—	38	28	31	30	69	58	
Sports/Welfare	3	3	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	6	5	3	2	9	7	
Special Constabulary	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	3	2	
Management Services	5	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	7	6	—	—	7	6	
Complaints	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	3	
Press/Publicity (Inc. Public Liaison)	6	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	8	3	—	—	8	3	
Surveyors	8	8	6	5	—	—	1	1	13	13	28	27	8	7	36	34	
Supplies/Print/ Stationery	5	5	4	4	1	1	15	14	4	3	29	27	9	8	38	36	
Central Property	1	1	6	3	—	—	3	3	—	—	10	7	—	—	10	7	
Coroners	—	—	1	1	4	3	1	1	—	—	6	5	—	—	6	5	
Summons and Warrants	—	—	9	9	—	—	14	8	—	—	23	17	—	—	23	17	
Lock-Up	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	—	—	8	7	5	5	13	12	
Mounted Branch	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	2	
Dog Section	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	5	8	6	
Special Patrol Group	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	3	2	
Special Plain Clothes	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	
Welfare Funds	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	
CI/D	11	10	66	60	29	24	—	—	15	14	121	108	—	—	121	108	
Traffic	1	1	19	17	17	15	10	5	—	—	47	38	—	—	47	38	
Garages	5	5	6	5	—	—	9	7	10	9	30	26	124	111	154	137	
Midland Links	1	1	2	2	5	4	—	—	—	—	8	7	4	4	12	11	
Central Ticket Office	2	2	47	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	30	—	—	49	30	
Communications	2	2	2	1	1	1	161	129	—	—	166	133	—	—	166	133	
	63	55	204	161	90	69	235	181	44	40	636	506	194	173	830	679	
<b>DIVISIONS</b>																	
A	2	—	13	8	7	7	—	—	1	1	23	16	38	30	61	46	
B	2	—	7	4	15	8	1	1	—	—	26	13	43	33	69	46	
C	2	—	8	3	17	13	—	—	1	—	28	16	31	25	59	41	
D	3	1	15	7	14	13	—	—	1	—	33	21	34	32	67	53	
E	2	—	11	5	15	14	—	—	1	1	29	20	44	39	73	59	
F	2	—	9	4	11	9	—	—	1	—	23	13	30	34	53	47	
G	2	—	17	8	31	27	—	—	—	—	50	35	57	47	107	82	
H	3	1	19	10	30	24	—	—	—	—	52	35	44	41	96	76	
J	3	1	13	9	31	25	—	—	—	—	47	35	61	47	108	82	
K	3	1	17	6	45	31	—	—	—	—	65	38	60	54	125	92	
L	3	1	23	15	12	10	—	—	—	—	38	26	40	38	78	64	
M	4	2	28	19	24	24	6	4	—	—	62	49	66	61	128	110	
	31	7	180	98	252	205	7	5	6	2	476	317	548	481	1024	798	
<b>REGIONAL</b>																	
Midland C R O	—	—	15	13	4	3	1	1	—	—	20	17	—	—	20	17	
Fingerprints	6	5	1	1	—	—	1	1	20	21	28	28	—	—	28	28	
No 4 R C S	—	—	5	4	8	8	4	4	—	—	17	16	2	2	19	18	
Disqualified Drivers Index	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	4	4	
	6	5	25	22	12	11	6	6	20	21	69	65	2	2	71	67	
	100	67	409	281	354	285	248	192	70	63	1181	868	744	656	1925	1544	

## RECRUITING

In assessing recruitment for the year 1977, it is of interest to consider the situation existing on 31 December 1976. During that year 604 persons were recruited into the Force, and there was a gain over wastage of 193. It was anticipated that this trend would continue during 1977, but due to economic restrictions a ceiling was placed upon the level of recruitment for the year of 20 recruits per month plus wastage, thus allowing for a gain over wastage of 240. However, as the year progressed, it became apparent that it would not even be possible to reach the permitted ceiling.

Applications for the year totalled 3,548 which was a drop of 907 over the previous year. The total number recruited to the Force was 462 (342 men and 120 women). In addition, three personnel were reinstated, making a total gain of 465. This was a decrease of 59 over the previous year. Wastage for the year was exceptionally high with 487 officers leaving the Force, 232 resigning without pension. This combination of high wastage and low recruitment resulted in a net loss of 22 officers during the year.

The following table analyses applications for appointments and their subsequent disposal.

	1 January 1977—31 December 1977		
	Men	Women	Total
Total number of applications	2,254	1,294	3,548
Applications not pursued	1,435	968	2,403
Rejected before Final Interview and withdrawals	437	178	615
Attended for Final Interview	382	148	530
Rejections at Final Interview:-			
Medical	8	8	16
Force Selection Board	34	18	52
Accepted	340	122	462
Enrolments:-			
Recruits	232	81	313
Police Cadets	83	36	119
Re-appointment as Constables	15	2	17
Transfers	12	1	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>462</b>
Pending Enrolment—31 December 1977	52	28	80

It will be seen from the table analysis that as usual a very large number of applicants made initial enquiries but did not pursue their applications after being sent a brochure and preliminary application form.

Responsibility for liaising with Schools rests with Divisional Training Sergeants who make regular visits to Schools on their Division. Each Training Sergeant has his own equipment for display purposes.

A total of 976 applicants attended at the Recruiting Department during the year to sit the Police Initial Recruitment examination. The number who failed to gain a pass mark was 394.

The Recruiting Department continues to deal with enquiries respecting applicants for other Forces who are resident in this Force area and the number dealt with during the year was 303.

### Advertising

Advertising is controlled by an Advertising Agency. They are responsible for arranging a comprehensive programme of advertising in the local and national press. During the year a series of advertisements appeared on television.

### Graduate Entry

This Scheme is designed to attract University students to the Police Service. Of the applications received under this Scheme during the year two applicants were successful in passing the extended interview board and have been enrolled in 1977. During the year four men and two women graduates joined the Force as ordinary entrants.

### WASTAGE DURING THE YEAR

The following table shows losses due to retirement, resignation etc.

	Chief Cons	DCC	ACC	Chief Supt	Supt.	Chief Insp	Insp.	Sgt.	Cons.	Total
Pension on completion of service	—	—	1	8	10	10	24	73	65	191
Pensioned—ill health	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	6	12
Resigned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	224	232
Dismissed or ordered to resign	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Transfer to other Police Forces	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	34	38
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	7
Services dispensed with (Regulation 16)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	—	—	1	9	10	11	26	91	339	487



## POLICE CADETS

At the beginning of 1977 a general curtailment on the recruitment of cadets was introduced and it was not until the beginning of May that approval was given to recruit 100 cadets. The number recruited into the Cadet Corps in August 1977 was 60 boys and 43 girls, a total of 103. The establishment of the Cadet Corps is 280 and the actual strength on 31 December 1977 was 99 boys and 65 girls, a total of 164. Nine boys and fourteen girls resigned from the Cadets during the year.

## CIVILIAN RECRUITING

During the year efforts were made to maintain the number of posts filled as near to the manning levels of 950 non-manual staff, 700 manual staff and 265 Traffic Wardens, agreed with the County Council in 1975. The position was aggravated by a 'recruitment pause' during May and June, the imposition by the County Council of even more restricted manning levels of 930 non-manual staff, 675 manual staff and 255 Traffic Wardens, and a rise in the number of resignations. Despite constant advertisement of vacancies it was not possible to attract sufficient applicants of the standard required, with the result that at the end of the year there was a net loss of 74 civilian staff.

Fifty-eight members of the civilian staff were awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, this included six Traffic Wardens, 36 non-manual staff and 16 manual staff.

## PROMOTIONS

Mr R F Broome was appointed Assistant Chief Constable, Administrative Support Services and Supplies on 1 January 1977.

On 2 May 1977 Mr Broome moved to Assistant Chief Constable, Organisation and Development, and Mr F L Jordan moved to Assistant Chief Constable, Administrative Support Services and Supplies.

The following substantive promotions were made during the year:—

	Male	Female
To Chief Superintendent	8	
To Superintendent	23	
To Chief Inspector	40	1
To Inspector	83	
To Sergeant	166	5
TOTALS	320	6

## PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

	Officers Examined	Qualified
Examination in April 1977 to Inspector	414	53
Examination in November 1977 to Sergeant	830	123

At 31 December 1977 the number of officers qualified by examination for promotion was:—

*Sergeants qualified for promotion to Inspector*

Males 227

Females 6

*Constables qualified for promotion to Inspector*

Males 41

Females Nil

*Constables qualified for promotion to Sergeants only*

Males 224

Females 8

## STAFF APPRAISAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Following the changes introduced in 1976, the system of handling Staff Appraisal Reports has been computerised during the year; this has resulted in a more effective and accurate system.

## HONOURS, COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

### New Year's Honours List

Former Deputy Chief Constable, C Gaskell

Officer of the most Excellent

Order of the British Empire

Former Detective Superintendent J Lashley

Queen's Police Medal

Special Superintendent F A Arnold

British Empire Medal

### Birthday Honours List

H Robinson, Assistant Chief Constable

Queen's Police Medal

Former Chief Superintendent J S Brown

Queen's Police Medal

Former Sergeant L P Male

Member of the most Excellent

Order of the British Empire

## Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal was awarded to 144 officers of this Force

## Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Constable D M G Wardle

Three officers received the Royal Humane Society (Resuscitation Certificate).

Three officers, including one Special Constable, received awards from the Society for Protection of Life from Fire (Framed Certificate).

Ninety-nine members of the Force were commended for Exemplary police work as detailed below:-

By the Courts	—	60 officers
By Chief Constable	—	31 officers
By other Chief Constables	—	7 officers
By the Police Committee	—	1 officer

In addition 945 officers received Chief Superintendents' commendations.

## POLICE LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

During the year 87 officers became eligible for the award of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

## DEGREE AWARDS

The following officers of the Force were awarded degrees during the year:-

**Bachelor of Arts**  
Inspector Mason

**Master of Science in Systems Analysis**  
Sergeant Barnett

**Bachelor of Arts — Open University**  
Inspector Oakley  
Inspector Wood  
Sergeant Lynch

## **LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

During the year 887 letters were received from persons wishing to express their appreciation of service, advice or assistance given by members of the Force.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Disciplinary proceedings were taken against 26 officers in respect of 37 charges during the year.

There were 15 charges of neglect of duty, seven for criminal conduct, four for falsehood, five for disobedience to orders, one for damage to police property, two for abuse of authority, two for entering licensed premises and one for misconduct towards a member of a police force. Five charges were denied, 32 admitted, and of these, two officers were dismissed for criminal conduct, two officers were required to resign and one reduced in rank. The remainder were dealt with by fines, reprimand or caution and three cases were dismissed.

## **COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS**

### **Section 49, Police Act 1964**

During the year 1,524 complaints were received from 917 members of the public. Following investigation, 51 complaints were found to be substantiated and 528 not substantiated, and 945 were still under investigation. One hundred and one complaints were withdrawn or not proceeded with by the complainant. Eight police officers appeared on disciplinary charges as a result of complaints from members of the public.

Of the 51 substantiated complaints, one related to criminal proceedings for theft, five related to incivility to the public, 20 related to neglect of duty, four related to irregularity in police procedure, three related to mishandling of property and 18 related to other matters.

## **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

Two hundred and seventy-eight reports from Investigating Officers were forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Of these, eight related to alleged traffic offences and 270 related to alleged crime other than traffic offences. The Director did not recommend prosecution in any of these cases.

There were 22 allegations of criminal offences by police officers which were not referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. In each case the complaint was withdrawn without a full investigation being necessary.

There were no investigations conducted by officers from other police forces.

Seven complainants made formal representation of dissatisfaction with the findings following the investigation of their complaints.

## **POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD**

The Police Complaints Board, established by the Police Act 1976, came into being on 1 June 1977. Subject to certain exceptions, a copy of the report of an investigation within the provisions of Section 49, Police Act 1964, must be referred to the Board which is an independent body whose responsibility it is to examine the papers and decide whether to accept the decision of the Deputy Chief Constable.

At the end of the year, 185 completed enquiry reports by Investigating Officers had been forwarded to the Police Complaints Board. Replies had been received in respect of 158 investigations and there had not been any instances where the Board had disagreed with the decision of the Deputy Chief Constable.

### **Other alleged offences by Police Officers**

Two hundred and eighty reports from other sources (usually internal) were received alleging the commission of offences and of these 36 related to criminal matters and 244 to traffic offences.

Of the reports which arose from sources other than complaints from members of the public and which were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice, prosecution was recommended in six cases involving crime and 42 cases involving traffic offences. Thirteen such enquiries were still pending at the end of the year.

Thirty-four officers were convicted by Courts, four for criminal offences and 30 for traffic offences.

## **COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE DEPARTMENT**

This Department dealt with 108 investigations of complaints recorded under Section 49 of the Police Act 1964, this being 13.1% of the total of 822 such investigations carried out during the year. The Department also conducted 11 disciplinary enquiries, being 11% of the 100 such enquiries made, and 13 investigations into miscellaneous matters.

There is a Chief Superintendent in overall command of the Department. During

the year the Investigation Section was increased by one investigation team comprising one Superintendent and one Inspector, and now consists of four such teams.

It was also found necessary to increase the Administration staff of the Department by one Inspector in order to cope with the following increases over 1976:—

	1976	1977	Increase	% Increase
Persons complaining	798	917	119	+14.9%
Matters complained about	1059	1524	465	+43.9%
Investigations	708	822	114	+16.1%

## MOUNTED BRANCH

The establishment of the Mounted Branch is one Chief Inspector, one Inspector, four Sergeants, 37 Constables and four civilian stablemen, with 29 horses.

During the year five horses became unfit for further service and four have so far been replaced.

Ten Divisional Constables attended an initial training course in Riding and Animal Management during the year.

Members of the Department carried out daily uniform patrols, when particular attention was paid to open ground. During such a patrol a mounted officer found a child who had been reported missing from home.

The Mounted Branch provided assistance in controlling crowds at the five major football grounds in the Force area. They also played an important role in controlling crowds at political demonstrations.

Due to commitments within the Force area, the Mounted Branch was unable to provide mutual aid to Derbyshire Constabulary as in previous years, although assistance was given to the Warwickshire Constabulary on the occasion of the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.

A number of equitation and pegging displays were given throughout the Force area at local fetes, and the Musical Ride was presented at the Jubilee Festival in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, and at the City of Birmingham Show.

## **DOG BRANCH**

The strength of the Branch is one Chief Inspector, one Inspector, 14 Sergeants and 75 Constables, with 87 dogs.

During the year handlers attended 18,528 incidents and were involved in the arrest of 2,598 prisoners for various criminal offences, together with additional arrests of 143 persons for offences of either drunkenness or disorderly behaviour.

Police dogs also recovered 102 items of property identified as being connected with various crimes.

The handler of the year was Police Constable Mason ('H' Division) and he received the inscribed perpetual trophy presented by Handsworth Rugby Union Football Club.

Members of the Dog Branch gave 55 demonstrations at various public functions, and 240 talks were given to organisations.

Four handlers competed in the Open Working Dog Trial organised by the City of Birmingham Alsatian Association in November, when two of the officers gained first and second place.

## **MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The staff of the department, which consists of experienced police officers and specialist civilians, undertake development planning for the whole Force. During the year they were involved in 132 new projects.

The department was involved in the rationalisation of computer communications and the transfer of personnel and traffic accident systems from local district computers to the West Midlands County Council computer.

Organisation and Methods projects have included staffing investigations into the Uniform Operations Support Services, Driving School, Found Property Office and Explosives and Firearms Department.

A major innovation in the structure of the department has been the incorporation of a permanent Establishment Review Team, who will carry out a re-appraisal of police and civilian staff manning levels in all departments, divisions and operational units. The department made use of the Government's Job Creation Scheme, and used 42 temporary employees for a 26 week period preparing a computerised street index covering the County.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The department is responsible for the preparation of payrolls for all employees, and the receipt and payment of monies due to or from the Police Authority.

The department also provides continuous information to Force Management to ensure that the restricted financial resources are utilised to the best advantage within the total budget for the Force of approximately £57 million. This is particularly important in the light of the present economic constraints.

I am most grateful to Mr Harmer and his staff for their assistance during the year.

## PUBLIC LIAISON DEPARTMENT

In previous reports mention has been made of the complex composition of the community within the Force area and the need to foster and maintain a good relationship by a positive community relations programme. During 1977 the Public Liaison Department has not only been able to involve members of the Force, but other Social Agencies as well. The Police Service is usually at the sharp end where social controls tend to break down and initiatives taken by police are really first aid, the causes of the problem still remaining. For these problems to be solved, the police, with other Agencies, must work as a team.

The following are examples of the co-operation that has taken place during the year:—

A housing estate in the inner City was in the course of substantial redevelopment and this resulted in a wide variety of social problems. With the assistance of the Member of Parliament, Councillors, Probation and Social Services, Education Welfare, Clergy and the residents themselves, it was possible to introduce a community policing scheme which it is hoped will assist in removing some of the problems.

Following the publication of a report by Mr John Brown entitled "Shades of Grey", a similar scheme has been planned for Handsworth.

The community relations training within the Force is currently under review and it is hoped to widen the scope of such training. Utilising the facilities of a local Polytechnic, two Community Relations Courses were held for Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables. In addition 177 lectures were given by members of the department to courses at the Force Training Department and District Training Centre.



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Close contact has been maintained with the six Councils for Community Relations within the Force area and this has led to involvement in some of their projects. Involvement with the community generally has been increased, the department attending 2,750 meetings with various groups. A police float was entered in the Lord Mayor's Procession and the Coventry Carnival, and the inter-schools Law and Order Quiz was again held.

In addition to this Quiz, the department and Resident Beat Officers made regular visits to schools and Youth Clubs, giving talks. Arrangements are in hand to increase the police input in Teacher Training Colleges to establish a better liaison with schools.

A good liaison exists between the Force and the various Diplomatic Missions in the Force area. Following negotiations with the Jamaican High Commission, arrangements have been finalised for a Sergeant and Constable of the Public Liaison Department to visit Jamaica for 28 days. Similar arrangements are being made with the Indian Government. It is hoped that these visits will lead to closer links between the Force and some of the ethnic groups.

At the request of the Home Office, arrangements are in hand to open a second Attendance Centre in Birmingham. When this has been accomplished there will be five Centres operating in the Force area. A Juvenile Liaison Scheme is currently being reviewed in conjunction with the Probation and Social Services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the community and organisations for the many instances of good-will and co-operation shown to members of the Force. Without this spontaneous response the work of the Liaison Officers would indeed be formidable.

