

2024



**Annual report**



DROHNE  
POLIZEI

DJI



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# A demanding year for the National Police

An increase in staffing levels, an adjustment to the organisational structure and the introduction of the 'DiPOL' digital police station are just a few of the focus areas and challenges that marked 2024 for the National Police.

In late February 2024, the government acknowledged and validated the National Police's 'Personnel Planning 2024–2028' report and approved a new target of 160 additional posts plus five surplus posts. The personnel report reflects the changing security situation in Europe in the wake of Russia's attack on Ukraine and the Hamas invasion of Israel, combined with the military conflict it triggered in the Middle East. All sections of the National Police were reinforced and thus placed in a better condition to react to growing demands in domestic security. Staffing levels should be achieved through continual recruitment until 2028. This bolstering of numbers in the corps will be particularly demanding in light of the numerous foreseeable pensions that will become payable in the next few years.

## **Adjustment to the organisational structure**

The government has also decided that the National Police's organisational structure is to be adjusted. Now, the National Police is to have four main divisions from May 2025, instead of the previous three. In view of the constantly growing importance of IT and technical solutions in police work, a separate 'Police Technology & Infrastructure' department is to be created that will handle all police-specific IT demands and work in close cooperation with the

Office for Information Technology (OIT). This enabled the flagship project to secure 'Business Continuity Management (BCM)' for the National Police's central security system (emergency calling, alarms, blue light radio and dispatching) to be accomplished in collaboration with the OIT. For the first time, the core systems needed for these central police services are now available in a geo-redundant manner. This means that the 'life-saving' security services in our country – in the truest sense of the term – can continue to be provided from an 'emergency operating centre' even in the event of a total failure of the police building.

The 'DiPOL' digital police station was also implemented, which allows people to complete various police formalities easily online using their eID (notices of loss, reports, applications for weapon licences, traffic fines, etc.). The fine notices tucked under windscreen wipers now have a QR code so that people can pay their fines online via the DiPOL. In collaboration with the municipality of Vaduz, the video surveillance system for the Rheinpark Stadion stadium was fully renewed and expanded. The National Police now has a professional monitoring structure for staying in control of high-risk matches at Rheinpark.

4

instead of  
3 main divisions

### Demanding core business

Alongside these complex projects, the Police's core operations of protecting public safety and prosecuting crime remained very challenging. One offence of homicide just before Christmas in particular placed the National Police under a heavy load during the festive period. Because the victim and the perpetrator were related, there was never any danger to the general public. In addition, 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 2024. The overall crime rate fell marginally in 2024 to 1,373 offences committed (-1%). The clear-up rate also fell from 69% to 64%. With regard to cybercrime, on the other hand, in both the narrow and the broad sense, marked increases were observed, which is hardly surprising. The number of traffic accidents fell by 8% in 2024, although the number of accidents where people were injured and the number of injured people unfortunately rose. Three fatal traffic accidents were also recorded.

In 2024 there were also several special operations abroad. For example, as part of its collaboration with Swiss authorities, the National Police was deployed at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, and at the Ukraine summit on the Bürgenstock. The National Police's significant expertise in personal protection, gleaned from its numerous domestic operations, was particularly appreciated. Returning illegal immigrants to countries outside of Europe is always a particular challenge. The preparations and discussions with the target country are costly and take weeks, and large numbers of staff are required in order to bring an illegal immigrant back to their home country. For the asylum system to be credible, functioning enforcement and the significant use of resources required for it are absolutely essential.

### Joint exercises

To guarantee professional collaboration in the event of accidents in the mountains, two joint exercises also took place in 2024 between the National Police, the Liechtenstein Mountain Rescue Service and rescue dog handlers. The BMI helicopter stationed at Hohenems also took part in one of these exercises for the first time. This was possible because an agreement has been in place since 2023 on collaboration with the Austrian aviation police.

The National Police was represented at the LIHGA trade fair in 2024 for the first time since 2018. Together with the National Road Office, the National Police ran a stand for visitors. The central themes of the event were 'the police profession' and 'trend vehicles'. In view of the personnel requirements for the National Police over the coming years, the most important thing is to drum up interest as working for the Police amongst young people. Trainee police officers were also at the stand for this reason, to talk about their own experience of the training. At the same time, information was provided on the permitted use of trend vehicles such as e-bikes, scooters and Onewheels. The National Police's offering garnered a great deal of interest, and, of course, the younger visitors were most excited about the police car.

**Jules S. Hoch**  
Police Chief

**1%**

fewer offences

# 85.5 per cent of posts filled

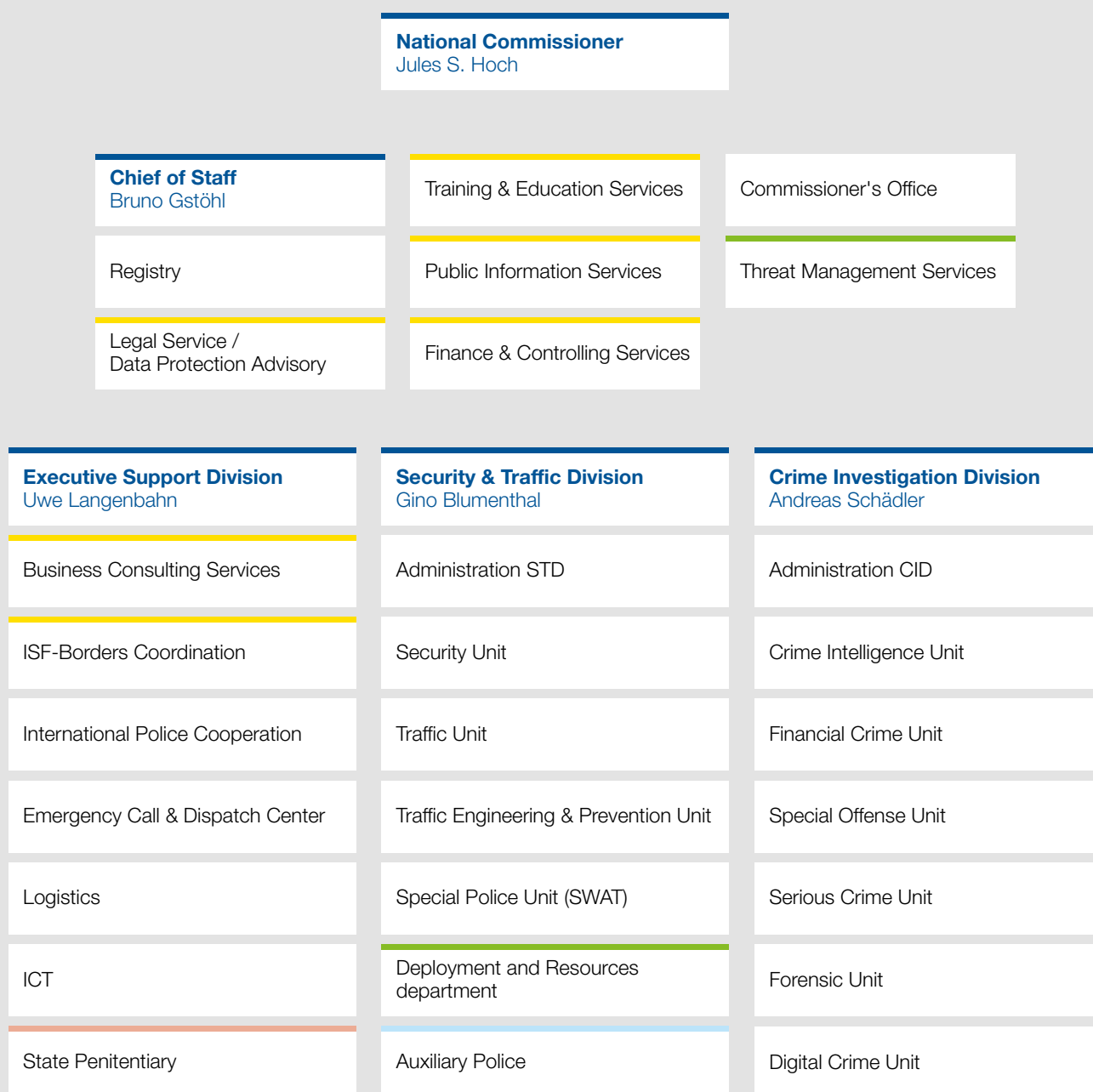
The 90 police officers are supported by 37 riot police officers where required.

