

CONFIDENTIAL

**Devon County Council
Social Services Department**

Children in Trouble '78

**A Study of Police Liaison Referrals
and Courtwork during the year**

56088

Research and Training Section

November 1978

C O N T E N T S

APR 2 1979

ACQUISITIONS

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Preface

As this report so closely follows the format of earlier publications, and the background to these two studies is fairly well understood, only a brief commentary on the statistics is given.

The first of the two sections of the report deals with referrals made under the Juvenile Liaison arrangement with the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and the second section concerns the work of the Juvenile Courts in Devon.

Whilst these two areas of work are very closely related, direct comparison between them is not always feasible because of the time delay between a decision to prosecute and actually bringing the case to Court.

Appendices A and B present statistics for both Police Liaison and Courtwork on a localised basis and corrected for population.

As much of the interest in earlier reports has centred on the analysis of Police Liaison at school level, this has been extended considerably, giving details of age, offence and month referred for each school. This information is included in a separate Appendix (Appendix C). As it is of a confidential nature the Appendix is excluded from many of the copies of the report being circulated.

Part 1
Police Liaison

Trends 1974 - 1978

During the year ended 31 March 1978, the Devon County Council Social Services Department's Divisional Offices received 5,556 notifications from the Police under the Juvenile Liaison arrangement. This total included 924 notifications of non-delinquent acts by or against children and a further 288 notifications of delinquency involving children under the age of criminal responsibility. The remaining 4,344 notifications indicate the number of offenders reported in the County.

In 1974/75, it is estimated that 4,365 children were referred; this fell to 4,091 in 1975/76 and 4,087 in 1976/77. 1977/78's total is back to the level of four years ago, although the extent of change over the past four years is not that great.

Table 1.1. opposite gives a detailed comparison of the four years' statistics at Social Services Divisional level where the situation can be very different from that at the County level. The clearest point is that whilst reported delinquency in Plymouth has fallen steadily over the four years, there has been a corresponding increase in the other main urban centres of the County - Exeter and Torbay. In the remaining rural Divisions there has been no clear pattern at all.

Table 1.1. Police Liaison. Comparison of 4 years' Statistics.

	Delinquent Referrals				Percentage Changes					
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1975/77 over 74/75	1976/77 over 74/75	1977/78 over 74/75	1976/77 over 75/76	1977/78 over 75/76	1977/78 over 76/77
Barnstaple	371	320	290	380	-13.8%	-21.8%	+ 2.4%	- 9.4%	+18.8%	+31.0%
Bideford	108	142	122	138	+31.5%	+13.0%	+27.8%	-14.1%	- 2.8%	+13.1%
Exeter	488	504	566	631	+ 3.3%	+16.0%	+29.3%	+12.3%	+25.2%	+11.5%
Exmouth	96*	138*	192	218	-	-	-	-	-	+13.5%
Honiton	161	109	98	138	-32.3%	-31.1%	-14.3%	- 9.3%	+26.6%	+40.8%
Tiverton	140*	145*	190	167	-	-	-	-	-	-12.1%
Newton Abbot	N/A	353*	433	431	-	-	-	-	-	- 0.5%
Paignton & Brixham	296	274	332	414	- 7.4%	+12.2%	+39.9%	+21.2%	+51.9%	+24.7%
Torquay	336	363	408	418	+ 8.0%	+21.4%	+24.4%	+12.4%	+15.2%	+ 2.5%
Totnes	141	141	134	164	No Change	- 5.0%	+16.3%	- 5.0%	+16.3%	+22.4%
Plymouth North	799	678	621	563	-15.2%	-22.3%	-29.5%	- 8.4%	-17.0%	- 9.3%
Plymouth South	688	577	577	460	-16.1%	-16.1%	-33.1%	No Change	-20.3%	-20.3%
Tavistock	N/A	176	124	222	-	-	-	-29.6%	+26.1%	+79.0%
DEVON	† 4365	† 4091	4087	4344	- † 6.3%	- † 6.4%	- † 0.5%	- † 0.1%	+ † 6.2%	+ 6.5%

* Suspected under-recording.

† Estimated Totals.

Main Complaint and Division

The breakdown of the type of complaint leading to the notification given in Table 1.2. reveals some minor points such as the general fall in the number of burglaries and a steady increase in traffic offences, but there has not really been any change over the past four years.

In Plymouth traffic offences are not being notified in the same way as for other parts of the County and this influences the other tables in this report.

Table 1.2. Police Liaison. Main Complaint by Division, or Reasons for Referrals.

