

*Enforcement Phase: Transparent
Execution of Sentences*

The Use and Management of Imprisonment and Alternative Sanctions in Ireland

Vivian Geiran

Director, Irish Probation Service

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction.
- The Irish system: Probation Service and Prison Service.
- Recent trends and variations in Ireland.
- Some responses and possibilities.
- Current and future challenges.

PROBATION SERVICE

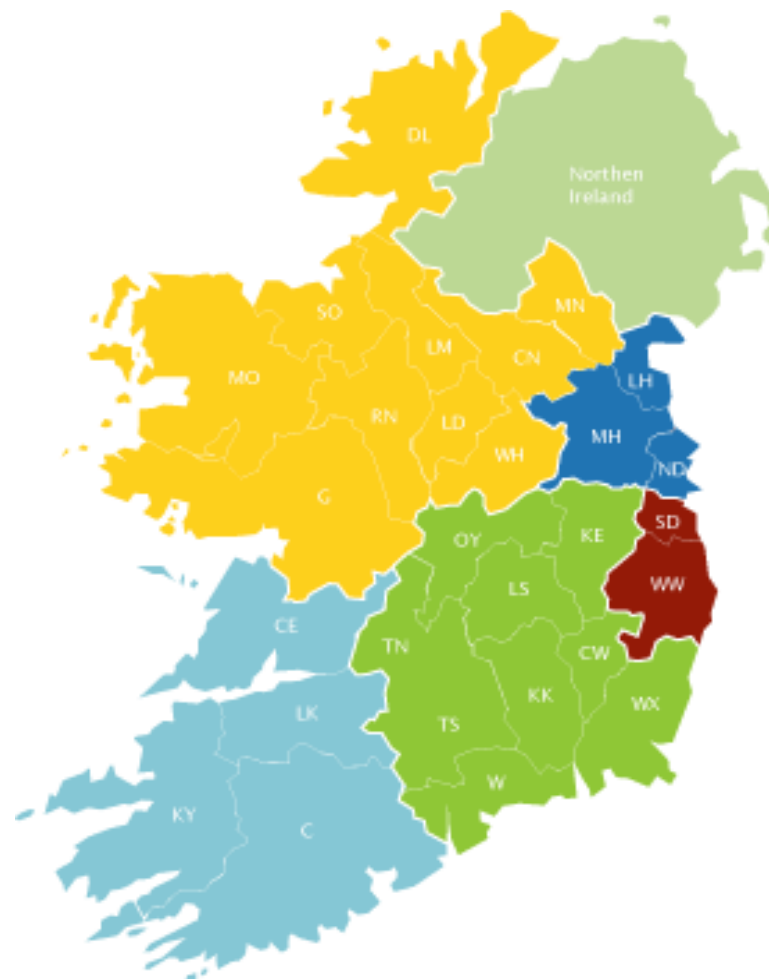
- **400 staff**
- **8,000+ offenders under supervision in the community each day**
- **Services in all prisons**





