

## Patrol car shortage could halt police service

16/09/2001

A severe shortage of garda patrol cars is making it impossible for the force to maintain a police service for the public in both city and rural areas, according to the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors. "We are asking the Minister for Justice to step in as a matter of urgency and allocate sufficient resources so that patrol cars can be put back on the road," said General Secretary George Maybury. Mr Maybury instanced the following:

- \* a large rural sub-district close to Dublin, with large housing estates, has been without a patrol car for months**
- \* one busy Dublin district has been asked by garda management if it can manage with only one patrol car**
- \* a number of new motorcycles have been found to be of poor quality and are trouble-prone**
- \* another busy Dublin area has been without one of its patrol cars for months**

"The problem seems to be two-fold," said Mr Maybury. "currently cars are being used continually and many have reached 100,000 - 120,000 miles. When something goes wrong, or a car crashes, it is usually a major problem and they can be in the garage for several weeks - they are being used long after their sell-by date in a police context."

The other issue was that newer replacement cars are not available and it appeared that it could be many months before newer models come on stream. "It is a crisis of management but the bottom line is that if the force is starved of patrol cars then the police service will grind to a halt," he concluded.