**136.8**

of 160 posts filled

In 2024, the National Police had a target headcount of 160 staff plus five surplus posts (excluding the National Prison). Of these, as at the end of 2024 there was a total headcount of 136.8 (excluding the National Prison) (2023: 127.3): 90.9 police officer posts with official functions, 22.0 civilian staff posts with police functions (forensic science, international police cooperation, digital crime, etc.) and 23.9 administrative employees. In addition, four police cadets have been in training since October 2023 and five since October 2024, and they will be admitted to the police force in autumn 2025 and 2026, respectively, upon successful completion of their two-year basic training. The National Police was supported by 37 riot police officers. At the National Prison, 6.0 jobs were filled by prison officers.

## National Police organisational chart







# An average of 30 dispatches were made per day

The number of dispatches to the National Emergency Call and Operations Centre requiring dispatches rose year on year.

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 and ambulance emergency calls, initiating the necessary immediate measures and dispatching the emergency services.

In 2024, a total of 9,343 calls (2023: 9,165) 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 2%. The majority of callers dialled the police emergency number 117, followed by the ambulance service emergency number 144 and the international emergency number 112. From the calls received, a total of 11,265 dispatches were made (police 8,116, ambulance 2,888 and fire 261), which was a significant increase (2023: 9,646). In total, this amounts to an average of 30 dispatches per day.

**9,343**

reports received  
by the LNEZ

# 78 suspicious activity reports were made via the Whistleblower System

The anonymous whistleblower system was accessed a total of 1,116 times.

**1,116**

accesses recorded

The National Police runs a whistleblower platform secured with state-of-the-art technology for giving public and 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 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 meta-data 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 2024, a total of 1,116 accesses to the whistleblower platform were recorded. Among these, 78 suspicious activity reports were filed, which were processed by staff specialising in corruption offences (13 reports on economic offences, 22 on money laundering and six on corruption). In five cases, a report was made to the Liechtenstein public prosecutor's office, resulting in criminal proceedings being opened in two cases.

# Number of reports received in decline

The Threat Management Department received few reports in 2024 than in 2023.

The Threat Management Department (FBM)'s areas of responsibility include not only traditional threat management but also police psychological activities, the operational management of the negotiation group, peer coordination, specialist support for other departments and acting as an internal coordination department for domestic violence.

Requests for advice, coordination and specialist interventions are manifested in the Department's increased participation in councils, including the Negotiation Group Steering Committee (NG) of the Swiss Police Institute and the coordination group appointed by the government to implement the Istanbul Convention.

## **Inter-force exchange**

In 2024, the National Police hosted a 'peer congress' for the first time. This congress was organised by the peer managers of several Eastern Switzerland police forces, the St. Gallen Professional Fire Brigade and the St. Gallen Rescue Service. Alongside two specialist presentations and guided workshops, participants were also given the opportunity to exchange between forces.

An intensive exchange took place once again in 2024 with Swiss violence protection departments. In addition, a recently founded Swiss working group on 'Cantonal Threat Management' now offers the possibility of networking as specialists. The National Police department represents the Eastern Switzerland Police Police Concordat and the Threat and Risk Management Department of St. Gallen Cantonal Police. The department was introduced at a 'Risk Analysis and Assessment/Threat Management' workshop in Bavaria in 2024, enabling it to extend its network into the southern German-speaking sector.

Alongside exchanges with foreign colleagues, however, collaboration with the various domestic departments is also taking on a significant role. To this ends spokespersons from external departments were invited to a specialist exchange for the first time in 2024.

56

fewer reports  
received in 2024**Number of reports in decline**

In 2024, 59 reports were received by the FBM (2023: 115). Of those reports, 14 were reopened cases that had previously been closed (2023: 22), and seven enquiries (2023: 9) were conducted as anonymous behavioural counselling. In seven cases, the specialist unit provided internal specialist support that was not directly related to threat management.

Categories of increased readiness to use violence	2024	2023
Domestic violence	16	26
Threatening behaviour towards a public authority / institution	7	17
Psychological abnormality	8	19
Threatening behaviour in general	14	12
Threatening behaviour at the workplace	3	9
Extremism	1	1
Stalking	1	5
Sexual assault	2	2
Specialist support	7	24

Alongside the aforementioned new entries, over 30 cases were handled from 2023 continued to be handled by the department in 2024.

**Reports of domestic violence in decline**

A total of 195 reports were received by the National Police in connection with domestic violence or disputes (2023: 251). 51 (2023: 59) were cases of criminal violence and were referred to the public prosecutor's office. 144 reports received concerned events that did not constitute criminal offences, hence the parties involved were recorded as "persons involved" instead of designating victims and offenders.

**Repeated intervention partly necessary**

As in 2023, numerous repeated reports involved (family) situations with a high potential for conflict: of the 195 reports received, 97 related to people who required repeated interventions by the National Police due to domestic conflicts.

A distinction is made between physical violence (23; 2023: 32), psychological violence (169; 2023: 213), i.e. verbal disputes and humiliation that is not classed as an offence, sexual violence (1; 2023: 5) and economic violence (2; 2023: 1). With regard to victim-offender relationships, 89 cases (2023: 153) involved conflicts in existing relationships and 60 cases (2023: 39) involved former relationships. There were 41 (2023: 41) reports related to intergenerational violence in the home; in five cases (2023: 18), a family relationship (e.g. siblings) was identified.

Persons involved in cases of domestic violence at a glance:	2024	2023
Male perpetrators	51	75
Female perpetrators	12	6
Male victims	14	2
Female victims	49	19
Juvenile perpetrators	0	1
Young victims (of which 2 not directly involved)	2	4
Children (< 14 years old) (of which 14 not directly involved)	73	91
Young persons involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	4	0
Male involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator / victim role, e.g. disputes)	146	33
Female involved (in incidents without clear perpetrator / victim role, e.g. disputes)	135	30

*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).*

30

cases from 2023  
were also  
processed in 2024



**The National Police's measures at a glance:**

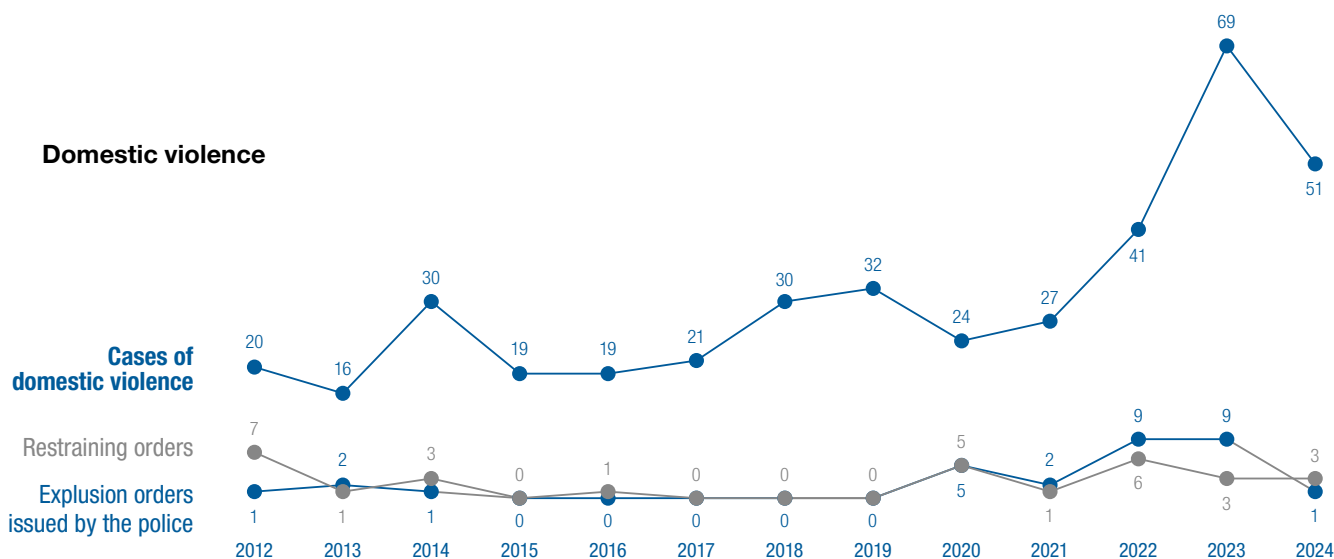
	2024	2023
De-escalation dialogue	161	221
Triage / arrangement of further help (esp. Office of Social Services)	60	72
Bringing in other help on the ground (esp. crisis intervention team, emergency doctor)	18	36
Expulsion order issued by the police	3	3
Restraining order	1	9
Police custody	2	0
Direct dialogue with threatening individuals by the Threat Management department	5	4

**High potential for conflict**

The high potential for conflict in the domestic sphere, with a pronounced need for counselling and support, was also observed in 2024. In many cases, the National Police were deployed without police jurisdiction being established on site. Nonetheless, the situation was often calmed by de-escalating discussions and providing information on possible support services and legal information. To meet this need, the National Police has a 'Support information in the event of conflict at home' flyer, which is given to those affected.