	Barnstaple	Bideford	Exeter	Exmouth	Honiton	Tiverton	Newton Abbot	Paignton & Brixham	Torquay	Toines	Plymouth North	Plymouth South	Tavistock	DEVON	1977/78 %	1976/77 %	1975/76 %	1974/75 %
Theft	201	69	353	134	81	86	256	209	219	86	342	273	141	2450	44.5	43.0	46.6	46.7
Burglary	17	17	29	16	2	12	9	5	3	21	85	75	11	302	5.5	5.0	7.1	8.6
Receiving	20	2	28	9	2	16	17	6	11	5	32	29	19	196	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.6
Damage	67	25	53	38	46	28	59	48	41	13	51	23	38	530	9.6	9.9	8.1	8.5
Arson	-	1	13	-	-	3	6	1	9	-	2	1	-	36	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.5
Assault	8	11	33	5	3	9	38	13	34	4	9	18	5	190	3.4	3.4	4.5	4.5
Unlawful Behaviour	-	1	9	-	-	2	2	9	8	-	-	1	1	33	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.3
Drunk and Disorderly	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	2	-	-	16	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5
Affray	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	5	-	8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Breach of the Peace	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	10	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6
Taking & Driving Away	5	2	20	10	-	-	15	16	10	2	19	13	3	115	2.1	1.8	1.5	2.5
Other Traffic	24	5	58	9	-	5	3	56	24	4	2	2	1	193	3.5	2.9	2.8	1.9
Drinking Offence	5	1	10	-	7	2	10	16	12	3	1	-	-	67	1.2	1.9	3.0	1.6
Drugs Offence	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3
Indecent Assault	5	2	5	1	1	-	1	11	19	1	7	2	-	55	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.6
Indecent Exposure	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	9	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	6	1	15	5	-	2	3	16	14	3	1	3	1	70	1.3	0.6	1.0	2.0
Firearms	9	3	20	-	5	2	4	12	7	7	4	12	1	86	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.6
Hoax Phone Calls	2	-	5	1	-	1	8	10	7	-	3	-	-	37	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.5
Deception/Fraud	1	1	7	1	-	2	6	4	2	1	1	3	2	31	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5
Tresspass	7	1	5	-	-	1	4	5	7	1	2	-	4	37	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.7
Miscellaneous Minor Offences	27	2	19	3	3	6	11	6	13	-	5	9	8	112	2.0	1.4	0.5	0.6
Missing from Home	71	2	76	1	1	8	37	64	69	1	2	-	4	336	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.5
School Non-Attendance	14	-	30	3	-	5	13	24	24	6	3	2	-	124	2.3	4.0	1.9	1.3
Domestic Difficulties	6	-	43	-	-	1	-	35	16	-	2	-	-	103	1.9	1.8	1.4	0.9
Acts Against Children	-	1	9	2	1	-	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	20	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6
At Risk	5	-	13	1	-	3	5	1	8	-	-	3	-	39	0.7	1.1	2.5	0.6
Information Only	35	1	101	10	-	4	17	3	26	-	42	62	1	302	5.5	4.9	1.6	2.1
Not Known	-	1	1	4	-	2	14	4	3	14	2	-	-	45	*	*	*	*
ALL COMPLAINTS	538	150	965	254	154	200	545	577	599	173	623	537	241	5556	100%	100%	100%	100%

Age, Sex and Division

Table 1.3. leaves out non-delinquent offences, but includes the children under 10 years of age reported for delinquent offences. The under-10s are excluded from the main analysis of this report, but a separate examination was undertaken. The main points of interest were: a high level of complaints due to damage to property, proportionately twice as high as for older children, and that six cases did go on to appear in Court, presumably as care proceedings.

Otherwise, the age distribution has been fairly stable over time. There has been a proportionate increase in the number of girls being referred. The average age of boys has fallen marginally and the average age of girls has gone up very slightly. The fall for boys is mainly due to a reduction in the number of 16-year-olds notified.

Table 1.3. Police Liaison.
Age and Sex by Division. (Excluding Non-Delinquent Complaints).

		Barnstaple	Bideford	Exeter	Exmouth	Honiton	Tiverton	Newton Abbot	Paignton & Brixham	Torquay	Totnes	Plymouth North	Plymouth South	Tavistock	DEVON	1977/78 %	1976/77 %	1975/76 %	1974/75 %
Under 10	Boys	23	7	53	18	14	12	31	28	22	1	11	8	14	242	*	*	*	*
	Girls	4	1	9	1	-	-	9	7	12	1	-	2	-	46	*	*	*	*
10	Boys	13	9	43	5	8	3	11	15	12	7	19	18	9	172	4.0	4.2	3.8	4.4
	Girls	3	4	9	-	2	3	1	1	7	-	3	7	2	42	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.9
11	Boys	22	11	33	10	8	12	27	19	22	8	60	33	13	278	6.5	5.7	6.5	6.2
	Girls	5	-	13	2	3	1	4	6	9	3	7	2	2	57	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.6
12	Boys	31	9	50	25	24	19	35	44	42	25	46	40	26	416	9.7	8.8	9.3	9.1
	Girls	8	4	23	9	2	1	6	5	11	3	14	14	7	107	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.2
13	Boys	30	18	69	37	13	16	57	52	51	19	72	65	28	527	12.3	12.6	12.5	11.1
	Girls	20	5	11	7	1	3	12	11	14	6	16	15	10	131	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.7
14	Boys	66	33	90	35	18	29	82	64	43	23	79	73	37	672	15.7	15.0	15.0	16.3
	Girls	12	2	24	12	-	3	17	25	17	7	33	21	6	179	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.9
15	Boys	72	16	88	31	12	29	82	55	69	32	97	83	41	707	16.5	17.1	18.3	18.1
	Girls	11	4	30	4	7	4	12	27	18	5	24	20	6	172	4.0	3.4	3.8	3.4
16 & over	Boys	72	19	120	35	33	29	68	72	77	22	65	56	28	696	16.2	18.1	17.1	15.9
	Girls	11	2	15	3	3	11	9	10	18	3	26	12	7	130	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.7
Not Known	Boys	3	2	11	3	4	4	8	6	7	1	1	-	-	50	*	*	*	*
	Girls	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	8	*	*	*	*
All Ages	Boys	332	124	557	199	134	153	401	355	345	138	450	376	196	3760	80.9	81.4	82.4	81.6
	Girls	75	22	136	38	18	26	70	94	107	28	124	94	40	872	19.1	18.6	17.6	18.4
TOTAL		407	146	693	237	152	179	471	449	452	166	574	470	236	4632	100%	100%	100%	100%

Age, Sex and Main Offence

The relationship between age, sex and the main offence committed follows the established pattern, with a proportionate fall in theft with increasing age, although for older boys this year this is slightly different than before. Last year there were 308 15-year-old boys referred, compared with 371 this year, and the numbers of 16-year-old boys has fallen from 354 to 229. This drop in theft for 16-year-old boys accounts for all of the change mentioned on page 8.

The distribution of offences committed jointly or alone is consistent with earlier years, apart from 'receiving' falling from 83.7% to 62.4%.

