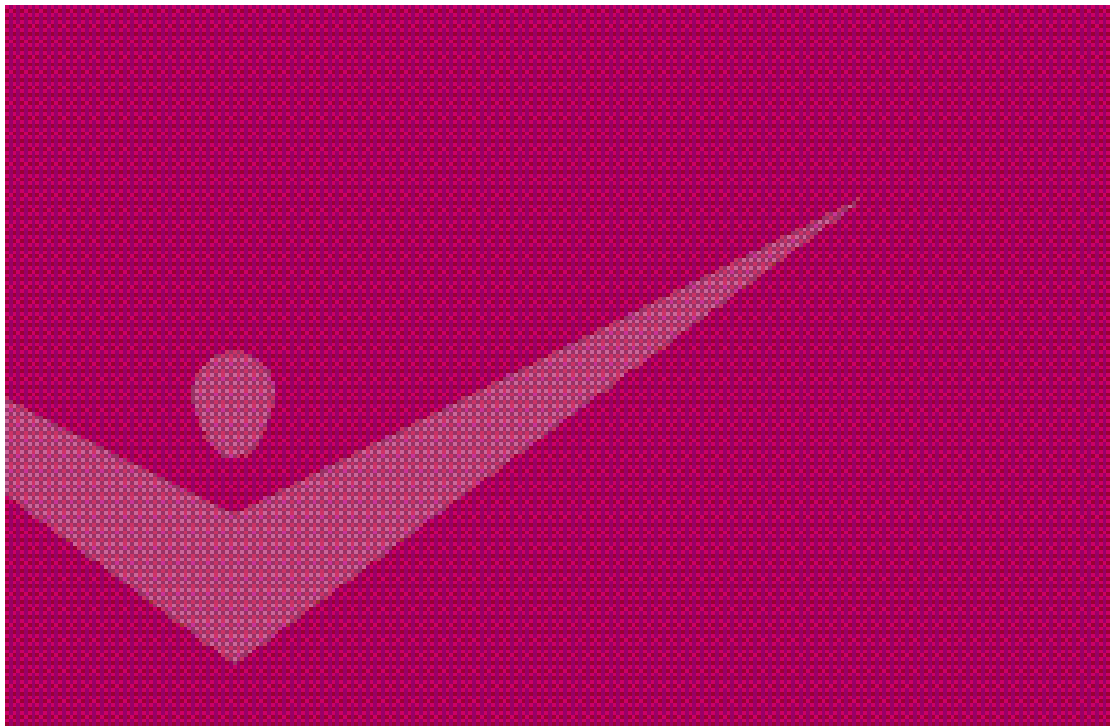


Commission
for the Support of
Victims of Crime

Annual Report 2012



CONTENTS

Section		Page No.
	Executive Summary	2
1	Overview of funding by the Commission in 2012	3
2	Funding allocated by the Commission per sector	4
3	Funding decisions for 2013	6
4	Staffing and volunteers	6
5	The Consultative Forum	7
6	Other Commission activities in 2012	8
Appendix A	Successful applications for funding in 2012	10
Appendix B	Distribution of funding 2012	11
Appendix C	Funding allocated to organisations 2005 to 2012	12
Appendix D	Number of victims supported and number of volunteers	13
Appendix E	Membership of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime	14

COMMISSION FOR THE SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF CRIME
REPORT TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
2012

Executive Summary

- The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime allocated €1,154,139 to 50 voluntary sector organisations providing front-line services for the support of victims of crime in 2012. The 50 funded organisations spent in total €1,141,336 of Commission funding in 2012, a decline of 1% on the 2011 expenditure. Some surpluses were carried over by the funded organisations from 2011 into 2012 and some carried over small surpluses from 2012 to 2013. (section 1)
- A total of 15,637 victims were assisted with this funding, an increase of 13% over 2011. (section 2.6)
- There were 30,570 meetings or phone contacts with these victims in the year, a decrease of 9% compared with 2011. (section 2.6)
- Funded projects drew on the assistance of 467 volunteers and
- employed the equivalent of 26 full-time staff. (section 4)
- The Consultative Forum held two meetings in 2012, one focusing on fund-raising and philanthropy, and the second on implementation of the Victims Charter. (section 5)

