

Annual Report 2023





LANDESPOLIZEI
FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN

2023 Annual Report

National Police of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Table of Contents

1	Focus Areas of the National Police	6
2	Headcount	11
3	Education and Training	12
4	National Emergency Call and Operations Centre	12
5	Anonymous Whistleblower System	13
6	Threat Management Department	13
6.1.	Domestic Violence	14
7	Security	16
7.1.	Basic services	16
7.1.1.	Public order and security service operations	16
8	Traffic	17
8.1.	Road traffic accidents	17
8.1.1.	Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians	18
8.1.2.	Road traffic accidents involving bicycles or e-bikes	19
8.2.	Accident causes	19
8.3.	Road Safety	20
8.4.	Road safety campaigns and traffic controls	21
9	Crime	21
9.1.	Total crime and clear-up rate	22
9.1.1.	Suspects	22
9.2.	Youth violence	22
9.3.	Right-wing violence	23
9.4.	Alpine police	23
9.5.	Criminal police work	23
9.6.	Crime prevention	24
9.7.	Crime statistics	24
9.7.1.	Economic crimes	24
9.7.2.	Property crimes	25
9.7.3.	Violent and sexual offences	25
9.7.4.	Drug offences	25
9.7.5.	Digital crime	25
9.7.6.	Migration offences	26
9.7.7.	Other secondary criminal law	26
9.8.	Interpreted crime statistics at a glance	27
10	International Police Cooperation	28
10.1.	Focus areas of international cooperation	28

10.2.	Schengen/SIRENE	28
10.3.	INTERPOL National Central Bureau	29
10.4.	Search hits	29
10.5.	EUROPOL	29
10.6.	Cross-border networking.....	29
10.7.	Internal Security Fund ISF (external borders and visas)	30
11	Weapons	31
11.1.	Weapon purchase licences	31
11.2.	Weapons carrying licences	31
11.3.	European Firearms Pass	31
12	National Prison	32
12.1.	National Prison occupancy	32
12.2.	Support	33
12.3.	Remands	33
12.4.	Sentences served abroad	33

Impressions of 2023



1 Focus Areas of the National Police

The year 2023 was characterised by personnel changes and a discussion about resources in the face of increasingly long task lists and a dramatically changing security situation in Europe following the HAMAS massacre of Israeli civilians.

Mario Büchel, Chief of the Security and Traffic Police (SIVE) and Deputy Police Chief, took early retirement after almost 41 years of service, including 20 years in police command. As a police officer, he was responsible for the successful planning and organisation of numerous major police events. As Chief of SIVE, he also played a key role in the development and expansion of uniformed police and represented the National Police internationally on many occasions. We are pleased to have found an experienced internal successor as Chief of Uniformed Police, in the form of Gino Blumenthal. Andreas Schädler, chief of the criminal investigation department and an equally experienced police officer, will become the new Deputy Police Chief.

The National Emergency Call and Operations Centre (LNEZ) is the backbone of all disaster and crisis management in Liechtenstein. As numerous additional tasks from the areas of health, civil protection and traffic are to be transferred to the LNEZ, the government commissioned an external company to review personnel requirements. The review revealed a significant need for additional resources, which is why the government decided to increase the number of staff at the LNEZ in the reporting year in order to ensure 24/7 staffing with three dispatchers by the end of 2026.

The Minister of Home Affairs has also tasked police command with revising and updating the personnel report from 2018. The background to this was the shift in the security situation in Europe since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and also the shortage of skilled labour that is also being felt by the National Police as a result of social and demographic changes. The attack on Israel by the terrorist organisation HAMAS and the resulting tensions between Muslims and Jews in Europe have further exacerbated the security situation in Liechtenstein. The bomb threat in Vaduz on 13 October highlighted this fact. Previous certainties about security and security risks in Liechtenstein no longer reflect the new reality. For this reason, the government has already earmarked nine additional positions for the National Police in the 2024 budget – effectively in anticipation of the personnel report. Parliament approved this project by a large majority in November. The 2024 personnel report will be submitted to the government at the start of next year.

Following Russia's military invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the government set up the National Command Staff (LFS), which is headed by the Police Chief, as a planning staff and tasked it with drawing up an "Energy Shortage Contingency Plan", with special consideration for critical infrastructures. Due to developments in Ukraine, the National Command Staff also set up a "Radiological Incident" task force to deal with potential nuclear power plant incidents or other nuclear events in the war zone and their effects on Liechtenstein. The work of the task force focussed on the effects of such an event on national supply (agriculture, food supply) and the government's crisis communication, as the uncertainty of the population must be addressed on a political level in the event of such an incident.

In the event of power cuts, ensuring public order and safety poses a particular

challenge. In the event of a power shortage, Liechtenstein has a functioning command centre in the police building, which is supplied with emergency power, and a Polycom radio network (police and blue light radio) also supplied with emergency power, which ensures that the security and rescue organisations can be alerted and communicate even in the event of a power cut. The government has amended the ordinance on the riot police so that the National Police can also deploy additional personnel in an extraordinary situation such as power cuts. The riot police can now be permanently integrated into the National Police for the duration of an extraordinary situation.

As a result of the war in Ukraine, around five million people have left the country and are living as refugees in other European countries. More than 800 Ukrainians have also sought refuge in Liechtenstein. There is a significant risk that the emergency situation of refugees – especially young women and children – will be exploited by criminal organisations in order to exploit them sexually or for forced labour. For this reason, the National Police's whistleblower system was expanded to include an additional focus on "human trafficking". This means that suspected cases can also be reported anonymously to the national police, which now also acts as the "National Reporting Centre for Human Trafficking" in Liechtenstein.

In addition to international developments and their impact in Liechtenstein as well as internal resource discussions, normal police work has also proved to be challenging. Numerous burglaries and narcotics offences, cybercrimes and violent crimes as well as a number of complex fraud investigations and serious road traffic accidents kept the National Police busy in the reporting year. In the criminal areas of "property and assets", "violence" and "narcotics", there was a considerable increase in some offences compared with the previous year. The crime rate increased by 4% to 1,391 offences in the reporting year and thus reached its highest level in ten years. Fortunately, the clear-up rate of 69% has nevertheless remained at the same high level.

For the third year in a row, there was an increase in property crimes (+4%), with 35% more burglaries alone than in the previous year. In the summer months in particular, a series of burglaries was recorded in Liechtenstein. A significant proportion of these offences were committed by local youths and also by offenders travelling through. The number of violent offences also increased by 26%. This increase has taken the form of threats and coercion, whereas actual bodily harm has decreased slightly. Investigations were also carried out on suspicion of a homicide offence.

Offences under the Narcotics Act increased significantly. There were 64% more narcotics offences registered, and 42% more suspects were reported. The highest number of convictions were due to personal use. Unfortunately, there were also three drug-related deaths recorded during the reporting year.

Following an all-time high in the previous year, there was a slight decline of 2% in the number of economic offences in the reporting year. The reason for this is a decrease in money laundering and corruption offences. However, the workload of the unit responsible for investigating these offences remains as high as ever. This is because investigations as part of proceedings against white-collar crime – sometimes where the suspects are in custody – require the evaluation of extensive documents and records. Cash flow analyses have to be prepared and countless people have to be interviewed. In most cases, requests for legal assistance abroad are also essential.

Offences committed using information and communication technology decreased by 5% compared to the previous year (2023: 163; 2022: 172). While cyber fraud cases recorded an increase of 47%, offences in the crypto area fell by 51%, leading to a slight overall reduction in this type of crime. The digitalisation of our everyday lives has a direct impact on crime phenomenology and crime is also becoming increasingly digital. Keeping up with this development is a great challenge for the National Police. Only a continuous expansion of resources and expertise will allow the National Police to ensure law enforcement even in a digitalised world and ensure there are no lawless spaces.

The National Emergency Call and Operations Centre (LNEZ) received 25% more emergency calls in the reporting year. A new record was reached, with 9,165 reports. Most calls were received through the international emergency number 112. This was followed by the police emergency number 117, and then the ambulance service emergency number 144. A total of 9,646 dispatches took place in response to the emergency calls.

In view of the broad range of tasks of the National Police, the continuous recruitment and development of personnel is a growing challenge for police leadership, especially in times of an increasing shortage of skilled workers. This is the only way that the police's basic mission of "preserving public safety and prosecuting crimes in Liechtenstein" can also be achieved, given the new types of activity and dangers. It is all the more gratifying that in the reporting year, after successfully completing the two-year basic training, one female and three male police officers were officially admitted into the National Police. Alongside this, after successfully completing the first year of training at the Police Academy of Eastern Switzerland (PSO), one female and one male cadet started the second practical training year with the National Police in autumn. Accompanied by practical mentors, they will be introduced to everyday police life and attend special training sessions in parallel to their practical training placement. After passing the Federal Vocational Examination in the autumn of 2024, they will then be accepted into the National Police. At the same time, another female cadet and three male cadets also started their first year of training at the PSO in autumn of the reporting year.

Also in autumn, four men and two women started the internal six-month, in-service training to become riot police officers. The riot police, classed as a militia unit, is an indispensable security police support element of the National Police. It is an important reserve of personnel for security and law enforcement operations and is also used to support shift work. Thanks to the dedicated employees who are also involved in the training of new colleagues and a training officer who takes on all coordination responsibilities, the state police can guarantee professional supervision and training for young police officers.