## **SPECIAL PATROL GROUP**

The Special Patrol Group has an operational strength of one Chief Inspector, three Inspectors, one Detective Sergeant, eight Uniform Sergeants, seven Detective Constables and 65 Constables.

During the course of the year, considerable demands were made on Special Patrol Group personnel. A total of 488 requests for assistance was received which included public order situations, licensing and drugs raids, murder enquiries, crime patrols, gambling raids, Royal visits and searches for missing persons.

There can be no doubt that the Special Patrol Group fulfils a particular need in the policing of a large conurbation such as the West Midlands. The ability to respond at short notice with units of well trained men has proved its worth on

numerous occasions, particularly with disturbances at football matches and other public order situations.

During the year a total of 1,310 persons was arrested by Special Patrol Group officers for a variety of offences, of which 52% were for criminal matters.

## **HOME DEFENCE DEPARTMENT**

The Home Defence Department is under the control of a Superintendent (who is also the Staff Officer to the Regional Police Commander Designate) with a staff of one Inspector, one Sergeant and one civilian typist. The department has overall responsibility for Home Defence Planning, the co-ordination of Training for War emergencies and also Major Accident Procedures for peace time emergencies, within the Force area.

Home Defence training consists of lectures and films to Sergeants and Constables on a Force basis. For officers of the rank of Chief Inspector and Inspector one week courses at Regional level are organised. Other courses were as follows:—

### **Home Defence College**

One Assistant Chief Constable, six Chief Superintendents, six Superintendents, and six Chief Inspectors attended courses at the Home Office, Home Defence College, Easingwold, Yorkshire.

### **Regional Police War Duties Courses**

Two courses for the Region were held at the Training Centre, Tally Ho and these were attended by three Chief Inspectors and 27 Inspectors from this Force.

### **Air Reconnaissance Training**

Air Reconnaissance Training was carried out at RAF Shawbury, one Sergeant attended a continuation course and one Constable was nominated for the initial course.

Warning and Monitoring duties continue to absorb a substantial amount of time. The department has co-ordinating responsibilities for five Carrier Areas, Chelmsley Wood, Coventry, Stourbridge, Walsall and Wolverhampton, which involve warning points in the Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Mercia Police areas.

The installation involved are:—

Carrier Control Points	5
WB 400 Carrier Receivers	395
WB 600 Siren Points	307

Testing of the siren network is carried out quarterly, the Carrier Receivers half yearly, the Carrier Control Points quarterly, and twice a year the Carrier Control Points are involved in a National Exercise held by the United Warning and Monitoring Organisation.

## UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT

During the year the Underwater Search Unit carried out 51 searches.

The Unit is available to all Forces within the Midlands Police Region and it is pleasing to report that 14 of the searches were for other Forces; four were within the Staffordshire Police area, five were undertaken for the West Mercia Police and five for the Warwickshire Police.

A total of six bodies was recovered during the year, four of which were in other police areas. One particularly grisly task was the recovery of the body of a 49 year old man entangled around the propellor and propellor shaft of a narrow boat travelling along a canal in the centre of Worcester. On this occasion it was necessary for two divers to work under the boat to free the body by cutting away fouled clothing.

Three long and difficult searches were carried out in the River Severn for the body of a 17 year old Indian girl. The river was in full flood at the time, making searches difficult and dangerous, but the searches failed to bring results. Eventually the body was recovered when it surfaced on a mud bank nine miles from the point of entry.

Property recovered by the Unit during the year included four motor vehicles, three safes, five cassette tape recorders, two hammers and a knife, an electric organ and two police personal radios. All of these items had either been stolen or were weapons used in crimes of violence.

During the year the Unit gave eight static displays at police open days, six water displays at rallies and fetes and the leader of the Unit gave four talks.

Two officers of the Unit attended Diver/Supervisor Courses, and both qualified.

All members of the Unit receive a medical examination, injections for typhoid disease and X-rays annually, and should any officer not reach the required standard he is no longer allowed to dive.

## **POLICE STORES**

Clothing and equipment for both regular and civilian personnel are provided from the Central Clothing Stores, Bournville Lane, Birmingham. In addition, a mobile stores vehicle visits Divisions G to M.

Uniform is issued on an exchange basis upon condemnation as opposed to a general annual issue to all uniform staff. As the degree of wear of uniform clothing varies among individuals according to their respective duties, this method of issue has proved most economic and satisfactory.

The Central Stores also supplies furniture for the Force.

## **SPECIAL CONSTABULARY**

During the year demands were again made on the Special Constabulary. It is difficult to itemise every type of duty performed, but the Special Constabulary continued to render assistance at football matches and other sporting occasions. Many Special Constables parade for duty and made a valuable contribution during the visit of Her Majesty the Queen on her Jubilee Visit to the West Midlands.

It is with pleasure that I record the award of the British Empire Medal to Special Superintendent F A Arnold in the New Year's Honours List. Mr Arnold has been a Special Constable since 27 May 1939, and has always set an example to those who served with him.

The strength of the Special Constabulary on 31 December 1977 was 908, which included 115 women. This is a reduction of 93. During the year 93 Special Constables were appointed and 186 resigned. Of these six left to become members of the regular force, one was appointed a Justice of the Peace and one was dismissed following conviction for a criminal offence. It is with regret that the death of six serving Special Constables is recorded.

During the year there was a fall in the number of applications for the Special Constabulary. A total of 161 applications was received compared with 262 the previous year. Of these applications 62 were accepted, 65 rejected and 34 are still pending.

Following the publication of the Police Advisory Board Working Party Report

on the Special Constabulary a Force Working Party was set up to consider the report and to make recommendations on the future policy for the Force. The recommendations, which include a revision of the rank structure, will be implemented during 1978.

During the year 16 members of the Special Constabulary retired with more than 25 years' service and were awarded the Presentation Truncheon to commemorate their service by the Police Committee.

The following Long Service Awards were presented during the year:—

Long Service Medals	37
First Bar	10
Second Bar	3
Fourth Bar	5

Thirty-one members of the Special Constabulary were awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Seven members of the Special Constabulary represented the Force when Her Majesty the Queen visited the Police Service at the Peel Centre, Hendon, in May.

## **JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Joint Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Constable, with representatives of the Superintendents' Association, and the Joint Branch Board of the Police Federation, has continued to consider matters relating to the implementation of national and local agreements so far as they affect work, conditions, welfare and training, as well as all general issues affecting the efficient operation of the Force. Three Sub-Committees monitor standards of uniform and equipment, catering and the publication of forms and books.

## **ANNUAL INSPECTION**

The Annual Inspection of the Force was carried out during the period 11 July to 26 July 1977 by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, R G Fenwick Esq CBE QPM.

## Chapter III

# Training

### TRAINING

Force Training takes place at Tally Ho, Walsall Training School and 'B' Division Headquarters, Bournville Lane. The latter venue is devoted solely to the training of Probationary Constables.

During the year the Training Department continued to expand its activities. New courses were designed and implemented for Resident Beat Officers, Station Officers, and a Regional Traffic Management Course for Senior Officers was conducted at Tally Ho.

The department arranged seminars on three Divisions involving police, Social Services and Probation Service personnel, who met together to discuss mutual problems.

Public Order Training was decentralized and is now taking place on Divisions.

The operational use of Closed Circuit Television was improved by training Divisional personnel in the use of television equipment, particularly at football matches.

The emphasis in driver training has been concentrated on Advanced Driver Courses preparatory to the introduction of first response motor cars on Sub-Divisions in April 1978.

The Driving School was afforded facilities at Stourbridge Police Station and has set up a Motor Cycle Training Wing there.

### STAFF

The present authorised establishment of the Training Department is shown below:-

Chief Superintendent	1
Superintendents	2
Chief Inspectors	6
Inspectors	17
Sergeants	44
Constables	15
Total	<u>85</u>

Two Detective Sergeants above the authorised establishment are temporarily employed in the Detective Training School as instructors to assist in the training of the backlog of untrained West Midlands detective officers.

## **INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**

Nineteen places on Student Instructors Courses were allocated to the West Midlands Police, and seven Inspectors and 12 Sergeants attended. Six Inspectors successfully qualified as Instructors and one is currently at the Central Planning Unit. Ten Sergeants qualified during the year, one failed and one failed to complete his course due to sickness.

## **LAW RESEARCH**

During the first full year of operation the Law Research Unit dealt with 840 telephone enquiries on points of law and/or practice.

Students, particularly C.I.D. and Pre-Bramshill Course Officers, have received a great deal of assistance from the staff when researching projects.

The "Law Conspectus", containing recent case law, new legislation and other matters of interest, is published monthly by the Unit for distribution throughout the Force. The staff also maintains the Library at Tally Ho and is responsible for the purchase of new publications.

## **PROBATIONER TRAINING**

This aspect of training takes place at Bournville and Walsall Training Schools. Probationary Constables from seven Divisions attend Bournville and recruits from the remaining five Divisions are accommodated at Walsall.

### **Induction Course**

This course is conducted only at Bournville and its purpose is to issue uniform, equipment and books to recruits. It takes place in the first week of service during which time the recruit is documented and advised as to his training commitments.

Ten courses were held and 495 Probationary Constables attended during the year.

### **Local Procedure Course**

This course is of two weeks duration and is attended by Probationary Constables immediately following their return from District Training Centre. It is designed to instruct recruits on matters parochial to this force.

Eighteen such courses took place during the year and 517 officers were trained.



## **Junior Training Course**

This takes place during an officer's ninth month of service and lasts one week. Its purpose is to continue an officer's training by building upon the knowledge obtained at District Training Centre and the experience of beat work received since the Local Procedure Course. Twenty-four courses were attended by 565 students.

## **Intermediate Training Course**

This course is undertaken in the fourteenth month of service and is of a week's duration. The course is mainly concerned with Traffic Law.

Twenty-two courses were held and 494 officers attended.

## **Senior Training Course**

Designed for officers in their eighteenth month of training, this one week course is the final law orientated course in the local training programme for probationers.

Twenty-one courses were attended by 483 constables.

## **Basic Crime Course**

Towards the end of an officer's two years probation, he attends this course, which is designed to give him an insight into the procedures, theory and practice of crime detection. It is of one week duration and 287 constables attended the 24 courses held.

## **REFRESHER COURSES**

Eleven three-week courses were held for Sergeants and 208 officers attended during the year.

The course is intended to up-date a Sergeant's knowledge, to widen his experience and to give him an insight into management techniques.

Eighteen two-week courses for Constables were held at Tally Ho and Walsall and 372 officers attended.

This course is designed to up-date the officer's knowledge of law and he attends such a course every three years. Some of the subjects included in the course are of a more general nature.

## **SPECIALISED COURSES**

### **Senior Officers Courses**

During 1977 two courses for Senior Officers, each of one week duration, were held, and 25 officers of Superintendent rank or above attended.

The speakers for the course came from both within and outside the Police Service, and covered a broad spectrum of current topics. Subjects discussed included 'Trade Unions', 'Bomb Disposal', and 'Community Law' as well as various aspects of police duty.

### **Traffic Management Course**

A two week course for officers of Chief Inspector and above, was conducted on a regional basis and attended by officers from West Midlands Police, Warwickshire, Staffordshire and West Mercia forces.

One course was held and seven officers from this force attended, together with eight officers from other Midlands forces.

### **Aston University Course**

Nineteen officers were seconded to Aston University to attend one of two 12 week courses for a part diploma in Industrial Administration. Six modules on various subjects were undertaken by each officer, all of whom reached a very good standard and successfully qualified.

## **NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD**

### **Supervisory Studies Course**

In July 1977 16 officers completed a course at Hall Green Technical College. This course, which commenced in September 1976, was designed to assist police officers in obtaining supervisory skills. All of the students were successful in gaining an N.E.B. certificate.

Eleven officers commenced a similar course in September 1977.

### **Pre-College Course**

Four residential courses were held at Tally Ho for Inspectors prior to their attending the Inspectors' Course at the Police College, Bramshill.

The courses, each of five weeks' duration, were attended by 60 officers drawn from Midlands forces.

## **Sergeants' Post-Promotion Course**

This course, nationally designed, is to assist newly promoted Sergeants in carrying out their new duties, with particular emphasis on supervision and management. Six courses, each of three weeks' duration, were held and 145 Sergeants were trained.

## **Promotion Examination Classes**

### **Evening Classes**

The system of coaching for the promotion examination commenced in 1976, was continued, and evening classes for potential examination candidates were conducted throughout the year.

An average of 300 constables intending to sit the promotion examination to the rank of Sergeant in November 1977, attended evening classes twice weekly between March and October at Tally Ho, Bournville, Walsall or Coventry.

Classes are currently being held at Tally Ho and Walsall twice weekly for officers intending to sit the promotion examination to Inspector in April 1978. An average of 40 officers is attending each class.

### **Special Study Courses**

During March four two-week courses were held (two at Tally Ho and two at Walsall) for 114 officers sitting the April Inspectors' examination.

In September and October, six Special Study Courses involving 179 officers were held for candidates sitting the promotion examination to the rank of Sergeant in November.

## **Promotion Examinations**

The Training Department continued to be responsible for organising and administering the promotion examinations on behalf of the Local Government Training Board. Two examinations were held during the year – one in April and one in November.

### **Home Defence**

Two residential courses were held at Tally Ho and 31 officers of Inspector rank or above attended. The courses, of one week duration, were attended by officers from the No. 3 Region.

## **Public Order Training**

During the year, 61 Divisional officers, of the rank of Chief Inspector and above, attended a half-day course on Crowd Control, during which they received instruction in the command of support units. These officers then instructed their own personnel on Divisions.

## **Specialist Training of Women Police Officers**

Seventeen courses, each of one day duration, were held for 211 women police officers, who received instruction in those aspects of police duty which are peculiarly within their sphere of responsibility.

## **Tutor Constables**

Sixteen courses, each of two days' duration, were held and 174 Constables were instructed in the duties of a Tutor Constable. These officers will supervise Probationary Constables during the early part of their training programme.

## **Resident Beat Officers**

Ten one week courses were arranged for Resident Beat Officers and 163 Constables have been trained.

The course was designed to give officers specialised knowledge of their duties with emphasis on those areas where their advice might be sought by members of the public.

## **Station Officers Course**

A total of 177 Constables and Sergeants attended ten one week courses designed to acquaint them with Standing Orders and recognised procedures in relation to the duties of a Station Officer.

## **Public Speaking Course**

This course is designed to assist police officers who are regularly required to speak to public gatherings. Two courses, each of three days' duration, catered for 16 officers of various ranks and a five day course was attended by eight Public Liaison Officers.

## **Firearms Training**

A total of 2485 man-days was spent on firearms training, including the refresher training required for qualified personnel. Also during the year 97 officers of the rank of Chief Inspector and above attended a two day course at Tally Ho, designed to make them aware of the correct use of trained firearms officers in operational situations.

## **Television Interview Techniques**

With the continuing co-operation of Mr David Seymour of the B.B.C., Senior Officers of the force had the benefit of his expertise to assist them in developing good television interview techniques.

During the year, 15 such courses were conducted and 44 Senior Officers attended.

## **Operational Use of C.C.T.V.**

A three day course attended by 12 constables was held at Tally Ho to instruct Divisional personnel in the operational use of television cameras, particularly at football matches.

This has resulted in Divisions, where a football ground is situated, being able to use their own officers to assist in crowd control through the use of C.C.T.V.

## **Pre-Retirement Course**

Ninety-three officers of all ranks attended one of the three 3-day courses designed to give information on a variety of subjects to police officers nearing retirement.

Many of the speakers were from outside organisations, who gave talks on 'Income Tax', 'Social Security', and 'Health in Middle Age'. Students found the courses to be most helpful to them in their plans for retirement.

## **Joint Seminars**

The Training Department arranged three seminars during the year for Police, Social Services and Probation Service Officers to discuss common problems. They were held at Divisional stations and involved personnel from the three services who worked locally. Thirty police officers were involved in the seminars which proved to be very useful.

## **Court Simulation Exercise**

As in previous years, a Court exercise was conducted at Tally Ho, mainly concerned with improving contact between Social Services and the Police. Eighty Social Science Department students from Birmingham Polytechnic attended for a full day and saw a case of theft dealt with by a court. This was followed by discussion involving Social Services, Probation and Police Officers.

## **Undergraduates Course**

Sixteen undergraduates attended a four day familiarisation course at Tally Ho. They were shown many aspects of police work and were informed of the opportunities open to graduates. It is known that one of them joined Greater Manchester Police under the graduate entry scheme and one joined this force as an ordinary recruit.

## **Special Constables**

A total of 93 Special Constables received initial training either at Tally Ho or at Walsall.

Each constable attended six evening classes, each of two hours duration, designed to equip him to carry out his duties.

## **Waste Disposal Officers' Course**

Seventeen officers from the County Council Waste Disposal Office attended a five day course at Tally Ho to receive instruction in the laws of evidence, the Judges Rules and statement taking.

## **Water Bailiffs' Course**

Five two-day courses were conducted at Tally Ho to instruct Water Bailiffs in the laws of evidence, the recording of evidence and court procedures. Forty-six persons attended the course.

## **Forensic Science Symposia**

Three one-day symposia were conducted at Bournville by the Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory to which police officers from forces in the Midlands were invited. The object of the symposia was to assist police officers in determining how the Laboratory could help police investigations.

A total of 197 officers attended, of which 104 were West Midlands Officers.

## **Outside Lectures**

The Training Department again assisted outside organisations by providing instructors to visit various establishments to speak on a variety of subjects or to take part in exercises.

British Gas, British Steel and Aston University were all visited and Hall Green Technical College was assisted with lectures to students studying for the National Education Board Certificate in Supervisory Studies.

## **OVERSEAS VISITORS**

The Training Department was involved in the itinerary of a number of overseas visitors arranged by various agencies.

## **VISITS**

Throughout the year groups of people from a variety of organisations were shown the facilities of Tally Ho and were permitted to visit the museum.

## COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

A total of 988 officers of ranks up to Chief Inspector attended a half-day course at Tally Ho designed to inform them of the use and capability of the Command and Control Computer which becomes operational in April 1978.

## DRIVING SCHOOL

The Headquarters is located at Halesowen Police Station where all types of car training and Traffic Patrol Officers' courses are carried out. Car training is also carried out at Wings based at Bournville Lane Police Station, Birmingham, and Chelmsley Wood Police Station. All motor cycle training is now carried out at a Wing based at Stourbridge Police Station.