1. Overview of Funding by the Commission in 2012

- 1.1 A key function of the Commission is the allocation of funding to voluntary sector organisations providing support to victim of crime. A total budget of €1,162,000 was made available to the Commission in 2012. €1,154,139 was allocated to 50 organisations by the Commission. A small number of organisations did not spend the total amount allocated with the result that €1,144,336 was spent in total by the funded organisations. The remainder of the budget was spent on running the Consultative Forum and other administrative expenses.
- 1.2 A public advertisement was placed in national newspapers in October, 2011 inviting applications for funding for 2012. Most of the applications received were from organisations that had applied for and had received funding in previous years from the Commission. The Commission received 55 applications and approved 50.
- 1.3 The Commission is independent in its decision-making process and assesses each application on its own merits. As in previous years, the Commission decided to prioritise the funding of activities at ground level that provide direct supports for victims of crime, rather than administrative structures or research projects. A substantial amount of the funding provided was towards the provision of a court accompaniment service to victims of crime, especially victims of domestic violence and victims and their families attending the Central Criminal Court in Dublin. The Commission also assisted organisations which provide support and information to victims of crime.
- 1.4 The successful organisations were notified by the end of December 2011, of the Commission's decision that funding would be made available to them. The majority of initial payments were made in the first quarter of 2012, subject to meeting the Commission requirements as regards reports on 2011 funding and expenditure profiles for 2012. By the end of March, 2012, €883,071 had been paid out to funded organisations. This meant that approximately 76% of the possible initial payments were made at that point.

- 1.5 The Commission again carried out a detailed analysis of the end of year returns provided by the funded organisations. The full analysis is available on the Commission's website (www.csvc.ie) under "Publications". Points from the analysis in relation to volunteers and victim contacts are made in sections 2 and 4 below.
- 1.6 The Commission notes that, as expected, financial reserves overall reduced from 16 to 14 weeks of cover for expenditure by end 2011 as compared to end 2010. The experience of different sectors has been varied in this regard. It is a matter of some concern to the Commission that reserves in the general sector, which is most dependant on the Commission for funding, have decreased on average from 17 weeks expenditure cover at the end of 2010 to 13 weeks cover at the end of 2011. At the end of 2011 three organisations, including two in the general sector had small deficits. The data for this analysis comes from the audited accounts of the funded organisations for 2011.

2. Funding allocated by the Commission per sector

2.1 The Commission granted funding to ten organisations providing services to victims of crime generally. The Commission was pleased to be able to provide a small amount of funding to the *Le Chéile Restorative Justice Project* for the first time. The Commission has been working with the general crime sector to expand services. It is heartened to see that the *Federation for Victim Assistance* has opened a further branch in 2012. The Commission is especially pleased with this expansion as it is conscious of the financial difficulties many organisations are having at this time. It was also glad to see there has been a big increase in the number of victims being assisted by Victim Support at Court and availing of the state of the art victim facilities in the Criminal Courts of Justice building in Dublin. In total, €447,948 was spent by funded organisations in servicing the needs of general crime victims. This expenditure accounted for 39% of the funding allocated by the Commission. This enabled the support of 10,674 victims, a significant increase of 19% over 2011 figures. (8,996 victims assisted in 2011)

2.2 Services to victims of domestic violence

The Commission approved 29 applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of domestic violence, mainly for the provision of a court

accompaniment service. €442,351 of the Commission's funding was spent by organisations in this sector, which accounted for 39% of the total funding allocated by the Commission. 3,276 victims of domestic violence were assisted, representing an increase of 4% over the numbers assisted in 2011.

2.3 Services to victims of sexual violence and human trafficking

The Commission approved four applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of sexual violence. €155,237 of the Commission's funding was spent by organisations in this sector which accounted for 14% of the funding it allocated to funded organisations. 862 victims of sexual abuse were assisted with Commission funding. This represents a 23% decline in the number of victims assisted compared with 2011.

2.4 Counselling services

€59,100 of the Commission's funding was spent by five organisations which provided counselling services to 749 victims of crime in 2012. This accounted for 5% of the Commission's overall allocation to funded organisations.

