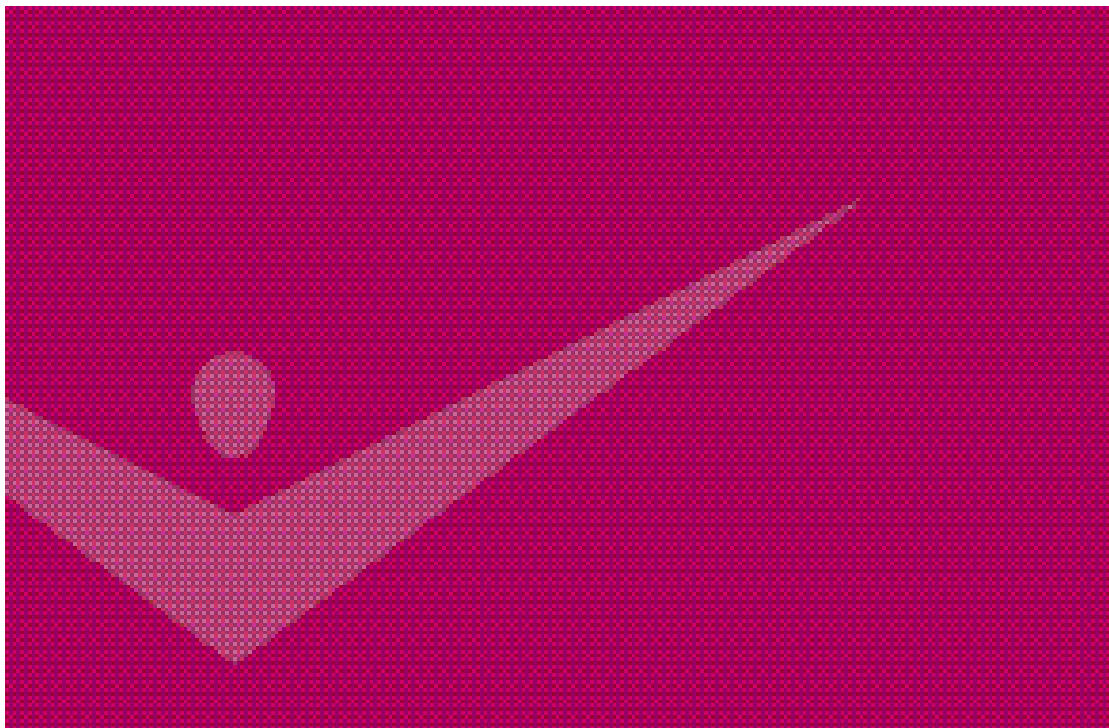


Commission
for the Support of
Victims of Crime

Annual Report 2013



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COMMISSION FOR THE SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF CRIME
REPORT TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
2013

Executive Summary

- The Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime allocated €1,203,157 to 49 voluntary sector organisations providing front-line services for the support of victims of crime in 2013. The 49 funded organisations spent in total €1,196,478 of Commission funding, an increase of 5% on the 2012 expenditure. Some small surpluses were carried over by the funded organisations from 2012 into 2013.
- A total of 15,302 victims were assisted with this funding, compared with 15,637 in 2012 a decrease of 2% (section 2.6).
- There were 49,357 meetings or phone contacts with these victims. Comparing like with like there was an underlying increase of 34% in the number of meetings compared with the number in 2012. (section 2.6).
- The funded projects drew on the assistance of 484 volunteers (section 4).
- The projects employed the equivalent of 28 full-time staff (section 4).
- The Consultative Forum held one meeting in 2013. The theme of the Forum was the relationship between victims of crime and the media (section 5).