Type of Course	No of Courses	Students	Number Qualified	
			Grade 4	D of E Grade 3
Standard 'A' car (5 week for learner drivers)	7	90	24	38
Standard 'B' car (5 week for experienced drivers)	15	201	104	64
Standard 'A' Refresher (2 week)	11	114	92	-
Standard 'B' Refresher (2 week)	17	157	91	61
			Grade 1	Grade 2
Advanced car (4 week)	14	131	68	49
Advanced car Refresher (2 week)	18	104	76	26
			Grade 4	
Standard motor cycle (3 week)	14	72	64	-
			Grade 3	
Conversion motor cycle (3 week)	13	42	39	-
			Grade 1	
Advanced motor cycle (3 week)	9	33	21	12
Advanced motor cycle Refresher (2 week)	4	12	8	3
			Passed	
Heavy goods vehicle (3 week)	15	27	25	
Traffic Patrol Officers (5 week)	7	73	72	
			Passed	
Motor car instructor (6 week)	1	3	2	
Motor cycle instructor (6 week)	1	3	2	

Qualifying tests to drive specialised vehicles continued throughout the year.

## C.I.D. TRAINING

During 1977 the following courses were held at the Detective Training School, Tally Ho.

- 4 Junior
- 2 Refresher
- 3 Advanced
- 1 Fraud Investigation

The courses were open to officers from all forces in England and Wales, the R.U.C., British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence and Jersey.

A total of 336 officers attended the course, 323 of whom were police officers from England and Wales and the R.U.C.

The number of West Midlands officers trained on each course is as follows:-

Junior	92
Refresher	1
Advanced	9
Fraud Investigation	2
Total	<u>104</u>

The high proportion of West Midlands Officers attending courses is due to the backlog of detectives who have not attended a C.I.D. Course.

## POLICE COLLEGE COURSES

Inspectors' Course Bramshill	— 33 Inspectors
Inspectors' Course Hutton Hall	— 6 Inspectors
Command Course Part I	— 7 Superintendents
Command Course Part II	— 3 Chief Superintendents

## C.I.D. COURSES

### Detective Training Course at Hendon

Initial Course	— 2 Detective Constables
Advanced Course	— 2 Detective Sergeants

### Detective Training Course at Liverpool

Initial Course	— 4 Detective Constables
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### Detective Training Course at Preston

Advanced Course	— 1 Detective Sergeant
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## **Detective Training Course at Wakefield**

- Initial Course — 8 Detective Constables
- Advanced Course — 4 Detective Sergeants

## **Detective Training Course at Bristol**

- Initial Course — 4 Detective Constables
- Advanced Course — 3 Detective Sergeants

## **Scenes of Crime Courses**

- Hendon — 3 Detective Constables
- Durham — 2 Detective Constables

## **Drugs Course**

- Liverpool — 2 Detective Constables

## **CRIME PREVENTION COURSES**

- Stafford — 6 Sergeants

## **MANAGEMENT COURSES**

- Honiley Hall — 2 Inspectors

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

- Himley Hall, Wolverhampton — 16 Inspectors  
(Police in the Community) — 16 Sergeants  
— 28 Constables

- Derby — 1 Sergeant  
(newly appointed Community Relations Officers)

- Wakefield — 1 Inspector  
(Police/Public Relations)
- Manchester — 1 Superintendent  
(Training in Community Relations)

## **GAMING COURSE**

- Manchester — 1 Inspector  
— 1 Sergeant

## **COMMUNICATIONS COURSES**

- Police Computers
- Hendon — 1 Inspector
- Durham — 1 Chief Inspector
- Computer Application
- Ripley — 4 Chief Superintendents

## SENIOR OFFICERS APPRECIATION COURSE

Hedzar, Bucks — 1 Chief Superintendent

## AIRCRAFT CRASH DRILL

Stanstead — 8 Inspectors

## BRAKES COURSE

Banbury — 16 Constables

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION COURSE

Brighton (R.O.S.P.A.) — 1 Inspector

## TV PRODUCTION COURSE

Plymouth Polytechnic — 2 Sergeants

## SENIOR OFFICERS COURSE

Lincoln — 2 Superintendents

## FIRST AID

All recruits joining the Force continue to take an Initial Course in First Aid at the Training Centre with the exception of ex Cadets who in the main are in possession of First Aid Awards gained before they join the Force.

During the year 1235 members attended courses of instruction in First Aid and of those 1102 requalified with 133 failures. Of the failures 95 have since requalified, and arrangements have been made for the remainder to attend further examinations.

Two types of courses are run, Initial and Revision. The Revision Class consists of one day's training, and the Initial Class is of two days' duration, each with an examination.

### First Aid Competitions

The eliminating contest for the Policewomen's National First Aid Competition was held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore in January and two teams were entered. The 'A' Team was placed first and the 'B' Team third. The 'A' Team then took part in the Final, which was held in London in February and was placed second.

Four Teams took part in the St. John High Grade First Aid Competition. The men's 'A' Team was placed first and the 'B' Team sixth in their competition, whilst the two Policewomen's teams were placed third and fourth in their competition.

## ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY AWARDS

The following awards were gained by members of the Force:-

Elementary Awards	221
Intermediate Awards	180
Bronze Medallions	214
1st Bar to Bronze Medallion	29
Bronze Cross	4
Award of Merit	7
	<hr/>
Grand Total	655
	<hr/>

## POLICE CADETS

### Establishment

Authorised Establishment 280.

Strength	Boys	Girls	Total
Strength at 31.12.77	99	65	164
Enrolled during year	60	43	103
Dismissals	0	0	0
Resignations	9	13	22
Enrolment to Regulars	83	36	119

### Induction Course

One hundred cadets enrolled into the Cadet Corps on Monday 15 August 1977, and their four weeks' initial training was completed at Tally Ho Police Training Centre.

The course was designed to train these young people to a high standard of smartness and self-discipline, to make them aware of their role as Police Cadets and to bring them to a level of physical fitness comparable with cadets already in the Corps.

At the completion of this course the cadets dispersed as follows:-

- 11 to College for 6 month Police Certificate Course
- 55 to College for 10 month Police Certificate and Certificate in Office Studies Course
- 34 to Senior Staff Departmental Training

## **Cadet Training**

On enrolment cadets must be at least 16 years of age, and if their progress is satisfactory, they join the Regular Force at 18½ years. Their training programme is dependent on their age of entry into the Corps.

## **Academic Training**

Facilities are available at the Matthew Boulton Technical College for cadets to continue their education. They do not commence any course at the College which they cannot complete by the age of 17 years, 9 months. They therefore do not study subjects requiring involvement for two academic years. They attempt one of two possible courses, namely:

- a 6 month Police Certificate
- a 10 month Police Certificate and Certificate in Office Studies combined.

Some cadets did attempt G.C.E. 'O' levels and 'A' levels, but there were insufficient suitably qualified cadets to form an O.N.C. class in 1977.

The academic programme generally remained unchanged from the previous year and the following qualifications were obtained during 1977:-

Police Certificate	63
Certificate in Office Studies	34
G.C.E. 'O' level	35
G.C.E. 'A' level	3

## **General Training**

During the senior stage of their training, cadets, depending on their age, complete the following attachments:-

- Three months to a Division
- Two months to Community Service
- One month to Traffic Patrol
- One month to a Control Room
- One month Adventure Training
- Two months on Beat Patrol, and remaining time in Headquarters' Departments.

All cadets attending educational establishments take normal school vacations. During the vacations, they undertake community work of one sort or another. In 1977 assistance was given to six organisations which were running summer camps for physically and mentally handicapped children and also children with deprived backgrounds. In addition, assistance was given to 10 play schools organised within the Force area. These schemes were run for children similar to those who attended the summer camps.

In previous years senior cadets have attended international work camps in Europe. This scheme was cancelled in 1977 because of economic restrictions.

### **Physical Training**

Physical Training for cadets is carried out at Tally Ho and all cadets attend weekly training days throughout their cadetship.

The activities covered include physical training, sport, swimming, life saving, drill and an introduction to outdoor pursuits, including rock climbing and canoeing. Emphasis is placed upon discipline, physical fitness and deportment.

### **Adventure Training**

All cadets attend the Police Cadet Camp situated in the Elan Valley. The programme covers all areas of adventure training, including climbing, canoeing and mountaineering.

Account was taken of the physical capabilities of the girl cadets, and the rigorous training programme was modified slightly.

In May a team of six girls and two teams of six boys took part in a walk on Dartmoor known as the Ten Tors Expedition. The girls walked 35 miles, the boys' junior team 45 miles and the senior boys' team 55 miles. All three teams completed the course, and were presented with medals and certificates.

### **First Aid**

Instruction classes were held at Tally Ho during 1977 and 49 cadets qualified for awards during the year.

In January the National Competition for the Peter Guthrie Trophy was held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore District Police Training Centre with 12 teams competing. One cadet team from this force was entered and came sixth in the competition.

## **Voluntary Activities**

Throughout the year cadets also assisted with flag days, the Lord Mayor's Procession, garden fetes, Scout rally, carnival processions, the Remembrance Day Parade, etc. In total there were 24 such events.

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**

This scheme is entirely voluntary and two cadets successfully gained gold awards.

## **Sport**

Cadets are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of sports, and some have achieved a very high standard.

## **Association Football**

Two sides were entered in the Birmingham Works Intermediate League.

The 'A' side won the league without losing a game, and they also won the Wade Cup. The 'B' side were runners-up in the league and losing finalists in the Wade Cup.

In the Police National Football Competition the West Midlands Cadet Team competed, losing in the second round to Derby.

A team representing the Cadet Corps was entered at an invitation five-a-side competition organised by the South Wales Constabulary, but were beaten in the semi-final.

## **Rugby Football**

The cadet team played five games, winning two of them. During the season, several of the older, more experienced players transferred to the Regular Force. Four cadets took part in the North Midlands Youth Trials, and Cadet Williams was selected. Cadets Williams and Wilkinson were invited to take part in a British Police Cadets tour of South Wales.

## **Athletics**

A number of cadets took part in the newly formed Midland Athletic League and gained a great deal of experience. The Regional Championships were held in June. Cadets Silk and Skorupan competed in the Women's 100 metres event,

finishing 1st and 2nd respectively. Cadet B White also ran well, to finish 3rd in the Women's 800 metres. In the same Championships, Cadets Barratt and Stewart took 2nd and 3rd place in the men's 1500 metres. Cadets Silk and Skorupan entered the girl cadets 100 metres in the P.A.A. Athletic Championships in August. Both girls reached the final, and Cadet Silk won the event.

## **Cross Country**

In March two male and one female teams competed in the Regional Cross Country Championships at Droitwich. The boys' 'A' team won the event with the boys' 'B' team placed third. The girls' team also gained first place.

Also in March a team of Boy and a team of Girl Cadets entered the Police Cadet National Cross Country Championships staged by the Metropolitan Police. The girls' team gained first place and the boys third place.

## **Swimming and Life Saving**

Swimming instruction is given to all cadets as part of their training and once they are sufficiently proficient, they go on to life saving training. During 1977 55 cadets were successful in gaining Royal Life Saving Society Awards at Bronze Medallion level.

## Chapter IV

### Crime

**Actual strength and disposition on 31 December 1977**

**Headquarters Staff – Specialist Department etc.**

	Chief Superintendent	Superintendent	Chief Inspector	Inspector	Sergeant	Constable	Aides to CID	Civilians	TOTAL
Operations	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Support Services	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Antecedents	—	—	—	3	5	12	—	7	27
Convictions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	21
Coroners Department	—	—	1	1	3	6	—	5	16
Commercial Branch	—	—	3	3	6	8	—	2	22
Criminal Intelligence	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	5
CID Administration and Records	—	—	1	1	7	12	—	14	35
Crime Prevention	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	1	6
Drugs Squad	—	—	1	3	11	20	—	2	37
Explosives and Firearms	—	—	1	1	5	15	—	4	26
Photographic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Scenes of Crime	—	—	1	1	11	26	—	7	46
Serious Crime Squad	—	1	1	1	8	18	—	3	32
Special Branch	—	1	3	6	18	34	—	13	75
Stolen Car Squad	—	—	1	3	3	8	—	1	16
No 4 Regional Crime Squad	—	1	3	1	23	26	—	16	70
Regional Criminal Records Office	—	1	1	1	5	14	—	17	39
Fingerprints	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	28	36
Social Liaison Department	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>524</b>



## RECORDED CRIME

During the year 154,141 crimes were recorded, an overall increase of 23.2% over 1976. This indicates that the West Midlands Police area has not escaped the country-wide trend in this direction. A total of 51,231 crimes was detected which is 3,107 more than the preceding year, but unhappily the overall increase in crime has reduced the detection rate by 5.3% to 33.2% of the recorded crimes.

This reduction in the detection rate can be accounted for, to some extent, by the increased commitments on matters not directly connected with crime, such as public disorder at football matches, rallies and public meetings, which place an intolerable strain on already depleted manpower resources. Of the detected crimes, 15,281 were committed by juveniles, which represents nearly 30% of the crimes detected. In 1976 juveniles were responsible for 28.6% of the total detected crime.

Table 'A' outlines crimes statistics for each territorial Division. Table 'B' records the incidents of particular crimes, detections and numbers of persons prosecuted for the Force area.

The variation in the main classification of crime in 1977, compared with 1976, is as follows:-

### Increases

Wounding — Section 18 (serious) . . . . .	72	16%
Wounding — Section 20/47 (less serious) . . . . .	510	12%
Burglary — Dwelling . . . . .	3,468	26%
Burglary — Other Buildings . . . . .	5,877	31%
Robbery and Assault With Intent to Rob. . . . .	252	30%
Theft from the Person . . . . .	365	30%
Theft of Pedal Cycles . . . . .	551	11%
Theft from Motor Vehicles . . . . .	3,555	28%
Theft from Shops and Stalls . . . . .	2,279	23%
Theft and Unauthorised taking of motor vehicles . . . . .	651	29%
Other Thefts . . . . .	3,119	17%
Criminal Damage . . . . .	2,183	46%

### Decrease

Other Frauds . . . . .	123	3%
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CRIMINAL STATISTICS — 1977

TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'A' Division		'B' Division		'C' Division		'D' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
<b>Offences against the Person</b>								
Murder	4	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
Attempt Murder	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	1
Threats to Murder	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death by Dangerous Driving	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—
Wounding Section 18	68	47	33	35	43	38	21	17
Wounding Section 20/47	361	199	235	161	329	180	291	196
Abandoning Child	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buggery	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Indecent Assault Male	4	3	7	6	3	3	4	4
Indecency with Males	9	9	5	6	1	1	11	11
Rape	3	3	4	2	11	6	3	1
Indecent Assault Female	44	15	58	23	40	21	70	41
USI—Girl under 13 years	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	—
USI—Girl 13-16 years	2	2	18	13	16	10	14	16
Incest	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bigamy	4	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
<b>Offences against Property—Burglaries etc.</b>								
Burglary Dwelling	124	24	1743	567	1584	389	1264	365
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	—	—	2	1	9	5	6	4
Burglary other Buildings	773	275	1988	600	1906	543	1715	430
Aggravated Burglary other Buildings	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Going Equipped for Stealing	29	29	12	12	17	16	16	16
Robbery	105	12	61	16	207	38	63	24
Assault with intent to Rob	2	1	6	2	12	1	14	6
Blackmail	1	1	4	4	7	6	1	1
<b>Offences against Property—Theft etc.</b>								
Theft from the Person	330	28	74	18	214	85	170	17
Theft in a Dwelling	36	5	247	61	157	40	200	59
Theft by Employee	134	121	79	79	92	82	116	109
Theft of Mailbags	2	—	4	2	4	—	2	1
Theft of Pedal Cycle	136	5	602	27	318	26	510	51
Theft from Vehicles	1166	190	1538	201	1178	174	1346	326
Theft Shops and Stalls	2921	2631	438	375	300	210	876	765
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	61	22	127	39	80	20	225	30
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	2259	331	3798	687	2621	393	2588	554
Other Thefts	1872	323	1621	314	1357	306	1399	308
False Accounting	7	7	3	3	1	1	8	8
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	805	680	254	202	204	157	168	128
Handling Stolen Property	102	100	112	112	198	195	107	110
<b>Criminal Damage</b>								
Arson	35	13	20	8	26	7	28	15
Criminal Damage	514	137	523	103	600	92	500	117
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	31	25	27	23	34	31	21	19
<b>Other Offences</b>								
Affray	7	7	1	1	4	5	—	—
Perjury and False Statements	6	4	1	1	1	1	—	—
Miscellaneous	7	6	63	48	17	14	28	25
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>11969</b>	<b>5262</b>	<b>13711</b>	<b>3761</b>	<b>11597</b>	<b>3100</b>	<b>11789</b>	<b>3776</b>
<b>DETECTION RATE</b>		<b>44.0%</b>		<b>27.4%</b>		<b>26.7%</b>		<b>32.0%</b>
<b>Totals — 1976</b>	<b>10049</b>	<b>5022</b>	<b>10740</b>	<b>3543</b>	<b>10193</b>	<b>3620</b>	<b>9621</b>	<b>2742</b>
<b>Detection Rate — 1976</b>		<b>50.0%</b>		<b>33.0%</b>		<b>36.0%</b>		<b>29.0%</b>