2.5 Services to children who are victims of crime

The Commission funded *CARI* and *Barnardos* in 2012. *CARI*, which provides support to children who are victims of sexual abuse and their non-abusing parents, received funding towards court accompaniment support service for all children, who have to attend court as a witness. *Barnardos* provides counselling to children who are bereaved and the Commission funding supports counselling for those children bereaved because of homicide. The €36,700 of funding spent by this sector accounted for 3% of the Commission's total allocation. 76 child victims and their families were supported by these organisations

2.6 Number of victims assisted

In summary, a total of 15,637 victims of crime were assisted by 50 organisations. There were 30,570 meetings or phone contacts with these victims in the year. While the number of victims assisted represents an increase of 13% over 2011 figures, the number of victim contacts showed a decline of 9%. This represents an overall reduction in average numbers of contacts to three per victim from four per victim in 2011. This fall

in contacts is almost entirely accounted for by a fall of 27% in the number of contacts in the domestic violence sector. This is in spite of more domestic violence organisations being in a position to provide contact figures for 2012, than was the case in 2011. As funding contracts and numbers of victims presenting for services increase, it is inevitable that services cannot continue to expand without limit, in relation to both numbers served and the extent of support provided. Appendix D displays the number of victims supported in each category.

- 2.7 Services to victims spent €1,141,336 of Commission funding in 2012. From its inception in 2005 to the end of 2012, the Commission has allocated €8.475 million to voluntary sector organisations supporting victims of crime. A list of the organisations funded by the Commission in 2012 is at Appendix A.

3 Funding Decisions for 2013

- 3.1 As in previous years to ensure that the voluntary bodies funded by the Commission would receive their payment as early as possible in 2013, the Commission placed an advertisement in the national newspapers on the 6th October, 2012, inviting applications for funding for 2013. The closing date for receipt of applications was the 23rd November, 2012. The Commission received 54 applications which it considered and made decisions in respect of at its meeting in December, 2012. Applicants were informed immediately whether or not they would be funded in 2013.

4. Staffing and Volunteers

- 4.1 A total of 467 volunteers work in organisations funded by the Commission. Some sectors rely more on paid employees to provide services to victims. Of the volunteers 275 worked in assisting general victims of crime, 31 provided support to victims of domestic violence, 136 worked in the area of sexual violence, 16 worked in the area of counselling and 9 worked with children (Appendix D). Commission funding enabled the employment of the equivalent of 26 full time paid employees also.
- 4.2 In its 2011 annual report the Commission expressed concern lest volunteering would be undermined in the medium term by reducing or not paying out-of-pocket expenses to volunteers. In 2012, the Commission is glad to see that volunteer costs were up 14% on

2011 figures, representing an extra €11,354 of expenditure in this area. However, the 2012 costs only partially reduce the cuts of 2011, and 2012 figures are still 39% lower than in 2010.

5. The Consultative Forum

- 5.1 The Victims of Crime Consultative Forum, which is attended by one representative of each of the voluntary organisations funded by the Commission, was established in 2009 to take account of the views of victims through those working and volunteering in the groups. The Forum allows the organisations funded by the Commission to have an input into strategy and policy development to assist and support victims of crime. It also facilitates the exchange of good practice between the funded organisations. The Commission has to date held ten meetings of the Forum. Two meetings of the Consultative Forum were held in 2012.
- 5.2 The first Forum held in May, 2012 was attended by over 30 representatives of the funded organisations.
- 5.3 Bearing in mind the current economic situation and the difficulties now faced by many of the organisations in fundraising, the Commission felt it would be worthwhile to provide input and discuss fundraising and philanthropy. Therefore representatives from the *Ireland Fund*, *Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)* and *Barnardos* were invited to speak about fundraising. A representative from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government also spoke about Government proposals in relation to philanthropy at the Forum. Most of the participants found it very beneficial giving them some pointers to assist them in their fund raising activities.
- 5.4 An important focus of the Commission is to increase cooperation between the organisations that it funds through sharing resources and experience or working together on projects of mutual interest. Hence it devoted time at both meetings of the forum to reporting by the funded organisations on the up-to-date position in this regard. While by no means exhaustive, examples of the work done in 2012 would be the joint attendance of volunteer services at meetings in relation to court accompaniment to ensure co-

operation and a more effective service for victims attending court, and the provision of training using shared resources.