1. Overview of Funding by the Commission in 2013

- 1.1 A key function of the Commission is the allocation of funding to voluntary sector organisations providing support to victims of crime. A total budget of €1,212,000 was made available to the Commission in 2013. €1,203,157 was allocated to 49 organisations by the Commission. A small number of organisations did not spend the total amount allocated with the result that €1,196,478 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, 2012 inviting applications for funding for 2013. 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 54 applications and approved 49.
- 1.3 The Commission is independent in its decision-making process and assesses each application on its own merits. A substantial amount of the funding provided is 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 to provide emotional support, counselling and information to victims of crime via help-lines or one to one meetings.
- 1.4 The successful organisations were notified by the end of December 2012, 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 2013, subject to meeting the Commission requirements as regards reports on 2012 funding and expenditure profiles for 2013. Funding is granted on the basis of an initial payment of 80% of the amount granted, followed by the final 20% once certain conditions have been met. By the end of April, 2013, €789,890 had been paid out to funded organisations. This meant that approximately 80% of the possible initial payments were made at that point.
- 1.5 The Commission again carried out a detailed analysis of the 2013 end of year returns provided by the funded organisations. The full analysis is available on the

Commission's website (www.csvc.ie) under "Publications" entitled *Summary of 2013 Evaluation and 2013 Financial Reports*. Points from the analysis in relation to the number of victims helped and contacts with those victims and the number of staff and volunteers engaged by the funded organisations are made in sections 2 and 4 below.

- 1.6 The Commission also carried out an analysis of 2012 audited accounts submitted by the funded organisations in 2013. It analysed the reserves held by these organisations. It notes that their reserves expressed in weeks reveals that overall the organisations at the end of the 2012 accounting period had reserves to cover 9 weeks of activity. A higher level of cover would be more prudent if this was possible. The Commission's requirements to spend allocations within the calendar year does not help in this regard. However, this is a general principal of Government accounting. The experience of different sectors has been varied in this regard, ranging from less than a week in the case of one organisation in the general sector to 175 in another in this sector. The analysis revealed that the total income for all the organisations was down by 3% in 2012 compared to income in 2011. The biggest drops in income were in the sexual and counselling sectors – down by 11% in both cases. Overall expenditure was also down by 3%.

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 has been working with the general crime sector to expand services. 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, €487,509 was spent by funded organisations in servicing the needs of general crime victims. This expenditure accounted for 41% of the funding allocated by the Commission. This enabled the support of 9,822 victims (2,679 called the Crime Victims Helpline).

2.2 Services to victims of domestic violence

The Commission approved 28 applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of domestic violence, mainly for the provision of a court accompaniment service. €450,412 of the Commission's funding was spent by

organisations in this sector, which accounted for 38% of the total funding allocated by the Commission. 3,737 victims of domestic violence were assisted representing an increase of 12% over the numbers assisted in 2012.

2.3 Services to victims of sexual violence

The Commission approved four applications for funding from organisations providing services to victims of sexual violence. €155,257 of the Commission's funding was spent by organisations in this sector which accounted for 13% of the funding it allocated to funded organisations. 654 victims of sexual abuse were assisted with Commission funding. This represents a 24% decline in the number of victims assisted compared with 2012.

2.4 Counselling services

€63,100 of the Commission's funding was spent by five organisations which provided counselling services to 860 victims of crime in 2013. 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 2013. *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 €40,200 of funding spent by this sector accounted for 3% of the Commission's total allocation. 229 child victims and their family members were supported by these organisations an increase of 67% over 2012.

2.6 Number of victims assisted

In summary, a total of 15,302 victims of crime were assisted by 49 organisations. The number of victims assisted represents an overall decline of 2 % over 2012. The decline in numbers of victims assisted was 8% in the General Sector and 24 % in the Sexual Violence sector. There were 49,357 meetings or phone contacts with these victims in the year. This represented an increase on the number of meetings reported in 2012. Part of this increase was due to the fact that 47 organisations reported on the number of

meetings in 2013, compared with 41 organisations reporting this number in 2012. When the 41 organisations reporting in 2012 are compared with the same organisations in 2013, the 40,914 meetings in 2013 still represented a significant increase of 34%. The average numbers of contacts per victim was three, compared with two in 2013.

- 2.7 From its inception in 2005 to the end of 2013, the Commission has allocated €9.626 million to voluntary sector organisations supporting victims of crime. A list of the organisations funded by the Commission in 2013 is at Appendix A.

3 Funding Decisions for 2014

- 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 2014, the Commission placed an advertisement in the national newspapers on the 6th October, 2013, inviting applications for funding for 2014. The closing date for receipt of applications was the 23rd November, 2013. The Commission received 54 applications which it considered and made decisions in respect of at its meeting in December, 2013. Applicants were informed immediately whether or not they would be funded in 2014.