Table 1.4. Police Liaison. Age and Sex by Offence and Jointly/Alone.

		Theft	Burglary	Receiving	Damage	Assault	Public Disorder	Traffic Offences	Drink/Drugs	Sex Offences	Miscellaneous	Not Known	All Offences	Jointly	Alone	Not Stated	% Jointly
10	Boys	113	12	4	26	3	-	4	-	-	8	2	172	133	39	-	77.3
	Girls	29	2	2	4	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	42	40	2	-	95.2
11	Boys	172	22	9	55	1	-	8	1	1	7	2	278	208	67	3	75.6
	Girls	39	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	10	1	57	47	9	1	83.9
12	Boys	262	36	15	56	10	3	11	-	3	18	2	416	320	94	2	77.3
	Girls	85	1	4	5	4	2	-	-	5	1	-	107	82	25	-	76.6
13	Boys	300	46	29	60	21	2	20	-	9	37	3	527	395	132	-	75.0
	Girls	88	4	7	8	6	-	2	1	7	7	1	131	95	35	1	73.1
14	Boys	335	57	37	88	31	7	33	5	15	57	7	672	471	198	3	70.4
	Girls	96	-	17	6	13	2	6	4	21	9	5	179	119	58	2	67.2
15	Boys	371	49	29	84	31	16	47	11	20	45	4	707	489	210	8	70.0
	Girls	89	2	4	8	13	-	5	7	27	16	1	172	107	62	3	63.3
16 & over	Boys	229	45	17	87	45	27	144	29	15	48	10	696	436	251	9	63.5
	Girls	81	1	8	1	3	3	15	6	3	6	3	130	68	59	3	53.5
Not Stated	Boys	15	2	4	5	4	1	8	4	2	2	3	50	38	9	3	80.9
	Girls	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	8	5	3	-	62.5
All	Boys No.	1797	269	144	461	146	56	275	50	65	222	33	3518	2490	1000	28	71.3
	%	51.6	7.7	4.1	13.2	4.2	1.6	7.9	1.4	1.9	6.4	*	100%				
All	Girls No.	512	11	45	33	41	8	29	20	65	51	11	826	563	253	10	69.0
	%	62.8	1.3	5.5	4.0	5.0	1.0	3.6	2.5	8.0	6.3	*	100%				
TOTAL	No.	2309	280	189	494	187	64	304	70	130	273	44	4344	3053	1253	38	70.9
	%	53.7	6.5	4.4	11.5	4.3	1.5	7.1	1.6	3.0	6.3	*	100%				
Jointly	%	69.7	90.0	62.4	79.9	58.1	71.9	60.8	72.5	74.4	68.9	70.4	70.9				

Previous Knowledge

This is one aspect where a clear trend has emerged. As was reported last year, the significance of previous knowledge seems to be increasing. Table 1.5. shows that the overall percentage previously known has fallen slightly this year, but there are some age groups where the upward trend has increased, particularly 11 and 12-year-old girls.

The figures below give an estimate of the numbers previously and not previously known over the full year.

		1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	% Change
Previously Known	Boys	1657	1721	1756	1794	+ 8.3%
	Girls	<u>240</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>283</u>	+ 17.9%
	Total	<u>1897</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2077</u>	+ 9.5%
Not Previously Known	Boys	1906	1651	1571	1724	- 9.6%
	Girls	<u>562</u>	<u>464</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>543</u>	- 3.4%
	Total	<u>2468</u>	<u>2115</u>	<u>2070</u>	<u>2267</u>	- 8.2%
Total	Boys	3563	3372	3327	3518	- 1.3%
	Girls	<u>802</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>826</u>	+ 3.0%
	Total	<u>4365</u>	<u>4091</u>	<u>4087</u>	<u>4344</u>	- 0.5%

The difference between boys and girls, particularly if previously known, is clear. Last year it was stated that the fall in juvenile delinquency was due to a substantial reduction in the number of first-time offenders. Although this no longer appears to be a definite trend, at least the number of first-time offenders is still below the 1974/75 level.

Table 1.5. Police Liaison. Age and Sex by Previously Known.

		Previously Known	Not Previously Known	Not Stated	TOTAL	% Previously Known			
						1977/78	1976/77	1975/76	1974/75
10	Boys	73	88	11	172	45.3	40.5	47.3	40.8
	Girls	10	31	1	42	24.4	31.3	25.0	34.8
11	Boys	116	139	23	278	45.5	43.2	41.4	38.1
	Girls	22	30	5	57	42.3	38.2	25.6	13.9
12	Boys	140	225	51	416	38.4	42.1	39.0	39.8
	Girls	29	74	4	107	28.2	26.3	23.2	16.1
13	Boys	223	260	44	527	46.2	49.0	46.6	41.2
	Girls	30	87	14	131	25.6	18.7	28.1	31.1
14	Boys	307	308	57	672	49.9	54.0	48.4	49.3
	Girls	55	97	27	179	36.2	29.7	39.6	33.3
15	Boys	370	279	58	707	57.0	55.5	57.5	48.5
	Girls	53	97	22	172	35.3	40.9	44.7	38.8
16 & over	Boys	366	255	75	696	58.9	62.8	60.3	52.5
	Girls	53	67	10	130	44.2	52.5	27.0	34.0
Not Known	Boys	31	10	9	50	75.6	45.7	31.3	52.4
	Girls	2	5	1	8	28.6	40.0	75.0	30.0
All Ages	Boys	1626	1564	328	3518	51.0	52.8	50.8	46.4
	Girls	254	488	84	826	34.2	34.4	35.4	29.9
TOTAL		1880	2052	412	4344	47.8	49.3	48.3	43.5

Recommendation and Division

Three factors - the age of the child, previous knowledge and the recommendation made are closely inter-related. Older children are more likely to have been referred before, and children referred before are more likely to be prosecuted but of these factors it is recommendation that seems to vary the most at Divisional level.