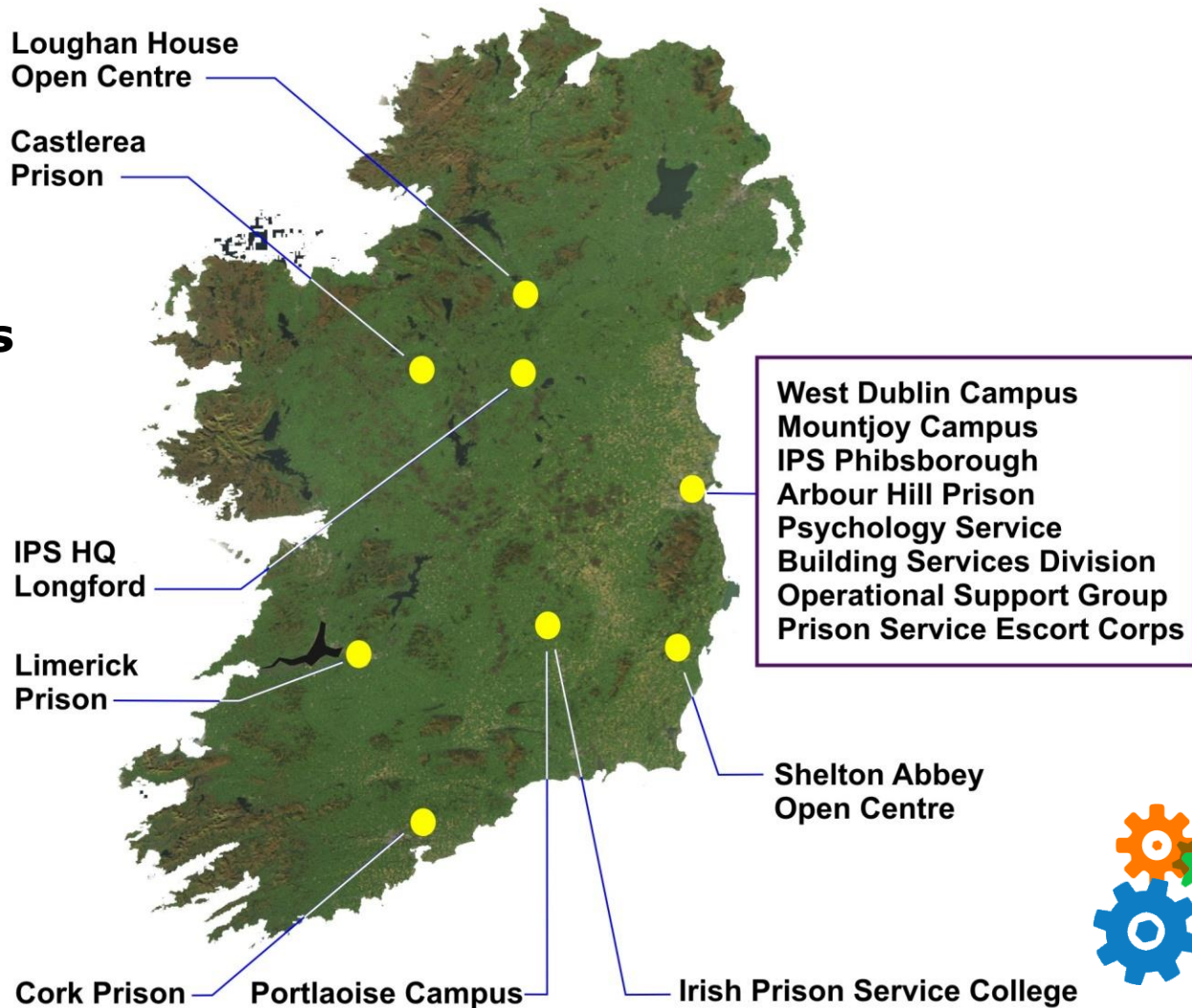
PROBATION ROLE:

- Manage court orders
- Reduce risk of harm
- Reduce likelihood of reoffending
- Make good the harm caused by crime