4. Staffing and Volunteers

- 4.1 A total of 484 volunteers work in organisations funded by the Commission. Some sectors rely more on paid employees to provide services to victims. Of the volunteers 292 worked in assisting general victims of crime, 48 provided support to victims of domestic violence, 57 worked in the area of sexual violence, 86 worked in the area of counselling and 1 worked with children (Appendix D). Commission funding enabled the employment of the equivalent of 28 full time paid employees also.
- 4.2 In 2013, the Commission staff costs in the funded projects were up by 4% while volunteer costs were up by 19% on 2012 figures.

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. There have been nine meetings of the Forum including one meeting of the Consultative Forum held in 2013.

- 5.2 The Forum held in May, 2013 was attended by over 30 representatives of the funded organisations and dealt with the relationship between victims of crime and the media. It concentrated on the need to strike a balance between victims and their families rights to privacy, the constitutional provision that justice be administered in public and the freedom of expression of the press. Presentations were given by four representatives of the funded organisations on the experiences of victims with the media, two journalists and the Press Ombudsman, Mr. John Horgan. All who attended expressed the view that the presentations by the representatives of the funded organisations were excellent. The meeting also agreed that the presentations made by the journalists at the Forum were very frank and interesting and that it was beneficial to hear their accounts of how they deal with the victims of crime they come in contact with, their efforts to deal with them sensitively and the pressures they work under to meet deadlines. The Commission also appreciated the contribution by Mr. Horgan and the time and commitment he gave to the day.

6. Other Commission Activities in 2013

- 6.1 The Chairman, Mr. Ray McAndrew and Mr. Greg Heylin attended Victim Support Europe's Annual Conference in Edinburgh in May, 2013. The Conference was opened by Minister Fergus O'Dowd, T.D. representing the Irish Minister for Justice and Equality in his role as President of the European Council of Ministers in its Justice and Home Affairs configuration. Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill also spoke at the opening of the Conference.

Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality launched the Commission's 2012 Annual Report at a meeting of principals of the EU-US Ministerial Level meeting in Dublin Castle on the 14th June, 2013. A representative from twelve of the organisations funded by the Commission attended the event where they met Ms Vivienne Reding, vice-President of the EU

Commission, Ms Cecilia Malmström EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Mr. Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General and Mr. Rand Beers, US Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security.

Successful Applicants for Funding in 2013

	Organisation	Category	Funding allocated	Funding spent
1	Adapt (Kerry)	Domestic Violence	€22,500	€22,500
2	Adapt (Limerick)	Domestic Violence	€42,000	€42,000
3	AdVIC	General	€23,000	€23,000
*4	Amen	Domestic Violence	€5,048	€9,280
5	Ascend	Domestic Violence	€13,000	€11,461
6	Barnados	Children	€24,000	€24,000
7	Beacon of Light Counselling Centre	Counselling	€15,300	€15,300
8	CARI	Children	€26,200	€16,200
9	Carlow Women's Aid	Domestic Violence	€15,700	€15,700
10	Clare Haven Services	Domestic Violence	€10,500	€10,500
11	Cope Galway	Domestic Violence	€1,719	€1,719
12	Crime Victims Helpline	General	€71,000	€70,732
13	Cuan Saor Women's Refuge Ltd.	Domestic Violence	€20,000	€20,000
14	Domestic Violence (Advocacy Service)	Domestic Violence	€8,200	€8,200
15	Domestic Violence Response	Domestic Violence	€17,500	€17,121
16	Donegal Domestic Violence Service	Domestic Violence	€15,800	€15,800
17	Drogheda Women's Refuge	Domestic Violence	€9,500	€9,500
18	Dublin 12 Domestic Violence Services	Domestic Violence	€3,000	€3,000
19	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	Sexual Violence	€19,000	€19,000
20	Dundalk Counselling Service	Counselling	€19,000	€19,000
*21	Federation for Victim Assistance	General	€90,300	€93,140
22	Irish Tourist Assistance Service	General	€42,500	€42,500
23	Laois Support against domestic abuse	Domestic Violence	€14,700	€14,576
24	Le Chéile Restorative Justice Project,	General	€5,000	€5,000
25	Letterkenny Women's Centre	Counselling	€4,800	€4,800
*26	Lifeline Inishowen,	Domestic Violence	€205	€1,000
27	Living Life Voluntary Counselling	Counselling	€15,400	€15,400
28	Longford Women's Link	Domestic Violence	€20,400	€20,400
29	Mayo Women's Support Service	Domestic Violence	€23,000	€23,000
30	Meath Women's Refuge	Domestic Violence	€27,000	€27,000
31	Missing in Ireland Support Services	General	€8,600	€8,600
32	Mna Feasa	Domestic Violence	€25,000	€24,990
33	Oasis	Domestic Violence	€7,600	€7,600
34	Offaly Women in Crisis	Domestic Violence	€9,300	€9,300
35	One in Four	Sexual Violence	€70,500	€70,500
36	Rape Crisis Network	Sexual Violence	€43,737	€43,757
37	Roscommon Safe Link	Domestic Violence	€17,300	€17,300
38	Safe Ireland	Domestic Violence	€4,000	€4,000
39	Saoirse Housing Association	Domestic Violence	€14,400	€14,400
40	Sexual Violence Centre, Cork	Sexual Violence	€22,000	€22,000
41	Support After Crime Services	General	€116,000	€116,000
42	Support After Homicide	General	€47,500	€47,409
43	Tearmann Housing Association	Domestic Violence	€14,800	€14,800
*44	Victim Support (Ireland)	General	€0	€2,132