In terms of equipment and mobile working, the National Police also made some changes in the reporting year. Electric vehicles are constantly being added to the vehicle fleet, where they provide a sensible alternative. Specialised vehicles were also equipped for the two special units of “Intervention” and “Drones” in order to increase operational readiness. Based on the trilateral police cooperation agreement between Liechtenstein, Austria and Switzerland, an agreement was concluded with Austria in the area of aviation police. This means that the state police now have the option of deploying the Ministry of the Interior helicopter stationed in Hohenems if necessary. Another important innovation is TASER (conducted energy device) training for all police officers. This ensures that a TASER is always available in the field. TASERs are effective tools with considerable preventive effect and in practice pose virtually no risk of fatal injury to an attacker – in stark contrast to when a firearm is used. Nevertheless, (further) training with service weapons is also a high priority, which is why the shooting range in the police building was renovated and completely refurbished in the reporting year.

In spring, the National Police launched a central query solution with the police query portal “PAP” that allows both stationary and (for the first time) mobile alphanumeric searches of all European and national police-relevant databases. Biometric searches will also be available in the future. The launch was delayed because the introduction of the new Schengen information system “SISrecast” had to be postponed due to technical problems in some Schengen member states.

In May, an IT system supplier to the National Police fell victim to a ransomware attack in which all its data was encrypted and published on the darknet. National Police data stored by the system supplier was also affected by this publication on the darknet. The National Police immediately took the necessary action to minimise the damage to the persons affected by the data theft and to protect the police’s own systems from any damage potentially resulting from the attack. The National Police did not resume its work with the system supplier until the end of the year, after an audit commissioned by the Swiss National Centre for Cyber Security returned a positive result. As a lesson learned from the incident, the National Police have implemented or planned a series of technical and organisational measures. For example, as a direct consequence of this incident, the role of Information Security Officer is to be created within the National Police.

The UN has declared 7 September the “International Day of Police Cooperation”. To mark the occasion, the police chief invited the Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Police and the Austrian Director General for Public Security to a trilateral police chiefs’ meeting in Liechtenstein. The meeting focussed on topics relating to regional and international police cooperation. At the invitation of Switzerland and Austria, Liechtenstein also joined the Central European Police Academy (CEPA) in the reporting year. This means that employees of the National Police force not only have the opportunity to take advantage of training programmes offered by the EU training agency CEPOL, but can now also take part in courses in CEPA member states or complete placements there. The National Police act as the national liaison office to the other CEPA member states.

However, the reporting year was also a very special year in its own right. This is because the National Police, or the “Fürstlich Liechtensteinische Sicherheitskorps” [Princely Liechtenstein Security Corps], as the National Police was known until the new Police Act came into force in 1989, celebrated its 90th anniversary. To mark the occasion, a photo gallery with portraits of the former police chiefs was unveiled at a small ceremony in the police building. The surviving former chiefs of police were invited to the ceremony.



2 Headcount

In the reporting year, the National Police had a target headcount of 134 staff plus two jobs to be eliminated in the future (excluding National Prison). Of these, as at the end of the reporting year, there was a total headcount of 127.3 (excluding National Prison) (2022: 126.8): 85.5 police officer posts with official functions, 19.0 civilian staff posts with police functions (forensic science, international police cooperation, digital crime, etc.) and 22.8 administrative employees. In addition, two police cadets have been in training since October 2022 and four since October of the reporting year, and they will be admitted to the police force in autumn 2024 and 2025 respectively upon successful completion of their two-year basic training. The National Police was supported by 32 riot police officers. Six more are currently in training and will take up their posts in April 2024. At the National Prison, 6.0 jobs were filled by prison officers.

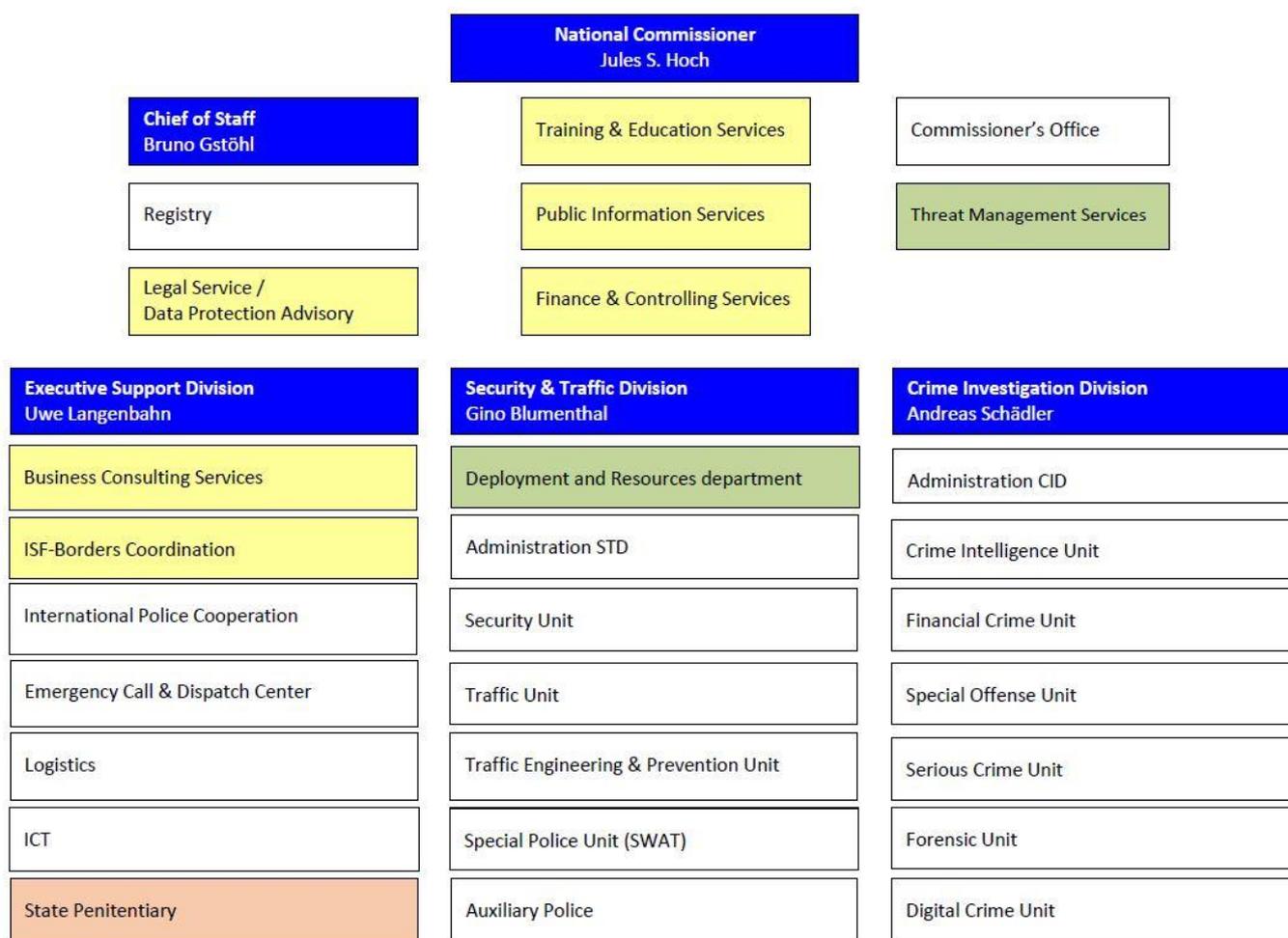


Fig.: National Police organisational chart

3 Education and Training

Internal and external education and training is highly valued in the National Police. Police officers again completed various career-related forms of education and training in the reporting year in the area of leadership and on topics relating to security, criminal investigation and traffic. The employees of the National Police completed this training primarily at the Swiss Police Institute (SPI), at allied cantonal police forces and also, for some topics, at police training institutions in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Knowledge of English is also essential for police officers in Liechtenstein in their everyday work. For this reason, the National Police have created a “Police English” course to teach job-specific English skills. In collaboration with an English teacher who also teaches courses at a Swiss police force, several classes are taught at different levels. The course, which participants undertake in their free time, has been met with a satisfying level of interest and will be continued in the coming year.

4 National Emergency Call and Operations Centre

The National Police are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This also applies to the National Emergency Call and Operations Centre (LNEZ), which is part of the “critical infrastructure” in Liechtenstein. Two dispatch officers are on duty around the clock, taking all police, ambulance and fire emergency calls, initiating the necessary immediate measures and dispatching the emergency services.

In the reporting year, a total of 9,165 calls (2022: 7,134) were made to the emergency numbers 112 (international emergency number), 117 (police emergency number), 118 (fire service emergency number) and 144 (ambulance service emergency number). This was an increase of 25%. The majority of callers dialled the international emergency number 112, followed by the police emergency number 117 and the ambulance service emergency number 144. From the calls received, a total of 9,646 dispatches were made (police 6,858, ambulance 2,531 and fire 257), which was a significant increase (2022: 8,065). In total, this amounts to an average of 26 dispatches per day.



5 Anonymous Whistleblower System

In April 2020, the National Police introduced a whistleblower platform secured with state-of-the-art technology for giving public or anonymous suspicious activity reports with a focus on money laundering, terrorist financing, economic offences and corruption offences. Due to the ongoing refugee situation, particularly in connection with the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, the whistleblower system was expanded in August 2023 to include an additional focus on human trafficking. Since then, the National Police has acted as the National Reporting Centre for Human Trafficking in Liechtenstein.

No IP address data, time stamp or other metadata is logged when people use the whistleblower system. If the whistleblower does not leave their name when making the report, the communication is completely anonymous – which is ensured by technical means. Specialist employees from the criminal investigation department have their own dedicated mailbox, allowing communication with them via the system.