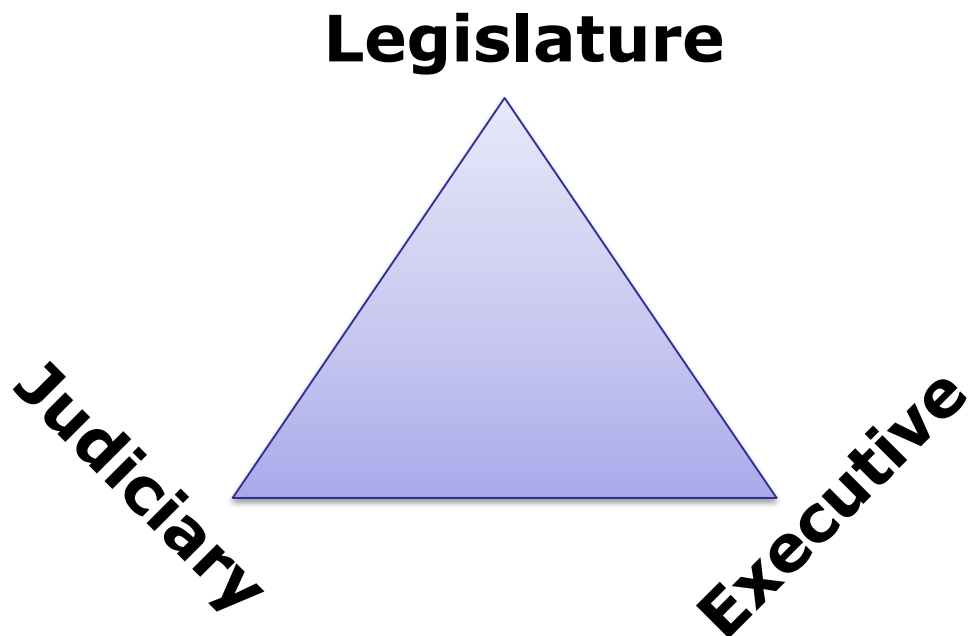
THE IRISH PRISON SERVICE OVERVIEW

➤ **4,000 prisoners daily**



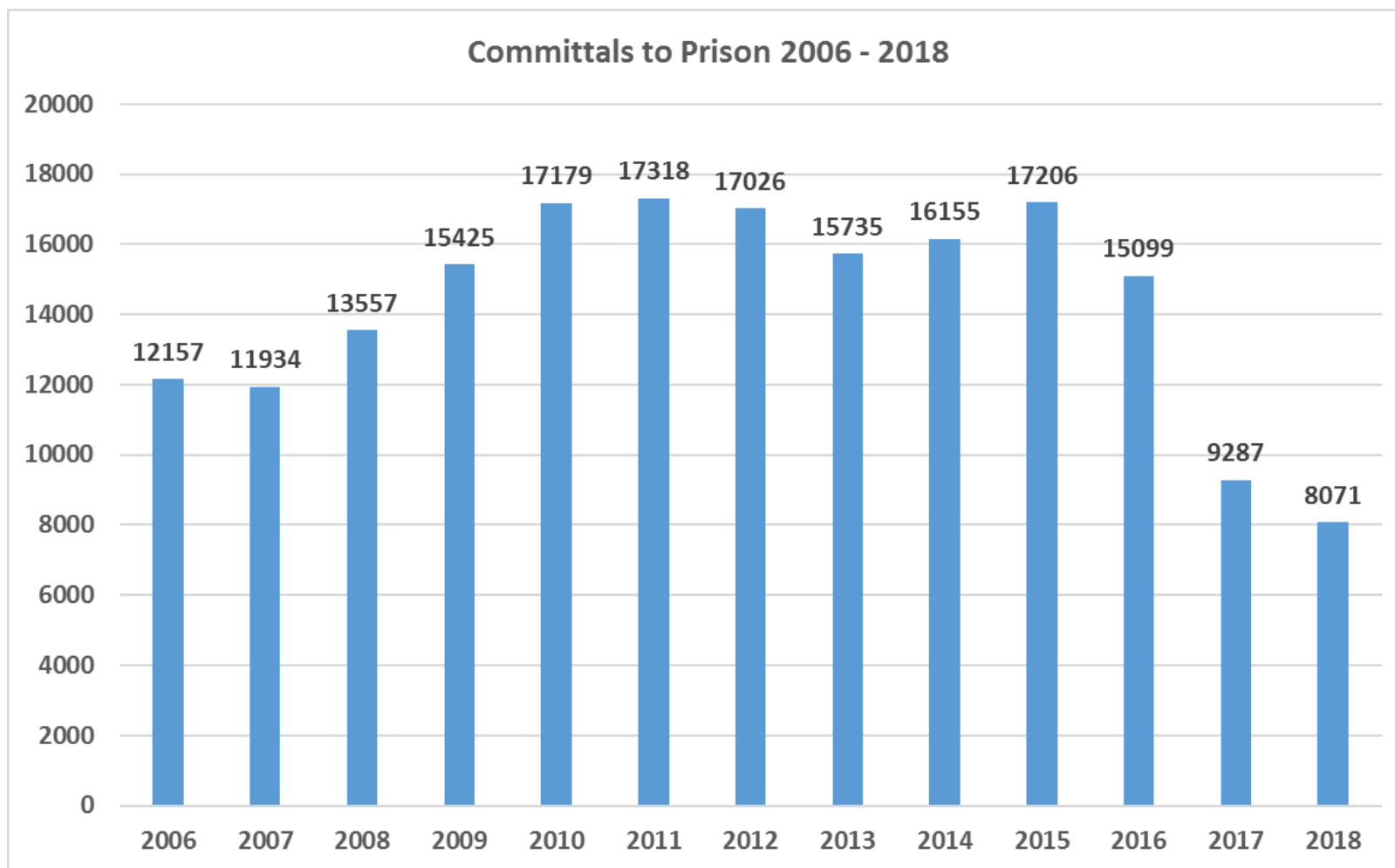