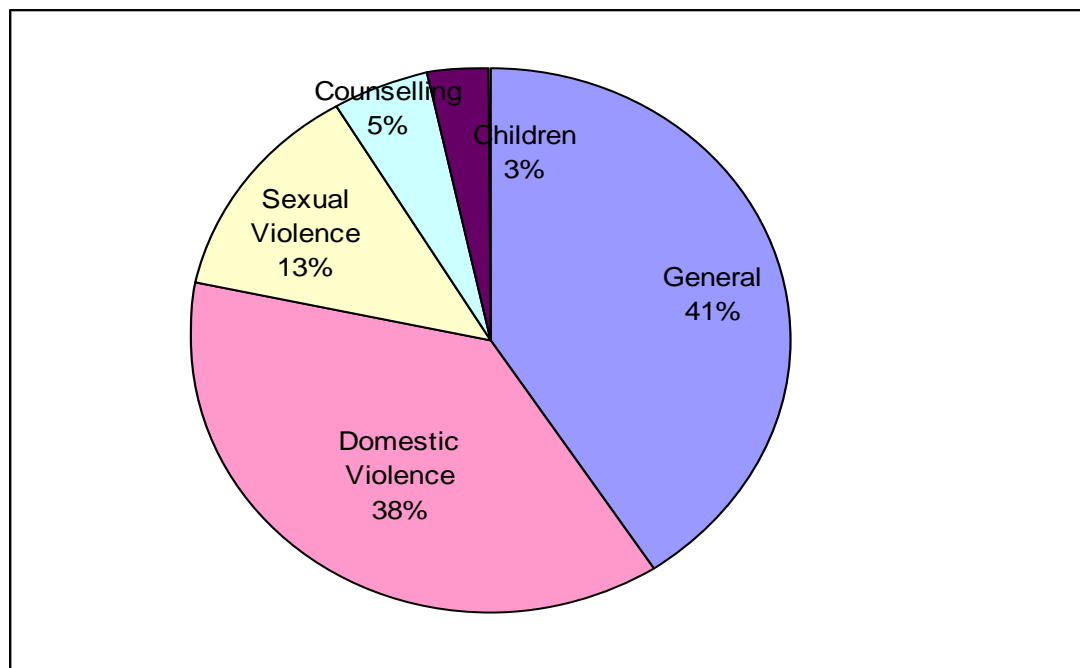
45	Victim Support at Court	General	€78,996	€78,996
46	Westmeath Support Service against Domestic Abuse	Domestic Violence	€15,200	€15,200
47	Women's Aid Dublin	Domestic Violence	€57,792	€53,504
48	Women's Aid Dundalk	Domestic Violence	€16,560	€16,560
49	Womens Therapy Centre	Counselling	€8,600	€8,600
	Total		€1,203,157	€1,196,478

* The amount spent in the above organisations exceeds the funding allocated as they had funds on hand at the end of 2012. The Commission took this into account when making its decisions regarding allocations for 2013.