Table 1.6. gives full details. The three Divisions with the highest rates of delinquency, Exeter, Paignton/Brixham and Torquay, have the most 'No More Action' recommendations. Traffic offences are far more likely to result in prosecution (57.5% compared with 28.9% overall), therefore, Divisions not recording traffic offences understate the extent of prosecution.

The recording of voluntary supervision still presents problems. In Paignton/Brixham Division where the recording seems to be quite good the level of prosecution is still at the County average and it seems that the voluntary supervision has the effect of reducing cautions.

On average it takes two weeks for Divisions to reply to the Police with their recommendations, an extra three days are taken if the child is interviewed. Some Divisions are far quicker to reply than others.

The outcome of the case agreed with the recommendation in 98.1% of notifications. 24 recommended cautions resulted in prosecution but 30 recommended prosecutions resulted in caution being given.

Table 1.6. Police Liaison. Social Services Recommendations by Division.

		Barnstaple	Bideford	Exeter	Exmouth	Honiton	Tiverton	Newton Abbott	Paignton & Brixham	Torquay	Totnes	Plymouth North	Plymouth South	Tavistock	DEVON
No More Action		23	4	105	7	5	1	23	56	51	7	8	8	9	307
Caution		231	109	297	140	105	107	231	166	169	102	407	298	157	2519
Voluntary Supervision		-	-	2	-	1	1	8	45	6	2	1	-	4	70
Prosecution		113	23	219	51	17	38	81	105	165	37	145	150	31	1175
Not Stated		13	2	8	20	10	20	88	42	27	16	2	4	21	273
TOTAL		380	138	631	218	138	167	431	414	418	164	563	460	222	4344
% No More Action	1977/78	6.3	2.9	16.9	3.5	3.9	0.7	6.7	15.1	13.0	4.7	1.4	1.8	4.5	7.5
	76/77	10.3	2.5	14.5	7.3	12.5	1.9	6.2	10.0	8.4	4.0	3.5	4.2	2.5	7.4
	75/76	7.3	0.7	13.9	6.0	0.0	3.1	1.8	7.6	9.1	N/A	2.1	0.7	0.0	4.9
	74/75	6.6	0.9	6.2	4.8	0.6	4.8	N/A	N/A	5.6	N/A	3.8	5.2	N/A	4.8
% Caution	1977/78	62.9	80.1	47.7	70.7	82.0	72.8	67.3	44.6	43.2	68.9	72.5	65.4	78.1	61.9
	76/77	59.0	68.6	51.3	51.6	70.5	70.8	59.5	53.1	43.4	63.0	60.6	63.7	60.3	57.8
	75/76	63.5	76.6	41.6	56.0	74.8	65.4	58.7	61.6	46.3	N/A	62.4	58.5	79.2	58.5
	74/75	61.6	74.8	48.2	50.6	82.0	71.4	N/A	N/A	47.0	N/A	61.7	53.1	N/A	58.5
% Prosecution	1977/78	30.8	16.9	35.2	25.8	13.3	25.9	23.6	28.2	42.2	25.0	25.8	32.9	15.4	28.9
	76/77	30.3	28.9	33.6	33.3	17.0	26.1	28.4	19.2	45.9	28.0	42.8	31.9	37.2	32.6
	75/76	29.2	22.6	38.2	34.3	22.4	27.7	37.7	25.3	42.4	N/A	34.8	40.4	20.8	34.4
	74/75	31.8	20.6	32.8	42.2	14.1	23.8	N/A	N/A	43.9	N/A	33.6	39.7	N/A	33.0

Part 2

Courtwork

Division and Cause or Main Complaint

This year has seen a slight reversal of previous years' trends. The number of children before the Court has fallen slightly again, but this is because of a sharp fall in "other care proceedings". The number of appearances for theft rose sharply by 158 (39%) but most other criminal proceedings (except public disorder and other traffic offences) remained the same or reduced somewhat. This resulted in a total increase in offenders before the Court of 77.

Reasons for the fall in care proceedings are not fully clear. The numbers of these are now lower than they were in 1974/75 (when there were 141 such proceedings) before public attention was more sharply focussed on the problems of child ill-treatment and neglect, the majority of the reasons for children appearing under other care proceedings. A longer period is probably needed to see whether this is a short-term fluctuation.

The rise in theft is not completely a reflection of more children being referred under liaison arrangements but a higher rate of prosecution. Prosecutions for burglary have fallen steadily since 1974 from 247 to the present 157 but the number of offenders referred under liaison arrangements rose.

Most Divisions have had a very stable flow of children before the Courts since 1974. In some smaller Divisions the numbers have varied more; Bideford showed a steady increase. In Exeter this year there has been quite a drop but this is explained by a fall of 39 in children appearing under other care proceedings.

Table 2.1. Courtwork. Division by Cause or Main Complaint.

	School Non-Attendance	Revocation of Order	Other Care Proceedings	Theft	Burglary	Receiving	Damage	Arson	Assault	Public Disorder	Taking and Driving	Other Traffic Offences	Drink/Drugs	Sexual Offences	Other Offences	Total 1977/78	Total 1976/77	Total 1975/76
Barnstaple	-	-	6	48	-	1	5	-	3	-	-	15	2	-	5	85	78	82
Bideford	-	-	9	9	3	2	6	-	5	-	-	6	-	-	1	41	35	21
Exeter	4	2	24	62	17	4	11	-	17	7	3	27	2	1	10	191	233	223
Exmouth	-	1	6	22	4	1	8	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	2	50	70	45
Honiton	-	-	-	7	3	1	6	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	20	23	18
Tiverton	1	6	11	16	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	41	52	48
Newton Abbot	2	6	6	53	21	2	7	-	17	10	4	26	5	-	3	162	157	153
Paignton	3	5	3	30	14	2	-	1	1	4	2	16	3	2	1	87	81	86
Torquay	3	7	12	50	17	5	13	4	7	7	8	37	8	-	13	191	168	161
Totnes	-	2	4	8	4	3	1	-	4	-	3	2	4	1	1	37	30	58
Plymouth North	4	16	16	113	44	7	25	-	11	13	4	14	1	-	14	282	281	285
Plymouth South	4	14	12	119	29	8	14	-	12	1	7	22	1	1	14	258	246	280
Tavistock	-	5	5	27	1	-	9	-	2	-	1	6	-	-	1	57	57	48
Total 1977/78	21	64	114	564	157	36	107	5	86	42	38	171	26	5	66	1502		
Total 1976/77	8	86	212	406	185	36	143	9	95	14	41	87	45	8	59	1532		
Total 1975/76	7	44	172	452	206	36	110	10	100	27	56	158	79	14	64	1547		