- 5.5 The main focus of the second 2012 Forum held in October was the Victims Charter. Representatives from An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions spoke about their implementation of the Victims Charter. The attendance of representatives of the criminal justice agencies, and their active participation, underlines the ongoing co-operation between the Commission and the agencies. As is usual at the Forum there was ample time for questions and discussion. This was a second time for the Forum to consider implementation of the Victims Charter. It had previously considered this issue in 2010. Those attending were also given an up-date on the EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (EU Victims Directive).
- 5.6 Following a ballot on the frequency of Forum meetings it was agreed to change the terms of reference of the Forum to state that it would meet at least once a year. This reflects the increasing pressures on all participants in providing services to clients and the work and cost in organising the meetings. It also reflects the value of the Forum to participants, because there was an option to discontinue meetings entirely.

6. Other Commission Activities in 2012

- 6.1 Mr. McAndrew attended a meeting of the United Kingdom and Ireland victim support services, in Edinburgh in February, accompanied by Mr. Heylin. As a result of an invitation from the *Irish Council of Civil Liberties*, Mr. McAndrew chaired their Conference on the EU Victims Directive in Dublin Castle in April. The conference was opened by the Minister for Justice and Equality. Mr. McAndrew attended the Annual Conference of Victim Support Europe in Lisbon in September, accompanied by Mr. Trevor Noonan, Victims of Crime Office, where the focus of discussions was largely on the EU Victims Directive.
- 6.2 Mr. Heylin attended the launch of the annual reports of the *Dublin Rape Crisis Centre* and the *Rape Crisis Network Ireland*, both of which occurred in Dublin.
- 6.3 Mr. Noonan attended the launch of the annual report of *AMEN* in May.

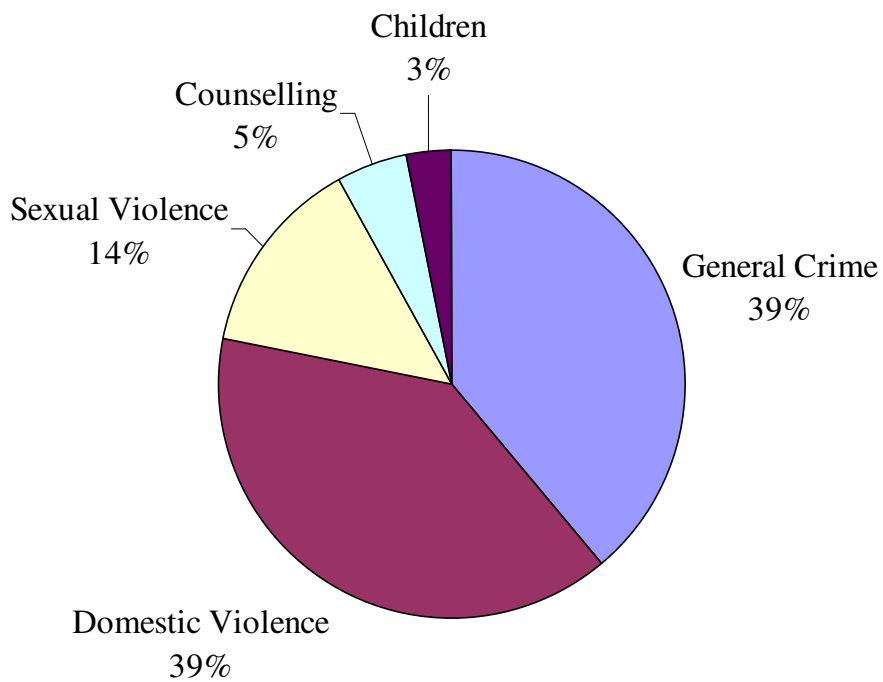
6.4 Ms O'Shea, Secretary to the Commission, attended the launch of the new branch of the *Federation for Victim Assistance* in Galway in February. She also attended the launch of the annual report of the *Irish Tourist Assistance Service* in Dublin.