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'E' Division		'F' Division		'G' Division		'H' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
<b>Offences against the Person</b>								
Murder	4	4	2	2	3	3	2	2
Attempt Murder	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	2
Manslaughter	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death by Dangerous Driving	1	1	—	—	1	1	2	2
Wounding Section 18	40	33	55	48	68	46	26	22
Wounding Section 20/47	343	227	292	179	516	361	383	292
Buggery	2	2	5	5	4	4	4	2
Indecent Assault Male	9	6	8	5	11	10	4	4
Indecency with Males	3	1	1	1	5	5	33	32
Rape	9	6	8	6	6	5	7	4
Indecent Assault Female	62	26	39	15	60	40	47	21
USI—Girl under 13 years	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	2
USI—Girl 13 - 16 years	7	7	9	9	27	27	24	27
Incest	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Bigamy	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
<b>Offences against Property—Burglaries etc.</b>								
Burglary Dwelling	1810	451	1931	513	1717	448	1240	242
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	8	4	5	4	3	1	2	2
Burglary Other Buildings	2346	549	2226	522	2561	845	2470	566
Aggravated Burglary Other Buildings	3	1	2	1	1	—	1	—
Going Equipped for Stealing	33	29	21	21	11	10	17	17
Robbery	81	20	99	21	108	26	64	10
Assault with intent to Rob	3	1	2	—	10	6	3	2
Blackmail	14	14	1	1	5	3	4	3
<b>Offences against Property — Theft etc.</b>								
Theft from the Person	100	24	155	15	158	14	66	8
Theft in a Dwelling	321	62	280	65	260	77	188	68
Theft by Employee	89	80	70	64	104	87	102	91
Theft of Mailbags	2	1	7	—	8	2	6	—
Theft of Pedal Cycle	521	39	404	21	664	105	463	65
Theft from Vehicles	1232	163	1171	190	1730	421	1366	234
Theft Shops and Stalls	414	317	366	291	1282	1121	1185	1129
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	145	30	73	15	135	56	79	25
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	3536	637	2981	490	2497	437	1717	314
Other Thefts	1346	235	1387	317	2056	567	1969	459
False Accounting	5	5	—	—	5	5	7	7
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	265	217	338	293	426	334	241	186
Handling Stolen Property	134	130	111	108	150	152	151	148
<b>Criminal Damage</b>								
Arson	24	6	32	15	41	18	40	6
Criminal Damage	631	132	591	117	603	136	622	108
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	18	12	24	18	42	44	28	27
<b>Other Offences</b>								
Affray	1	1	1	1	4	2	5	5
Perjury and False Statements	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	15	15	35	27	39	26	14	11
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>13580</b>	<b>3490</b>	<b>12733</b>	<b>3401</b>	<b>15332</b>	<b>5453</b>	<b>12587</b>	<b>4147</b>
<b>DETECTION RATE</b>	<b>25.7%</b>		<b>26.7%</b>		<b>35.6%</b>		<b>32.9%</b>	
<b>Totals — 1976</b>	<b>11563</b>	<b>4036</b>	<b>11221</b>	<b>3511</b>	<b>11924</b>	<b>5820</b>	<b>10023</b>	<b>3733</b>
<b>Detection Rate — 1976</b>	<b>35.0%</b>		<b>31.0%</b>		<b>47.0%</b>		<b>37.0%</b>	

# CRIMINAL STATISTICS

## TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'J' Division		'K' Division		'L' Division		'M' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
<b>Offences against the Person</b>								
Murder	1	1	1	2	-	-	3	3
Attempt Murder	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Death by Dangerous Driving	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	2
Wounding Section 18	23	20	39	36	16	14	85	63
Wounding Section 20/47	461	372	664	491	187	138	560	425
Child Stealing	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Buggery	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	2
Indecent Assault Male	6	4	19	16	8	7	36	30
Indecency with Males	22	20	16	16	3	3	20	19
Rape	2	2	5	1	6	3	8	3
Indecent Assault Female	45	23	87	53	37	19	97	47
USI—Girl under 13 years	1	2	3	2	1	1	-	1
USI—Girl 13 - 16 years	20	18	31	30	12	11	27	22
Incest	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	1
Abduction	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1
Bigamy	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
Endanger Railway Passengers	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Offences against property—Burglaries etc.</b>								
Burglary Dwelling	1134	335	1307	341	633	161	2455	598
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	3	1	3	1	1	1	6	2
Burglary other Buildings	1904	553	2898	785	802	249	3023	765
Aggravated Burglary other Buildings	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Going Equipped for Stealing	8	8	13	13	26	26	29	30
Robbery	23	15	78	25	22	12	96	28
Assault with intent to Rob	3	3	14	6	1	1	18	8
Blackmail	3	3	8	6	-	-	20	16
<b>Offences against Property—Thefts etc.</b>								
Theft from the Person	49	6	85	14	26	2	156	31
Theft in a Dwelling	166	66	240	106	91	24	334	162
Theft by Employee	101	86	149	131	67	60	120	103
Theft of Mailbags	7	2	2	1	4	2	6	1
Theft of Pedal Cycle	227	33	414	64	441	44	930	103
Theft from Vehicles	974	151	1323	222	856	156	2417	569
Theft Shops and Stalls	1055	945	960	859	500	430	1893	1643
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	99	35	140	50	36	9	135	62
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	1075	332	2092	482	1035	252	2697	781
Other Thefts	1584	432	1909	559	1203	274	3303	938
False Accounting	12	12	16	15	3	3	6	6
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	196	159	242	191	171	148	537	466
Handling Stolen Property	166	167	191	188	95	93	296	298
<b>Criminal Damage</b>								
Arson	35	14	51	9	14	3	111	20
Criminal Damage	466	131	695	180	371	80	865	216
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	25	25	40	40	12	10	56	53
<b>Other Offences</b>								
Affray	-	1	4	4	1	1	3	4
Perjury and False Statements	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Miscellaneous	24	22	39	38	7	7	73	73
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>9928</b>	<b>4007</b>	<b>13789</b>	<b>4985</b>	<b>6692</b>	<b>2248</b>	<b>20434</b>	<b>7601</b>
<b>DETECTION RATE</b>		<b>40.4%</b>		<b>36.2%</b>		<b>33.6%</b>		<b>37.2%</b>
<b>Totals - 1976</b>	<b>7114</b>	<b>2925</b>	<b>11544</b>	<b>4568</b>	<b>5426</b>	<b>2074</b>	<b>15730</b>	<b>6921</b>
<b>Detection Rate - 1976</b>		<b>40.0%</b>		<b>40.0%</b>		<b>38.0%</b>		<b>44.0%</b>

**CRIME — ALL DIVISIONS**

**TABLE 'B'**

NATURE OF CRIME	Crimes Committed	Crimes Detected	Persons Prosecuted
<b>Offences against the Person</b>			
Murder	25	24	28
Attempt Murder	13	13	8
Threats to Murder	2	—	3
Manslaughter	3	3	2
Infanticide	—	—	1
Death by Dangerous Driving	16	15	18
Wounding Section 18	516	419	283
Wounding Section 20/47	4622	3221	2433
Abandoning Child	2	1	—
Child Stealing	1	1	1
Buggery	21	18	10
Indecent Assault Male	119	97	50
Indecency with Males	128	123	222
Rape	72	42	42
Indecent Assault Female	686	344	185
USI — Girl under 13 years	13	13	2
USI — Girl 13 - 16 years	207	152	40
Incest	12	9	7
Procuration	—	—	4
Abduction	3	3	4
Bigamy	10	10	4
Endangering Railway Passengers	1	1	1
<b>Offences against Property—Burglaries etc.</b>			
Burglary Dwelling	16942	4434	1581
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	48	26	24
Burglary Other Buildings	24612	6682	3237
Aggravated Burglary Other Buildings	12	4	2
Going Equipped for Stealing	332	227	216
Robbery	1007	245	300
Assault with intent to Rob	88	37	43
Blackmail	68	58	11
<b>Offences against Property—Thefts etc.</b>			
Theft from the Person	1583	260	33
Theft in a Dwelling	2520	795	61
Theft by Employee	1223	1093	1062
Theft of Mailbags	54	12	20
Theft of Pedal Cycle	5630	583	166
Theft from Vehicles	16297	2997	659
Theft Shops and Stalls	12190	10716	4839
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	1335	393	146
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	28896	5690	2840
Other Thefts	21006	5032	3089
False Accounting	73	72	31
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	3847	3161	939
Handling Stolen Property	1813	1821	1499
<b>Criminal Damage</b>			
Arson	457	134	93
Criminal Damage	6981	1549	2300
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	362	327	217
<b>Other Offences</b>			
Affray	30	31	63
Perjury and False Statements	12	11	2
Miscellaneous	351	312	281
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>154141</b>	<b>51231</b>	<b>27102</b>
<b>DETECTION RATE</b>		<b>33.2%</b>	
<b>Totals — 1976</b>	<b>125148</b>	<b>48215</b>	<b>25567</b>
<b>Detection Rate — 1976</b>		<b>38.5%</b>	

## **CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES COMMITTED**

### **Offences against the Person**

#### **Homicide**

During the year there were 28 homicide offences reported, 25 of which were classified as murder. This is a decrease of five on 1976. The remaining three offences were recorded as Manslaughter, an increase of two. One case remained unsolved at the end of the year.

#### **Woundings**

There was again an increase in offences of wounding during the year from 4,556 to 5,138, an increase of 12.8%. Of these offences, 71% were detected.

#### **Indecency Offences**

The number of offences in this category, which includes indecent assault, rape and unlawful sexual intercourse, was 1,271, a decrease of 37 on 1976. The detection rate for this type of offence remains high at 67%.

#### **Robbery**

Despite the measures introduced in April to counter this type of offence, there was a disturbing increase during the year. The total number of robberies and assaults with intent to rob was 1,095, an increase of 252 on the previous year. However, the rate of detection increased from 23.6% to 26%.

#### **Offences against Property**

Burglaries accounted for 41,614 of the reported crime in this particular category. Unhappily, the downward trend reported in 1976 was reversed and the number of attacks on dwellinghouses increased by 26%. The detection rate for all crimes in this category was 27%.

#### **Thefts of and from Motor Vehicles**

Nearly 30% of the crime recorded during the year related to thefts of and from motor vehicles. This occurred despite publicity campaigns to highlight the problem and to increase public awareness of the vulnerability of unattended motor vehicles. Sensible precautions would prevent many such incidents occurring.

There was a dramatic increase in the incidence of theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles from 22,377 to 28,896, an increase of 29%. This followed a decrease of such offences in 1976.

### **Criminal Damage**

By far the most rapid increase was in the offence of criminal damage, with a rise of 44%. Many of the incidents were without motive, amounting to sheer wanton destruction.

# VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED DURING THE YEAR

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN EACH VALUE GROUP									TOTAL VALUE ALL OFFENCES	
	Nil	Under £5	£5 and under £25	£25 and under £100	£100 and under £500	£500 and under £1,000	£1,000 and over	No. of offences	STOLEN £	RE-COVERED £	
Burglary (Dwelling)	4438	1206	3238	3953	3244	567	286	16942	1910139	94075	
Aggravated Burglary (Dwelling)	21	4	7	9	2	2	3	48	10753	441	
Burglary (Other Buildings)	8031	2150	4579	5169	3583	610	500	24612	2762594	346611	
Aggravated Burglary (Other Building)	1	—	2	2	2	2	3	12	11292	496	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12491</b>	<b>3360</b>	<b>7826</b>	<b>9133</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>41614</b>	<b>4694778</b>	<b>441623</b>	
Robbery and Attempts	181	244	301	224	84	21	40	1095	540712	14249	
Theft and Unlawful Taking Vehicles	633	5	88	2019	2014	4250	1687	28896	12214257	8724733	
								<b>£5 AND OVER</b>	<b>ALL OFFENCES</b>		
Theft from Person	75	345	726	361	68	5	3	1163	49866	2661	
Theft in a Dwelling	45	462	898	729	326	44	16	2013	264539	67736	
Theft by Employee	38	199	274	286	284	60	82	986	684795	129443	
Theft of/from Mailbags	11	30	9	3	—	1	—	13	1081	39	
Theft of Pedal Cycle	37	51	2178	3273	90	1	—	5542	198188	11899	
Theft from Vehicles	577	3190	4962	5647	1770	111	40	12530	775568	38846	
Theft from Shops and Stalls	289	7194	3411	947	316	20	13	4707	189642	68294	
Theft from Auto Machines and Meters	211	322	560	216	23	3	—	802	23181	869	
Other Thefts	894	4138	7937	5266	2302	280	189	15974	1602458	175152	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2177</b>	<b>15931</b>	<b>20955</b>	<b>16728</b>	<b>5179</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>43730</b>	<b>3789318</b>	<b>494939</b>	
								<b>Totals</b>	<b>21239065</b>	<b>9675544</b>	



## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT**

The Criminal Investigation Department is directed by an Assistant Chief Constable.

### **C I D Operations**

The operational aspect of criminal investigation is under the control of a Detective Chief Superintendent. The area of responsibility extends to detective officers on the 12 territorial divisions and also to the following specialist departments:-

Serious Crime Squad	Drugs Squad
Stolen Vehicle Squad	Social Liaison Department
Commercial Branch	Robbery Squad

The senior detective officer on each territorial division is of the rank of Detective Superintendent and in conjunction with the Divisional Chief Superintendent is responsible for the day to day investigation of crime within his division.

### **C I D Support Services**

The Support Service of the Criminal Investigation Department is commanded by a Detective Chief Superintendent. It provides support services for the efficient management of the Criminal Investigation Department and additionally gives specialised assistance from a central source. It includes the following Departments:-

Headquarters Administration	Explosives and Firearms
Antecedents Departments	Department
Scenes of Crime Departments	Central Convictions
H M Coroner's Department	Crime Prevention
Crime Intelligence	Photographic Department

### **Antecedent History Department**

This Department is divided into three sections, at Force Headquarters, Coventry and Brierley Hill, and is responsible for the preparation of antecedent histories of defendants appearing before the Crown Courts.

It is of interest to note that there was a decrease of 131 in the number of persons dealt with at Crown Courts for 1977 over the preceding year. Material

was prepared for 4,274 trials, 932 committals to higher court for sentence and 690 appeals, making a total of 5,896 case papers, a decrease of 2.2% over 1976.

## **Headquarters Administration**

This department is headed by a Detective Chief Inspector and records details of all crimes reported within the Force area. It also has the responsibility of disseminating information to the Force relating to criminal procedures.

Certain administrative changes were made in the latter part of the year when the storage of crime files was decentralised to Sub-Divisions.

## **Commercial Branch**

This Branch conducts enquiries into various types of fraud committed by persons connected with business and public bodies, and in particular where the enquiries are protracted and complex. It operates from three offices, at Force Headquarters, Brierley Hill and Coventry, with a Detective Chief Inspector in charge of each branch. Assistance is given by staff members to the Force Training Department in organising and lecturing to Fraud Investigation Courses. Enquiries are also conducted on behalf of other police forces.

At the beginning of 1977, 51 cases were under investigation and a further 82 new complaints were received during the year which included allegations of bribery, conspiracy, long-firm frauds, forgery, fraudulent trading, theft and obtaining money by deception. The value of property subject of enquiries was about £1,206,901 of which property value £45,354 was recovered. Forty-five cases were still under investigation at the end of the year. A number of talks were given by senior officers of the Commercial Branch to business institutions and associations throughout the Force area.

## **Crime Prevention Department**

During the year this Department has maintained its impetus in bringing to public notice the importance of crime prevention and has offered advice on measures which can be taken to deter the commission of crime. The Department is located at Police Headquarters and is responsible for co-ordinating all aspects of crime prevention in the whole of the Force area, advising on Force policy and promoting liaison between all outside bodies including the Crime Prevention Panels in each of the seven District Council areas situated within the Force.

In particular, the Coventry Panel organised a 'Playlets' competition amongst schools which was received with enthusiasm by the children, whilst the

Birmingham Panel submitted a detailed report on car security which will receive national circulation.

A total of 2,718 surveys was carried out at a variety of premises and advice was given concerning all aspects of crime prevention, varying from the physical protection, cash in transit, to the installation of alarm systems.

In the year under review, 1,199 new burglar alarm systems were installed bringing the total in the Force area to 15,258. Following the introduction of the new policy of constructive investigation into false alarm calls with a penalty of withdrawal of police response in cases of non-conformity, I am pleased to say that there was 4,046 fewer false calls.

An exhibition stand was again provided at the International Ideal Homes Show at the National Exhibition Centre on the theme "On parade with the household Guards". A great deal of public interest was generated by this display, and advice on the protection of homes was given to many people. Sixty-one other static and shop window displays were mounted in various parts of the Force.

Specific campaigns have been directed against thefts of pedal cycles and thefts of and from motor vehicles. To enable the Department to widen its sphere of operation in relation to shows and fetes, an exhibition caravan has been purchased and will shortly be commissioned.

### **Crime Intelligence Department**

This Department is responsible for the collation, evaluation and dissemination of information relating to crime and criminals, not only from within the Force area but also from other parts of the country, who may frequent the West Midlands.

Close liaison is maintained with collators of similar information situated on each of the 29 Sub-Divisions of the Force, and regular meetings are arranged with them to stimulate the flow of information. Members of the Department attend various conferences of detective officers, and discuss local and nationwide criminal activities.

### **Drug Squad**

The Drug Squad operates from three branches within the Force area and is under the control of a Detective Chief Inspector. As in previous years, the officers of the Department have been fully committed implementing the policy of prevention, detection and prosecution of drug offences. The success of the

work relies heavily upon co-operation with various other agencies concerned with this problem. Close liaison is maintained with the Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit at New Scotland Yard, the Customs and Excise Drugs Investigation Branch, the Home Office Drugs Branch and the R A F Drugs Investigation Branch. During the year 504 persons were arrested by the Department for drug offences. Additionally, 121 further criminal offences were discovered for which persons were prosecuted.

I am pleased to record that there has not been any significant growth in the use of heroin during the year in the Force area, but as addiction to this type of drug appears to be on the increase elsewhere, there is no room for complacency. I am equally pleased to record that there has been a decline in the use of opium during the year. I am also encouraged by the considerable reduction in the number of persons coming to notice for abusing amphetamines. Conversely, the drug cannabis was more widely abused in the Force area and proceedings were taken against 276 persons for various offences connected with the drug during the year. A new development as far as this Force is concerned has been the training of two police dogs to be used in the detection of this offence.

In common with the rest of the country, there has been a considerable reduction in the availability of the drug L S D. A factor bringing about this change was the nationwide co-operation of police forces to trace the manufacturing plants for this drug. Officers from the Force Drug Squad took part in this operation.

It is disturbing to record an increase in attacks on premises where drugs are either manufactured or sold. During the year there were 108 such attacks compared with 67 the previous year.

The examination of chemists' registers has continued, 425 visits being made. In general, close liaison has been maintained between officers of the Drug Squad and chemists.

Various sections of the community, particularly those concerned with education and the young, continue to express concern over the problem of drug abuse. This is reflected in the demands made on the Department for officers to give talks on the subject of drugs and drug abuse.

### **Photographic Department**

The work of this Department has again increased during the year. The Department is staffed entirely by civilians who are on call day and night to respond to requests for assistance from police officers. A total of 94,300 photographic prints

was produced for use in court during the year, copies of 10,165 documents were also produced. Throughout the Force prisoners are photographed on Sub-Divisions and during the year 27,714 photographs were received from this source for processing. This resulted in 100,644 copy prints being supplied in addition to 6,022 reprints. Colour photography has been introduced on certain Divisions of the Force.