IRELAND – CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS





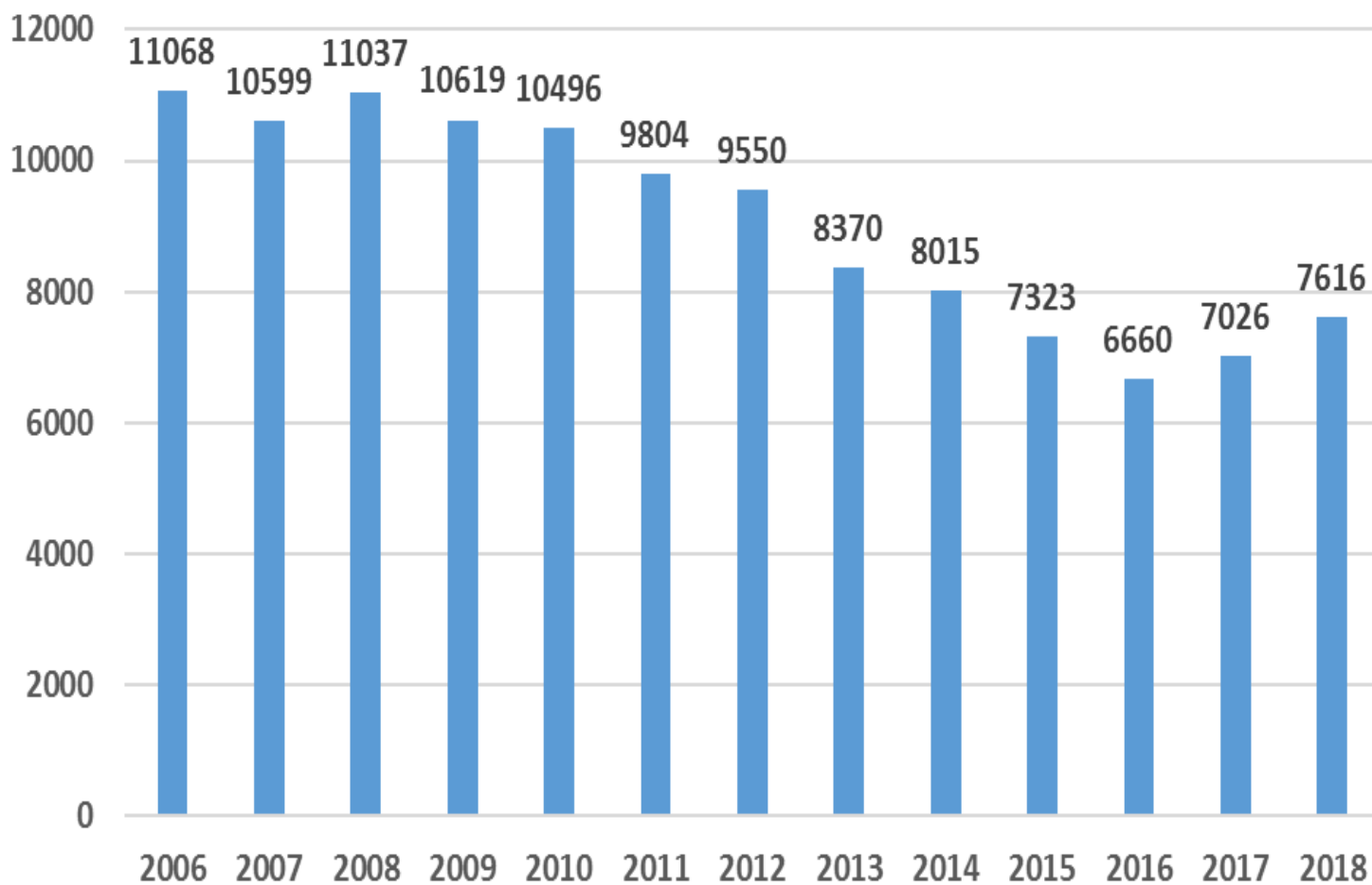
Use of imprisonment in Ireland