*Note: were, owing to an absence of "directness" (Art. 24g, para. 1 Police Act), a prohibition of access or contact is not issued, the National Police nonetheless supports the issue of protective measures by the National Court. These cases are not taken into account in the above statistics as they fall within the remit of the courts.*

**Domestic violence**





# The wide-ranging field of intervention

Arraignments on behalf of the National Prison absorbs resources uniformed police resources.

The security and traffic police are responsible for basic police services on duty around the clock in shifts. They are dispatched for 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.).

A broad portion of their interventions comprise public order operations. In 2024, the National Police performed 33 public order operations at football matches (2023: 34). In the context of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat, the National Police undertook twelve public order operations in Switzerland, including at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos and at the Ukraine Conference on the Bürgenstock.

A total of 40 special security services were provided (carnival processions, fairs, assistance operations by the intervention unit, etc.), which was three fewer than in the previous year.

Security police work and services (excerpt)	2024	2023
Public order service operations in Liechtenstein	33	34
Public order service operations abroad	12	8
Security service operations	40	43
Intervention unit operations	12	18
Personal protection operations	21	17
Arraignments	145	–

*Note: previously, the number of arraignments was not listed separately in the Annual Report.*

Operations of the special intervention unit fell in 2024 in comparison with 2023. 12 dispatches with high risk potential were recorded (2023: 18). There were 21 dispatches for personal protection incidents. These incidents also included operations at international conferences and during state visits. A total of 145 arraignments were carried out for the National Prison – such as doctor's visits or National Court appointments. These absorbed a considerable level of uniformed police resources.

## 145

arraignments were carried out in 2024



## The number of traffic accidents is down slightly

In 2024, three persons lost their lives in traffic accidents.

**3**

traffic accidents  
had fatal  
outcomes

The number of road traffic accidents, at 442, was down by 8% in 2024 compared to the previous year (2023: 482). However, accidents with injuries rose by 15% to 98 (2023: 85), and accidents with injuries rose by 29% to 117 (2023: 91). Of these, 38 people were seriously injured. In 2024, there were three fatal traffic accidents.

In 26% 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 44% of the suspects. 85% of all road traffic accidents took place in built-up areas. Only 66 accidents were recorded on roads outside built-up areas.

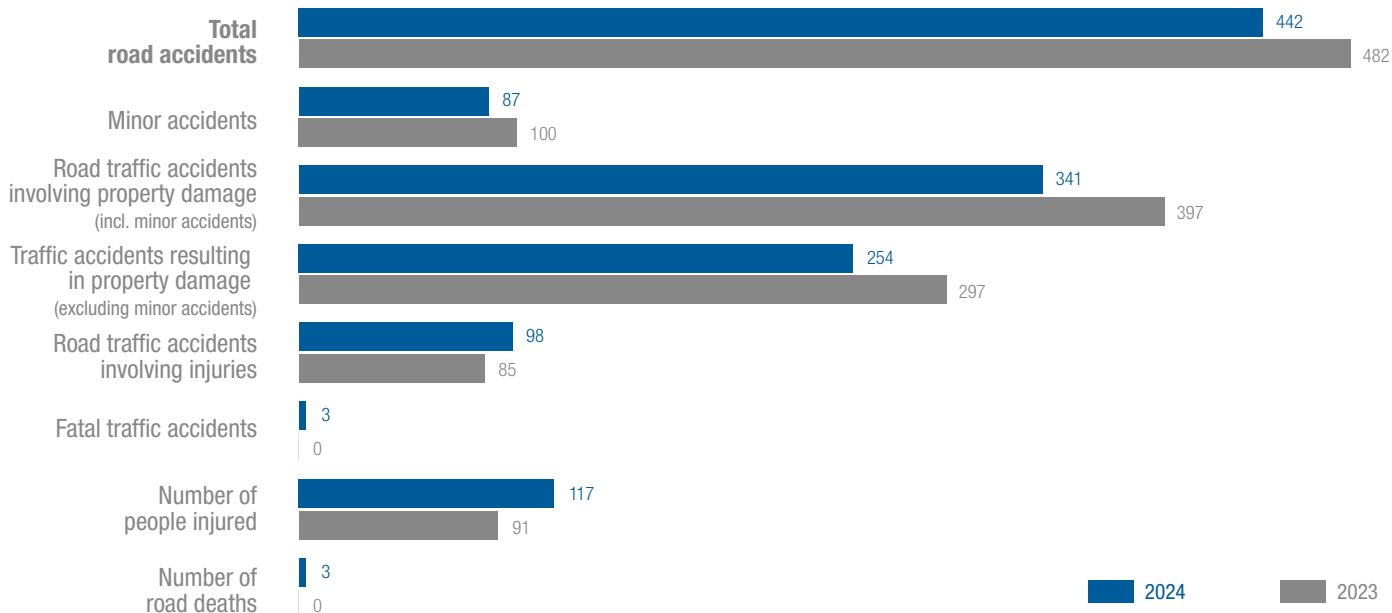
The number of accidents due to impaired driving ability fell slightly in 2024, to 40 (2023: 41). This includes accidents caused by the consumption of alcohol, drugs or medication, and fatigue.



12% of the accidents were attributable to 'loss of control of the vehicle'.



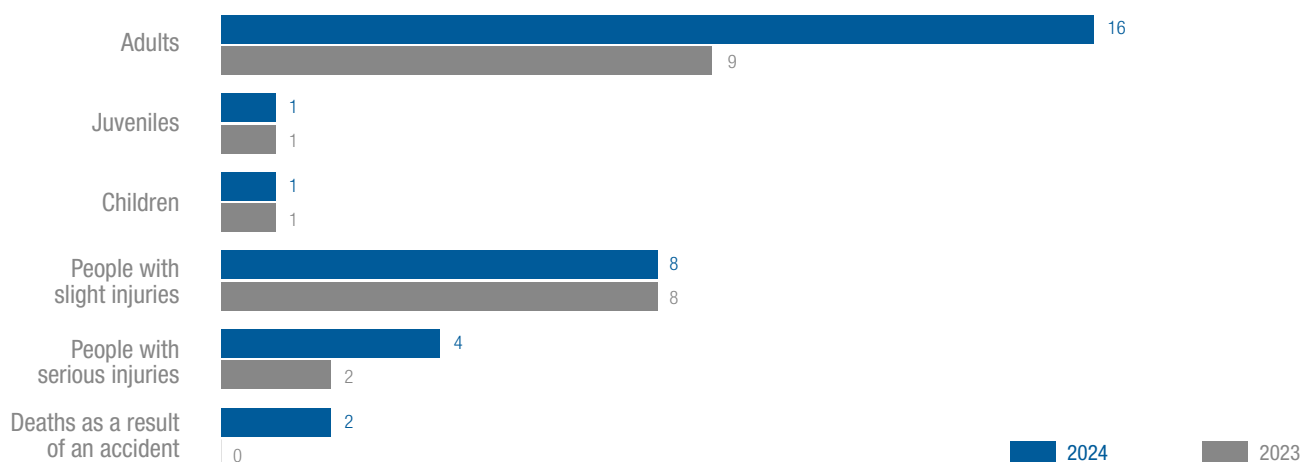
### Road traffic accidents



### Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians

The number of road traffic accidents involving pedestrians increased slightly in 2024. Eighteen accidents were recorded in the reporting year, which is seven more than in 2023. One child and one young person were involved in accidents. Eight people involved in accidents had minor injuries and four were seriously injured.

### Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians

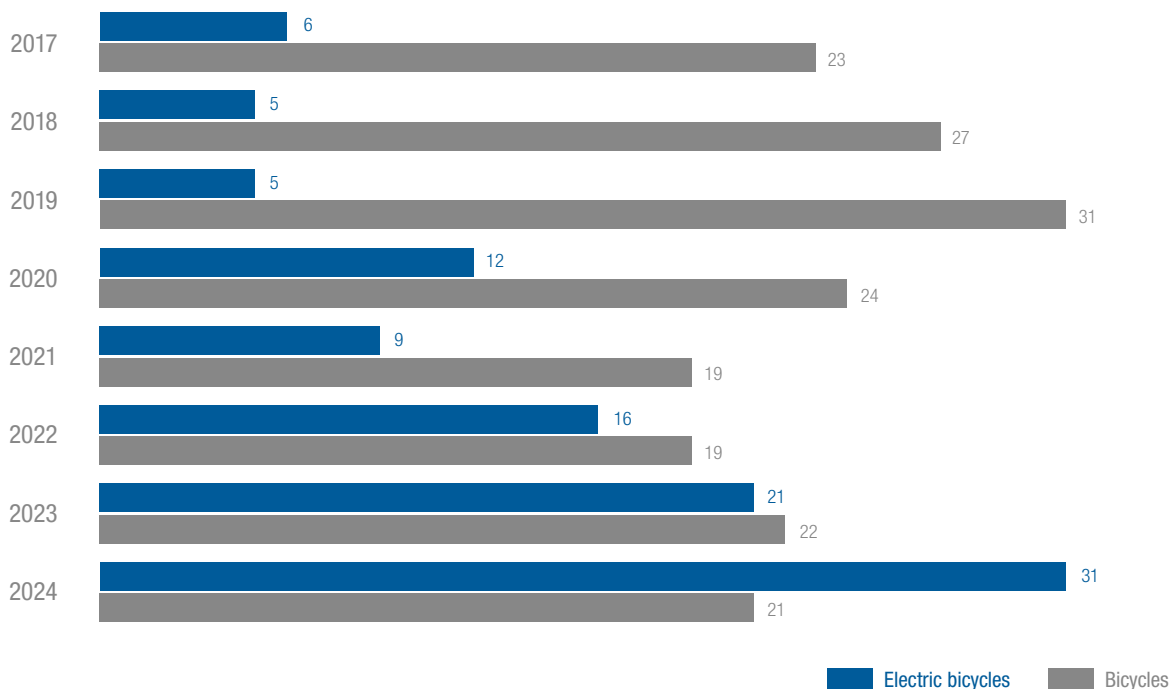


### Road traffic accidents involving bicycles and e-bikes

The number of road traffic accidents involving bicycles or e-bikes increased by 9 compared with the previous year (2024: 52, 2023: 43). The average age of the people injured was 49.9 (2023: 42.5).

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.