## Scenes of Crime Department

The Department staff comprises police officers and civilians trained in specialist techniques in searching for and lifting fingerprints at scenes of crime, and photography and searching for and preserving forensic evidence for evaluation by scientists at the Forensic Science Laboratory.

The Department is under the control of a Detective Chief Inspector. Officers located at Headquarters are responsible for the work in the six Birmingham Divisions. The work in the remaining six Divisions is undertaken by locally-based personnel.

The increase in the commission of crime for the year is reflected in the increase in the work of this Department, when 33,663 scenes of crime and motor vehicles were examined for fingerprints and other forensic evidence. Finger impressions were found in 6,137 cases. A total of 1,116 exhibits were sent to the West Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory for examination and 5,313 cases sent to the Fingerprint Department for searching and comparison, 1,325 identifications being made.

## Scientific Aid

Exhibits were submitted to the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory in Birmingham as follows:-

Criminal matters	2,295
Drugs etc	450
Other Analyses	251
Traffic offences	<u>3,263</u>
	<u>6,259</u>

Once again I wish to place on record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance extended to the Force by the Director of the West Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory and his staff.

## **Serious Crime Squad**

The Serious Crime Squad was formed with the objective of concentrating on the most serious of crimes. Its functions and aims are:-

- (a) to concentrate on the detection and apprehension of persons involved in the commission of very serious crimes in the Force area;
- (b) to provide immediately on request a pool of experienced detective officers to support Divisional detectives in major enquiries;
- (c) to undertake enquiries within the Force area about very serious crime committed elsewhere.

The Squad continues to be involved in anti-terrorist activities and will continue to do so until more tranquil times are reached.

The work of the squad has increased during the year with 286 persons being arrested and assistance given in the investigation of 1,423 serious crimes. The Squad was also responsible for recovering property valued at £228,232.

## **Stolen Vehicle Squad**

The Squad is based at Headquarters with branch offices at Coventry and Wolverhampton. Its functions are:-

- (a) to assist Divisional officers with major enquiries involving motor vehicles;
- (b) to enquire into thefts and complicated frauds relating to motor vehicles and documents;
- (c) to examine motor vehicles on behalf of the police, Taxation Department, and Department of Environment and Local Authorities.

The Squad is responsible for collecting Intelligence concerning the theft and rebuilding of stolen vehicles, and disseminating this information throughout the Force. Enquiries were also made on behalf of other police forces.

During the year 142 persons were arrested by the Squad which resulted in 56 stolen vehicles and other property valued at £38,773 being recovered. A total of 528 vehicles was examined at the request of police officers, which resulted in the identification and recovery of a further 171 vehicles valued at £103,055. Ninety-four vehicles were examined for the Local Authority and 2,119 vehicles

were examined for the Department of the Environment and local Motor Taxation Departments. There has been an increase in the number of older vehicles being stolen and not recovered, which tends to support the view that vehicles are taken with the intention of removing certain parts which are difficult to obtain and the vehicles then being disposed of as scrap.

### **Social Liaison Department**

The Department co-ordinates liaison between the Police and Social Service agencies in matters affecting allegations of parental violence against children, violence in marriage and fostering and adoption of children. Area Review Committee Meetings in each of the seven local authority areas within the Force area are attended. These Committees are comprised of representatives of the Probation Service, Social Services and Area Health Authority and each is responsible for formulating policies in relation to non-accidental injury to children. Decisions taken at Area Review Committees are promulgated to senior officers on territorial Divisions who attend individual case conferences.

During the course of the year 1,595 enquiries in relation to fostering and adoption of children were made for the Department of Social Services. Violence in marriage continued to be a source of concern to all agencies concerned with this problem, and in the period of 11 months a total of 313 criminal offences of violence in this category was recorded. This does not include the many assaults which are never reported to the police.

In 43% of the cases the victims were women in the 20 - 29 years age group.

Offences of violence against children by parents, highlighted as 'children at risk' or 'child abuse', cause concern to the police, with 63 offences being recorded, which included murder, serious woundings and assaults. The most vulnerable age group is that up to the age of four years, against whom 32 of the offences recorded were committed.

It is essential that close liaison between the various social disciplines is maintained so that wherever a child is at risk, this fact is identified at the earliest possible opportunity and remedial action taken.

### **Central Convictions Department**

The function of this Department is to maintain a centralised record of all criminal and serious traffic convictions of persons resident within the Force area, and to liaise with the National Criminal Record Office as to the veracity of certain records which are processed. The microfilming of the national record files has

necessitated the introduction of 'reader/printers'. The Department is staffed entirely by civilian personnel and provides a 24 hours service. The records kept are confidential and information is only given to police officers and official agencies approved by the Home Office.

### **Robbery Squad**

In April 1977 a Robbery Squad was formed to co-ordinate the work on a Force basis. The Squad was enlarged in November 1977 and consists of:-

- 1 Detective Superintendent
- 1 Detective Inspector
- 2 Detective Sergeants
- 8 Detective Constables

The Squad has worked closely with the Regional Crime Squad and the Force's own Serious Crime Squad, resulting in 27 persons being arrested, and 43 offences of robbery being cleared up.

The results are most encouraging, and I am hopeful that this, in addition to other counter-measures taken, will reduce the incidence of this type of crime.

### **Regional Crime Squad**

The Regional Crime Squad has offices situated within the Force area at Birmingham, Bilston and Coventry. Their duties run parallel with the Force's own Serious Crime Squad, but their field of operation is more widespread and linked to other such Squads throughout the country. Fifty-four officers are seconded for duty with the Squad; their disposition by rank is as follows:-

- 1 Superintendent
- 3 Chief Inspectors
- 1 Inspector
- 23 Sergeants
- 26 Constables

### **Midland Criminal Records Office**

The offices of the Midlands Criminal Records Office are situated at Force Headquarters, and consist of a Records and a Fingerprint Section. Thirty officers are detached for duty with the Department; their disposition by rank is as follows:-

- 1 Superintendent
- 2 Chief Inspectors
- 2 Inspectors
- 7 Sergeants
- 18 Constables



## Chapter V

# Proceedings

### PROCEEDINGS AND RELATED MATTERS

During the year proceedings were initiated against 114,952 persons in respect of offences committed.

#### Analysis of offences

Persons prosecuted for:-

INDICTABLE OFFENCES	27,102
MOTORING OFFENCES	65,003
DRUNKENNESS OFFENCES	7,587
OTHER NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES	<u>15,260</u>
	<u>114,952</u>

#### INDICTABLE OFFENCES

Details of persons prosecuted are set out in table 'B' in Chapter IV.

In addition to those prosecuted, 6,124 persons, including 5,138 juveniles, were cautioned for indictable offences during the year.

#### NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES

In addition to those prosecuted, 1,346 persons, including 791 juveniles were cautioned for non-indictable offences during the year; a detailed breakdown of the figures is shown at Table 'A'.

**PERSONS PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR  
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES**

**TABLE 'A'**

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Adulteration of Food and Drink	125	161	—
Assault Police Officer	472	621	—
Obstruct Police Officer	150	182	—
Other Assaults	301	334	—
Betting and Gaming	63	136	6
Brothel Keeping	26	42	—
Cruelty to Animals	27	29	1
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children	7	17	2
Offences in Relation to Dogs	80	130	211
Education Acts	163	201	—
Firearms Acts	204	286	96
Highways Acts	259	303	151
Pedal Cycle Offences	149	240	211
Indecent Exposure	127	177	5
Simple Drunkenness	2646	2799	5
Drunk and Disorderly	4941	5245	5
Offences by Licensed Persons	88	259	13
Other Offences relating to Licensing Laws	217	405	51
Labour Laws	35	70	—
Social Security Offences	665	1451	—
Naval, Military and Air Force Laws	18	18	—
Disorderly Behaviour	1094	1171	39
Possessing Offensive Weapon	482	541	14
Prostitution	495	733	288
Public Health Acts	373	1506	9
Railway Offences	504	588	1
Revenue Laws	3260	5131	76
Stage Carriage and Public Service Vehicles	121	140	15
Offences in relation to Shops	5	9	—
Vagrancy Acts	340	364	19
Weights and Measures Acts	35	107	—
Indecency with Children	32	52	4
Misuse of Drugs	282	446	4
Immigration Act	61	63	—
Other Offences not shown separately	5000	6340	120
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22847</b>	<b>30297</b>	<b>1346</b>

## MOTORING OFFENCES

A total of 65,003 persons were prosecuted for committing 113,692 motoring offences and in addition, 21,494 offences were dealt with by way of caution during the year.

### PERSONS DEALT WITH FOR MOTORING OFFENCES

TABLE 'B'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Offences Dealt with by Caution
Unfit to Drive through Drink or Drugs	2420	3016	1
Dangerous Driving	255	415	2
Speeding	16338	16871	246
Motorway Offences	417	520	144
Careless Driving	6581	7908	477
Prohibited Driving	269	411	237
Neglect of Traffic Directions	4100	5768	1310
Obstruction, Waiting, and Parking Place Offences	3535	3867	4989
Lighting Offences	1981	8322	3090
Dangerous Condition	6041	10526	738
Defective Condition	711	3713	493
Trailer Offences	8	25	20
Motor Cycle Offences	124	456	177
Load Offences	1796	2885	408
Noise Offences	219	584	108
Driving Licence Offences	4518	14605	1720
Operators' Licence Offences	103	289	42
Insurance Offences	6133	10844	666
Registration and Licensing Offences	3378	6998	4995
Work Record and Employment Offences	685	1384	401
Accident Offences	473	2684	109
Vehicle Testing Offences	1388	7090	1068
Miscellaneous Offences	3530	4511	53
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65003</b>	<b>113692</b>	<b>21494</b>

### Offences in connection with Drink/Driving —Road Traffic Act 1972

A total of 2,420 persons committed 3,016 offences in connection with drink and driving in 1977, as follows:

	Offences
Driving a motor vehicle with excess alcohol in the body	2,150
Failing or refusing to provide a specimen	819
In charge of a motor vehicle whilst having excess alcohol in the body	47

## DRUNKENNESS AND KINDRED OFFENCES

A total of 7,587 persons committed 8,044 offences of drunkenness during the year, and in 233 of those cases the offenders were under the age of 18 years. In the same period 226 persons under the age of 18 were proceeded against for consuming or purchasing intoxicating liquor. This was an increase of 131 on 1976.

### Conduct of Licensed Premises

A total of 88 Licensees or their servants were prosecuted for 259 offences for breaches of the licensing laws during the year.

## ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS

During the year 988 members of the Force, including 51 women, were assaulted whilst on duty; this was an increase of 132 as compared with 1976.

Of these assaults, 367 were of a serious nature and are detailed below:-

Attempt Murder	1
Section 18 Offences Against Persons Act 1861 (Grievous Bodily Harm)	28
Section 20 Offences Against Persons Act 1861 (Unlawful Wounding)	62
Section 47 Offences Against Persons Act 1861 (Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm)	265
Section 25 Offences Against Persons Act 1861 (Casting Corrosive Fluid)	3
Section 35 Offences Against Persons Act 1861 (Cause Bodily Harm)	2
Assault With Intent to Resist Arrest	4
Use Firearm to Resist Arrest	1
Aggravated Burglary - Other Building	1

This was an increase of 76 such assaults as compared with 1976.

A total of 621 officers was assaulted and the offenders dealt with under the provision of section 51 Police Act 1964; this was an increase of 56 compared with 1976. These offences were dealt with as follows:-

Persons	Court Disposal
267	Fined
61	Committed to Prison
106	Withdrawn or Dismissed
18	Probation Order
32	Conditional Discharge
4	Borstal Training
19	Suspended Sentence
101	Otherwise Dealt with
13	Pending

## JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juveniles were responsible for committing 9,974 indictable and 3,645 non-indictable offences during the year. A total of 5,138 Juveniles was cautioned for indictable offences and 791 for non-indictable offences.

Tables 'C' and 'D' give details of the offences committed.

The following tables give a comparison of indictable and non-indictable offences known to have been committed by juveniles during 1977 and the previous year.

### Indictable Offences

	1976	1977	Increase/Decrease
Offences	8854	9974	+1120 (12.6%)
Juveniles Prosecuted	5606	6041	+ 435 (7.8%)
Juveniles Cautioned	4158	5138	+ 980 (23.5%)

### Non-Indictable Offences

	1976	1977	Increase/Decrease
Offences	3438	3645	+207 (6.0%)
Juveniles Prosecuted	2092	2098	+ 6 (0.3%)
Juveniles Cautioned	628	791	+163 (26.0%)

# JUVENILES PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES

## TABLE 'C'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
<b>Offences Against the Person</b>			
Murder	1	1	—
Wounding Section 18	19	22	1
Wounding Section 20/47	287	400	88
Child Stealing	—	—	1
Buggery	4	7	2
Indecent Assault Male	2	10	7
Indecency with Males	2	2	3
Rape	3	6	—
Indecent Assault Female	41	54	31
U.S.I. — Girl under 13 years	—	1	2
U.S.I. — Girl 13 - 16 years	—	1	27
Abduction	—	3	—
Endanger Railway Passengers	1	1	—
<b>Offences Against Property—Burglaries etc.</b>			
Burglar Dwelling	787	1328	150
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	2	2	—
Burglary Other Buildings	1340	2062	618
Going Equipped for Stealing	53	152	11
Robbery	106	147	6
Assault with Intent to Rob	9	11	—
Blackmail	6	19	2
<b>Offences Against Property—Thefts etc.</b>			
Theft from the Person	13	18	25
Theft in a Dwelling	26	44	110
Theft by Employee	9	11	14
Theft of Mailbags	6	8	—
Theft of Pedal Cycle	113	206	140
Theft from Vehicles	127	234	197
Theft Shops and Stalls	785	1319	2472
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	21	38	28
Theft of Motor Vehicles	66	119	27
Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	646	1139	153
Other Thefts	813	1398	619
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	28	70	57
Handling Stolen Property	301	448	127
<b>Criminal Damage</b>			
Arson	45	55	14
Criminal Damage	374	627	195
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	4	10	8
<b>Other Offences</b>			
Perjury and False Statements	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	1	1	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6041</b>	<b>9974</b>	<b>5138</b>

**JUVENILES PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR  
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES**

**TABLE 'D'**

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Assault Police Officer	36	41	—
Obstruct Police Officer	13	15	—
Other Assaults	13	14	—
Betting and Gaming	1	1	—
Cruelty to Animals	1	1	—
Offences in Relation to Dogs	1	1	—
Firearms Acts	73	119	73
Highways Acts	38	46	51
Pedal Cycle Offences	76	119	164
Incident Exposure	9	17	1
Simple Drunkenness	28	28	2
Drunk and Disorderly	86	93	4
Other Offences relating to Licensing Laws	69	141	15
Disorderly Behaviour	122	130	20
Possessing Offensive Weapon	82	90	9
Prostitution	10	11	11
Railway Offences	57	74	—
Revenue Laws	3	42	—
Stage Carriage and Public Service Vehicles	15	18	1
Vagrancy Acts	33	35	15
Indecency with Children	4	7	—
Misuse of Drugs	5	7	2
Other Offences not shown separately	324	363	52
Motoring Offences	999	2232	371
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2098</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>791</b>

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROSECUTING SOLICITOR

The year has been one of increasing difficulty for the Prosecuting Solicitor Service and regrettably at 31 December 1977, it was not possible to echo the optimism inherent in the report for the preceding year. At the end of the year, of the authorised establishment of thirty-four solicitors, six posts were still vacant and recruitment to them prohibited. In addition, three solicitors had handed in their resignations and their posts joined the list of posts prohibited for recruitment. The demands made on the specialised prosecuting service has also continued to grow, not only as a result of a continuing rise in the number of offences committed, but also as a result of the increased availability of legal representation to defendants.

Quite apart from the adverse financial implications and administrative problems resultant from the seriously depleted solicitor strength, the available staff has been unable to provide police officers of all ranks with that level of in-depth appraisal and consideration of all matters referred to the Service that they rightly demand.

Despite these difficulties, some encouraging progress has been made during the year. The most significant is the centralisation of the staff handling Crown Court cases at County Hall, a development that has been welcomed by Crown Court officials, members of the Bar and police officers alike. The Crown Court staff has been divided into teams, giving an efficient and effective coverage for all the Crown Courts in which cases prepared by the Office are heard.

During the year, a solicitor has been located at Solihull Divisional Police Station to advise and prosecute the more serious cases originating from that Division.

In the course of the year the Service ceased to handle cases on behalf of the County Council's Trading Standards Department with the result that the whole operation of the Service is entirely concerned with Police matters. In 1977 a total of 26,855 cases was referred to the Service, a small increase on the preceding year, and again, as last year, by far the greater part resulted in prosecutions at Court.

Two developments during the year helped to improve the close professional ties between the Police and the Service. The first was the formulation and subsequent acceptance of consultative procedures. The second was the creation of training programmes for solicitors and Crown Court staff employed in the Service, in which police officers played a substantial part.

I am grateful for the valuable assistance that has been rendered by Mr I S Manson, the Chief Prosecuting Solicitor, and his staff during the year.



## PROSECUTIONS DEPARTMENTS

There are 12 Petty Sessional areas within the Force at Aldridge, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Halesowen, Solihull, Stourbridge, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Warley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

Prosecution Departments are established on each territorial Division covering these areas, apart from the Birmingham Divisions, and are responsible for the administration work connected with the issue and service of summonses and warrants.

The Divisions in Birmingham prepare their own process, but the summonses and warrants are dealt with by a Central Summons and Warrant Department.

## SERVICE OF SUMMONS

A total of 140,610 summonses was served within the Force area.

## EXECUTION OF WARRANTS

A total of 57,335 warrants was executed, which included 9,971 executed on behalf of other Police Forces. Monies collected by the Warrant Departments totalled £681,642.

## H M CORONERS' DEPARTMENT

There are nine Coroners situated throughout the Force area. The Coroner for Birmingham is a full time appointment, the remainder are employed on a part time basis. There were 9,454 reported deaths during the year. Post mortem examinations were carried out in 7,114 cases and 1,342 inquests were held.