In the period from January to December of the reporting year, a total of 651 accesses to the whistleblower platform were registered. Among these, 22 suspicious activity reports were filed, which were processed by staff specialising in corruption offences (13 reports concerned economic offences, eight concerned money laundering and one concerned human trafficking). In three cases, a report was made to the Liechtenstein public prosecutor's office, resulting in criminal proceedings being opened in two of the cases. These anonymous reports continue to be assessed with the appropriate level of scrutiny. If they are sweeping, insubstantial or inconclusive, they will not lead to investigations or any enforcement measures.

6 Threat Management Department

As of 1 January 2023, the Threat Management Department (FBM) was expanded by an FTE of 0.8 and additional tasks were integrated into the department. In addition to existing psychological police activities and peer coordination, this primarily involves the operational management of the negotiation group as well as increased specialist support within the state police (for example in the case of mentally vulnerable persons with complex support systems). These cases are processed under the collective term of "specialist support" for documentation purposes and therefore appear as a separate category in the overview for the first time in the reporting year. The Threat Management Department also continues to act as an internal police coordination centre for domestic violence.

As in the previous year, there was an intensive exchange with Swiss agencies in particular, both in individual case management and as part of the newly founded Swiss working group "Cantonal Threat Management", in which the specialist unit represents the Police Concordat of Eastern Switzerland together with the threat and risk management department of the St. Gallen cantonal police.

The Threat Management Department also represented the Liechtenstein National Police in the Liechtenstein delegation to the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of

Liechtenstein by the UN Human Rights Council, which took place in Geneva on 9 May 2023.

The Threat Management Department received 115 reports in the reporting year (2022: 62). 22 of the reports received (2022: 12) were reopened cases that had already been closed, while nine enquiries (2022: 7) were conducted as anonymous behavioural counselling. In 24 cases, the specialist unit provided internal specialist support that was not directly related to threat management. The incoming reports can be categorised as follows:

Categories of increased readiness to use violence	2023	2022
Domestic violence	26	22
Threatening behaviour towards a public authority/institution	17	16
Psychological abnormality	19	12
Threatening behaviour in general	12	4
Threatening behaviour at the workplace	9	3
Extremism	1	2
Stalking	5	2
Sexual assault	2	1
<i>Specialist support</i>	24	0

As in the previous year, most enquiries related to domestic disputes, followed by a slight increase in the number of people with an increased potential for violence directly linked to a mental disorder, which remains high. A significant increase was recorded in people who showed generally threatening behaviour. These were primarily brief clarifications following external enquiries or incoming reports where no sufficient basis for further case management by Threat Management Department was recognised.

After analysing the situation and making an initial assessment, the Threat Management department's measures primarily comprised behavioural counselling. In many cases, it was possible to bring about a de-escalation and achieve relief for those affected. When appropriate, the department also enters into direct dialogue with threatening individuals to assess their point of view and offer help with getting out of the conflict spiral. Both the people involved and the perpetrators in many cases benefited from triage to the relevant departments, which are able to support them in solving problems and intervene early in the event of increasing stress. The department retains a coordination function here, especially in complex and medium- to longer-term conflict situations.

6.1. Domestic Violence

A total of 251 reports (2022: 164) in connection with domestic violence or conflicts were received by the National Police. In 69 cases (2022: 41), a report was made to the public prosecutor's office. The significant increase in the number of cases received can primarily be explained by the fact that numerous reports were made to the National Police by specific individuals due to the high level of conflict in their living situation. Of the 251 reports received, 136 related to people who required repeated interventions by the National Police due to domestic conflicts.

A distinction is made between physical violence (2023: 32, 2022: 24), psychological violence (2023: 213, 2022: 129), i.e. verbal disputes and humiliation that is not classed as an offence, sexual violence (2023: 5, 2022: 4) and economic violence (2023: 1; 2022: 7), i.e. withholding individual financial resources. With regard to victim-offender relationships, 153 cases (2022: 61) involved conflicts in existing relationships and 39 cases (2022: 62) involved former relationships. There were 41 (2022: 33) reports related to intergenerational violence in the home; in 18 cases (2022: 8), a family relationship (e.g. siblings) was identified.

Persons involved in cases of domestic violence at a glance:

	2023	2022
Male perpetrators	75	41
Female perpetrators	6	17
Male victims	2	11
Female victims	19	39
Juvenile perpetrators	1	3
Young victims (of which 2 not directly involved)	4	24
Children (<14 years old) (of which 14 not directly involved)	91	60
Male involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e. g. disputes)	33	114
Female involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e. g. disputes)	30	105

Note: The figures refer to the respective incoming reports, meaning that some persons may be referred to multiple times (in the case of repeated interventions).

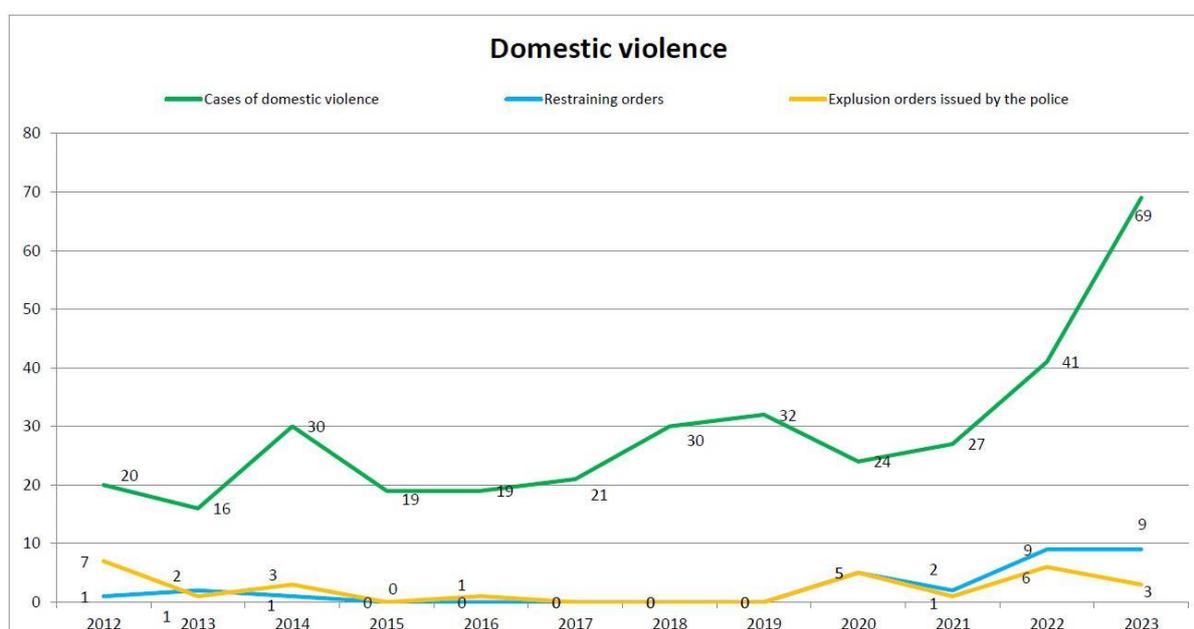
Particularly in the case of verbal disputes or other incidents without criminal offences, the classification into perpetrator or victim roles was dispensed with and those involved were simply recorded as “participants”.

The National Police’s measures at a glance:

	2023	2022
De-escalation dialogue	221	105
Triage / arrangement of further help (esp. Office of Social Services)	72	89
Bringing in other help on the ground (esp. crisis intervention team, emergency doctor)	36	33
Expulsion order issued by the police	3	6
Restraining order	9	9
Police custody	0	1
Direct dialogue with threatening individuals by the Threat Management department	4	10

The high potential for conflict in the domestic sphere, with a continuing pronounced need for counselling and support, was also observed in the reporting year. In many cases, the National Police were deployed without police jurisdiction being established on site, but instead the situation was calmed by de-escalating discussions, and providing information on possible support services and legal information.

The Threat Management Department also contributed to the country visits by the Group of Experts on Combating Violence against Women (GREVIO) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in its role as the internal police co-ordination centre for domestic violence.



7 Security

7.1. Basic services

The security and traffic police are responsible for basic police services and are on duty around the clock in shifts. The security and traffic police are dispatched for an initial intervention on the ground in response to all emergency calls and accident reports. The employees cover a wide range of assignments here: traffic accidents, work accidents, domestic violence, alarm and other security police call-outs (e.g. suicide threats, missing person reports, etc.), burglary and thefts, criminal damage, bodily harm, and crimes and breaches of accessory criminal law (weapons law, environmental law, etc.).

7.1.1. Public order and security service operations

The National Police carried out 34 public order service operations at football matches in the reporting year (2022: 27). In the context of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat and the Conference of Cantonal Police Commanders (CCPCS), the National Police undertook eight public order service operations in Switzerland (e.g. WEF).

A total of 43 special security services were provided (football matches, assistance operations by the intervention unit, etc.), which was 36 fewer than in the previous year (2022: 79).

Security police work and services (excerpt)	2023	2022
Public order service operations in Liechtenstein	34	27
Public order service operations abroad	8	6
Security service operations	43	79
Intervention unit operations	18	10
Personal protection operations	17	17

Operations of the special intervention unit increased in the reporting year compared with the previous year. For example, 18 dispatches with high risk potential were recorded. There were 17 dispatches for personal protection incidents. These incidents also included operations at international conferences and during state visits.