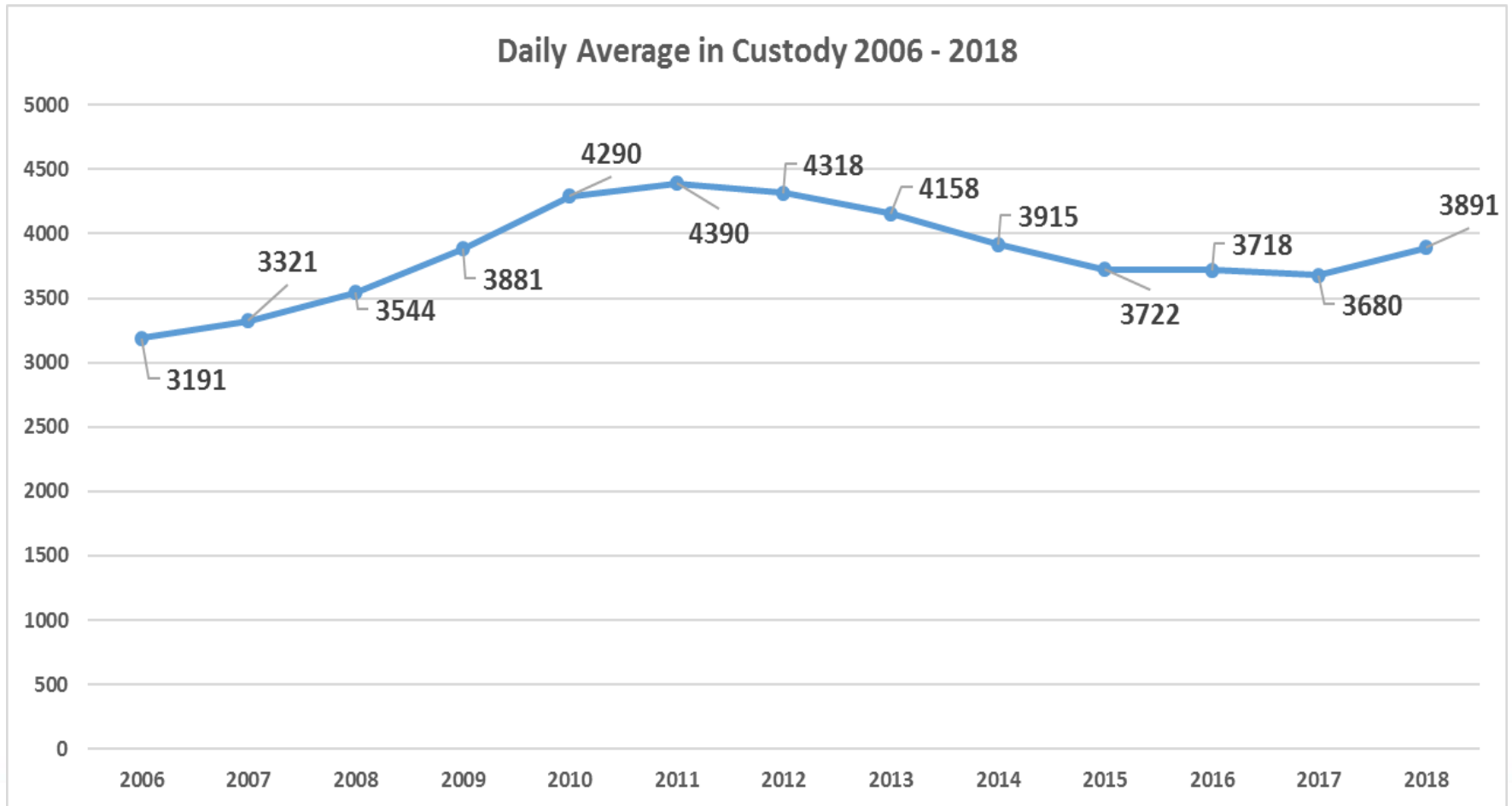


Lasting Change Through Offender Rehabilitation

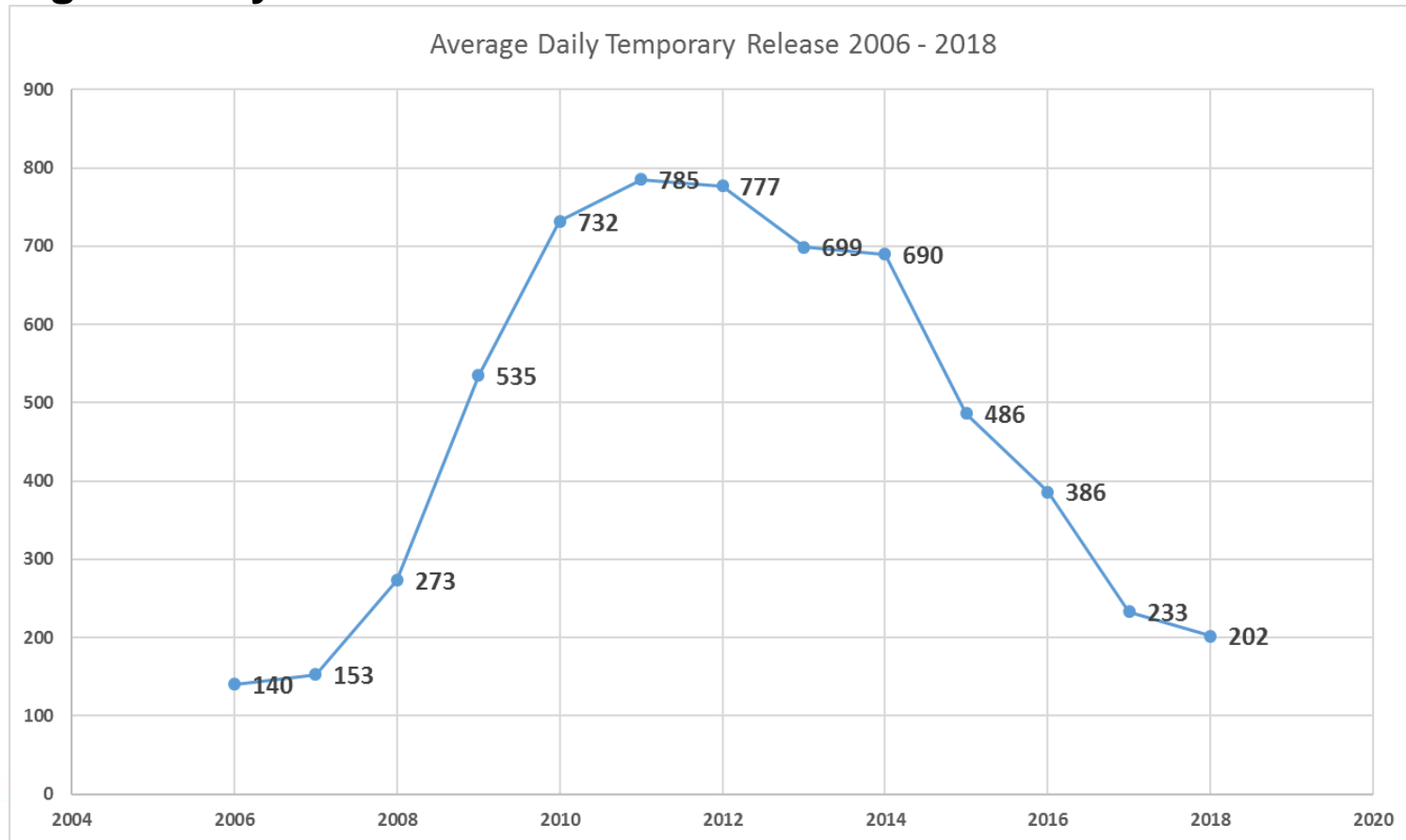
Committals to Prison (Ex-Fines) 2006 - 2018