### Road traffic accidents involving bicycles

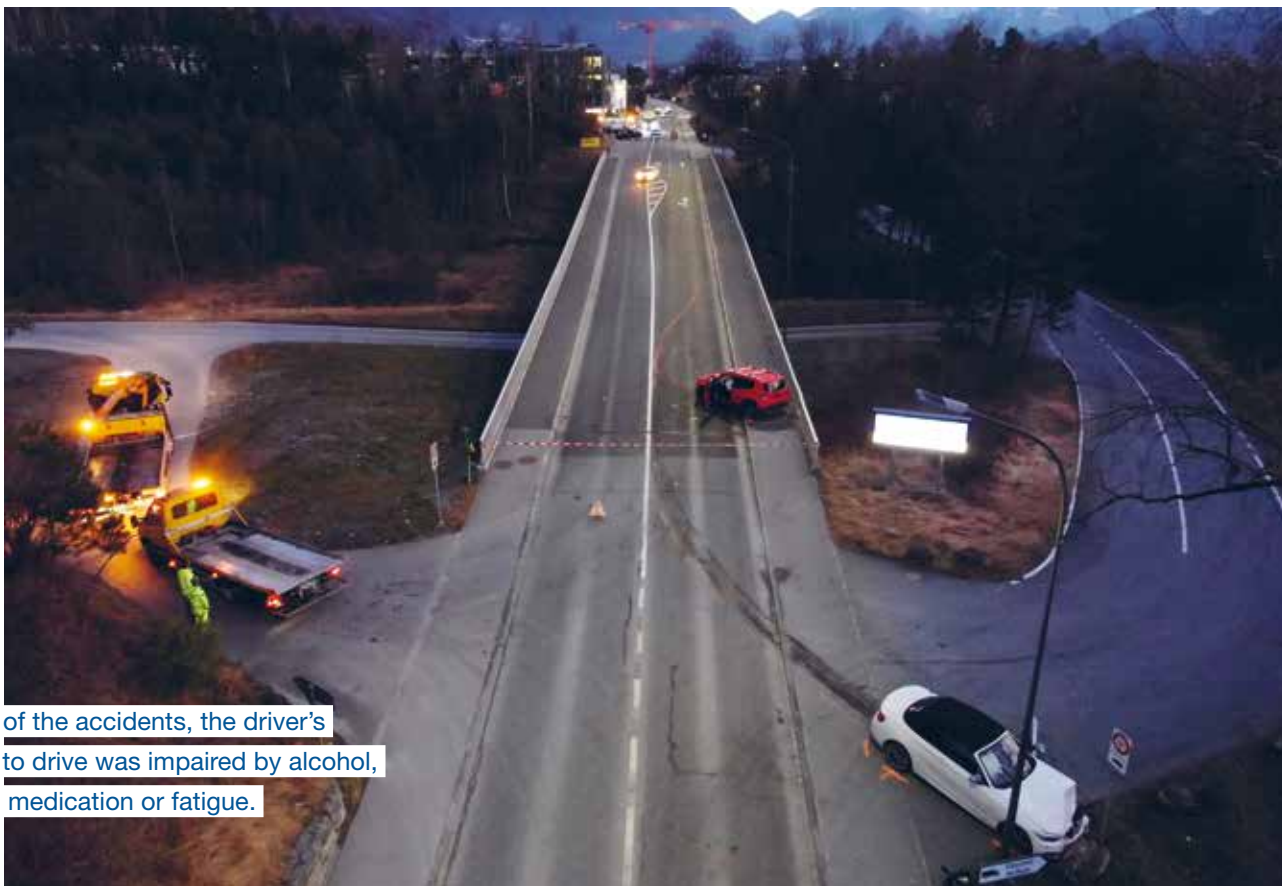


**34 %**  
of the accidents were attributable to distraction

### Being distracted is the most frequent cause of accidents

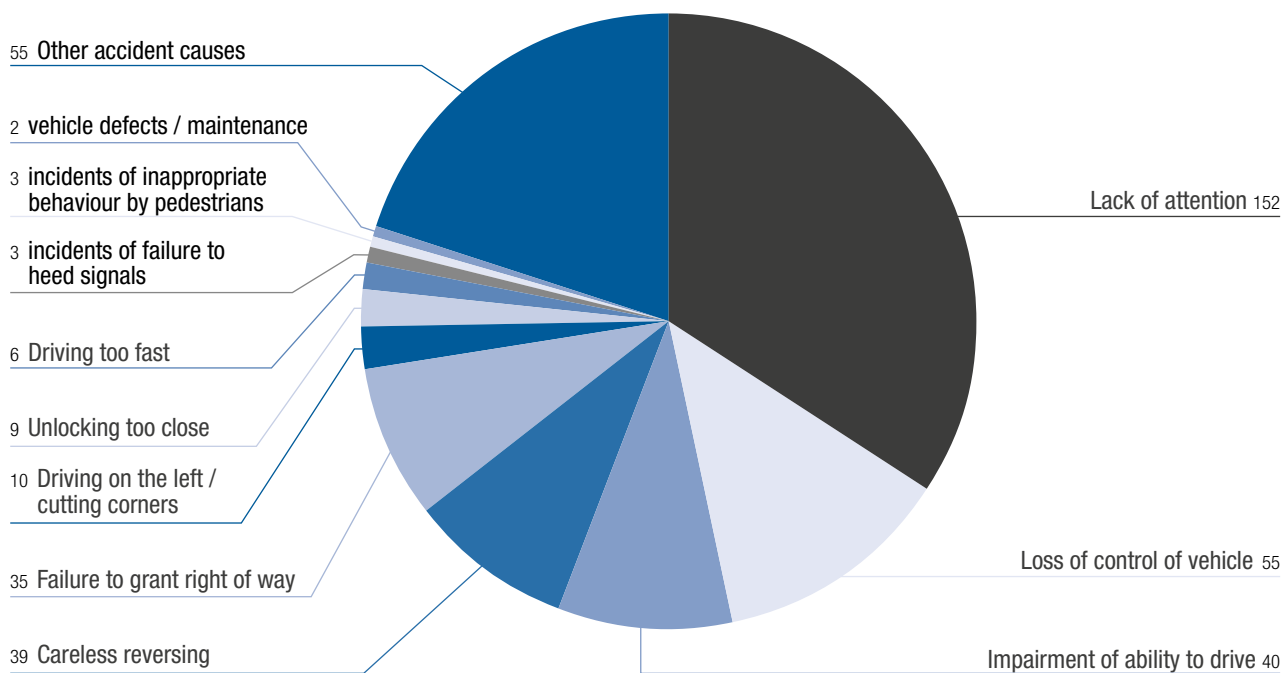
The list of causes of accidents in 2024 was topped by ‘failure to pay attention’ once again. More than a third of all accidents – 34% – are caused by the operator of the vehicle being distracted, whether by the environment, passengers or mobile phones. Other causes of accidents included loss of control of the vehicle (12%), 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 (20%) includes failing to maintain a sufficient distance, failure to heed signals, careless lane changes, vehicle defects or inappropriate behaviour by pedestrians.



In 9% of the accidents, the driver's ability to drive was impaired by alcohol, drugs, medication or fatigue.

**Most common causes of accidents in 2024**



## 34,271 administrative fines issued

The main focus of road safety work is on securing and monitoring school routes and on speed control.

**189**

traffic lessons  
given.

The National Police takes a fundamentally preventative approach to traffic safety. The two traffic instructors from the National Police again 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 in 2024. Pupils were able to gain practical experience at the traffic practice area in Schellenberg and practise correct behaviour when cycling on the roads.

### **The way to school: safety and monitoring**

In addition to these teaching units, the area of safety and monitoring on the way to school was also central in 2024. The National Police were deployed on 401 occasions in 2024 (2023: 434) at busy junctions, roundabouts and roads with roadworks and helped children on their way to school.

The main focus of speed checks is on monitoring school routes and serves to calm traffic on sensitive stretches of road. In addition, the National Police is being increasingly asked by municipalities and private individuals to monitor traffic due to roadworks diversions in residential neighbourhoods. The National Police is setting up eight traffic monitoring units for this purpose (four in the two semi-stationary and two in the mobile speed monitoring system and two in the two red light/speed systems). Fortunately, no monitoring systems failed for technical reasons in 2024, so the number of operating days was higher than in the previous year (2024: 2,600, 2023: 2,389). As a result, a total of 3% more administrative fines were issued (2024: 34,271, 2023: 33,354). The number of requests for legal assistance from foreign authorities for road traffic offences fell by 3% to 352.



The traffic instructors of the National Police gave almost 190 lessons in traffic lessons.



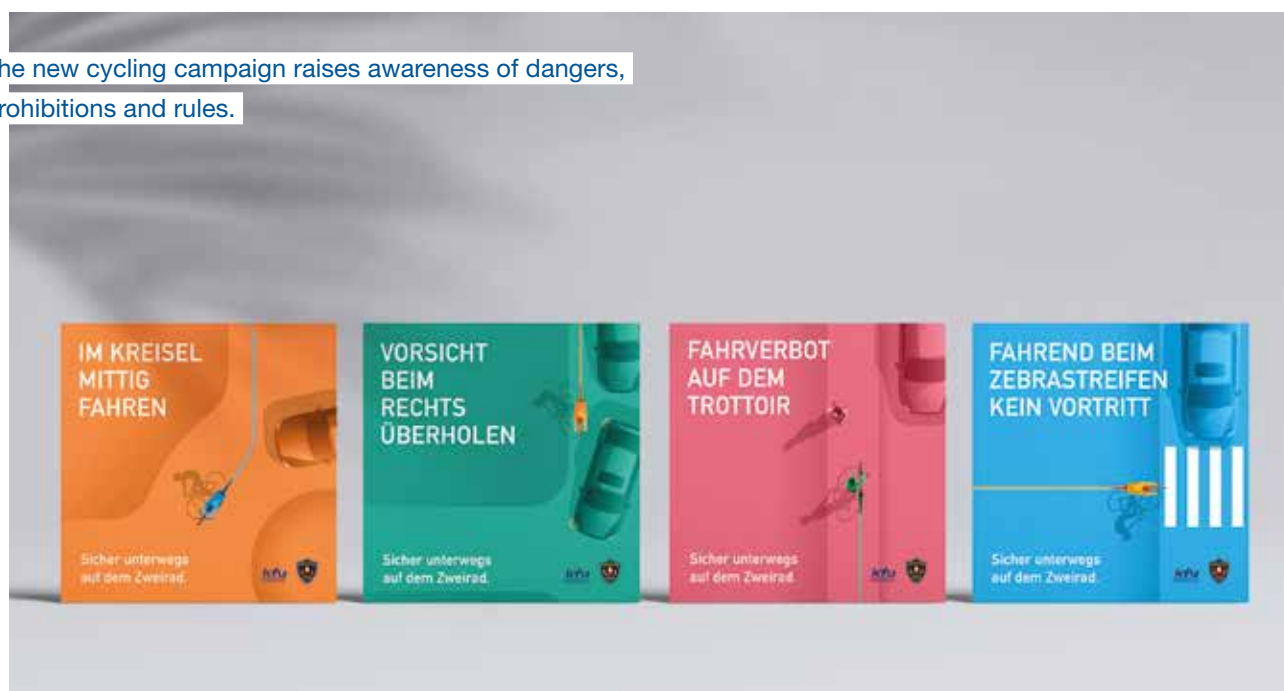
## Bicycles in the spotlight in a new traffic campaign

The National Police continued its tried and tested campaigns in 2024 and launched a new one.

Further prevention campaigns are to be developed and launched in 2024 in collaboration with the Accident Prevention Commission. Public awareness was raised via the following campaigns: 'Safe travels by bicycle', designed to remind cyclists of the highway code, 'Please strap in. Even for short journeys', on the importance of wearing a seatbelt, 'Back to school + road traffic = look out for children!' for the start

of school, the 'Eye contact for clarity' campaign, distraction with the slogan "#streetfluencer", safety in the dark with the slogan 'Fear the fog – make sure you can be seen by traffic', and campaigns about drink-driving.

The new cycling campaign raises awareness of dangers, prohibitions and rules.





# Fewer criminal offences

The clear-up rate is slightly down.

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 (published on page 30).

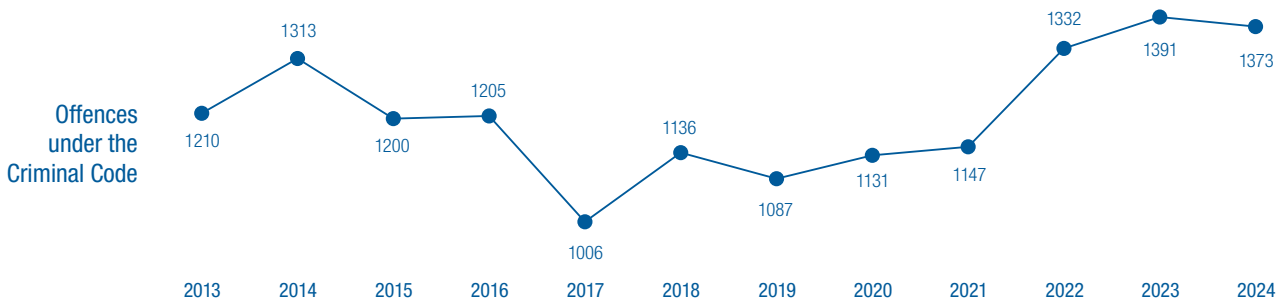
### Total crime and clear-up rate

The number of offences under the Criminal Code fell by 1% in 2024 compared to 2023. An exact total of 1,373 offences were registered in 2024, compared to 1,391 in 2023. Despite this minor downturn, the crime rate in a ten-year comparison remained higher than the annual average range of 1,000 to 1,200.