8 Traffic

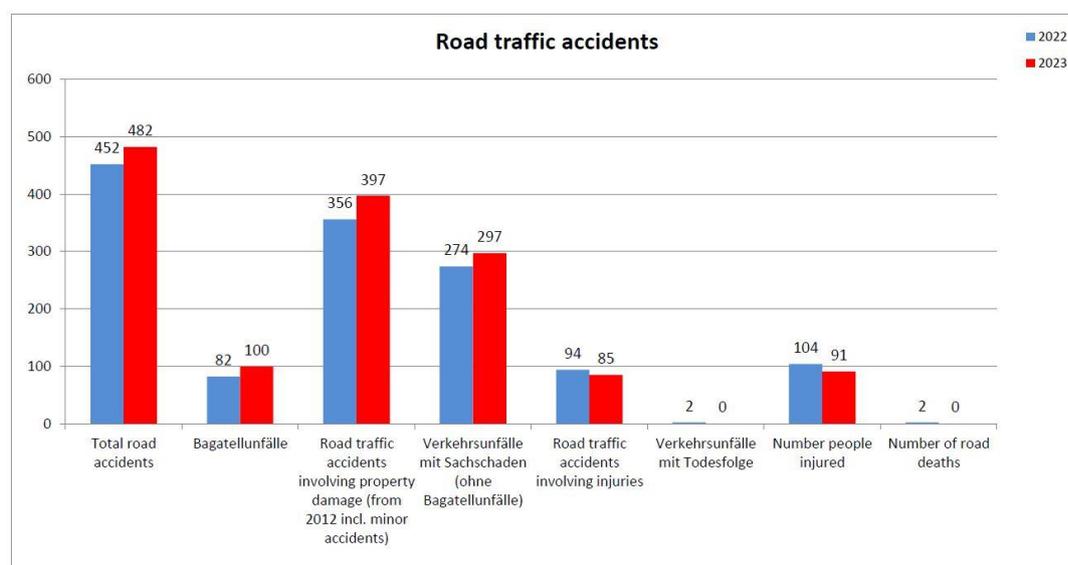
8.1. Road traffic accidents

The number of road traffic accidents increased by 7% in the reporting year compared to the previous year (2023: 482, 2022: 452). However, accidents with injuries fell by nine to 85 (2022: 94). The number of people injured decreased accordingly by 9% to 91 (2022: 104). Of these, 20 people were seriously injured. There were no fatal road traffic accidents in the reporting year.

In a third of road traffic accidents with property damage, there was failure to comply with the reporting obligation. In total, the National Police was able to identify 40% of the suspects. 87% of all road traffic accident took place in a built-up area. Only 62 accidents were recorded on roads in rural areas.

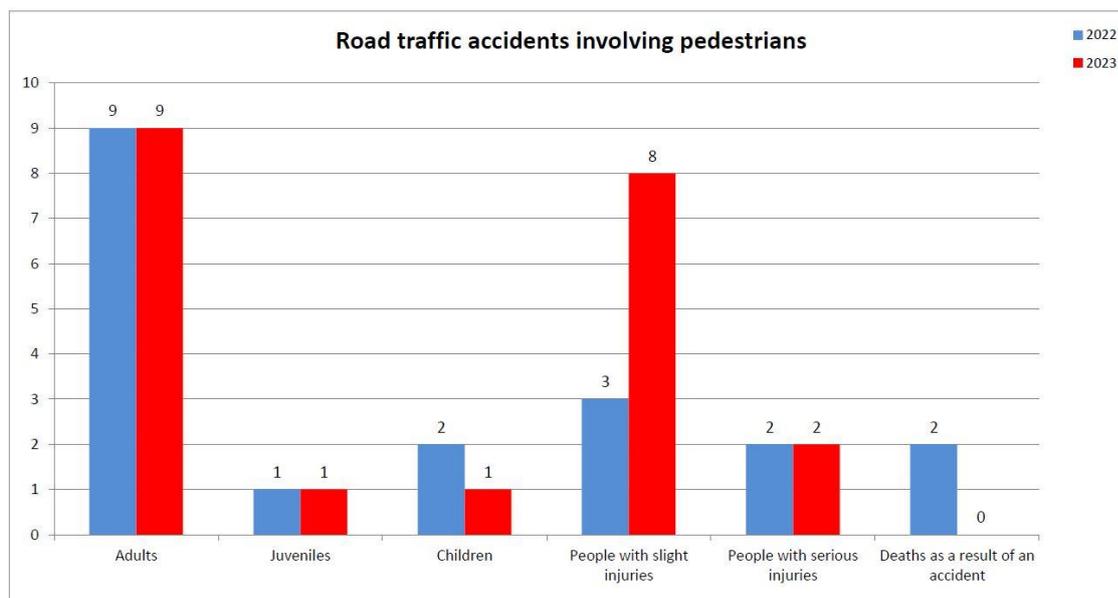
The number of accidents due to impaired driving ability fell slightly in the reporting year (2023: 41, 2022: 46). This includes accidents caused by the consumption of alcohol, drugs or medication, and fatigue.

Road traffic accident statistics	2023	2022
Total road traffic accidents (including cases of failure to comply with the reporting obligation)	482	452
of which the accident took place in a built-up area	420	389
of which the road traffic accident was fatal	0	2
thereof road traffic fatalities	0	2
of which the road traffic accident resulted in injuries	85	94
thereof people injured	91	104
of which the road traffic accident resulted in property damage (including minor accidents and parking damage)	397	356
of which cases of failure to comply with reporting obligation	135	116
of which perpetrator identified	40%	60%



8.1.1. Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians

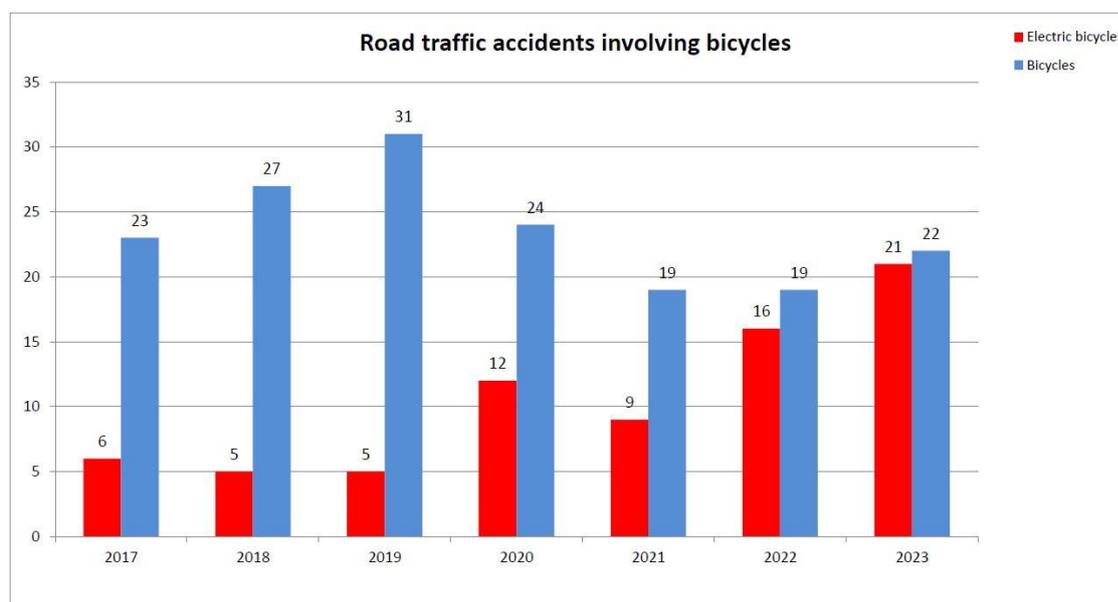
The number of road traffic accidents involving pedestrians decreased slightly in the reporting year. Eleven accidents were recorded in the reporting year, which is one fewer than in 2022. One child and one young person were involved in accidents. Eight people involved in accidents had minor injuries and two were seriously injured.



8.1.2. Road traffic accidents involving bicycles or e-bikes

The number of road traffic accidents involving bicycles or e-bikes increased by eight compared with the previous year (2023: 43, 2022: 35).

Riding an e-bike is an activity with increased risk, as other road users and e-bikers themselves often underestimate their speed and longer stopping distances.

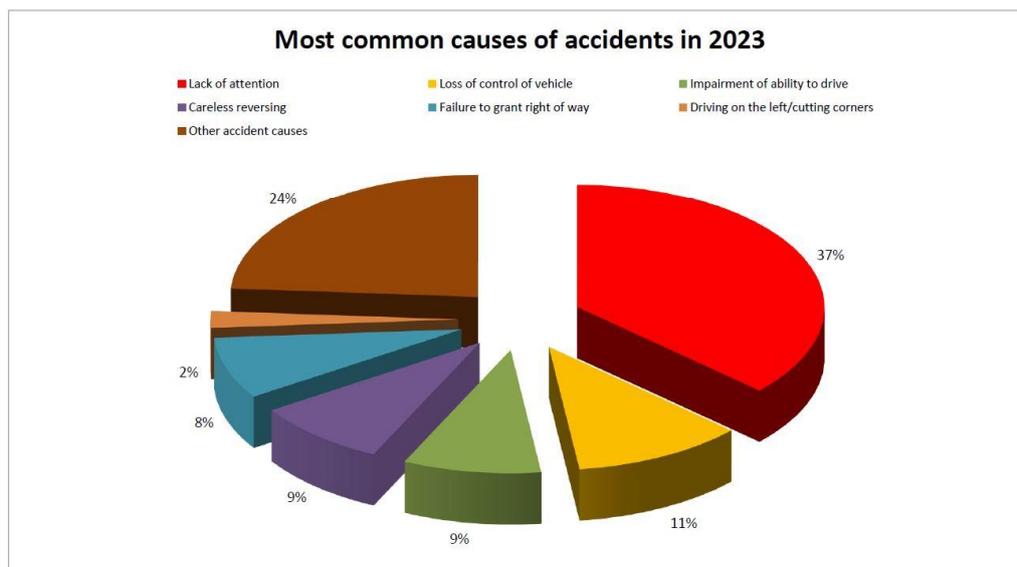


8.2. Accident causes

As in previous years, failure to pay attention was also the main cause of accidents on Liechtenstein's roads in the reporting year. More than a third of all accidents are caused by the operator of the vehicle being distracted – whether by the environment, passengers or mobile phones.