Age, Sex and Cause or Main Complaint.

In previous years the trend had been to more younger children under 12 and more aged 16 before the Courts. Numbers of 13/15 year olds had been showing a decrease. This has changed somewhat this year in keeping with the changes in reasons for Court appearances. Younger children and girls appear, as is to be expected for the under 10s, on grounds of Care Proceedings. It has been noted that Care Proceedings fell substantially last year. 16 year olds appear more often for burglary and other traffic offences, both of which fell this year.

The rise in prosecutions for theft seem to be the sole reason for more 13/15 year olds before the Court. With these exceptions the pattern of children before the Court seems to remain very static over time. Girls continue to appear in small numbers and only constitute 9.3% of all appearances by offenders (compared with 9.7% in 1976/77 and 11.3% in 1975/76). This also compares with a slight but steady rise in the proportion of girls referred under liaison arrangements which stand at 17.6% in 1975/76 and 19.1% in 1977/78.

Girls have again been involved in a narrower range of offences than boys being mainly for theft, assault and drinks/drugs although considerably more appeared for burglary this year.

Table 2.2. Courtwork. Age and Sex by Cause or Main Complaint.

		School Non-Attendance	Revocation of Order	Other Care Proceedings	Theft	Burglary	Receiving	Damage	Arson	Assault	Public Disorder	Taking and Driving	Other Traffic Offences	Drink/Drugs	Sexual Offences	Other Offences	Total 1977/78	Total 1976/77	Total 1975/76
0 - 9	Boys	-	6	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	55	63
	Girls	-	4	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	67	64
10	Boys	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	22	15
	Girls	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	1
11	Boys	-	-	2	16	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	36	38
	Girls	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	2
12	Boys	1	1	3	27	11	1	6	1	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	57	85	71
	Girls	2	-	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	9	9
13	Boys	1	2	2	76	18	3	13	1	8	1	3	3	-	-	7	138	119	139
	Girls	3	3	2	7	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	20	12	15
14	Boys	1	2	4	86	39	8	17	2	9	6	1	4	3	1	10	193	159	175
	Girls	2	-	5	10	1	1	3	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	28	33	42
15	Boys	4	7	5	146	23	11	23	1	22	9	9	21	3	2	17	303	253	309
	Girls	4	1	13	7	8	-	1	-	9	-	-	2	3	-	1	49	56	52
16	Boys	2	16	-	128	39	9	31	-	29	23	15	126	13	1	18	450	471	425
	Girls	1	5	5	19	5	2	1	-	1	1	1	2	3	-	3	49	57	51
17 +	Boys	-	6	1	22	5	-	8	-	3	-	7	7	-	-	7	66	64	37
	Girls	-	9	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	5	9
Not Stated		-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6	21	30
TOTAL	Boys	9	40	52	504	140	33	100	5	72	39	36	164	19	5	61	1279	1264	1272
	Girls	12	24	60	58	17	3	7	-	14	3	2	6	7	-	4	217	247	245
TOTAL		21	64	114	564	157	36	107	5	86	42	38	171	26	5	66	1502	1532	1547

Court Result and Cause or Main Complaint.

As with other aspects of Court work discussed so far there has been a slight change in emphasis in the trends of the previous 3 years. Many fewer Care Orders after Care Proceedings but more after criminal proceedings : more Supervision Orders to the Probation Service and fewer to the Social Services Department. : a steady increase in Borstal Orders but a fluctuating pattern of Detention Centre Orders.

The number of offences resulting in fines have fallen somewhat this year. This applies to most types of offence. In particular offences of assault, although fewer in number, have resulted in more custodial forms of sentence in Detention Centre or Borstal.

Table 2.3. Courtwork. Court Result by Cause or Main Complaint.

	School Non-Attendance	Revocation of Order	Other Care Proceedings	Theft	Burglary	Receiving	Damage	Arson	Assault	Public Disorder	Taking and Driving	Other Traffic Offences	Drink/Drugs	Sexual Offences	Other Offences	Total 1977/78	Total 1976/77	Total 1975/76
Borstal	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	-	7	-	2	1	-	-	2	28	19	18
Detention Centre	-	-	-	23	11	-	10	1	9	-	4	1	-	-	1	60	53	79
Care Order	10	-	67	39	13	1	3	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	5	145	195	219
Supervision Order/Probation	-	1	2	97	24	1	11	-	6	3	3	7	1	-	9	165	121	136
/Social Services	11	2	32	66	31	1	9	1	2	-	4	1	-	1	3	164	226	191
Attendance Centre	-	-	-	51	19	-	11	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	86	78	73
Fine	-	-	-	171	33	16	36	-	36	18	11	112	20	2	21	476	522	514
Compensation	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	4
Licence Endorsed/Disqualified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	32	1	-	-	37	12	13
Bound Over	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	-	6	14	-	-	1	-	3	32	14	11
Conditional Discharge	-	-	-	77	9	7	19	1	10	1	5	5	3	1	5	143	135	162
Absolute Discharge	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	5	11	16
Dismissed	-	-	3	15	3	4	2	2	3	5	-	5	-	-	4	46	31	32
Revocation of Order Accepted	-	50	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	55	53	26
Revocation of Order Not Accepted	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	16	14
Other/Not Stated	-	-	8	12	3	1	1	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	8	39	40	39
TOTAL 1977/78	21	64	114	564	157	36	107	6	85	42	38	171	26	5	66	1502	1532	1547

Age, Sex and Court Result.