Although the clear-up rate fell by 5% in 2024 (2024: 64%; 2023: 69%), it is still a respectable value when compared at an international level. In addition to offences under the Criminal Code, offences under the Narcotics Act are also taken into account when calculating the clear-up rate.

**64%**  
of crimes were solved

Criminal acts according the penal code



**Most suspects were male**

564 people committed offences under the Criminal Code in 2024. This is 20 more than in the previous year (2023: 544). The breakdown of nationalities switched to a slightly unfavourable bias towards Liechtenstein citizenship. In 2024, 32% of suspects were Liechtenstein nationals, as against 28% in 2023. 68% (2023: 72%) of suspects identified were foreign nationals. The portion of female suspects remained lower than that of male suspects, as in previous years, although at 22% it was slightly higher than in 2023 (20%).

There was a slight increase in the number of people who were subjected to procedures to establish their identity (fingerprints, photo, buccal swab) to 116 in 2024 (2023: 86). The number of back-ups of mobile phones, computers and other IT devices fell somewhat to 183 (2023: 205).

The number of unusual deaths (suicide, discovery of a corpse, etc.) rose slightly to 19 as against the previous year (2023: 16). Two of these unusual deaths were by suicide.

**45**

minor suspects committed 35 acts of violence

**Youth violence decreasing**

In 2024, 45 (2023: 44) underage suspects were identified, who were responsible for a total of 35 acts of violence (2023: 61). This number is 26 lower than for the previous year (2023: 61).

There were 36 male suspects. Fifteen of the suspects were below 14 years of age, with the remaining 30 aged between 14 and 18. Bodily harm made up the large proportion of the offences, followed by threatening behaviour and damage to property.

Looking at the citizenship of the underage suspects, it can be seen that 66.6% of suspects had Liechtenstein citizenship in 2024.

**Criminal police work**

A total of 59 searches and voluntary house inspections were carried out in 2024 on behalf of the National Court, 10 fewer than in the previous year (2023: 69). There were 3 cases of telephone surveillance measures and internet surveillance carried out on behalf of the National Court. The number of cases involving surveillance measures rose as against the previous year, at 7 (2023: 3).

The number of people who had to be returned or extradited was 28 in 2024 (2023: 33). Due to negative asylum decisions, 21 people were sent back to their home country or to a Dublin Regulation state. Seven people were extradited to or from Liechtenstein under an international arrest warrant.

<b>Criminal police work and services (excerpt)</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
House searches / voluntary house inspections	59	69
Telephone/internet surveillance	3	0
Observations	7	3
Deportation / extraditions (number of people)	28	33
People subjected to procedures to establish their identity	116	86
Back-ups	183	205
Unusual deaths	19	16



## Increase in economic crimes

Asset/property, violence and drug offences are in decline.

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.

### Number of economic crimes rose

The number of economic crimes rose by 13% in 2024 to 333 offences (2023: 296). As in the previous year, most were recorded in the fraud / embezzlement category (2024: 224, 2023: 197).

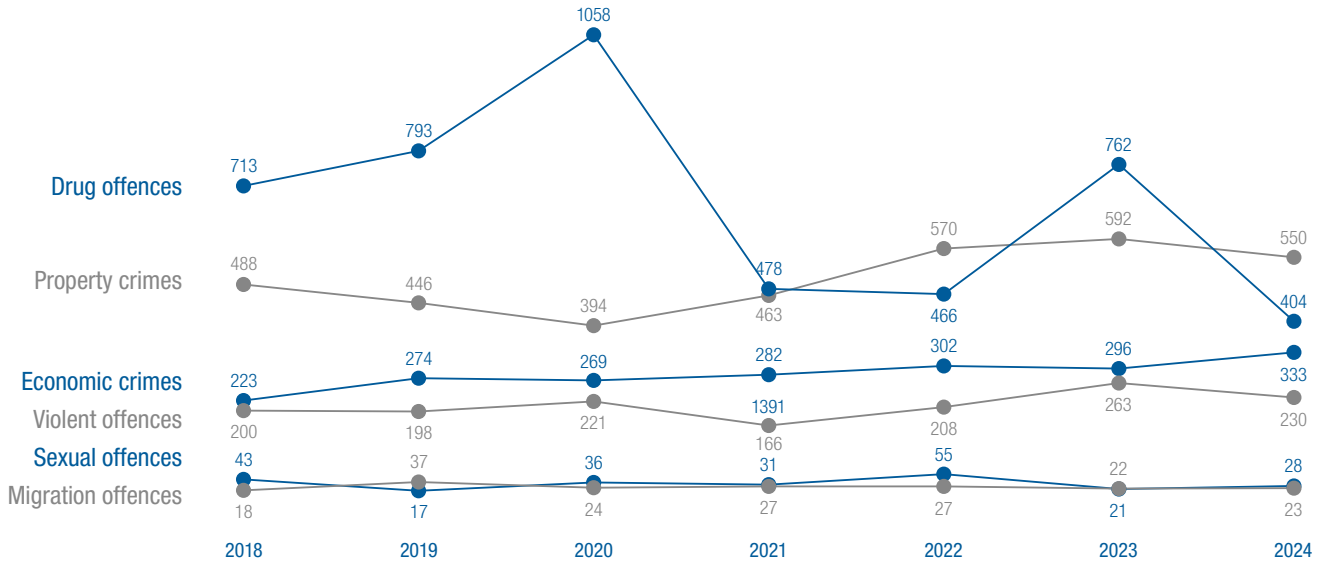
### Fewer burglaries reported

Property crimes fell by 7% to 550 (2023: 592). Theft was the most frequently committed offence, followed by burglaries and property damage. There was a 23% decrease in burglaries, to 144 offences (2023: 186).

**7%**

fewer property crimes than in 2024

Six-year comparison of crime statistics



**Violent and sexual offences**

The number of violent offences recorded this year decreased by 13% to 230 (2023: 263). There was one offence of homicide.

Compared with the previous year, the number of sexual offences rose by 7 to 28 (2023: 21). This change is mainly due to the fact that there were more reports of illegal pornography.

**Drugs offences decreased**

Criminal offences under the Narcotics Act have fallen sharply and are back to 2022 levels after the high increase last year. 404 offences (2023: 762) and 97 suspects (2023: 195) were recorded by the police. The number of offences thus fell by 47% and the number of suspects by 50% as against 2023.

Most police reports (350) were due to personal use, whereas 46 reports were due to production/growing/purchase/sale of drugs. In eight cases, it was possible to prove drug smuggling. No drug deaths were recorded in 2024.

## Cybercrime continues to rise

The number of mass phenomena reported fell slightly.

A distinction is drawn in digital crime between cybercrime in the narrow sense and cybercrime in the broad sense. 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 2024, a total of 28 offences of cybercrime in the stricter sense were recorded, which was a considerable increase compared to the previous year (2023: 15).

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 'normal' criminal offences (e.g. economic crimes or sexual offences) that are however committed in the digital space or have a digital component. The number of processed cases assigned to cybercrime in the broader sense increased by 12% to 183 cases in 2024 (2023: 163). A large proportion of the 183 cases concern cyber fraud (57%), followed by cyber sexual offences (26%), crypto enquiries (8%) and other digitally perpetrated offences (9%).

### Prevention reports where required

Reports of mass phenomena (phishing, CEO fraud, alleged inheritances, criminals posing as long-lost relatives, sextortion, etc.) in which no losses were suffered are not listed in crime statistics. The National Police nonetheless analyses incoming reports and issues the appropriate warning messages where required. A total of 450 such reports were received by the National Police in 2024 (2023: 576). It is worth noting that a large number of such offences go unnoticed, as they are simply not reported to the police.

### Migration offences remain unchanged

2024 is the number of migration offences with 23 (2023: 22) remained virtually the same. The majority of the reports were made for breaches of the entry and residence regulations (15). Three offences were recorded due to aiding and abetting illegal immigration (people smuggling).