Other causes of accidents included loss of control of the vehicle (11%), impairment of the ability to drive as a result of alcohol, drugs, medication or fatigue (9%), careless reversing (9%) and failure to grant right of way (8%).

The “other causes of accidents” category (24%) includes failing to maintain a sufficient distance, failure to heed signals, careless lane changes, vehicle defects or inappropriate behaviour by pedestrians.



8.3. Road Safety

The focus of road safety in the reporting year was once again on prevention. The two traffic instructors from the National Police gave a total of 189 traffic lessons in kindergarten classes, primary schools, the special education day centre, the Waldorf school and the Formatio Private School. The pupils were able to gain practical experience at the traffic training facility in Schellenberg and practise correct behaviour on the road as cyclists.

In addition to these teaching units, the area of safety and monitoring on the way to school was also central in the reporting year. The National Police were present at busy junctions, roundabouts and roads with roadworks and helped the youngest road users on their way to school. A total of 434 missions were carried out in this area, which represents an increase on the previous year (2022: 250). This increase is due to the fact that more attention was paid to these areas in order to prevent accidents.

The main focus of speed checks is on monitoring school routes and serves to calm traffic on exposed stretches of road. In addition, local authorities and residents are increasingly asking the National Police to monitor traffic due to roadworks diversions in residential neighbourhoods. The National Police have a total of five traffic monitoring systems in use for this purpose (one mobile and four in the two semi-stationary speed monitoring systems). Fortunately, no monitoring systems failed for technical reasons in the reporting year, so the number of operating days was higher than in the previous year (2023: 2,389, 2022: 2,088). In contrast, the number of administrative fines issued fell by 5% compared to the previous year (2023: 33,354, 2022: 34,986). This is because

the systems were operated at the same location for longer in the reporting year. After the system has been in use for a certain amount of time, the intended change in behaviour (correct speed) occurs and the number of violations decreases. The reason for the extended use was due to staff shortages.

The number of requests for legal assistance from foreign authorities for road traffic offences rose by 3% to 352 in the reporting year.

8.4. Road safety campaigns and traffic controls

Thanks also to the Accident Prevention Commission, the population was once again made aware of a wide range of topics in the reporting year.

A selection of the campaigns:



#streetfluencer

The #streetfluencer campaign raises awareness of people not paying adequate attention in traffic

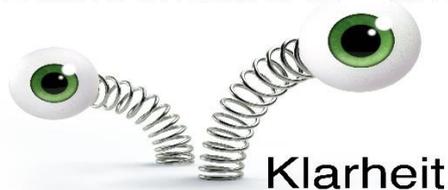


This campaign reminds drivers of the importance of always wearing a seatbelt.



The topic of better visibility of pedestrians or cyclists in low light or darkness was also the subject of a campaign again in the reporting year.

Blickkontakt schafft



With the message "Eye contact creates clarity", the campaign provides a clear and easy-to-implement course of action to improve safety.

9 Crime

The police crime statistics are police report statistics. They include figures and graphs on all reported crimes with the crime scene in Liechtenstein that are collected in the National Police's case database. These cover laws such as the Liechtenstein Criminal Code (StGB), the Narcotics Act (BMG), the Aliens Act (AUG) and other secondary criminal law (penal provisions of the administrative laws).

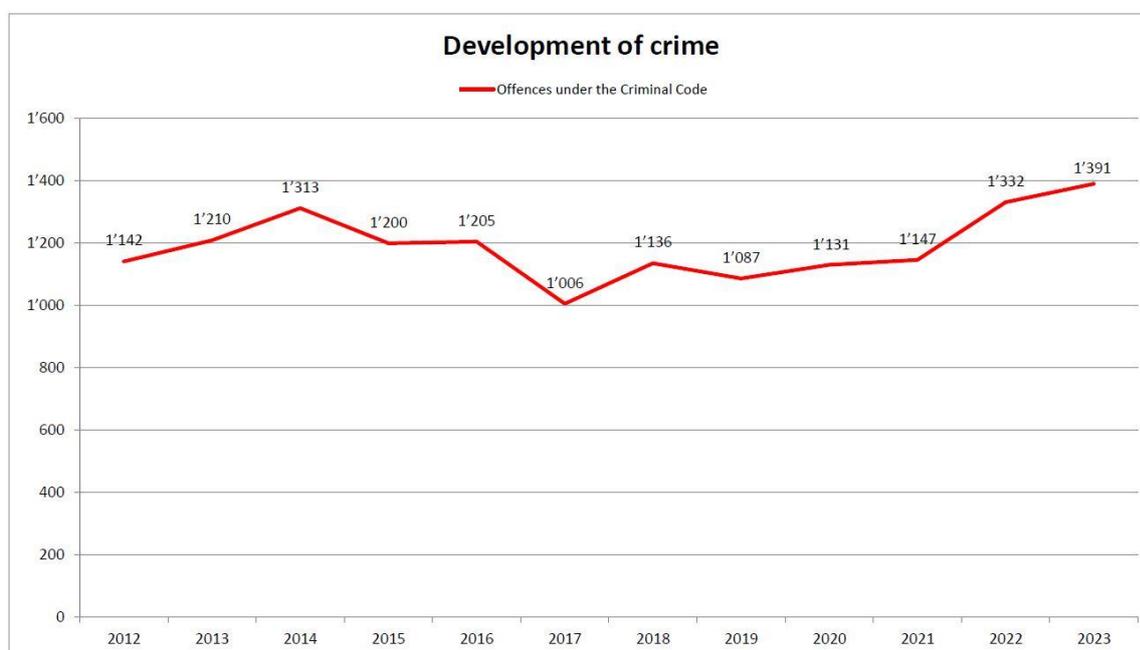
The criminal statistics reflect the crimes the police are aware of in Liechtenstein. However, a blind spot (i.e. unreported and undetected crimes) must also be assumed to exist. Thus, these crime statistics only represent an approximation of the actual crime situation in Liechtenstein. To provide a more meaningful assessment of the crime situation and crime trends, "interpreted crime statistics" are published (see 9.7 and 9.8).

9.1. Total crime and clear-up rate

The number of offences under the Criminal Code increased by 4% in the reporting year compared to 2022. An exact total of 1,391 offences was registered in the reporting year, compared to 1,332 in 2022. In a ten-year comparison, the crime rate in 2023 was thus higher than the annual range of 1,000 to 1,200 offences and reached its highest level in 10 years.

At 69%, the clear-up rate in the reporting year remained the same as in 2022. This is also a good figure by international standards.

In addition to offences under the Criminal Code, offences under the Narcotics Act are also taken into account when calculating the clear-up rate.



9.1.1. Suspects

In the reporting year, 544 people committed offences under the Criminal Code. This is the same number as in the previous year. The breakdown of nationalities is similar to the previous year. In 2023, a total of 28% of the suspects identified had Liechtenstein citizenship, whereas the remaining 72% had foreign citizenship. As in past years, the percentage of female suspects was also lower than the percentage of male suspects. Women were only identified as suspects in 20% of offences.

9.2. Youth violence

In the reporting year, 44 (2022: 31) underage suspects were identified. They were responsible for 61 acts of violence. This number increased by 16 compared with the previous year (2022: 45).

There were 38 male suspects. 21 of the suspects were below 14 years of age, with the remaining 23 aged between 14 and 18. Theft by breaking and entering or with weapons accounted for the majority of offences, followed by property damage.

Looking at the nationality of the underage suspects, it can be seen that 57% of suspects had Liechtenstein citizenship in the reporting year.

9.3. Right-wing violence

As in previous years, 2023 can also be described as a quiet year in the area of right-wing extremism. There have been no major incidents of violence or criminal events with a background of right-wing extremism in Liechtenstein for many years.

9.4. Alpine police

In the reporting year, the Alpine police were called out on four occasions (2022: 6). One operation involved a skiing accident in Malbun in which two skiers collided on the "Täli" piste and sustained injuries, some of them serious. In the field of recreational aviation, there was a paragliding accident on the Augstenberg in which the pilot was seriously injured. A hiking accident occurred in the Augstenberg-Pfälzerhütte area, in which a hiker died. In another hiking accident, a person fell and was injured in the Oberplanken area. Other deployments were in connection with the dispatching of partner organisations of the National Police, which were particularly concerned with hikers who were exhausted and could no longer continue or had lost their way. The Alpine police were also involved in an operation following a rockfall on the Fürstensteig.

9.5. Criminal police work

In the reporting year, 69 house searches were carried out on behalf of the National Court plus voluntary house inspections, a reduction of five compared with the previous year (2022: 74). In the reporting year, there were no cases of telephone surveillance measures and internet surveillance carried out on behalf of the National Court. The number of cases involving surveillance measures remained the same as in the previous year, at three.

The number of people who had to be returned or extradited was 33 in 2023 (2022: 48). Due to negative asylum decisions, 30 people were sent back to their home country or to a Dublin Regulation state. Three people were extradited to or from Liechtenstein under an international arrest warrant.

There was a slight increase in the number of people who were subjected to procedures to establish their identity (fingerprints, photo, buccal swab) to 86 in the reporting year (2022: 83). The number of back-ups of mobile phones, computers and other IT devices fell somewhat to 205 (2022: 220).