Appendix B

Distribution of Funding 2013

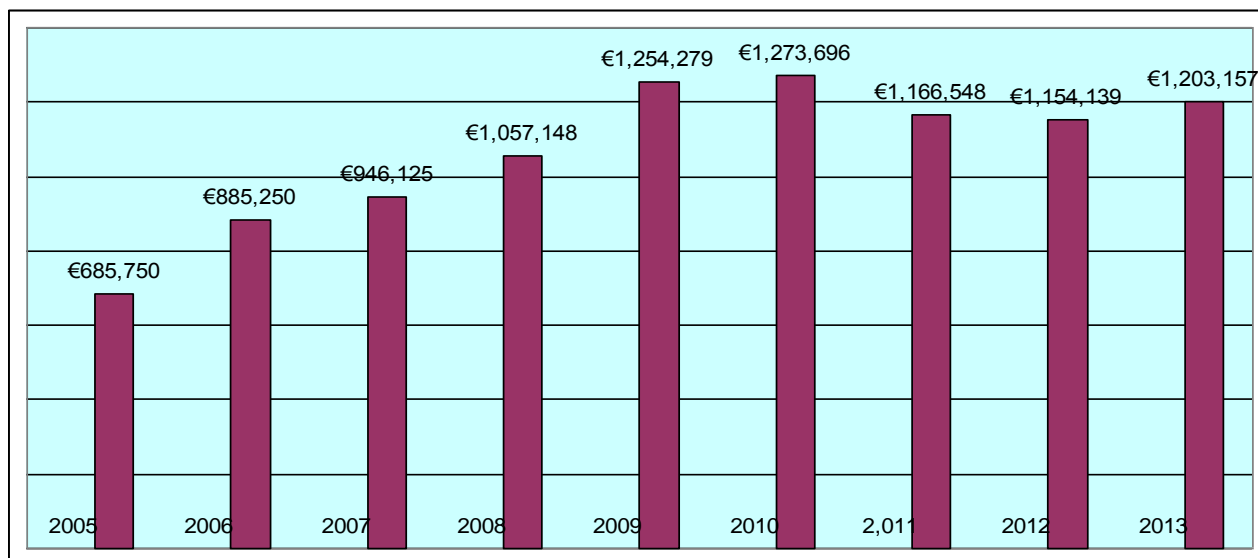
	Total Costs	No. of projects	Average cost per Project	% Cost of Total
General Crime	€487,509	10	€48,751	41%
Domestic Violence	€450,412	28	€16,086	38%
Sexual Violence	€155,257.00	4	€38,814	13%
Counselling	€63,100.00	5	€12,620	5%
Children	€40,200.00	2	€20,100	3%
Total	€1,196,478	49	€24,418	



Appendix C

Funding allocated to Organisations 2005 to 2013

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2,011	2012	2013
€685,750	€885,250	€946,125	€1,057,148	€1,254,279	€1,273,696	1,166,548	€1,154,139	€1,203,157



Appendix D

Numbers of victims supported

Numbers of victims helped	
Sector	Nos. helped
General	*9,822
Domestic Violence	3,737
Sexual violence	654
Counselling	860
Children	**229
Total	15,302

* Includes calls to the Crime Victims Helpline

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

Number of Volunteers

Number of Volunteers			
	No. of Volunteers	No. of projects which use volunteers	No. of Projects which use staff only
General (10)	292	10	0
Domestic Violence (28)	48	9	19
Sexual Violence (4)	57	2	2
Counselling (5)	86	3	2
Children (2)	1	1	1
Total (49)	484	25	24

Number of staff

Staff Numbers		
	Staff Numbers	Full time equivalent
General	11	8
Domestic Violence	70	14
Sexual Violence	25	3
Counselling	11	2
Children	2	1
Total	119	28

Membership of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime

1. Members of the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime in 2013:

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)

*Mr. McAndrew's term of Office ceased on the 31st August, 2013

** Mr. Delany term of Office ceased on the 31st December, 2013

1.2 The Victims of Crime Office provides a full-time secretariat to the Commission