The average number in custody decreased from 2011 – 2017.



- The average number of persons on temporary release has decreased significantly from 2011-2017





Don't Waste a Good Crisis: 2011, Recession, Community Return

- 2011: Rising prison population. Economic recession. Thornton Hall Review.
- Community Return initiative. Piloted 2011-2012.
- Evaluation (2014) – findings: 761 participants; avge. 3.2 year sentence; drugs/property/assault; 89% completion; c.€1.73 million worth of unpaid work; benefits: clarity, structure, interagency co-operation.
- Evaluation Reference:
[http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/0/B91750D1528ECFA780258195003C33A1/\\$File/Community%20Return%20Study%20Report%20\(November%202014\).pdf](http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/0/B91750D1528ECFA780258195003C33A1/$File/Community%20Return%20Study%20Report%20(November%202014).pdf)



Numbers on Community Return

Year	Participants
2011	66
2012	299
2013	396
2014	455
2015	323
2016	301
2017	221
2018	204
2019	250 ?

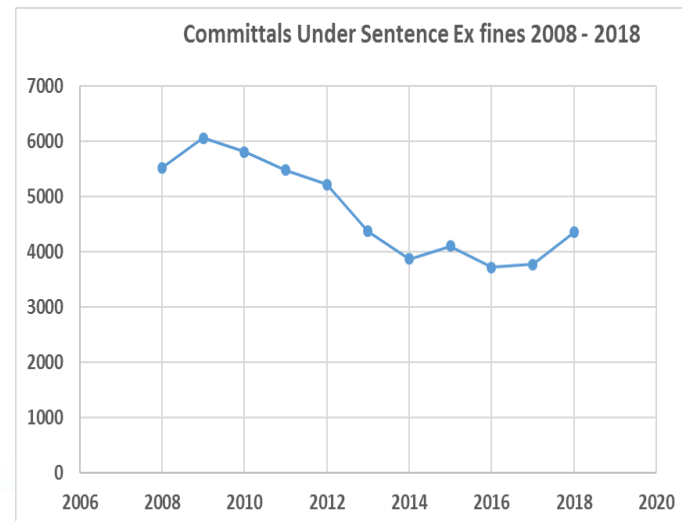
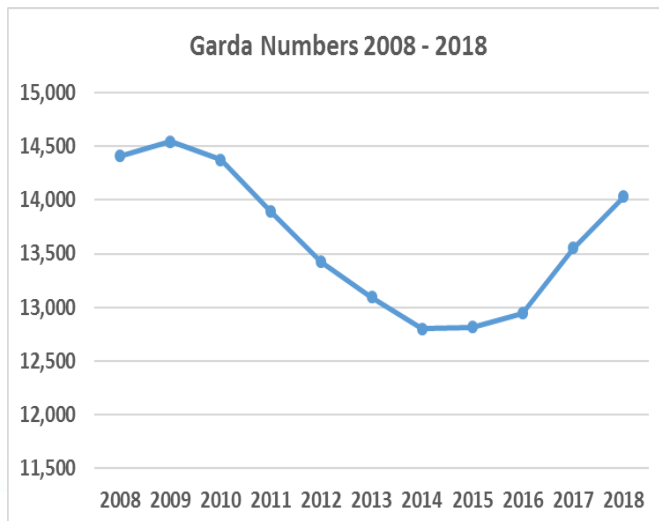


Some Factors in Recent Increases in Irish Prison Population

- Police (Garda) numbers.
- Pre-trial detention (remands in custody).
- Long – and short – sentences.
- Presumptive Mandatory Minimum Sentences.
- Women.
- Other categories.
- Unsuitable for some release programmes.
- The Fines Act.