The number of unusual deaths (suicide, discovery of a corpse, etc.) remained the same. Again, 16 cases (2022: 16) were registered in the reporting year. One of these unusual deaths was by suicide. There were also three drug-related deaths recorded during the reporting year.

Criminal police work and services (excerpt)	2023	2022
House searches/voluntary house inspections	69	74
Telephone/internet surveillance	0	0
Observations	3	3
Deportation/extraditions (number of people)	33	48
People subjected to procedures to establish their identity	86	83
Back-ups	205	220
Unusual deaths	16	16

9.6. Crime prevention

The National Police is not only active in prosecuting law enforcement, but also in crime prevention to a limited extent. The National Police provides information to the entire population and also to special risk groups to prevent them from becoming the victim of criminals (victimisation) or from committing crimes themselves. The latter is especially the case with drug prevention among young people.

Information relating to different areas of criminal prevention can be obtained from the National Police or downloaded from the website www.landespolizei.li.

The resources available for the prevention work are very limited, which is why enquiries regarding talks and taking part in prevention events are answered in very limited detail.

9.7. Crime statistics

To make it easier to assess crime levels and trends in Liechtenstein, interpreted crime statistics have been published since 2007. These group multiple offences into groups of offences and, in turn, group these into crime fields. Individual offences can also be allocated to multiple crime fields (e.g. rape can be allocated to the “violent crimes” and “sexual crimes” fields).

As this is a condensed selection of crime-field-specific offences, only a limited comparison of the figures in these interpreted crime statistics with the figures before 2007 is possible. A crime field (e.g. migration offences) does not have to include all offences under special laws (e.g. Aliens Act: failure to comply with the deadline for leaving the country).

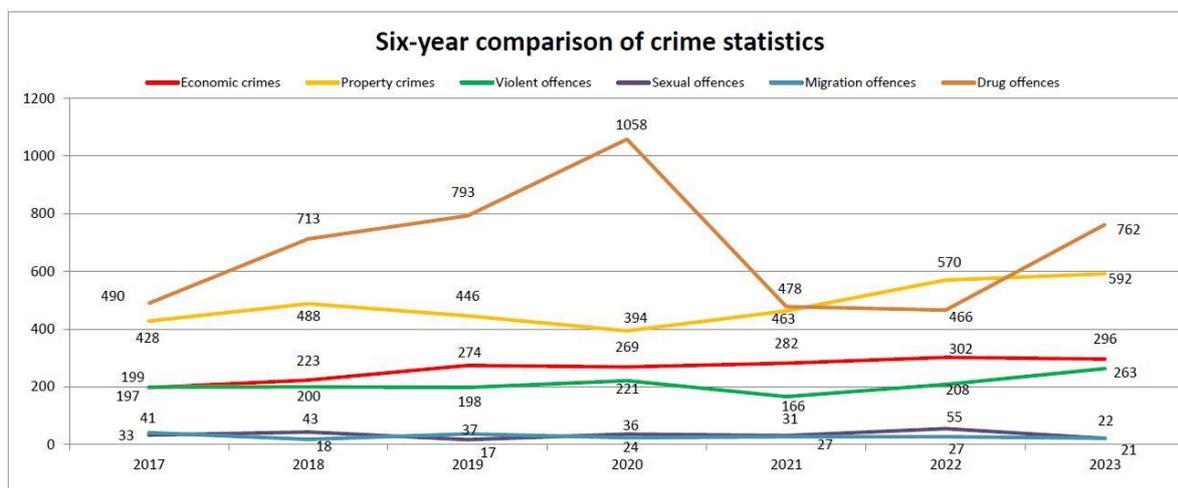
The same applies to the number of suspects in the interpreted crime statistics. Here too, suspects may be counted multiple times if they have committed multiple offences at once or have committed the same offences at different times. The total number of suspects in the interpreted crime statistics is therefore not the same as the total number of people suspected of offences.

9.7.1. Economic crimes

The number of economic crimes fell by 2% in the reporting year to 296 offences (2022: 302). Most cases were in the fraud/embezzlement category (197 offences).

9.7.2. Property crimes

Property crimes increased by 4% to 592 (2022: 570). Theft was the most frequently committed offence, followed by burglaries and property damage. There was a 35% increase in burglaries, to 186 offences (2022: 138).



9.7.3. Violent and sexual offences

The number of violent offences recorded this year increased by 26% to 263 (2022: 208). There was one offence of homicide.

Compared with the previous year, the number of sexual offences decreased by 34 to 21 (2022: 55). This change is mainly due to the fact that there were fewer reports of illegal pornography.

9.7.4. Drug offences

Offences under the Narcotics Act increased significantly. The police registered 762 offences (2022: 466) and 195 suspects (2022: 137).

This represents an increase of 64% in drug offences and 42% in the number of suspects as against the previous year. Most police reports (663) were due to personal use, whereas 87 reports were due to production/growing/purchase/sale of drugs. In 12 cases, it was possible to prove drug smuggling. Three drug deaths were recorded in the reporting year.

9.7.5. Digital crime

In digital crime, a distinction is drawn between cybercrime in the stricter sense and cybercrime in the broader sense. The cybercrime category of offence (in the stricter sense) was included in the crime statistics for the first time in 2019. Reports on mass phenomena (advance fee scam, etc.) in which no loss has occurred are not listed in the crime statistics.

Cybercrime in the stricter sense comprises all offences where attacks are made on data or computer systems using information and communications technology. Specialist information technology knowledge and special technical evidence-based methods are

needed to investigate such attacks (e.g. hacking, phishing, DDoS attacks, etc.). In the reporting year, a total of 15 offences of cybercrime in the stricter sense were recorded, which was a slight increase compared to the previous year (2022: 12).

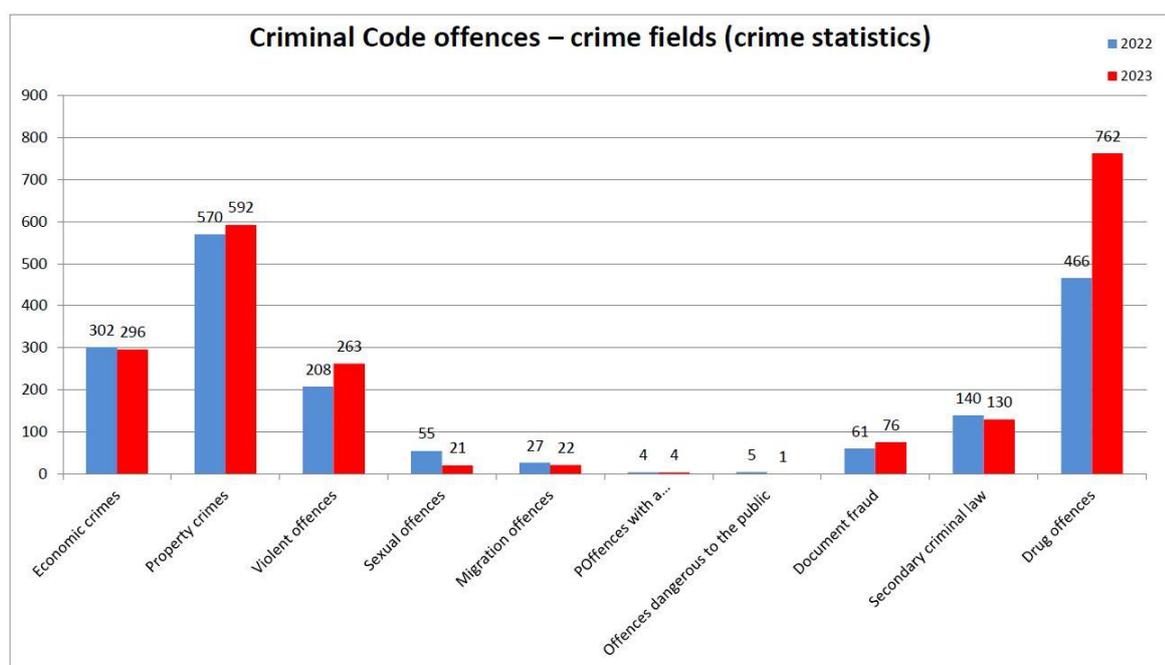
In addition, digital crime also includes cybercrime offences in the broader sense. This includes offences where information and communications technology is used for planning, preparing and committing offences. These are thus conventional criminal offences (e.g. economic crimes or sexual offences) that are committed in the digital space or have a digital component. The number of processed cases assigned to cybercrime in the broader sense decreased by 5% to 163 cases in the reporting year (2022: 172). A large proportion of the 163 cases concern cyber fraud (60%), followed by cyber sexual offences (21%), crypto enquiries (11%) and other digitally perpetrated offences (8%).

9.7.6. Migration offences

In the reporting year, the number of migration offences decreased slightly to 22 (2022: 27). The majority of the reports were made for breaches of the entry and residence regulations (18). Four offences were recorded due to aiding and abetting illegal immigration (people smuggling).

9.7.7. Other secondary criminal law

The National Police is responsible for prosecuting numerous offences in accordance with administrative law and secondary criminal law. A total of 130 such offences were recorded in the reporting year, which represents a decrease compared with the previous year (2022: 140). Offences under the Youth Act have fallen to 20 (2022: 59) and offences under the Weapons Act have risen by 41% to 45 (2022: 32).