The fall in the making of Care Orders has affected all age and sex groups this year (not just the younger children it affected last year). Not only have fewer young children been made subject to Care Orders for child abuse, but fewer adolescent girls beyond control of their parents or in moral danger have been removed under a Care Order.

The Probation Service have taken more of the Supervision Orders for all those aged 14 and over. This is particularly so for 14 year old boys where last year Social Services had twice the number the Probation Service received - now the position is almost reversed.

The large numbers of 16 year olds being fined is mainly a result of their involvement in traffic offences on a fairly large scale compared with younger age groups. These offences more frequently result in a fine.

Table 2.4. Courtwork. Age and Sex by Court Result.

		Borstal	Detention Centre	Care Order	Supervision Ord. Probation	Supervision Ord. Social Services	Attendance Centre	Fine	Compensation	Licence Endorsed/Disqualified	Bound Over	Conditional Discharge	Absolute Discharge	Dismissed	Revocation of Order Accepted	Revocation of Order Not Accepted	Other/Not Stated	Total
0 - 9	Boys	-	-	22	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2	38
	Girls	-	-	11	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	31
10	Boys	-	-	1	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
	Girls	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
11	Boys	-	-	7	-	8	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	25
	Girls	-	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	10
12	Boys	-	1	13	3	15	6	6	-	-	2	6	2	1	1	-	1	57
	Girls	-	-	4	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12
13	Boys	-	2	13	7	27	22	33	-	-	4	19	-	6	2	-	3	138
	Girls	-	-	6	-	5	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-	20
14	Boys	-	9	9	31	23	19	58	-	-	6	22	-	8	3	1	4	193
	Girls	-	-	6	3	6	-	5	-	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	28
15	Boys	2	20	23	48	21	25	101	5	2	6	33	-	6	8	-	3	303
	Girls	1	-	10	9	11	-	10	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	-	1	49
16	Boys	17	18	8	49	10	10	209	-	31	10	36	3	18	17	3	11	450
	Girls	3	-	9	8	4	-	13	1	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	1	49
17 +	Boys	4	10	1	4	-	-	23	1	3	1	5	-	-	7	-	7	66
	Girls	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	-	14
Not Stated		-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
All	Boys	23	60	97	142	114	86	437	6	36	29	123	5	41	41	7	32	1279
	Girls	5	-	48	22	49	-	36	1	1	3	19	-	5	14	7	7	217
TOTAL		28	60	145	165	164	86	476	7	37	32	143	5	46	55	14	39	1502

Division and Court Result.

The availability of local facilities affect the pattern of Court results. Thus the use of the Attendance Centre is available in West Devon but not elsewhere. This seems to affect the numbers in West Devon whose principal outcome is a fine. West Devon also seems to have more revocation of orders than elsewhere - a continuing aspect of their practice.

Reference has already been made to the higher number of Supervision Orders made to the Probation Service this year. This seems to have applied particularly in South Devon where last year few such Orders were made while this year they have predominated in Paignton and Torquay. Elsewhere the balance between the two services has been much the same as before except that in total, many fewer Supervision Orders have been made in East Devon.

The rise in recommendations for Borstal training seem mainly confined to West Devon although Detention Centre is recommended more widely across the County. Care Orders are still a higher proportion of Court results in Exeter than elsewhere although they have halved in absolute numbers compared with last year.

Table 2.5. Courtwork. Division by Court Result.

	Eorstal	Detention Centre	Care Order	Supervision Order Probation	Supervision Order Social Services	Attendance Centre	Fine	Compensation	Licence Endorsed/Disqualified	Bound Over	Conditional Discharge	Absolute Discharge	Dismissed	Revocation of Order Accepted	Revocation of Order Not Accepted	Other/Not Stated	Total 1977/78
Barnstaple	-	1	4	18	12	-	28	1	5	-	8	-	6	-	-	2	85
Bideford	-	-	5	6	5	-	15	1	1	-	5	-	1	-	-	2	41
Exeter	-	9	23	17	21	-	84	-	9	3	16	1	2	2	2	2	191
Exmouth	-	-	7	10	9	-	9	-	-	8	1	-	1	3	-	2	50
Honiton	-	1	3	6	3	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Tiverton	-	3	13	-	7	-	7	-	-	2	2	-	1	6	-	-	41
Newton Abbot	2	5	9	7	13	-	87	-	3	6	11	1	6	5	1	6	162
Paignton	-	1	7	13	8	-	41	-	-	-	3	1	3	4	1	5	87
Torquay	4	3	16	32	15	-	70	-	7	-	16	-	9	2	5	12	191
Totnes	-	1	5	1	5	-	18	-	1	-	3	-	1	2	-	-	37
Plymouth North	12	17	25	26	24	43	53	2	3	12	36	1	8	15	2	3	282
Plymouth South	9	15	18	27	34	38	47	3	7	1	31	1	8	11	3	5	258
Tavistock	1	4	10	2	8	5	10	-	1	-	11	-	-	5	-	-	57
TOTAL 1977/78	28	60	145	165	164	86	476	7	37	32	143	5	46	55	14	39	1502

SUMMARY

The outline of this report has been retained now in a similar shape for three years. The total number of children being referred to the Social Services Department by the Police and appearing before the Court have also kept a consistent pattern over this time, although points of detailed change have been apparent.