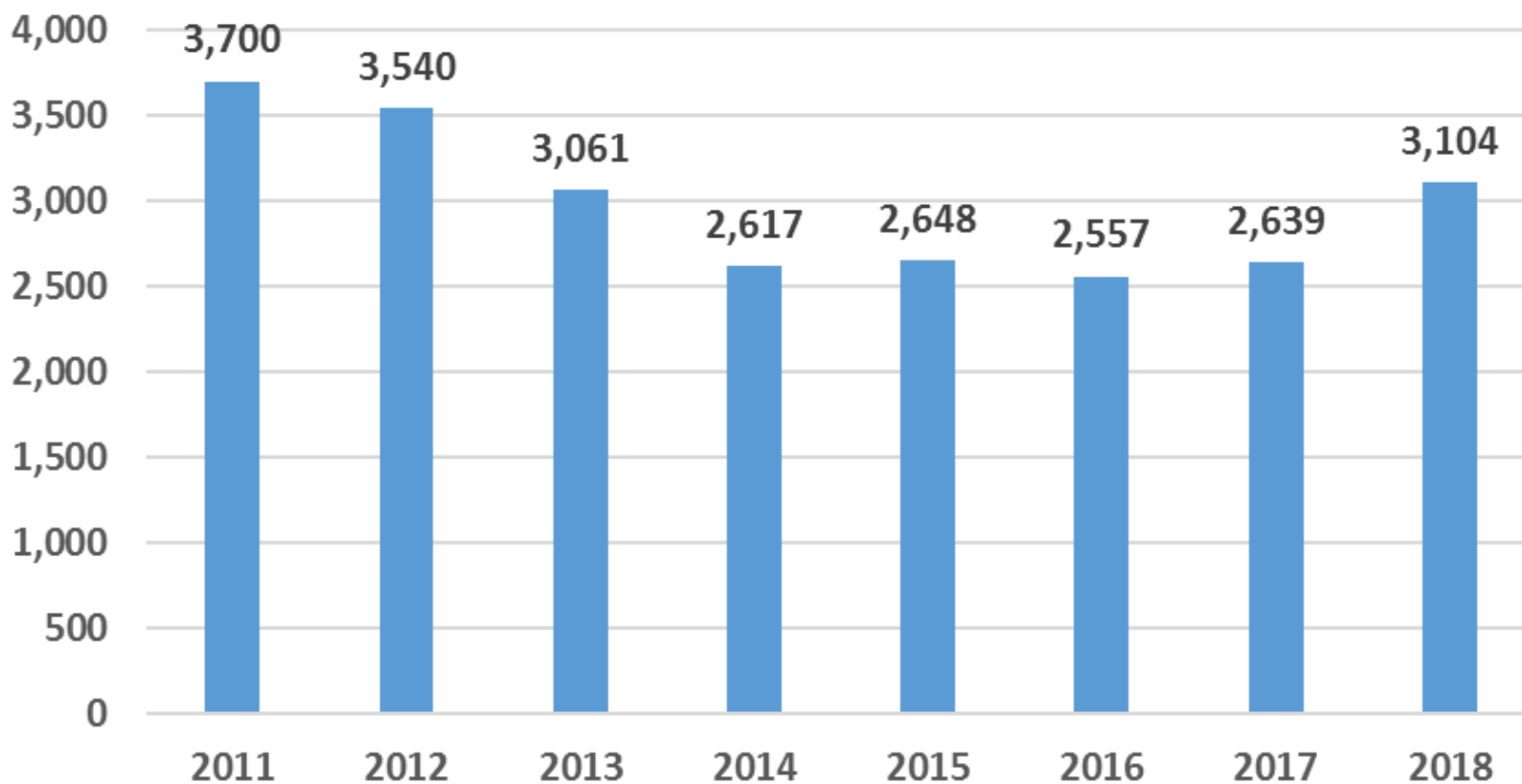
A simple analysis of changes within the criminal justice system such as the increases and decreases in overall Garda numbers shows a link to changes in prison committal levels.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Garda	14,412	14,547	14,377	13,894	13,424	13,093	12,799	12,816	12,943	13,551	14,032
Commit Under Sentence Ex fines	5,524	6,059	5,804	5,476	5,222	4,368	3,874	4,104	3,724	3,776	4,357