9.8. Interpreted crime statistics at a glance

Criminal offences	2023	2022	2023/2022 change		Offences cleared up in		Suspects identified		
	Number	Number	Number	%	Anzahl	%	Total	under 18 y.	foreign
1. Economic crimes	296	302	-6	-2	181	61	205	4	179
Fraud/embezzlement	197	197	0	0	106	54	132	0	119
Bankruptcy offences	7	9	-2	-22	7	100	13	0	11
Money laundering / organised crime	64	71	-7	-10	50	78	100	3	94
Asset forfeiture / deprivation order	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Financing of terrorism	0	2	-2	na	0	na	0	0	0
Corruption / insider trading	13	11	2	18	12	92	9	0	4
Cybercrime	15	12	3	25	6	40	6	1	2
2. Property crimes	592	570	22	4	205	35	153	42	94
Thefts	245	254	-9	-4	96	39	72	10	53
of which motor vehicle thefts	11	14	-3	-21	7	64	8	2	7
of which bicycle thefts	40	62	-22	-35	6	15	6	0	4
Misappropriation/embezzlement/deprivation of property	24	26	-2	-8	15	63	25	7	17
Burglary	186	138	48	35	45	24	34	8	25
Receiving stolen goods	2	4	-2	-50	2	100	2	0	2
Criminal damage	135	148	-13	-9	47	35	56	25	24
3. Violent offences	263	208	55	26	227	86	168	31	107
Homicides	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	0
Bodily harm/brawls	93	102	-9	-9	81	87	103	19	58
Blackmail/kidnapping	22	12	10	83	8	36	7	0	5
Robbery	6	2	4	200	5	83	7	6	6
Threat	62	47	15	32	58	94	61	17	38
Coercion	50	22	28	127	47	94	36	6	23
Sexual assault	20	14	6	43	18	90	15	2	8
Violence against public servants	9	9	0	0	9	100	11	2	6
4. Sexual offences	21	55	-34	-62	19	90	15	3	4
Rape/sexual Coercion	6	4	2	50	5	83	4	0	2
Sexual abuse of minors	4	12	-8	-67	4	100	4	1	1
Sexual harassment/exhibitionism	4	11	-7	-64	4	100	4	0	1
Pimping	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	0
Pornography	6	28	-22	-79	5	83	4	2	0
5. Migration offences	22	27	-5	-19	19	86	24	2	21
Entry and residence	18	20	-2	-10	15	83	20	2	18
Aiding and abetting	4	3	1	33	4	100	4	0	3
Use of identification	0	3	-3	na	0	na	0	0	0
Work	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
6. Offences with a religious motive	4	4	0	0	4	100	4	2	2
Discrimination	3	1	2	200	3	100	3	2	1
Terrorism	0	3	-3	na	0	na	0	0	0
Espionage	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Regulatory offences	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	1
7. Offences dangerous to the public	1	5	-4	-80	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	1	3	-2	-67	0	0	0	0	0
Explosives offences	0	2	-2	na	0	na	0	0	0
Radiation offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Environmental offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
8. Document fraud	76	61	15	25	53	70	62	1	51
Forging documents	35	23	12	52	35	100	47	0	40
Forging money and securities	41	38	3	8	18	44	15	1	11
9. Administration	130	140	-10	-7	112	86	116	8	73
Weapons/explosives	45	32	13	41	41	91	42	3	27
Youth Act	20	59	-39	-66	20	100	17	0	4
Construction/industry/trade/tourism	5	10	-5	-50	5	100	4	0	4
Banks/fiduciaries/duty of care	4	15	-11	-73	2	50	2	0	1
Protection of personal security/work/intellectual property	2	2	0	0	2	100	2	1	1
Animal welfare/hunting/fishing/dog ownership	11	5	6	120	9	82	9	1	4
Health/environment/refuse	17	10	7	70	12	71	18	1	12
Legal closing time/peace/order	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	1
Other administrative law	25	7	18	257	20	80	30	2	22
10. Drug offences	762	466	296	64	710	93	195	28	100
Personal use	663	394	269	68	613	92	184	25	96
Production/growing/purchase/sale	87	59	28	47	85	98	48	13	20
Smuggling	12	13	-1	-8	12	100	11	0	4
11. Incidents handled by the Crime Investigation Division	64	54	10	19	0	0	0	0	0
Missing persons cases	30	28	2	7	0	0	0	0	0
Fines	18	10	8	80	0	0	0	0	0
Unusual deaths	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug deaths	3	0	3	na	0	0	0	0	0
Death by illness/accidents without traffic	12	15	-3	-20	0	0	0	0	0

10 International Police Cooperation

The Directorate of International Police Cooperation (IPC) is the central hub and coordination centre of the National Police for the international exchange of information and for searches of all kinds. The IPC is the national office (NCB Vaduz) for INTERPOL, the SIRENE office within the framework of Schengen, the national unit (NCP) for EUROPOL and the Liechtenstein contact point (NFPOC) for the European border protection agency FRONTEX. Having a central point of contact and entry for IPC means the National Police has an efficient and streamlined solution in international police cooperation, enabling it to quickly process the numerous enquiries to and from various channels.

In 2020, the National Police concluded a working agreement with the EU training agency CEPOL and appointed the IPC as the national contact point. This means that Liechtenstein authorities can also take advantage of CEPOL's training programmes. In the reporting year, CEPOL offered around 400 training programmes in all possible areas of internal security. The vast majority of Liechtenstein authority representatives used online events in the Schengen area (SIS, IOP, ETIAS, EES, etc.).

10.1. Focus areas of international cooperation

Migration, the associated crime, and dangers arising from international terrorism also strongly influenced international police information sharing in 2023.

10.2. Schengen/SIRENE

In 2023, members of the National Police, the Immigration and Passport Office and the Data Protection Office completed mandatory multi-stage training courses to become Schengen experts. These experts are available to the EU for the evaluation of other Schengen states in order to check compliance with Schengen standards during country visits.

Migration, the associated crime, and dangers arising from terrorism also strongly influenced international police information sharing in the reporting year. Within the framework of Schengen, Liechtenstein sent 1,381 requests to foreign police authorities (2022: 1,027), while the SIRENE Bureau Vaduz processed 32,409 requests for information (2022: 28,894) from abroad. In the reporting year, five people who were the subject of international alerts in the Schengen area were arrested on behalf of the district court (2022: 4). There was a decline in criminal investigation enquiries from Switzerland (2023: 3,161, 2022: 3,370).

There were numerous hits from searches for people and property (SIS, INTERPOL and other such search systems): a total of 332, including 104 in Liechtenstein and 228 abroad, i.e. 46 hits more than in the previous year (2022: 286). 14 people were arrested in Liechtenstein under a domestic or foreign arrest warrant (2022: 8).

10.3. INTERPOL National Central Bureau

In addition to Schengen, INTERPOL, with its 195 member states around the world, continued to be an indispensable partner for the National Police in day-to-day police cooperation. The search information from INTERPOL is available electronically to every police officer.

In the reporting year, NCB INTERPOL Vaduz made 1,185 enquiries to foreign police authorities (2022: 1,191), while foreign INTERPOL authorities made over 21,527 enquiries worldwide and thus also to Liechtenstein (2022: 21,848).

In the reporting year, queries from INTERPOL Vaduz to foreign police services fell (2023: 1,185, 2022: 1,191). In the same period, foreign authorities circulated 21,527 queries globally through INTERPOL, which were thus also addressed to Liechtenstein (2022: 21,848).

10.4. Search hits

In the reporting year, there were again numerous hits from searches for people and property (SIS, INTERPOL and other such search systems). Of these 332 hits, 104 were in Liechtenstein and 228 abroad, and the total was 50 hits higher than in the previous year (2022: 282). 14 people were arrested in Liechtenstein under a domestic or foreign arrest warrant (2022: 8).

10.5. EUROPOL

The cooperation with EUROPOL continued in the tried and tested manner. In the reporting year, Liechtenstein made 508 enquiries to foreign police services (2022: 585) via the EUROPOL channel. Foreign authorities addressed 1,568 enquiries to Liechtenstein via this channel (2022: 1,605).

10.6. Cross-border networking

Thanks to its participation in INTERPOL, EUROPOL and Schengen (including FRONTEX and EUROPOL), the National Police is extremely well connected internationally. In an alliance with Switzerland, the National Police participates in the Swiss search system RIPOL and in the criminal police communication platform VULPUS. The Police Chief's seat in the Conference of Cantonal Police Commanders of Switzerland (CCPCS) also provides an ideal platform for networking with the federal and cantonal security authorities.

Regionally, membership of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat and the Lake Constance Police Chiefs' Association ensures optimum cross-border cooperation. The regional exchange of information via a secure system between police authorities in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Vorarlberg, St. Gallen, Thurgau, Schaffhausen and Liechtenstein also proved its worth in the reporting year. In 2023, the IPC received 796 reports from this system (2022: 847).

The Police Chief maintains a regular exchange of information with colleagues from Austria and Switzerland as well as with all police chief colleagues from the Schengen states at the annual European Police Chief Conference (EPCC). In the reporting year, the Police Chief attended the meeting in Stockholm in May and in The Hague in

September. At the end of November, the Police Chief also represented the national police force at the INTERPOL General Assembly in Vienna. The organisation celebrated its centenary at the place where it was founded in 1923.

These international and regional networks are essential for successful police work in Liechtenstein. This is because security can nowadays only be guaranteed in an international alliance. This applies to a small country such as Liechtenstein even more than any other country.