These cases were dealt with as follows:—

Division	Cases	Post Mortem	Inquests
A—F	4,704	2,793	729
G	698	654	114
H	724	715	99
J	1,028	898	149
K	721	712	79
L	334	334	81
M	1,245	1,008	91

## Chapter VI

# Traffic

### ROAD TRAFFIC

#### Mileage and Roads

There are 3,934 miles of road within the West Midlands County; this figure includes 42 miles of motorway, 75 miles of trunk road and 350 miles of class 'A' roads.

### TRAFFIC DIVISION

Following numerous changes in the autumn of 1976 in the higher ranks of the Traffic Division, 1977 proved to be a year of consolidation during which several innovations in methods of traffic policing were introduced. These are described later in this chapter.

The structure and responsibilities of the Traffic Division remained unchanged, with the Division being superimposed on the 12 Territorial Divisions and comprising four Sub-Divisions situated at Duke Street in Birmingham for the Central area, Brierley Hill and Walsall for the Western area, Solihull and Coventry for the Eastern area and the Motorway Sub-Division based at Perry Barr, Birmingham. The establishment of police personnel in the Division is as follows:—

	Ch Supt	Supt	Ch Insp	Insp	P S	Cons
Headquarters	1	2	2	3	3	2
Central Sub-Division		1	1	5	15	116
Western Sub-Division		1	1	5	17	96
Eastern Sub-Division		1	1	4	9	65
Motorway Sub-Division		1	1	5	12	56
Total Strength	1	6	6	22	56	335
Establishment	1	6	6	24	67	536

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Divisional administration is located at Force Headquarters with administration sections at each Sub-Division and in the case of Western and Eastern Sub-Divisions small administration units also at Walsall and Coventry respectively.

### Deployment of Traffic Patrols

Patrol cars provide a 24 hour cover throughout the Force and are allocated to areas which correspond to the boundaries of territorial Divisions. Motor cyclists cover a 16 hour period between the hours of 7 am and 11 pm and are similarly deployed.

During the summer months a team consisting of a Sergeant and six motor cyclists patrolled as a unit in pre-selected areas where complaints had been received from either members of the public or Sub-Divisional officers, about particular traffic problems. Patrols usually operated in the evenings from Thursdays to Saturdays from 8 pm onwards, the Sergeant in charge being responsible for liaison with the territorial Sub-Divisional officers prior to the operations. On occasions the units arranged road checks and probationary constables from the territorial Sub-Divisions assisted and gained valuable experience in this method of policing. In addition to enforcing traffic legislation, a number of persons was arrested for criminal offences.

During the year Traffic Patrol officers made the following arrests:—

Crime	1189
Drink/Driving	1015
Others	479

The increase of 91 motorists arrested for Drink/Driving offences compared with 1976, reflects the extra vigilance paid to this serious offence.

A total of 5,487 accidents was dealt with, and 75,739 offences were reported by the Traffic Division during the year.

### MOTORWAY POLICING

The Motorway Sub-Division is responsible for patrolling the M6, M5, M42 Motorways and the Aston Expressway (A 38M) within the Force area.

The volume of traffic on the M6, M5 and A 38M continues to be such that during peak periods even minor accidents or temporary obstructions on any lane

frequently result in serious congestion and rapid tail-back of traffic. Special precautionary measures by patrols are always taken on these occasions to slow down drivers and give warning of the tail-back, which invariably presents high accident risk. Peak hour problems during the year have also been aggravated by an extensive programme of road maintenance work which has been carried out. This has necessitated a 'contra flow' traffic system being operated for a considerable time on a section of the M5 Motorway, chiefly between junctions one and three.

The availability of close circuit television, involving the use of 20 cameras, and the Gantry signalling system are essential aids to patrol crews and control room staff in maintaining traffic flows and ensuring the necessary emergency action is taken when incidents occur.

The facilities of the Motorway Sub-Division were improved in October 1977 by the installation of a Police National Computer terminal.

## VASCAR

Nine patrol cars are fitted with VASCAR sets and were used by officers on each of the Traffic Sub-Divisions during the year. A total of 1,082 speeding offences was reported using this equipment

## RADAR

Six PETA Radar Meters are rented from the Home Office and used on the Traffic Sub-Divisions, excluding the Motorway, and 11,221 offences of excess speed were detected during the year which represented an increase of 1,286 over 1976.

In using Radar emphasis was placed upon those roads which had the worst accident records and about which complaints of excess speed had been received.

## Removal of Vehicles

Vehicle Removal Squads using Land Rovers again provided valuable assistance in the congested areas of the Force. The number of vehicles removed by these squads was as follows:-

Stolen Vehicles Recovered	Broken Down Vehicles	Local Removals	Motorway Removals	Vehicles Impounded
1479	1219	951	50	995



**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 2**

## **Department of Environment Vehicle Checks**

Traffic Officers continued to assist the Department Examiners with road-side checks, and during the year a total of 107 such checks was held.

## **Police Vehicle Examiners**

The majority of officers in the Traffic Division are authorised under Section 53 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 to test motor vehicles and their expertise contributed towards a total of 15,862 offences being detected under the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations.

An experiment was carried out within the Traffic Division during the latter part of the year involving a team of four very experienced Traffic Officers who were engaged in checking heavy goods vehicles.

A total of 129 offenders was reported for serious infringements, but the success of the operation can best be measured in terms of the advice given to drivers, Transport Managers and Heads of Departments who were visited following an infringement being disclosed as a result of the check. The general impression of the officers involved in this operation was that the drivers and managers greatly appreciated the advice given and the help in clarifying some points of law. This is not the type of operation which can be prolonged but it will be continued periodically in 1978.

## **Abnormal Loads**

The number of notifications of abnormal loads received by the Routeing Section increased by 60% to a total of 33,841. Of these 2,623 loads required police escorts and 37 were subject of special order movements requiring careful planning due to their extreme dimensions.

Many motoring events, cycle races and sponsored walks were dealt with and there has been an unusually large number of Royal visits to the West Midlands during the year, including the Jubilee visit of HM the Queen and Prince Philip. The Routeing Section was involved in the planning, organisation and operational stages of all the visits.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

The duties relating to traffic management have included negotiations and liaison with various County Departments and Committees regarding improvements to road junctions, surveys of bridges, omnibus-priority and pedestrian schemes and

the siting of traffic signs and pedestrian crossings.

## **Accident Records**

The Accident Office at Traffic Division Headquarters, under the supervision of a Chief Inspector, is responsible for the administration of accident records, the Accident Investigation Unit, Road Safety and police involvement in School Crossing Patrols.

Centralisation of accident recording was completed in May 1977 with the inclusion of 'M' Division accidents. Computer facilities are now provided by the West Midlands County Council having been transferred from the Birmingham District computer during the latter part of the year.

During the year 5,856 abstracts of accident reports and 18,328 letters were supplied by the Department to interested parties, 23 sets of photographs were supplied and 31 interviews with reporting officers arranged with Solicitors.

## **Accident Investigation Unit**

The Unit is responsible for in-depth investigation of accidents at operational level and the training of personnel in this area.

Training of officers from this and other Forces continued throughout the year and 80 officers, including 15 from other Forces, were trained to standard level. Similarly, 46 officers, including 12 from other Forces were trained to advanced level. Sixty-six reconstructions were prepared for Court proceedings and in numerous other cases Investigators attended and submitted scale plans.

## **School Crossing Patrols**

The administration, supervision, recruitment and training of School Crossing Patrols remains with the Police, whilst the West Midlands County Surveyor is responsible for the authorisation of sites.

There are 1,054 authorised sites within the Force area. During the year 211 patrols resigned and despite the fact that 267 were recruited 64 vacancies remained at 31 December 1977. Where a School Crossing Patrol has not been allocated or where the crossing is not covered for reasons of absence, etc. the points are, whenever possible, covered by Traffic Wardens or Police Officers.



## ROAD SAFETY

Selected officers are employed on each of the territorial Divisions on road safety duties. Close liaison with County and District Council Road Safety Officers is maintained so that the available resources are used to the best advantage.

The education of young children in road safety matters is seen as an important police function and to this end the following visits were made to schools during 1977:—

Infant schools	454
Junior and middle schools	979
Secondary schools	292

As a result of these visits 150,916 children received the benefit of police advice on road safety. In addition, officers from the Department spoke to 164 Youth and Adult Groups on this subject.

The number of child cyclists who were awarded proficiency certificates as a result of the combined training scheme between Force Road Safety Officers and Local Authority Road Safety Officers reduced by 4,205 to 7,470, despite publicity being given to the scheme. This reduction in the numbers of child cyclists attending was disappointing.

Conversely, the number of road safety quizzes organised by the Road Safety Officers increased to 87.

In addition to their other duties the officers gave assistance at the Lorry Driver of the Year Competitions at Birmingham and Wolverhampton as well as assisting to stage 47 exhibitions and accident prevention displays.

## TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Force fleet of 1,016 vehicles is made up as follows:—

Unit Beat Cars	261
Traffic Patrol Cars	55
Traffic Patrol Cycles	98
Traffic Patrol Land Rovers	5
Recovery Land Rovers	3
Motorway Patrol Vehicles	16
Radar Cars	6
Staff Cars	8

Driving Instruction Vehicles	69
Divisional Supervision Cars	29
Divisional General Purpose Cars	69
Divisional Dog Vehicles	35
Divisional Personnel Carriers	14
Divisional Enquiries—Motor Cycles	54
CID Operational Vehicles	98
Force Crime Squad Vehicles	11
CID HQ Department Vehicles	7
Stolen Vehicle Squad Cars	5
Scenes of Crime Vans	21
Photographic Department Vans	2
Explosives Department Vehicles	2
Mounted Department Vehicles	5
Force Training Department Vehicles	6
Special Patrol Group Vehicles	9
Vice Squad Vehicles	6
Prison Vans	7
Clothing Store Vans and Trailer	1
Found Property Vans	2
Traffic Wardens Department Vans	4
Summons and Warrant Department Vehicles	7
Underwater Search Van	1
Road Safety Department Vehicle	1
Garage Reserve Vehicles	56
Airport Vehicles	2
Regional Crime Squad Vehicles	41

The total mileage incurred by the vehicles was 16,760,000.

There are three main workshops, with three smaller units where routine maintenance and repairs are carried out.

One additional vehicle was purchased during the year, a 51 seater Leyland Coach.

During the year, a number of different types of vehicles have been given comprehensive tests to find the most reliable vehicle for police operation. They included the Chrysler 180, Rover 2.6 litre, Hillman Avenger 1300 and the Marina 1.8 HL.

### **Accidents Involving Police Vehicles**

There was a decrease of 23 police vehicle accidents to a total of 1,552. In 453

cases (305 on roads) it was found that the police driver was blameworthy and this, unfortunately, is an increase on 1976 and reduces the miles travelled on roads per blameworthy accident to 54,951.

### **Criminal Damage to Police Vehicles**

There was a marked increase in the number of instances of criminal damage being caused to police vehicles which amounted to 139. In 39 cases arrest and prosecution followed. There were 31 instances recorded on one day, on the occasion of large scale disorder at a public meeting.

### **TRAFFIC WARDENS**

The authorised establishment of the Traffic Wardens Department remains at 688. However, at the end of 1977, 216 Wardens were employed, a reduction of 33 on the previous year's establishment. Recruitment was suspended due to economic factors during the year and this is reflected in the decreasing numbers.

The number of meters in use is as follows:—

Birmingham	Central Zone	228
	Inner Zone	1,062
	Outer Zone	2,341
Wolverhampton		629

A total of 88,864 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued during the year which is a noticeable decrease, no doubt due to reduced numbers of Wardens. Excess charges levied remained static at 33,244.

### **ROAD ACCIDENTS**

During the year 32,989 accidents were reported to the police. Ten thousand nine hundred and forty-one involved personal injury resulting in 239 persons being killed and 13,521 injured.

Compared with 1976 when 28,405 accidents were reported, this is an increase of 16%. However, the increase in casualties is not so dramatic, with an increase of 2% on 1976. The number of deaths resulting from road accidents remained the same.

The following tables show the analysis of accidents and persons involved:—

Table 'A' shows the incidence of fatal, serious and slight injury accidents by Police Divisions and includes the total of accidents within the Force area.

Table 'B' shows the number of persons killed and injured in each Division and the total for the Force area.

Table 'C' in graph form shows the incidence of fatal and injury accidents month by month. December shows up as a particularly bad month both for fatal and injury accidents.

Table 'D' shows times in one hour periods when accidents occurred, with 8 – 9 am 3 – 6 pm and 11 – 12 mid-night being the worst times. Once again most fatalities occurred between 11 pm and mid-night, the number being nearly twice that for the next worst hour.

Table 'E' shows the class of vehicles involved in accidents, with cars being involved in the most fatal and injury accidents.

**TABLE 'A'**

**Injury Accidents : By Severity and Police Division, 1977**

Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	Totals
Fatal	5	29	17	17	24	12	23	25	27	28	11	15	233
Serious	68	234	148	219	216	237	266	277	268	250	205	399	2777
Slight	229	735	470	730	677	616	750	772	755	877	483	837	7931
<b>Totals</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>10941</b>

**TABLE 'B'**

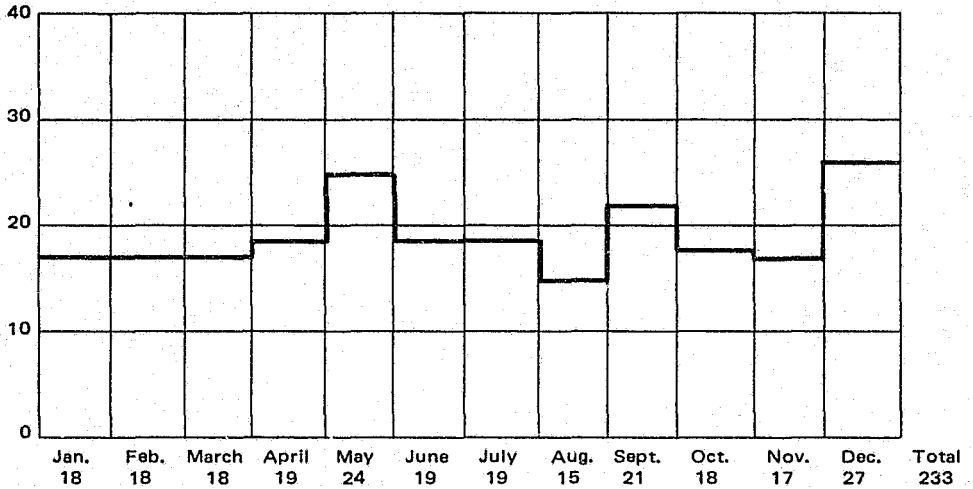
**Road Casualties : By Severity of Injury and Police Division, 1977**

Division	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	Totals
Fatal	5	32	17	18	25	13	22	26	27	28	11	15	239
Serious	79	267	181	242	241	267	289	325	322	289	257	449	3208
Slight	294	995	606	949	863	792	977	1029	983	1164	633	1028	10313
<b>Totals</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>1209</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1288</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>13760</b>

**TABLE 'C'**

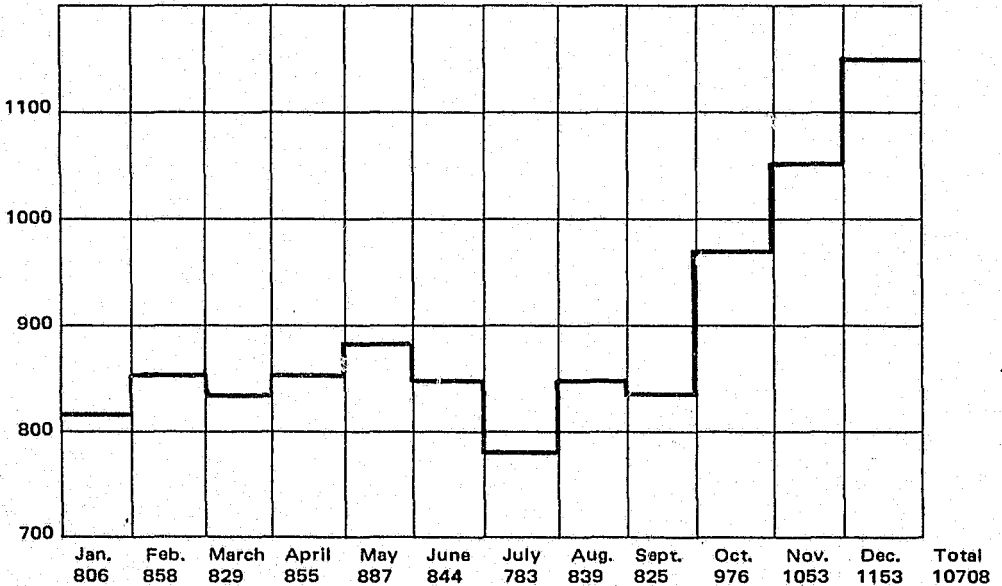
**Incidence of accidents month by month for the year 1977**

**Fatal**



**TABLE 'C'**

**Injury**



**TABLE 'D'**

**Times in one hour periods when fatal and injury accidents occurred.**

TIMES	FATAL	INJURY		TOTAL
		SERIOUS	SLIGHT	
2400 to 0100	17	70	183	270
0100 to 0200	3	65	112	180
0200 to 0300	7	61	95	163
0300 to 0400	4	21	39	64
0400 to 0500	3	13	26	42
0500 to 0600	1	17	29	47
0600 to 0700	3	23	68	94
0700 to 0800	3	96	298	397
0800 to 0900	7	134	566	707
0900 to 1000	9	86	288	383
1000 to 1100	7	97	264	368
1100 to 1200	8	78	350	436
1200 to 1300	9	125	473	607
1300 to 1400	11	133	454	598
1400 to 1500	11	121	402	534
1500 to 1600	18	200	505	723
1600 to 1700	12	251	806	1069
1700 to 1800	9	254	785	1048
1800 to 1900	8	172	450	630
1900 to 2000	13	143	375	531
2000 to 2100	10	123	284	417
2100 to 2200	11	96	285	392
2200 to 2300	18	144	328	490
2300 to 2400	31	254	466	751
	233	2777	7931	10941

**TABLE 'E'**

**Classes of vehicles involved (not necessarily to blame) in injury and fatal accidents during the year.**

TYPE OF VEHICLE	FATAL	INJURY		TOTAL
		SERIOUS	SLIGHT	
Motor Scooter	1	16	39	56
Motor Cycle – Solo	47	651	1370	2068
Motor Cycle – Combination	–	2	3	5
Motor Car	196	2569	8107	10872
Public Service Vehicles	13	93	449	555
Vans and Lorries	45	472	1258	1775
Mopeds	1	109	359	469
Taxis	–	9	28	37
Electric Vehicles	1	10	24	35
Ice Cream Vehicles	–	1	4	5
Pedal Cycles	10	176	631	817
Other Vehicles	6	86	246	338
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>4194</b>	<b>12518</b>	<b>17032</b>

## Chapter VII

# Communication

### COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The strength of the Communications Department is as follows:-

	Ch Supt	Supt	Ch Insp	Insp	P S	P C	Civilian	
Headquarters	1	1	1	1	—	—	4	
Eastern Control Room	—	—	1	5	—	9	3	
Western Control Room	—	—	1	5	4	7	17	
Central Control Room	—	—	1	5	4	16	27	
Training	—	—	—	1	5	2	—	
Total	1	1	4	17	13	34	51	121

In addition to the normal work of the Department, considerable progress was made during the year in planning the new Command and Control Computer based communications project. The adaption for a control room of part of the Bournville Lane complex is nearing completion and the installation of the computer, radio and modern telecommunications equipment in 1978 will provide the West Midlands Police with one of the most modern and sophisticated computerised communications systems in the country. The necessary training of the staff required to operate it is well under way.