Successful Applicants for Funding in 2012

	Organisation	Total Allocated	Total Spent
1	Adapt (Kerry)	€21,500	€21,500
2	Adapt (Limerick)	€41,000	€41,000
3	AdVIC	€22,000	€22,000
4	Amen	€11,360	€7,960
5	Ascend	€12,900	€12,000
6	Barnardos	€22,500	€22,500
7	Beacon of Light Counselling Centre	€14,300	€14,300
8	CARI	€14,200	€14,200
9	Carlow Women's Aid	€16,000	€16,000
10	Clare Haven Services	€10,500	€10,500
11	Cope Galway	€2,200	€2,314
12	Crime Victims Helpline	€67,239	€69,500
13	Cuan Saor Women's Refuge Ltd.	€18,500	€18,500
14	Domestic Violence (Advocacy Service)	€7,600	€7,600
15	Domestic Violence Response	€13,500	€13,500
16	Donegal Domestic Violence Service	€14,300	€14,300
17	Drogheda Women's Refuge	€9,500	€9,500
18	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	€19,000	€19,000
19	Dublin 12 Domestic Violence Service	€3,000	€3,000
20	Dundalk Counselling Service	€19,000	€19,000
21	Families, Fathers and Friends	€2,400	€2,400
22	Federation for Victim Assistance	€85,300	€85,300
23	Irish Tourist Assistance Service	€42,500	€42,500
24	Laois Domestic Abuse Service	€11,200	€11,200
25	Le Chéile Restorative Justice Project,	€5,000	€5,000
26	Letterkenny Women's Centre (Counselling)	€4,800	€4,800
27	Lifeline (Inishowen) Women's Outreach	€1,000	205
28	Living Life Voluntary Counselling Centre	€12,400	€12,400
29	Longford Women's Link	€21,000	€21,000
30	Mayo Women's Support Service	€23,000	€23,000
31	Meath Women's Refuge	€25,000	€25,000
32	Missing in Ireland Support Services	€8,600	€8,600
33	Mná Feasa	€23,000	€23,000
34	Oasis	€7,000	€7,000
35	Offaly Women in Crisis	€8,600	€8,600
36	One in Four	€70,500	€70,500
37	Rape Crisis Network	€46,500	€43,737
38	Roscommon Safe Link	€16,000	€16,000
39	Saoirse Housing Association	€12,900	€12,900
40	Sexual Violence Centre, Cork	€22,000	€22,000
41	Support After Crime Services	€111,000	€111,000
42	Support After Homicide	€47,500	€47,500
43	Tearmann Housing Association	€13,800	€13,800
44	Victim Support	€5,200	€2,152
45	Victim Support at Court (formerly Court Support Service)	€55,440	€54,396
46	Westmeath Support Service against Domestic Abuse	€14,200	€14,200
47	Women's Aid Dublin	€75,000	€75,000
48	Women's Aid Dundalk	€13,800	€11,040
49	Women's Therapy Centre	€8,600	€8,600
50	You are not Alone	€800	€332
	Total	€1,154,139	€1,141,336