Work and services of the International Police Cooperation (excerpt)	2023	2022
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through INTERPOL	1,185	1,191
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through INTERPOL	21,527	21,848
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities under Schengen	1,381	1,027
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through Schengen	32,409	28,894
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through EUROPOL	508	585
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through EUROPOL	1,568	1,605
Search hits (SIS, RIPOL, INTERPOL, LI wanted list)	332	286

10.7. Internal Security Fund ISF (external borders and visas)

Liechtenstein participates in the Internal Security Fund for External Borders and Visas (ISF-Borders) as part of its association with Schengen/Dublin. With this fund, Schengen states that bear high costs for the protection of the external Schengen borders due to their own extensive land or sea borders, as well as if they have significant international airports, are supported with funds linked to specific projects. The aim of the fund is to help improve the efficiency of controls and thus the protection of the external borders, as well as to reduce the number of illegal entries. The financial resources for implementing the fund is a total of 2.76 billion euros. Liechtenstein is contributing around 1.12 million euros over the seven-year term (2014–2020). However, expenditure from ongoing projects is still eligible under this fund until the mid-2024.

The National Police, the Immigration and Passport Office and the Office for Information Technology implement various projects that also serve the protection of the external borders and are largely co-financed within the framework of ISF Borders: further development of the Schengen Information System SISrecast, Police Query Portal PAP (biometric and alphanumeric queries), funding of a Swiss border guard expert for Frontex, Entry/Exit system, European Travel Information and Authorisation System as well as the Schengen/Dublin programme management.

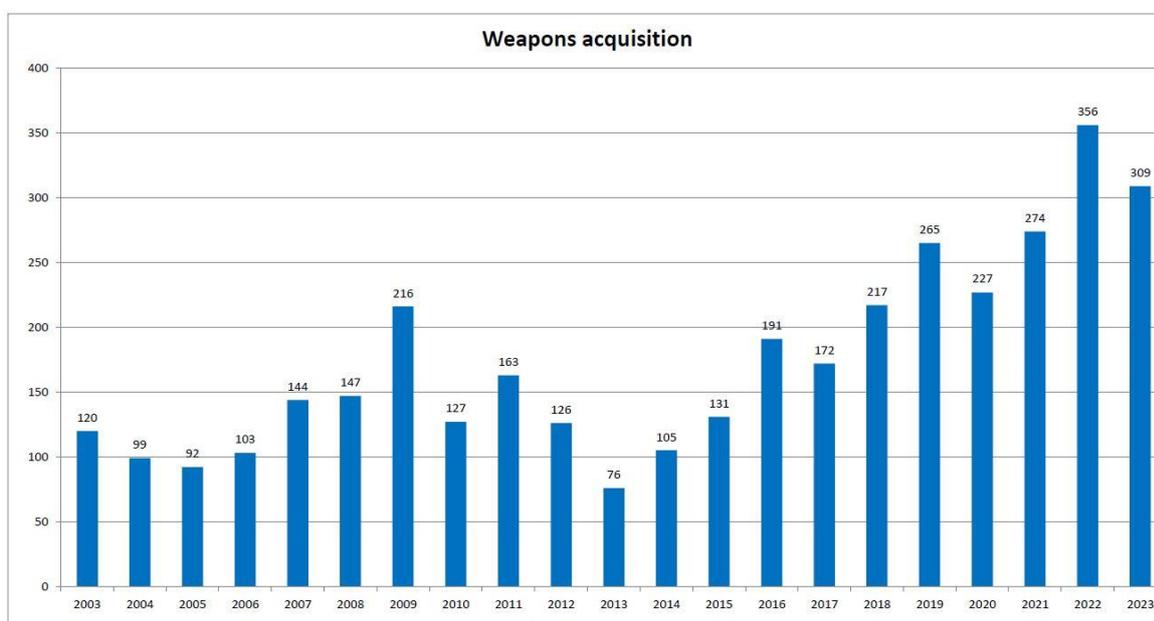
Since Liechtenstein's participation in the ISF Borders (2018 until mid-2023), 4.7 million euros in project costs have been refinanced through the fund. This corresponds to a very good refinancing ratio of 80%.

The organisationally and functionally independent ISF department at the National Police is responsible for the proper administration of the fund money, monitoring of the national programme and its projects, and for all communications with the European Commission. The costs of the ISF staff unit and the expenses for the audit of the financial control are refinanced 100% by the EU.

11 Weapons

11.1. Weapon purchase licences

The number of weapon purchase licences issued decreased in the reporting year. Thus, 309 weapon purchase licences were issued, compared with 356 in the previous year.



11.2. Weapons carrying licences

Anyone who wishes to carry a weapon in publicly accessible places in Liechtenstein and can prove a justified need to do so must first pass a theoretical and practical exam at the National Police. The number of weapons carrying licences issued increased by 8 in the reporting year to 55 (2022: 47), with all licences being issued exclusively to people from the security industry.

11.3. European Firearms Pass

The European Firearms Pass simplifies cross-border travel with firearms, especially for hunters and sports shooters. The number of European Firearms Passes issued in the reporting year decreased, with 35 passes issued (2022: 53). There were no significant reasons for a fluctuation in this area.

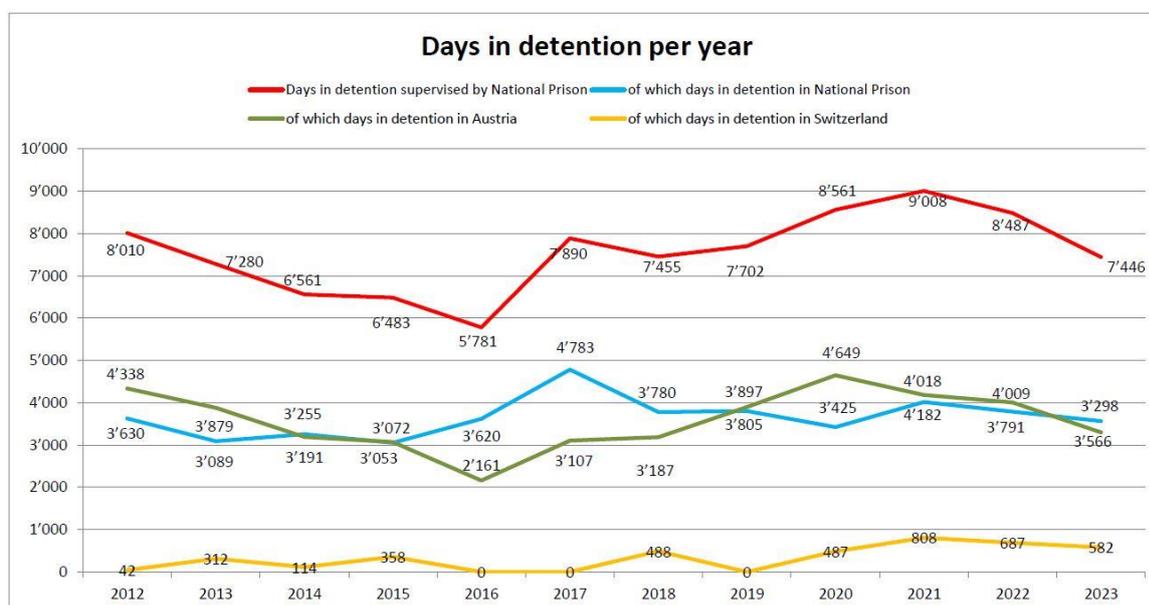
12 National Prison

12.1. National Prison occupancy

In the reporting year, a total of 48 people were incarcerated in the National Prison in Vaduz, which was ten fewer than in the previous year. The majority of the prisoners were men (46), while only two women were incarcerated. The number of days in detention decreased compared with the previous year from 3,791 (2022) to 3,566.

Detentions in the National Prison	2023	2022
Total detentions	48	58
of which men	46	56
of which juveniles	0	0
of which women	2	2
of which juveniles	0	0
Total days in detention	3,566	3,791
of which men	3,534	3,755
of which juveniles	0	0
of which women	32	36
of which juveniles	0	0
Detentions by law/reason	48	58
of which criminal law (total)	32	31
of which Aliens Act	13	14
of which Police Act	2	2
of which extraditions	1	7
of which imprisonment for failure to pay a fine	0	4

It continues to be the case that the most common reasons for incarcerations were violations of the Criminal Code, followed by incarcerations for violations of the Aliens Act (including deportations).



12.2. Support

A total of 245 regular visits to the inmates in the National Prison were recorded in the reporting year. In addition, detained persons received 159 visits from their legal counsel and 67 visits from psychosocial professionals. The prison doctor visited the National Prison a total of 59 times, carrying out 177 consultations.

12.3. Remands

People who are detained on certain legal grounds during the investigation procedure on suspicion of committing a criminal offence are said to be remanded in custody. In the reporting year, more new incidences of imprisonment on remand were recorded compared to the previous year. Of the total of 16 remands in the reporting year, three people had Liechtenstein citizenship, whereas the remaining 13 people remanded were foreign citizens with their place of residence abroad.

Remands	2023	2022
Total remands	16	14
of which Liechtenstein citizens	3	2
of which foreign citizens with place of residence in LI	0	2
of which foreign citizens with place of residence abroad	13	10

12.4. Sentences served abroad

Due to the treaty with Austria from 1983, prison sentences for convicted offenders were primarily served in Austrian prisons. The same applies to the execution of court-ordered measures. Since the start of 2017, shorter prison sentences are also no longer served in Vaduz due to the revamp of the penal system, as the legal requirements for timely and lawful execution of sentences can no longer be met in full (e.g.

employment, free time, etc.). It has been agreed with the Canton of St. Gallen that the Saxerriet Cantonal Prison can be used to prepare Liechtenstein prisoners for release.

Transfers abroad to carry out custodial sentences or measures are generally arranged as soon as the sentences take legal effect. Thus, a total of 16 prisoners spent 3,298 days in detention in Austrian prisons as part of serving their sentences or carrying out their measures. This is fewer days in detention than in the previous year (2022: 4,009). In 2023, seven people (2022: 5) were detained in Saxerriet in Switzerland for 582 days (2022: 687).

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