#### Telephones

There has not been any major development during the year. However, the Post Office has been particularly helpful in providing expert telephone communications advice, which not only serves to improve efficiency but is aimed at meeting our operational needs in the most economic way.

#### Telex

The decision to centralise the telex service at the Control Room, Newton Street, Birmingham, has resulted in a financial saving without loss of operational efficiency. During the year a total of 53,063 messages was dealt with at the Control Room.



## **Radio**

Plans have been finalised for a complete new VHF radio system, including the erection of VHF masts and radio stations at Lloyd House, Meriden and Bournville Lane.

The Force has received excellent assistance from the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications, and with their co-operation it is intended next to improve the UHF radio coverage both for routine operational and emergency policing situations.

## **Command and Control System**

The experimental Birmingham computer has continued to provide a satisfactory service, but will be taken out of service on 31 March 1978 in readiness for the new Command and Control system which will come into operation later in the year. During the year, a total of 210,585 incidents was entered on the computer in the Birmingham divisions of the Force.

The change to the new Command and Control system has necessitated the training of staff to handle the new equipment. Facilities for training have been made available at Bournville Lane where one Inspector, five Sergeants and two Constables have commenced the task of instructing members of the Force in the new communications and computer facilities.

## **Police National Computer**

During the year there have been several extensions and additions to the facilities provided by the Police National Computer. For a trial period, messages of an urgent nature which require national circulation are being circulated by means of the system.

With the installation of computer terminals at the Motorway Control Room, Stechford and Bournville Lane Sub-Divisions and the Communications Training Wing at Bournville Lane the Force allocation of terminals is now complete.

## **Casualty Bureau**

Casualty Bureau exercises continue to be undertaken at three monthly intervals, aimed at keeping staff sufficiently trained to carry out this important function in the event of an emergency situation.

## Emergency Service

The three area control rooms at Brierley Hill, Coventry and Newton Street, Birmingham, had additional demands made upon their staff and resources as a result of the Firemen's strike, as all emergency fire calls were processed by the control rooms. No difficulty was experienced in handling this additional traffic.

The following table shows the number of '999' and burglar alarm calls which were received during the year.

	Central Birmingham	Western Brierley Hill	Eastern Coventry
'999' calls including burglar alarms	95,683	72,092	32,127
Total	199,902		

This represents an increase of 6,046 on 1976, not such a marked increase as we have seen in previous years.

The motorway control dealt with 20,867 cases of broken-down vehicles as a result of telephone calls for assistance, an increase of 704 on 1976.

## Chapter VIII

# Welfare

### **POLICE BUILDINGS**

The Police Surveyor's Department is responsible for repairs and maintenance of police property, liaison with architects and all functions of property management. Branch offices are sited in Birmingham, Coventry and Brierley Hill, each staffed by a Surveyor, Clerks of Works and supporting clerical staff.

#### **New Police Buildings**

A new Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Wednesbury was completed in April 1977 and officially opened by the Home Secretary on 5 August 1977. Two shop premises were rented on the Coventry Road, Birmingham, at Small Heath and Wells Green, and these were converted to form police offices. They are in fact miniature police stations where members of the public can call for help or advice. This has enabled two outdated and much larger police stations known as Coventry Road and Hay Mill to be closed.

A former West Midlands Passenger Transport garage in Sheepcote Street, Birmingham, has been rented to provide covered parking for the larger commercial type police vehicles and to relieve severe overcrowding at the Central Garage in Duke Street, Birmingham.

#### **Future Building Programmes**

In July 1976 the Home Office authorised major alteration works at Bournville Lane Divisional Police Headquarters to form a new central Command and Control Complex for the Force. The project includes adaptation works to the lower ground floor and second floor to provide a Computer Suite and new Control Room respectively. Communications accommodation includes a radio room linked to a 45.7 metre (150 ft) high radio tower. The work is well advanced and completion is programmed for May 1978.

Authority has also been given for the commencement of building work in connection with the installation of PABX equipment and a telephone exchange at Police Headquarters, Lloyd House, to replace those facilities currently situated in the Victoria Law Courts.

The Home Office has also approved the commencement of advance planning work in connection with the proposed Central Police Garage at Aston Road North, Birmingham, and the extension of Erdington Police Station to form a Sub-Divisional Headquarters.

## **Disused Police Buildings**

During 1977 fifteen police stations and ancillary buildings were held surplus to requirements. Six of these have been sold and terms agreed for the disposal of four others.

## **Alterations and Improvements**

Substantial alterations and modernisation work has been carried out at the Coventry and Brierley Hill Police Garages and to Steelhouse Lane Police Station, Birmingham.

A training ground for learner car drivers and motor cyclists has been levelled, surfaced and fenced at Adderley Park, Birmingham and petrol tanks and a pump installed at Bournville Lane Divisional Headquarters.

Smethwick, Dudley Road, Aldridge and Edward Road Police Stations have been rewired, a smoke density warning system has been installed at Police Headquarters and a 150 ft high wireless tower has been erected at Meriden. The kitchen and dinning room at Halesowen Police Station has been extended to provide additional accommodation for the Driving School personnel based at this station.

## **Energy Saving**

Although much work has been done in this field in earlier years, attention continues to be paid to improve insulation and the separate switching of lights in various premises. County Council staff have visited all police premises during the year in order to ascertain where economies in the use of heating plant can be made.

## **Housing**

During the year ten houses and eighteen maisonettes and flats were sold and the pool of accommodation reduced to 1404 units. Approval has been given for the disposal of a further 58 tenanted properties and 78 void properties, and negotiations are in hand.

The demand for police accommodation varied considerably during the year. In the first half of the year there was a constant demand from officers on marriage, from married recruits and from officers selling their own accommodation. The demand from all sources has lessened considerably in the latter half of the year.

Private tenants in police accommodation have been reduced from 32 to 19 and as these houses are vacated they have been occupied by police officers.

## FORCE WELFARE OFFICER

The principal function of the Force Welfare Officer is to advise on matters affecting the welfare of the Force in general, and to give assistance, as required, to regular officers, police cadets, traffic wardens, police pensioners and widows.

He is also responsible for matters relating to financial grants and other assistance from the National Police Fund and the Police Dependents' Trust, and during the year the sum of £5,875 was obtained from the latter to assist beneficiaries, mainly with repairs and re-decoration to property.

Deaths amongst Force members and those recently retired on ill-health pensions have been heavy during the year and 19 widows were assisted with applications for Probate of Will or Letters of Administration. One widow of a member of the civilian staff has been similarly assisted. In this case, it was felt necessary to make application for financial assistance to the NALGO Benevolent Fund who have been particularly helpful.

The Force Saving Club has again proved a popular way of budgeting for holidays and Christmas with both regular officers and members of the civilian staff. A total of £86,300 was paid out during the year and interest from this sum, amounting to £2,023, was paid over to the Force Benevolent Fund.

## SICKNESS

During the year the loss of working days due to normal sickness was recorded as follows:-

Male officers	51304 days
Female officers	7157 days

Additionally, loss of working days due to injuries sustained on duty was:-

Male officers	6500 days
Female officers	829 days
Total working days lost	65790

During the year 12 officers were retired with either a pension or gratuity because of ill health.

## OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of six members of the Force during the year.

10 March 1977	Sergeant Harry SMITH 'B' Division, aged 51 years
30 March 1977	Inspector John JACKSON 'M' Division, aged 45 years
10 May 1977	Constable Christopher Anthony Phillip GOUGH 'R' Division, aged 34 years
8 July 1977	Constable Craig HOLDEN 'C' Division, aged 22 years
22 July 1977	Constable Bernard Henry CHURCH 'T' Division, aged 45 years
28 August 1977	Sergeant Peter James BRETT 'C' Division, aged 31 years

## POLICE FEDERATION

The West Midlands Police Joint Branch Board has been given facilities for statutory meetings during the year, and I have held regular conferences with representatives to discuss current problems.

During the year, the Claims Department at the Federation Offices dealt with 668 claims involving the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, civil claims and Personal Accident Insurance Claims.

## FUNDS

The Force Benevolent Fund has continued to provide financial assistance to serving members and pensioners by way of payment for medical consultations, grants and loans. A total of 55 orphaned children is at present receiving a weekly allowance through this Fund. Police pensioners, including those living outside the Force area, were visited regularly during the year and assistance given, where necessary.

## CONVALESCENT HOME

During the year 84 serving members and seven pensioners attended the Convalescent Police Seaside Home at Hove, all expenses being paid by the Benevolent Fund.

## POLICE PENSIONERS

At the end of the year there were 1,637 retired Police Officers in receipt of Police Pensions. Pensions were also being paid to 696 widows of Police Officers or ex-officers.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

The Force Safety Officer's duties include advising staff of the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act, the investigation of and reporting on accidents and dangerous occurrences and, in particular, making recommendations to prevent recurrence, the identification of potential hazards and the preparation of safe systems of work.

During the year 14 full surveys of police premises were carried out and, where necessary, recommendations made to improve safety. A survey was also carried out of fire equipment in both police premises and police vehicles.

A further survey was carried out of nine boiler houses and basement areas where samples of fraying lagging material was found. Of the 52 samples examined, 11 contained blue asbestos. In each of the situations, the necessary precautions have been taken.

I reported last year that investigations were being made into the lead content in the blood of motorway patrol crews. Volunteers, each with a number of years on motorway patrol, attended the Health Unit at County Hall where blood samples were taken. Checks for lead in the blood showed no abnormalities in any case. Garage mechanics submitted themselves for similar tests and again, no abnormalities were found.

Regular blood tests are made on all firearms instructors, as they are known to be at risk. Safe systems of work are adhered to, and tests showed that each officer was well under the threshold value level.

Preliminary checks on the noise level affecting patrolling officers were carried out at Birmingham Airport. The results were well within the acceptable limits. A more detailed survey will be made when the necessary equipment is available.

Projects identified for further investigation include:-

- (a) Development of planned maintenance schedules on plant and equipment.
- (b) Fume extraction from police workshops.
- (c) An examination of certain working practices.

## **SPORT AND RECREATION**

The West Midlands Police Sports Club continued to provide a variety of sporting activities and interests for a large section of the Force.

The Force Lottery with a membership of over 5,000, is run from the Sports and Social Office with seven weekly prizes of £100, £50, £20 and four of £10. The profit from this lottery is divided between the Sports Club and the West Midlands Police Benevolent Fund.

A new venture this year was the production of a Force tie, bearing the colours of the constituent Forces of the West Midlands Police at the time of amalgamation, and part of the arms of the Borough of Wednesbury, the oldest Borough in the conurbation.

### **The 'Holbrook' Trophy**

The 'Holbrook' trophy, a magnificent solid silver cup, is awarded to the Sports Personality of the Year, not only for sporting ability but for general attitude to sport and other competitors.

The winner was Inspector Blick, who has for many years been a stalwart among Rugby players, playing not only for the Force Club but also for Birmingham Rugby Football Club. He is a sportsman of the highest calibre and ability, and now, probably in his last season of Police 1st class Rugby, is devoting more of his time to fostering an interest in the game in younger members, and also taking on many of the administrative duties connected with the Rugby Section.

### **Association Football**

Two teams represented the Force in the Midland Football Combination. The first team finished two points behind the leaders to occupy third place. This was the best position achieved in the League since joining it.

In the PAA Football Competition, the Force team once again reached the Final against Greater Manchester but were beaten by three goals to one in a good match.



Constable Norman, who has been coach to the British and English Police teams for many years, resigned his appointment during the Summer, as he will shortly be leaving the Police Service on pension. Sergeant Willetts continued as trainer for the national team. A number of players have represented the British Police both abroad and in this country.

## **Cricket Section**

The 1977 Cricket Season was a successful one for the Force team. The team played 26 matches, won 14, lost four, drew seven and one had to be abandoned.

The team undertook a tour of Cornwall, with matches against Camborne CC and Penzance CC, both of which they won, but the team lost the final game against Devon and Cornwall Police.

In the Regional PAA Knock Out Cricket Cup, the Force team defeated Staffordshire Police and will represent the Region in the National PAA Cricket Knock Out Cup in 1978, when they are drawn against the Metropolitan Police.

## **Veterans' Cricket**

The Veterans' Cricket Section contains some very good players - for whom life has now begun at 40.

The annual visit to Jersey took place during the second week in May, but a week of very bad weather disrupted most of the matches which had been arranged.

A week-end tour to North Wales was undertaken during the last fortnight of September when the Veterans won both their games against the North Wales Police and Conway CC.

## **Rugby Football**

Four teams again played regularly. The First XV won 23 of their 35 matches, the Extras North won 18 of their 36 matches. The Extras South won 19 of their 23 matches and the cadets won 20 of the 26 matches they played, which was an improvement for both teams on the previous year.

Constable Horton, who has now resigned from the Force, represented England in all four Home Internationals and toured New Zealand with the British Lions.

Cadets Androlia, Ball, Jackson, Mirfield and Sampson all gained County Honours and played for the British Police Cadets.

## **ATHLETICS AND CROSS COUNTRY**

### **Cross Country**

There is no more enthusiastic and well supported branch of sport than the Cross Country section. Even in the most appalling weather conditions there is always a good turn out.

At the PAA Regional Cross Country Championships in March, the 'A' team dominated the race whilst the 'B' and 'C' teams finished 5th and 8th respectively. Constables Lees and Stevens finished 1st and 2nd in the race as a whole.

In the Veterans' Section at the same Meeting, Sergeants Thomas and Kane finished in 2nd and 3rd position.

The section also took part in the West Midlands Services Cross Country League and in the Midland Police Cross Country League Competition, finishing in 3rd position in each League.

In the National PAA Cross Country Championships, the section finished 6th and Detective Sergeant Jones was selected to run for one of the National teams.

The first PAA Marathon Race was held this year and five officers from this Force completed the 26 mile course in standard time.

### **Athletics**

Throughout the summer months, this section took part in both Police and non-Police Competitions, with many successes.

The section dominated the Midland Track and Field League and finished clear winners.

The No. 3 Region PAA Athletics were held at Warley in June with the West Midlands Police athletes gaining the majority of the prizes.

### **Hockey**

The Men's Hockey Section, in their third season, had reasonable success, but a number of games had to be cancelled due to bad weather making pitches unplayable. The team won five of the 16 matches they played.

A three day Hockey tour was undertaken in the south of England with matches against Hampshire, Kent and the Metropolitan Police No. 4 area. All three matches were lost to strong opposition.

The ladies hockey team is still very active, playing a number of games against local Clubs and other Police sides.

At the end of the year they were still engaged in the PAA Ladies' Hockey Competition for the 'Jean Law' Trophy, and were due to travel to Norfolk for the next round.

## **Shooting Section**

This is a very enthusiastic section which covers a number of different areas of shooting.

### **Full Bore Rifle**

At the Greater Manchester Police Invitation Shoot, Constable Fleming took the Individual Title and the 'A' team won the Greater Manchester Full Bore trophy for the second year running.

At the PAA National Championships, Bisley, the West Midlands Police came second and also won the National Coached Teams Shield.

### **Full Bore Pistol**

In the Marylebone Winter League, individual medals were won by Constable Cordon, Sergeant Bannister and Constable Cross.

In the Mander Trophy held at Bisley in July, the 'A' team achieved its best position so far, finishing 5th against the other Police teams.

In the PAA Centre Fire League, 'C' team won Division 8.

### **Small Bore Pistol**

Detective Sergeant Nicholls was placed 4th in the PAA National Individual Competition. In the NSRA, Eley, Queens Silver Jubilee Competition, the same officer reached the finals and came 4th. This was a very creditable achievement as several thousand competitors entered this competition.

### **PAA Indoor Competition**

West Midlands Police 'B' team came 2nd in this competition.

## **Golf**

The Golf Section continues to attract a great deal of support, and has block membership facilities at many of the local courses in the area.

The Regional Tournament was staged at Little Aston Golf Course, Streetly, on probably the wettest day of the summer. Fifty-six players from all over the No 3 Region took part. The West Midlands players performed very creditably although the Individual Championship went to a Staffordshire Police Officer.

The team event for the 'Kelly' Cup was again won by the West Midlands Police team.

For the first time for many years, no players took part in the National PAA Championships.

## **Table Tennis**

This continues to be a very active sport, but due to the calls of duty, one team has had to be withdrawn from league Competitions. Of the two remaining teams, one is affiliated to the Birmingham and District Table Tennis Association and the other to the Halesowen and District Association, playing in Leagues run by the respective Associations.

In the National Championships held at Manchester, Inspector Dawson gained the Veterans' Table Tennis title. This was our only success despite the fact that the West Midlands Police won all the events at the Regional Tournament staged at Kenilworth and sent forward nine finalists from that Competition to Manchester.

## **Motor Club**

The Motor Club, which includes a Motor Cycling Section, continued to be very active, but in these days of rising costs, finance dictated a cut in their activities.

A number of successes were recorded by the motor cyclists, the team consisting of Constables Harper, Bowdler and Hickman were second in the ACU 'Avon' National Rally. Constable Harper won the Motor Cycle Newspaper Trophy and also the Federation trophy as the best Police competitor.

In the Pyrenees Rally, Constable Harper was adjudged the best leader in the 250 cc section and was a member of the British Police Motor Cycle team, which was adjudged the best in the Rally.