In liaison arrangements with Police, Plymouth has shown a small but steady decline in total numbers in recent years. This fall has been compensated for by increases in Exeter, Torquay and some rural Divisions, so that in total there has been a 6.5% increase in referrals. This is matched by a 6.3% increase in children before the Courts for delinquent offences. Some of the variations may be accounted for by differing local practices (e.g. few traffic offenders referred in Plymouth), but these patterns have been mainly consistent over time and do not seem to have changed this year.

Some trends have continued from past years. Slightly more children are being referred - fewer children have come to notice for the first time. More girls are also being referred by the Police, but in spite of this, there are even fewer girls before the Court. A slight reversal of one trend from previous years is fewer 16-year-old boys being referred under liaison arrangements after a steady build up in earlier years.

There remains a fairly consistent number of 10 and 11-year-olds before the Juvenile Court for criminal proceedings (37 in 1977/78 and 41 in 1976/77). Most of these have been for theft and have been spread fairly evenly over the Juvenile Courts of the County. The fact of their attendance must reflect our inter-departmental policies and practices.

A cause for concern is the increased number of Care Orders arising from criminal proceedings - is this due to Courts being faced with the more recalcitrant offender whose need for control is particularly great? Or is it, perhaps, due to the dearth of community-based treatment resources? The sharp drop in care proceedings and Care Orders resulting from them is perhaps even more difficult to explain and probably needs a longer period to assess the long-term trend.

The move to the Probation Service in the making of Supervision Orders is another shift identified this year. Whether it is a reflection of the Courts preference, or follows inter-departmental policies on the division of work between services it is not possible to say - again it possibly needs to be seen in the context of longer-term trends.

Finally, in view of the importance and interest attached to schools, more detailed information about the ages, offences and time of year of notifications has been included as an appendix to this report.

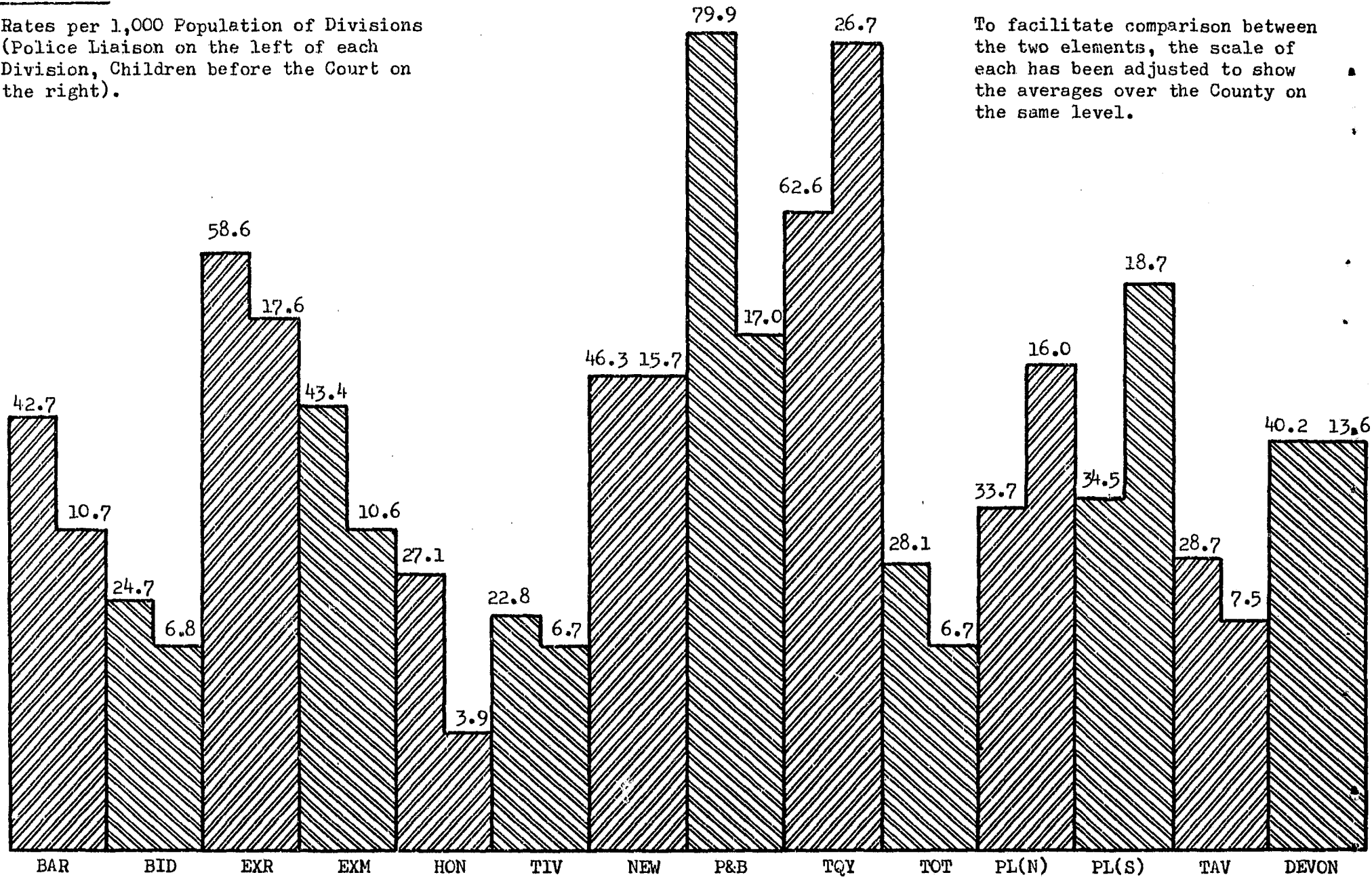
APPENDIX A. Police Liaison Referrals per 1,000 Population of Divisions and Localities and Number of Children before the Court.