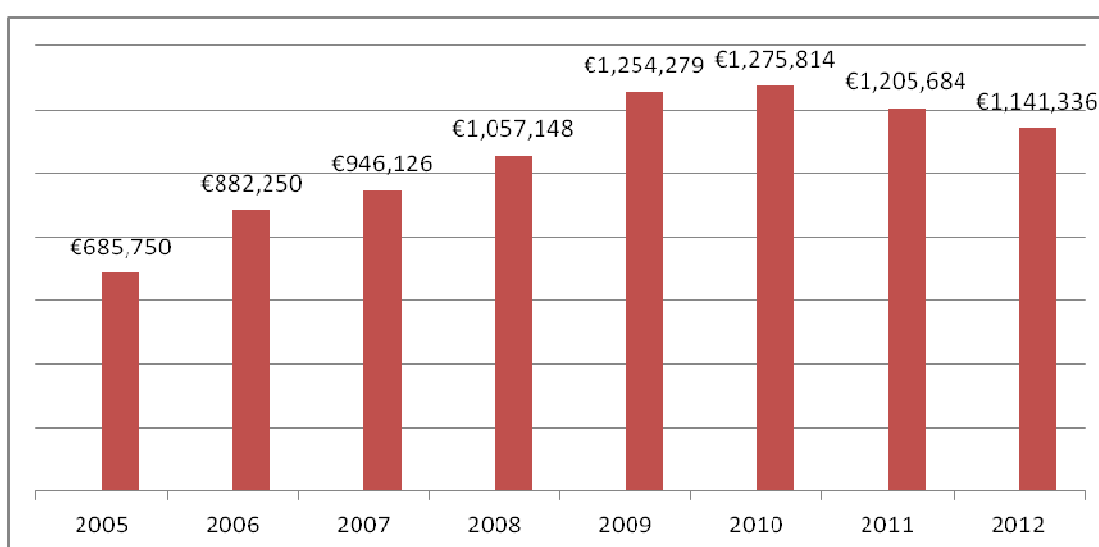
Distribution of Funding 2012

Sector	Amount spent	% of total spent
General Crime	€447,948	39%
Domestic Violence	€442,351	39%
Sexual Violence	€155,237	14%
Counselling	€59,100	5%
Children	€36,700	3%
Total	€1,141, 336	100%

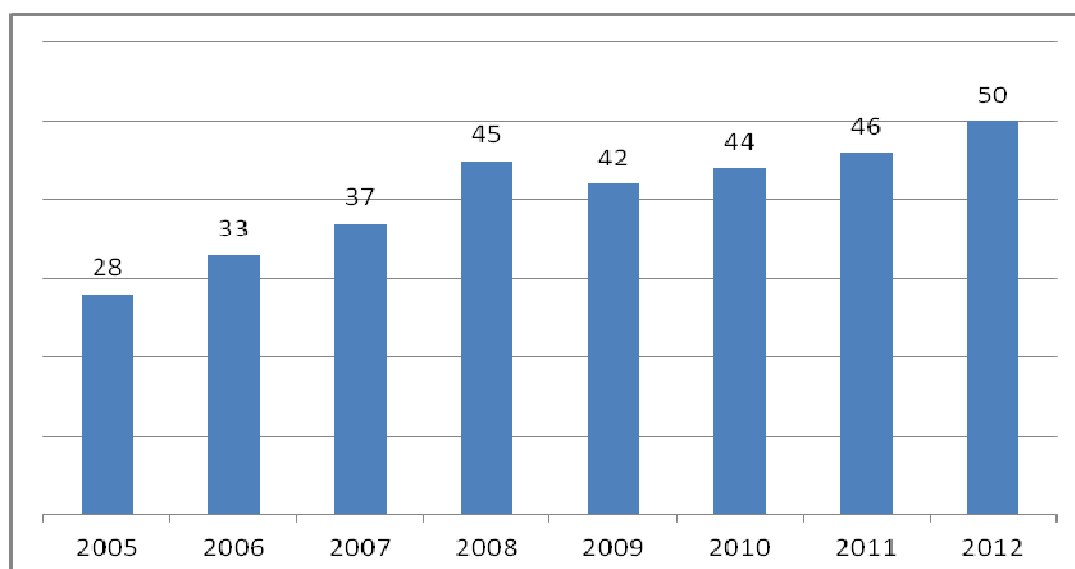


Funding allocated to Organisations 2005 to 2012

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
€685,750	€885,250	€946,125	€1,057,148	€1,254,279	€1,275,814	€1,205,684	€1,141,336



Number of organisations funded 2005- 2012



Numbers of victims supported and number of volunteers

Numbers of victims helped	
Sector	Nos. helped
General	*10,674
Domestic Violence	3,276
Sexual violence	862
Counselling	749
Children	**76
Total	15,637

* Includes calls to the Crime Victims Helpline

**This includes child victims' family members who were assisted

Number of Volunteers	
Sector	No. of Volunteers
General	275
Domestic Violence	31
Sexual Violence	136
Counselling	16
Children	9
Total	467

Staff Numbers	
Sector	Full time equivalent
General	6
Domestic Violence	10
Sexual	3
Counselling	2
Children	1
	22

Membership of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime

1. Members of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime in 2012:

Mr. Ray McAndrew, Chair (former Assistant Commissioner of
An Garda Síochána)

Mr. Terry Delany (Deputy General Secretary, Communication's
Worker's Union of Ireland)

Mr Greg Heylin, ex officio (Director of the Victims of Crime Office)

1.2 The Victims of Crime Office provides a full-time secretariat to the Commission. The Commission also has the services of a co-ordinator, who visits the organisations funded by the Commission, monitors the services available from them and assists in local problem-solving.