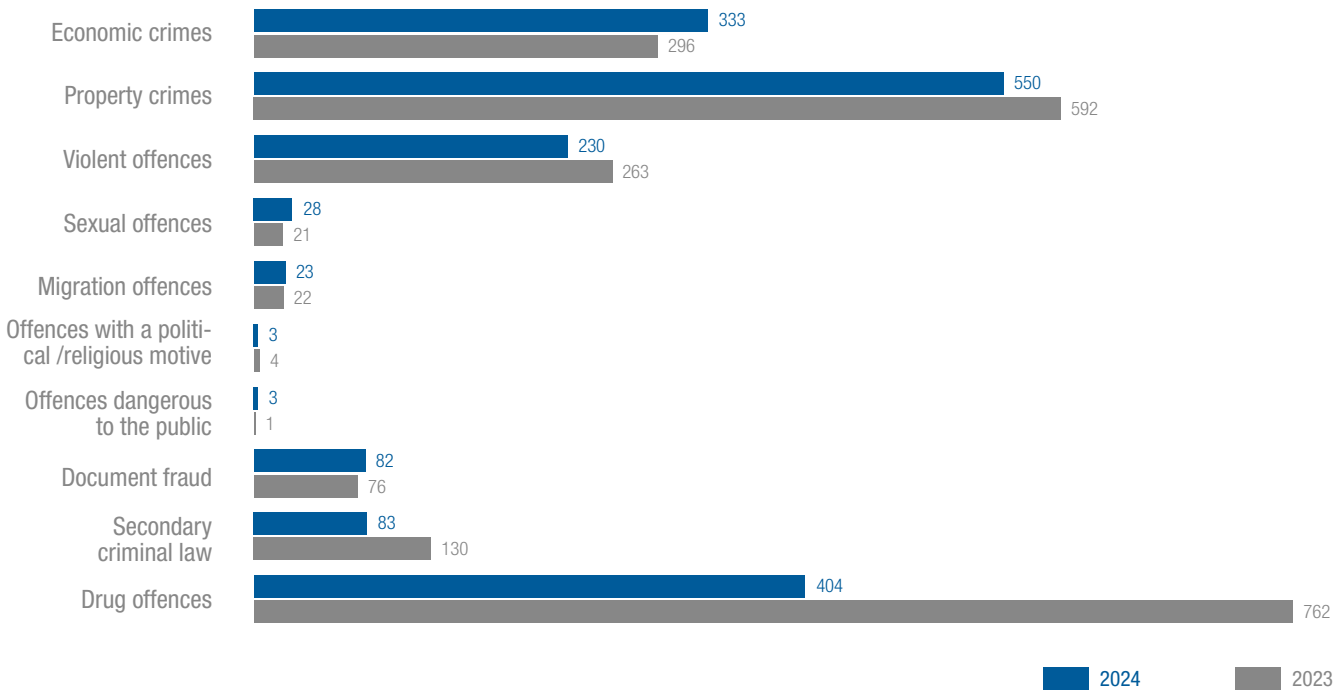
### Other secondary criminal law

The National Police is responsible for prosecuting numerous offences in accordance with administrative law and secondary criminal law. A total of 83 such offences were recorded in 2024, which represents a decrease compared with the previous year (2023: 130). Offences under the Youth Act fell to 15 (2023: 20) and offences under the Weapons Act fell by 13% to 39 (2023: 45).

**450**

reports of mass phenomena were recorded

**Criminal Code offences – crime fields (crime statistics)**



## Alpine police: at work in the mountains

Dispatches to ski slopes, hiking accidents and searches for missing persons kept the Alpine police busy.

The Alpine police reported three collision incidents on the slopes to the public prosecutor in the first quarter of 2024. In the second quarter, assistance was provided to hikers. These missions were connected with the dispatching of partner organizations of the state police, which were in particular about hikers who were exhausted and could not continue or had lost their way. A self-accident with a paraglider was also

handled by the Alpine police. In September, a climbing accident occurred in Balzers, in which the Alpine police carried out the investigation at the scene of the accident. In October, a large-scale search, in which various partner organizations were also involved, was undertaken to locate a missing person. However, the missing person was found dead.

The Alpine Police Team.





## Interpreted crime statistics at a glance

Criminal offences	2024	2023	2024/2023 change		Offences cleared up in 2024		Suspects identified		
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Total	under 18 y.	foreign
<b>1. Economic crimes</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>142</b>
Fraud / embezzlement	224	197	27	14	111	50	118	1	88
Bankruptcy offenses	4	7	-3	-43	4	100	6	0	4
Money laundering / organised crime	72	64	8	13	42	58	79	2	71
Asset forfeiture / deprovation order	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Financing of terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Corruption / insider trading	5	13	-8	-62	4	80	8	0	2
Cybercrime	28	15	13	87	8	29	8	0	6
<b>2. Property crimes</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>-42</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>145</b>
Thefts	256	245	11	4	122	48	118	21	93
of which motor vehicle thefts	20	11	9	82	7	35	8	3	6
of which bicycle thefts	33	40	-7	-18	2	6	4	1	3
Misappropriation / embezzlement / deprivation of property	31	24	7	29	22	71	28	1	20
Burglary	144	186	-42	-23	35	24	34	7	27
Receiving stolen goods	3	2	1	50	3	100	4	1	3
Criminal damage	116	135	-19	-14	53	46	65	21	41
<b>3. Violent offences</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>104</b>
Homicides	1	1	0	0	1	100	2	0	2
Bodily harm / brawls	104	93	11	12	97	93	114	23	66
Blackmail / kidnapping	10	22	-12	-55	4	40	6	0	5
Robbery	7	6	1	17	6	86	6	0	6
Threat	49	62	-13	-21	44	90	40	3	25
Coercion	36	50	-14	-28	34	94	27	2	19
Sexual assault	9	20	-11	-55	9	100	6	1	1
Violence against public servants	14	9	5	56	14	100	14	1	8
<b>4. Sexual offences</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Rape / sexual Coercion	5	6	-1	-17	5	100	5	0	1
Sexual abuse of minors	1	4	-3	-75	1	100	1	0	1
Sexual harassment / exhibitionism	6	4	2	50	2	33	2	0	1
Pimping	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
Pornography	16	6	10	167	15	94	16	7	6
<b>5. Migration offences</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
Entry and residence	15	18	-3	-17	13	87	10	0	10
Aiding and abetting	3	4	-1	-25	3	100	2	0	2
Use of identification	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	1
Work	4	0	4	na	4	100	4	0	4

Criminal offences	2024	2023	2024/2023 change		Offences cleared up in 2024		Suspects identified		
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Total	under 18 y.	foreign
<b>6. Offences with a religious motive</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Discrimination	3	3	0	0	2	67	5	1	0
Terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Espionage	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Regulatory offences	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
<b>7. Offences dangerous to the public</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Arson	3	1	2	200	3	100	4	0	1
Explosives offences	0	0	0	0	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
<b>8. Document fraud</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>
Forging documents	28	35	-7	-20	27	96	28	1	25
Forging money and securities	54	41	13	32	14	26	16	2	13
<b>9. Administration</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>-47</b>	<b>-36</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>
Weapons / explosives	39	45	-6	-13	36	92	36	2	22
Youth Act	15	20	-5	-25	11	73	12	0	6
Construction / industry / trade / tourism	3	5	-2	-40	3	100	5	0	5
Banks / fiduciaries / duty of care	5	4	1	25	5	100	9	0	6
Protection of personal security / work / intellectual property	2	2	0	0	2	100	2	0	1
Animal welfare / hunting / fishing / dog ownership	8	11	-3	-27	5	63	6	0	3
Health / environment / refuse	2	17	-15	-88	2	100	2	0	1
Legal closing time / peace / order	2	1	1	100	1	50	1	0	1
Other administrative law	7	25	-18	-72	5	71	5	0	1
<b>10. Drug offences</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>-358</b>	<b>-47</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>
Personal use	350	663	-313	-47	322	92	90	13	43
Production / growing / purchase / sale	46	87	-41	-47	42	91	19	1	13
Smuggling	8	12	-4	-33	7	88	6	0	6
<b>11. Incidents handled by the Crime Investigation Division</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Missing persons cases	19	30	-11	-37	0	0	0	0	0
Fires	19	18	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
Unusual deaths	19	16	3	19	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	2	1	1	100	0	0	0	0	0
Drug deaths	0	3	-3	na	0	0	0	0	0
Death by illness / accidents without traffic	17	12	5	42	0	0	0	0	0



# Extensive international police cooperation

The geopolitical situation was also reflected in the work of International Police Collaboration.