Locality	Population aged 10 - 17	Police Liaison Referrals	Rate per 1,000 Population	Children before the Court	Locality	Population aged 10 - 17	Police Liaison Referrals	Rate per 1,000 Population	Children before the Court	Locality	Population aged 10 - 17	Police Liaison Referrals	Rate per 1,000 Population	Children before the Court
Barnstaple M.B.	1951	180	92.3	36	Honiton M.B.	566	44	77.7	11	Buckfastleigh U.D.	340			4
Ilfracombe U.D.	913	42	46.0	16	Ottery St. Mary U.D.	589	17	28.9	-	Dartmouth M.B.	647	46	71.1	9
Lynton U.D.	184	9	48.9	1	Seaton U.D.	339	3	8.9	-	Kingsbridge U.D.	490	8	16.3	5
Barnstaple R.D.	3358	74	22.0	18	Sidmouth U.D.	899	23	25.6	4	Totnes M.B.	642	19	25.6	8
South Molton R.D.	1374	27	19.7	12	Axminster R.D.	1858	31	16.7	5	Salcombe U.D.	228	2	8.8	1
BARNSTAPLE DIVISION	7780	332	42.7	83	Honiton R.D.	837	20	23.9	-	Kingsbridge R.D.	1755	18	10.3	6
					HONITON DIVISION	5088	138	27.1	20	Totnes R.D.	1702	70	41.1	6
										TOTNES DIVISION	5804	163	28.1	39
Bideford M.B.	1764	55	31.2	16	Crediton U.D.	589	28	47.5	3	Crownhill	1966	62	31.5	16
Great Torrington M.B.	400	22	55.0	6	Tiverton M.B.	2425	83	34.2	30	Ernesettle	1647	37	22.5	19
Northam U.D.	798	27	33.8	7	Crediton R.D.	1362	11	8.1	1	Ford	1160	55	47.4	22
Bideford R.D.	596	16	26.9	6	Tiverton R.D.	2806	42	15.0	14	Honicknowle	1712	69	40.3	30
Holsworthy R.D.	1072	12	11.2	4	TIVERTON DIVISION	7182	164	22.8	48	Pennycross	2051	104	50.7	58
Torrington R.D.	1120	10	8.9	-						St. Budeaux	1327	43	32.4	29
BIDEFORD DIVISION	5750	142	24.7	39						Stoke	730	28	38.4	12
					Ashburton U.D.	468	24	51.3	9	Tamerton	2167	63	29.1	32
Alphington	594	17	28.7	6	Dawlish U.D.	1056	37	35.0	9	Trelawny	1107	35	31.6	19
Barton	810	48	59.3	19	Newton Abbot U.D.	1232	124	100.7	53	Whitleigh	1819	32	17.6	14
Countess Wear	873	45	51.6	7	Teignmouth U.D.	1401	88	62.8	32	PLYMOUTH NORTH DIVISION	15686	528	33.7	251
Cowick	453	11	24.3	2	Newton Abbot R.D.	3678	129	35.1	39					
Exwick	887	67	75.5	32	St. Thomas R.D.	1552	33	21.3	5	Compton	1061	15	14.1	12
Heavitree	573	14	24.4	3	NEWTON ABBOT DIVISION	9387	435	46.3	147	Drake	806	32	39.8	20
Pennsylvania	436	11	25.2	4						Efford	1552	63	40.6	34
Pinhoe	727	45	61.9	10	Blatchcombe	989	96	97.1	24	Mount Gould	1035	22	21.3	23
Polsloe	456	22	48.3	7	Coverdale	585	50	85.5	6	Plymstock Downham	1487	18	12.1	7
Rougemont	337	31	92.0	7	Furzeham/Churston	612	37	60.5	6	Plymstock Radford	1322	21	15.9	11
St. Leonards	397	32	80.6	11	Hollicombe	721	43	59.7	6	St. Andrew	778	28	36.0	33
St. Matthews	345	28	81.6	7	St. Michaels/					St. Auby	1430	93	65.0	38
St. Thomas	364	25	68.7	6	Goodrington	1074	71	66.1	12	St. Peter	992	65	65.5	30
Stoke Hill	808	43	53.2	14	St. Peters/St. Marys	958	98	101.2	30	Sutton	1061	45	42.4	25
Topsham	442	23	52.0	8	PAIGNTON and					Plympton R.D. South	927	27	29.1	-
Whipton	822	50	60.8	13	BRIXHAM DIVISION	4949	395	79.9	84	PLYMOUTH SOUTH DIVISION	12451	429	34.5	233
Wonford	925	89	96.2	24						Plympton Earle	1207	59	48.9	22
EXETER DIVISION	10249	601	58.6	180						Plympton St. Mary	1107	51	46.1	20
					Cockington/Chelston	1127	73	64.8	24	Okehampton M.B.	338	22	65.1	7
Budleigh Salterton U.D.	336	9	26.8	2	Ellacombe	744	62	83.3	23	Okehampton R.D.	1155	13	11.6	1
Exmouth U.D.	2612	160	61.3	41	St. Marychurch	1199	73	60.9	42	Plympton R.D. North	880	18	20.5	3
St. Thomas R.D. East	2051	48	23.4	10	Shiphay	1360	70	51.5	22	Tavistock R.D.	2896	54	18.7	4
EXMOUTH DIVISION	4999	217	43.4	53	Tormohun	984	59	60.0	33	TAVISTOCK DIVISION	7583	217	28.7	57
					Torwood	627	41	65.4	17					
					TORQUAY DIVISION	6041	378	62.6	161	Out of County		123		37
										Not Known		82		70

APPENDIX B.

Rates per 1,000 Population of Divisions
(Police Liaison on the left of each
Division, Children before the Court on
the right).

To facilitate comparison between
the two elements, the scale of
each has been adjusted to show
the averages over the County on
the same level.





END