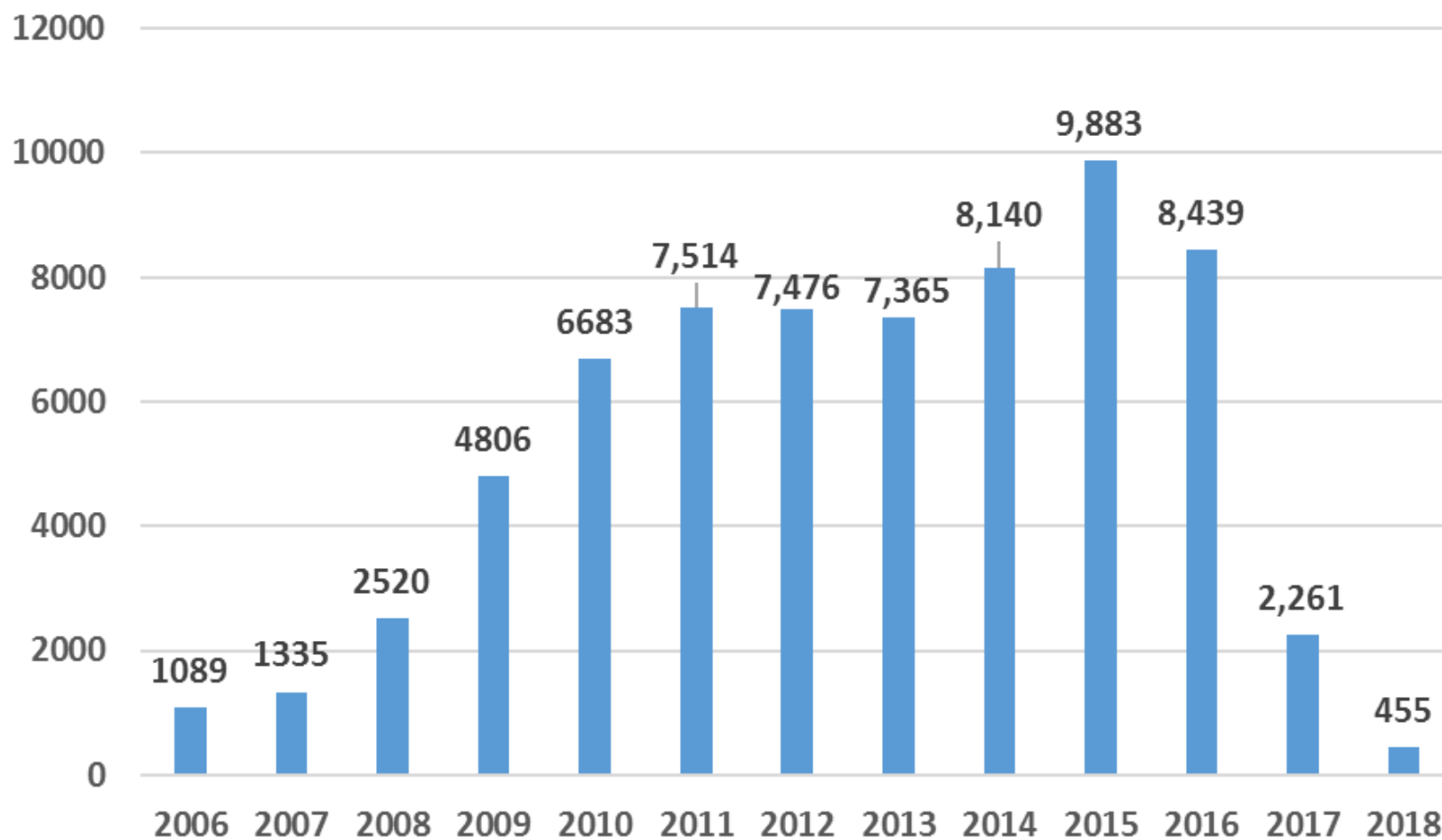
Committals Under Sentence - Less than 12 Months (Ex-Fines) 2011 - 2018





Lasting Change Through Offender Rehabilitation

Committals for Non-Payment of Fine 2006 - 2018





Committals to Prison - Females

Year	Persons	Committals
2018	376	442
2017	244	278
2016	272	295
2015	277	312

Daily Average - Females – Years 2015 to 2018

Year	In Custody	On TR	On Remand
2018	165	31	38
2017	144	26	30
2016	140	59	27
2015	131	61	22



Ownership/Transparency: Specific Responses to Prison Overcrowding

- Legislation and/or management?
- Cell audit. Building and refurbishment.
- 'Back door' responses – e.g. extend Community Return.
- 'Front door' responses – e.g. divert from custody.



Transparency: Strategic Responses to the Simple Complexity of Enforcement of Sanctions

- Identification and agreement of the problem.
- Focus on all sanctions.
- Criminal Justice System inspection & monitoring.
- Data driven analysis.
- Human Rights and Public Safety focus.
- Response/s: Strategic and operational. Dynamic, diverse, durable, developmental and deliverable.
- This conference.



Transparency and Some Strategic Responses in Ireland

- Strategic Review of Penal Policy – Report, 2014.
- Parliamentary Joint Committee on Justice & Equality.
- CoE standards, Court, Inspections and Reports.
- Restructuring of Department of Justice & Equality.
- Criminal Justice Strategic Committee (+ working groups).
- Media interest: documentaries, TEDx, social media.
- Connections with EU, CoE, networks (e.g. CEP, EuroPris).



Summary / Conclusions

- Issues that impact on prison numbers and related matters are systemic.
- Action taken in one part of the system typically impacts on other part/s.
- Responses to prison overcrowding needs also to be systemic and strategic.
- Positive impact and desired goals can be achieved, but requires focus, energy, commitment, agility and persistence.



Thank you.

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- Twitter: **@probation_irl @VGeiran**
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