The Club entered a team in eight inter-force trials, being winners at Greater Manchester, Devon and Cornwall and Thames Valley.

The car rally drivers had a reasonably successful season with Sergeant Barlow and Constable Bates winning for the first time in the Club's history, the coveted Gahan trophy.

The non-competitive members of the Club are catered for by coach trips to motor racing events, treasure hunts, film shows and the Annual Dinner/Dance.

## **Judo**

The Judo section has continued to be in demand to give Judo and Self Defence displays to various Groups and Organisations, helping in the important role of public relations.

Two members of the section, Detective Chief Inspector Longstaff and Constable Mills were awarded Competition Recorders by the British Judo Association. This enables both officers to officiate at Midland area Judo Championships.

## **Flying**

This is a new section, organised by Superintendent Collins.

The members, at their own expense, hire light aircraft to improve their flying techniques, but receive backing from the Sports Club to use the name of the Club when entering the Annual National Police Air Rally.

Five members took part in the 1977 National Police Air Rally, held at the famous wartime airfield at Biggin Hill, Kent. The rally was organised by the Metropolitan Police and consisted of three events:-

- (a) Navigation Competition
- (b) A time trial
- (c) Spot landing Competition

Constable Timms achieved a creditable third place in the Time Trial.

## **Angling**

This is one of the most popular sections, with a large number of members taking part in inter-force contests, private contests and national contests.

The West Midlands Police staged the PAA National Course Angling Championships on the River Severn between Arley and Bridgnorth on 22 September, when a very good day's fishing was enjoyed by over 300 competitors.

## **Chess**

The section competed in the Birmingham and District Chess League, finishing in a respectable position near the top of the League.

The British Police Team Chess Championship was staged at the Sports Club, Tally Ho in September, with the event being won by the Metropolitan Police.

During the week-end the Forces present formed the British Police Chess Association with the object of promoting inter-force competitions.

## **Choral Singing**

### **Male Voice Choir**

This section gave some 30 concerts to organisations representing the elderly, the infirm and charitable groups.

At Christmas, carols were sung at local hospitals, something that is now a recognised part of the Choir's duties each year.

A number of public concerts were given, the main one being at the Birmingham Town Hall in early October with the Band of the Irish Guards, when a near capacity audience was given a feast of good music.

Concerts were arranged at three venues in the force area combining the Male Voice Choir with the Force Choral Society and the Coventry Division Brass Band.

A week-end tour was undertaken in October with concerts given in Maidstone with John Heddle-Nash as soloist and also featuring the Kent Constabulary Brass Band, and at Haywoods Heath, Sussex, together with the Sussex Police Male Voice Choir.

Much of the enthusiasm of the members of the Male Voice Choir stems from excellent organising work by Inspector Whyley, now in his 17th year as Choir Secretary and the expert musical guidance of Mr Harold Enstone, LRAM, ARCM, LTCL.

## **Choral Society**

The Choral Society, based at Wednesbury Police Station, have had a particularly good year under the leadership of their Conductor, Mr Harold Hawkes and their accompanist, Mrs Margaret Bayliss.

The Choral Society has given 11 concerts, which included a Gala Concert at Dudley Town Hall in conjunction with the Coseley Male Voice Choir and the Black Country Brass Band.

## **Dance Orchestra**

The Dance Orchestra, under the guidance of Chief Inspector Buncle, has 11 playing members, and during the year its circle of activities has widened, playing for a number of Civic functions, for dances organised by neighbouring Police Forces and on a charitable occasion for a Poppy Ball organised by the British Legion.

## **'M' Division Brass Band**

The 'M' Division Brass Band, under their conductor Mr Geoffrey Barber, had a successful year. During the year a total of 33 engagements was carried out including visits to the Police Training Centre at Ryton-on-Dunsmore and the Warwickshire Constabulary Sports Day. The Band also played at the Police Cadets passing out parade at the Training Centre, Tally Ho. Other engagements included charity performances throughout the West Midlands.

The Band represented the Force in a Brass Band contest at Manchester and although not amongst the finalists, they put up a creditable performance.

## **Pipe Band**

The West Midlands Police Pipe Band had a very successful year. The Band entered four pipe band contests with considerable success and are at present the holders of the All England shield.

In addition, the Band carried out a further eight engagements which included the Lord Mayor's Procession in Birmingham and the Cheshire County Police Day. The Band also played at Carnivals and Remembrance Services.

## **Social Events**

During the year many social functions were arranged, mainly on a Divisional basis. These included dinners, dances, outings and children's Christmas parties. A new departure was the booking of some 1,400 seats at the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre for the pantomime, 'Cinderella'.

## Chapter IX

# Licensing

### Licensed Premises

The following table shows details of Justices' Licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor which were in force at the end of the year.

AREAS	Publicans	Beer On	Wine On	Beer/ Cider On	Beer/Cider/ Wine On	Full Off	Beer/Cider/ Wine Off	Restaurant	Restaurant/ Residential	Licensed Clubs	Residential	Total
Aldridge	67	—	—	—	—	37	1	4	2	5	—	116
Birmingham	744	—	—	1	9	524	4	133	—	15	—	1430
Coventry	259	—	—	—	—	149	31	32	10	11	—	492
Dudley	334	—	—	—	—	112	—	10	—	13	—	469
Halesowen	54	—	—	—	—	31	—	3	—	1	—	89
Solihull	114	—	—	—	—	82	2	22	3	6	2	231
Stourbridge	90	—	—	—	—	39	—	6	—	2	—	137
Sutton Coldfield	44	—	—	—	—	47	—	11	2	2	—	106
Walsall	252	—	—	—	—	91	—	16	2	6	—	367
Warley	184	1	—	—	1	122	—	9	—	9	1	327
West Bromwich	255	1	1	—	—	77	—	12	—	12	—	358
Wolverhampton	318	—	—	—	—	193	—	29	3	24	1	568
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2715</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4690</b>

This is an increase of 70 premises as compared with 1976

### Licences Granted During the Year

The following table shows details of licences granted within the Force area during the year.

AREAS	Publicans	Publicans (Condi- tional)	Full Off	Beer/Cider/ Wine Off	Restaurant/ Residential	Restaurant	Wine On	Licensed Clubs	Beer/Wine/ Cider On
Aldridge	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Birmingham	3	6	26	2	2	8	1	6	—
Coventry	1	3	14	1	1	1	—	1	—
Dudley	1	—	7	—	—	2	—	—	—
Halesowen	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solihull	1	1	6	1	—	1	—	—	—
Stourbridge	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
Sutton Coldfield	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walsall	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warley	1	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	1
West Bromwich	3	—	5	1	—	2	—	—	—
Wolverhampton	2	—	8	—	—	4	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>



## Registered Clubs

At the end of the year there were 1279 clubs registered within the Force area.

## Theatres and Cinemas

There were 19 theatre licences and 48 cinematograph licences in existence at 31 December 1977.

## Visits to Licensed Premises

To ensure the prevention and detection of offences against various Acts of Parliament, police officers have made visits to licensed premises as follows:-

Places of Public entertainment	—	431
Premises licensed under the Liquor Licensing Act	—	22,972
Betting Offices	—	3024

On the whole licensed premises in the Force area have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

## Betting and Gaming

Details of Betting Office Licences and Bookmakers' Permits in force at the end of the year are as follows:-

AREAS	BETTING OFFICE LICENCE			BOOKMAKERS' PERMIT		
	Issued	Surrendered	In Force	Issued	Surrendered	In Force
Aldridge	7	7	19	2	1	16
Birmingham	73	7	312	16	—	236
Coventry	3	10	74	—	7	53
Dudley	8	8	47	6	5	35
Halesowen	1	—	9	2	—	12
Solihull	3	5	20	2	2	31
Stourbridge	1	2	8	—	1	7
Sutton Coldfield	—	—	7	1	1	10
Walsall	—	—	51	2	—	29
Warley	6	6	57	2	—	36
West Bromwich	7	5	60	1	—	31
Wolverhampton	—	6	81	—	4	49
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>545</b>

This is a decrease of 27 betting office licences and 8 bookmakers' permits as compared with 1976.

## Chapter X

### Miscellaneous

#### IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY DEPARTMENT

At 31 December there were 4225 registered aliens within the Force area, 3019 males and 1206 females. They originate from 79 countries and a breakdown of distribution by continent is shown below:-

Continent of Origin	Male	Female	Total
Africa	388	147	535
The Americas	321	264	585
Asia	1466	426	1882
Europe	729	327	1056
Others	125	42	167
Total	3019	1206	4225

During the year 1465 Alien Registration Certificates and 94 E.E.C. Residence Permits were issued. There were 233 prosecutions against aliens, 43 deportations and five supervised departures. A total of 208 persons obtained naturalisation papers.

#### PEDLARS CERTIFICATES

A total of 351 such certificates were issued during the year.

#### LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY

There was an increase in the number of items of lost and found property dealt with during the year. A total of 16,069 items was reported lost, 12,465 items were handed in as found of which 5,844 were subsequently restored to the loser.

In June, new procedures for the disposal of property were introduced, when the Central Property Office at Digbeth became responsible for the disposal of all property for the Force.

During the year five sales of unclaimed property were held, which realised £15,917.

In addition to general property, a total of 14,036 motor vehicles was impounded, 13,812 being restored to their owners. A total of 1,275 pedal cycles came into police possession, 546 were restored to their owners and the remainder were returned to the finder, sold or are subject to further enquiries.

## **EXPLOSIVES AND FIREARMS DEPARTMENT**

The Department, under the direction of a Chief Inspector, is located at Police Headquarters with branch offices at Brierley Hill and Coventry. It has the responsibility for the processing of applications for all renewals of explosives certificates and licences, firearm and shotgun certificates and firearms dealers registration certificates. It operates an emergency call-out system throughout the Force area to deal with suspect objects or incidents involving firearms and is also responsible for the training of police officers in the use of firearms, upkeep of the Force Armoury, supervision of firearms dealers, rifle and pistol clubs and the receipt and subsequent destruction of firearms coming into the possession of the police as the result of court orders or voluntary surrenders.

I am pleased to record that there were no incidents of terrorist activity during the year. However, members of the Department attended 287 incidents where suspect objects had been found.

During the year 224 firearm certificates were granted, bringing the total to 2616 certificates held by persons in the Force area. Four applications for issue or renewal were refused and six were revoked. A total of 1196 shotgun certificates was issued and 3326 renewed, and at the end of the year 14,677 shotgun certificates were held by persons in this Force area. Fifteen applications were refused and 37 certificates revoked.

Six new firearms dealers were registered during the year, bringing the total of such dealers to 130.

A total of 104 certificates was issued under the Explosives Act 1875 and 265 licences for gunpowder an/or safety fuses were issued under the Control of Explosives Order 1953. With divisional officers members of the Department made 302 visits to explosives stores and sites during the year and maintained close liaison with the Fire Prevention Department of the West Midlands Fire Service, who register premises and issue licences for explosives stores.

Prosecutions were undertaken against 19 persons for offences against the Explosives or Firearms legislation and 125 persons were cautioned.

The safety of firearms is a matter of concern to everyone and I am pleased to report the continued public support in this area, indicated by the surrender for destruction or disposal of 702 firearms and other weapons and 36,091 rounds of ammunition.

## **MISSING PERSONS**

A central index of missing persons is maintained by C.I.D. Administration, although the overall responsibility for enquiries rests with the Division concerned. Arrangements have been completed to include information about persons missing on the Police National Computer.

During the year a total of 9788 persons were reported missing, comprising 4785 females and 5003 males, an increase of 1040 persons over the preceding year. Of the total, 82 females and 117 males had still not been traced at the end of the year.

## **VICE**

The Special Plain Clothes Department consisting of one Inspector, four Sergeants and 13 Constables, has responsibility for the whole of the Force area, and is particularly concerned with the more serious aspects of vice. Officers liaise with Divisional personnel to ensure that the problems created by prostitution and similar offences are contained.

During the year 733 prostitutes were cautioned and 495 prosecuted. In addition, 26 persons were prosecuted for keeping brothels, 29 persons were prosecuted for living on immoral earnings and 15 persons prosecuted for offences in connection with obscene publications.

## **HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS**

During the year 199 certificates authorising House to House Collections were issued and 433 Street Collections were also authorised by the District Council.

## **STRAY DOGS**

During the year a total of 7028 dogs was reported lost, whilst 12070 were found and either handed to the Police or retained by the finders until such time as they were claimed.

## **ATTENDANCE CENTRES**

There are four Home Office Attendance Centres within the area, each controlled by police, operating on Saturday afternoons. Home Office approval has been given for a further Centre to be opened in Birmingham, and it is anticipated that this will become operational early in 1978.

Separate sessions are held for junior and senior boys, and they receive instruction in physical training, road safety, first aid, carpentry and handicrafts. It is generally felt by the officers associated with the scheme that the young people derive benefit from their attendance at the Centres. During the year a total of 936 juveniles was ordered by various courts to attend the Centres as follows:—

Bilston	101
Birmingham	444
Coventry	212
Smethwick	179

## PRESS RELATIONS

This department comprises a civilian Press Officer and a secretary. They liaise on a daily basis with press, radio and television, both locally and nationally, and handle many enquiries for information, interviews and various other facilities.

More than 100 official press releases publicising the Force and many of its activities were issued during the year. These included information on various campaigns and divisional Open Days.

A new development started during the year, involving live daily broadcasts from the central control room via one of the three local radio stations operating in the Force area. The West Midlands is only the second Force in the country, outside London, to adopt such a scheme.

Regular crime bulletins are featured elsewhere on local radio and in certain newspapers.

The press office monitors the local media, and extensive coverage has been given to the activities of the Force during the year. Considerable attention locally, nationally and internationally was focused on the Force during the Ladywood by-election and the associated disturbances in August.

The Press Officer spends a considerable amount of time lecturing to officers of all ranks in the Force. He also pays regular visits to the Police College, Bramshill, the Home Office Crime Prevention Centre, Stafford and the Home Office Detective Training Centre, Tally Ho.

It is difficult to measure relations in such an intangible area, but it is fair to say that relations between the Force and the media are markedly better than they have been for years. Officers of all ranks are becoming aware of the benefits of a more open policy.

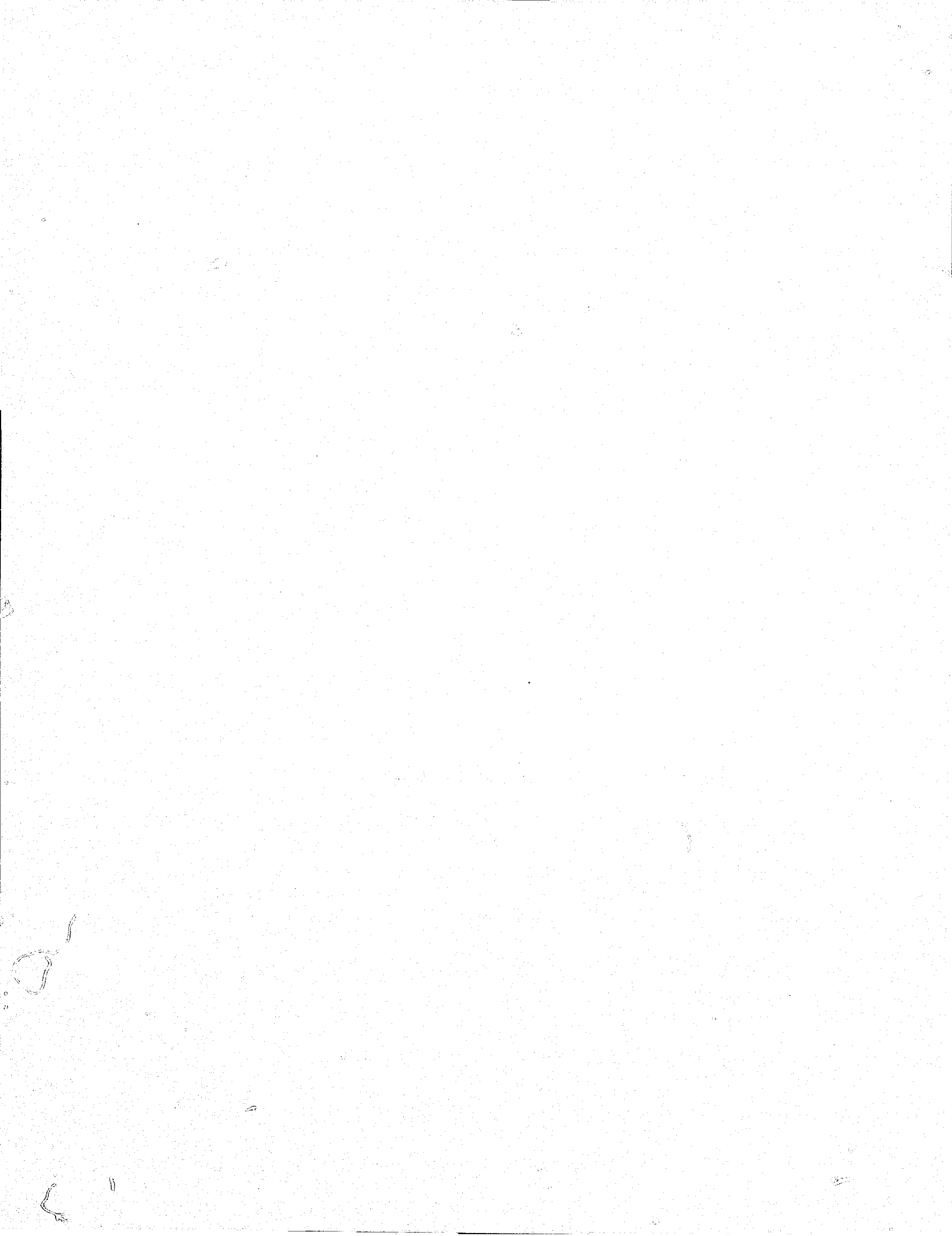
Approval has been given for a Force newspaper to be published. It is anticipated that the first edition will appear in mid 1978 and will be of considerable value in maintaining morale and furthering the development of a sense of identity in the Force.

## **ROYAL VISITS**

During the year there were nine visits to the Force area by members of the Royal Family, which included the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip as part of the Jubilee Tour of the country.

## **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME**

In order to assist young persons to qualify in the "Service Section" of the scheme, courses were arranged by members of the Force Training Department. As a result of these courses, 373 certificates were awarded, which included 11 Gold, 180 Silver and 182 Bronze.



**END**