In 2024, members of the National Police completed the mandatory multi-stage training programme 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.

Under Schengen, Liechtenstein sent 1,137 requests to foreign police forces (2023: 1,381), and the Vaduz SIRENE office processed 36,125 requests for information (2023: 32,409) from abroad. In 2024, eleven people who were the subject of international alerts in the Schengen area were arrested on behalf of the district court (2023: 5). There was a slight increase in criminal investigation enquiries from Switzerland (2024: 3,195, 2023: 3,161).

## INTERPOL National Central Bureau

In addition to Schengen, INTERPOL, with its 196 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 2024, NCB INTERPOL Vaduz made 667 enquiries to foreign police forces (2023: 1,185), and foreign INTERPOL offices filed 23,229 enquiries worldwide, and thus also to Liechtenstein (2023: 21,527).

## Search hits

In 2024, there were numerous hits from searches for people and property (SIS, INTERPOL and other such search systems). Of these 370 hits, 135 were in Liechtenstein and 235 abroad, and the total was 38 hits higher than in the previous year (2023: 332). Twelve people were arrested in Liechtenstein under a domestic or foreign arrest warrant (2023: 14).

**36,125**

Request for information issued



## **EUROPOL**

The cooperation with EUROPOL continued in the tried and tested manner. In 2024, Liechtenstein made 777 enquiries to foreign police services (2023: 508) via the EUROPOL channel. Foreign authorities addressed 2,344 enquiries to Liechtenstein via this channel (2023: 1,568).

### **Cross-border networking**

Thanks to its participation in INTERPOL, EUROPOL and Schengen (including FRONTEX), 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 2024. In 2024, the International Police Cooperation (IPC) received 722 reports from this system (2023: 796).

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 April 2024, the police chief attended the conference in London. At the end of November, the Police Chief also represented the national police force at the INTERPOL General Assembly in Glasgow.

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.

# Challenge: prisoners with mental health issues

Rise in number of persons imprisoned and number of days in detention

The National Prison in Vaduz is the only prison in Liechtenstein and is run 24 hours a day on a shift basis. It is professionally supervised by six full-time prison officers, supported by prison personnel working on an hourly basis.

Convicted offenders serve their sentences in Austrian prisons as a matter of principle, and the National Prison is primarily used for remand, deportation or extradition prisoners and imprisonment for failure to pay a fine. Offenders who live in Liechtenstein have, since 2018, had the option of preparing release in the Saxerriet Cantonal Prison in neighbouring Switzerland, in order to get ready for life after imprisonment in a place near their home.

## National Prison occupancy

There are total of 20 beds, spread across 18 detention rooms, in the National Prison. 15 detention rooms, with 16 beds, are in the men's area, and the remaining three detention rooms, with four beds, are reserved for women. In 2024, 77 people were incarcerated in the National Prison, which is 29 more than in the previous year. The vast majority of inmates were men (69). Eight women were imprisoned in 2024.

The number of days in detention rose as against the previous year. A total of 4,152 days in detention were served in 2024, as against 3,366 in 2023. Imprisonments largely resulted from breaches of the Criminal Code (remands and the imprisonment of convicted persons who could not yet be transferred to Austria to serve their sentence), followed by imprisonments for violations of the Aliens Act (including deportations), under the Police Act and as a result of a request for legal assistance (extraditions).

**77**

persons incarcerated served 4,152 days' detention



Detentions in the National Prison	2024	2023
<b>Total detentions</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>48</b>
of which men	69	46
of which juveniles	0	0
of which women	8	2
of which juveniles	0	0
<b>Total days in detention</b>	<b>4'152</b>	<b>3'566</b>
of which men	4'061	3'534
of which juveniles	0	0
of which women	91	32
of which juveniles	0	0
<b>Detentions by law / reason</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>48</b>
of which criminal law (total)	42	32
of which Aliens Act	6	13
of which Police Act	25	2
of which extraditions	3	1
of which imprisonment for failure to pay a fine	1	0

A particular challenge for the National Prison is posed in each case by psychologically conspicuous remand, deportation or extradition prisoners with indicated inpatient treatment. This is because, due to the current legal situation, these inmates can only be transferred to special facilities in Austria. In Vorarlberg in particular, however, the places available for such inmates are very scarce and often unavailable. As was shown by the very aggressive remand prisoners who are addicts, the outpatient psychiatric care in the National Prison quickly reaches its limits. The government of the Principality of Liechtenstein reached a joint arrangement, together with the Federal Ministry of Justice in Vienna and based on the joint agreement on the accommodation of prisoners (1983), according to which temporary inpatient psychological care for prisoners from Liechtenstein will also be available at Innsbruck Prison. This option was used once again in 2024 and has since proven its value as a permanent fixture.

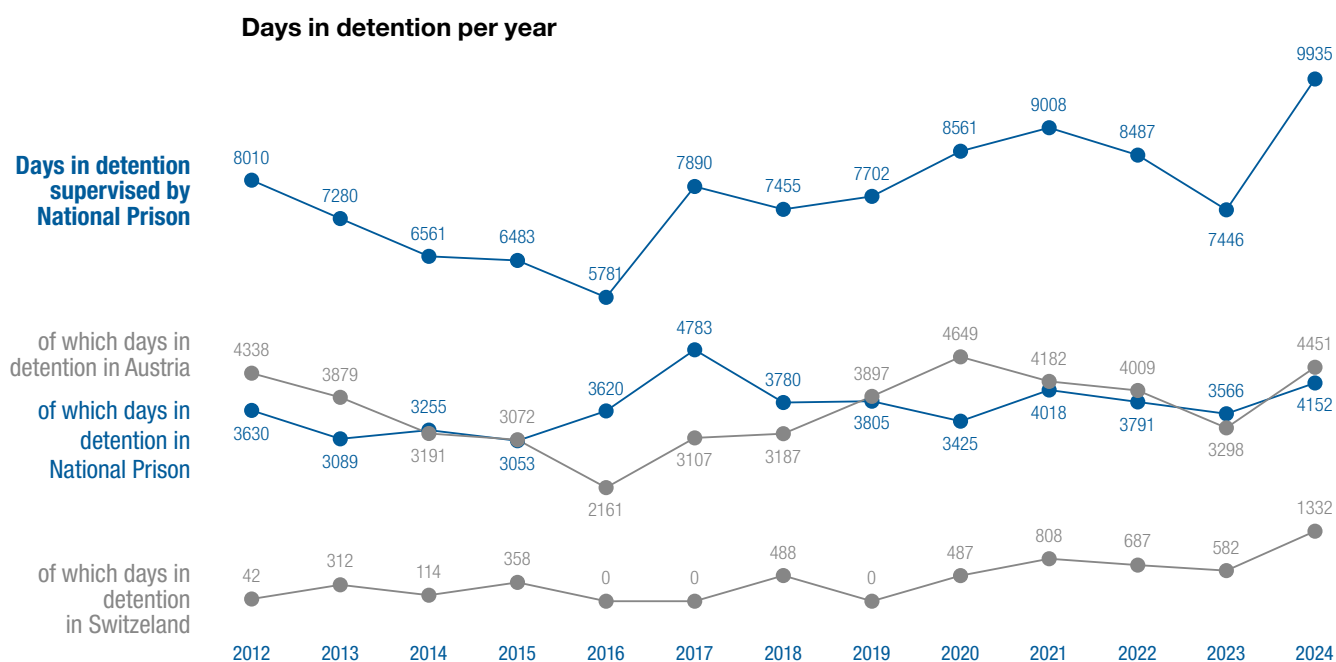
### People with mental health issues

A total of 231 regular visits were recorded by the National Prison in 2024. In addition, detained persons received 195 visits from their legal counsel and 57 visits from psychosocial professionals. The prison doctor visited the National Prison a total of 63 times, carrying out 182 consultations.

The independent correctional commission appointed by the government visited the National Prison four times in 2024 and came away with a positive impression each time. Its annual report will be published separately.

## 182

182 medical consultations.





### 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 2024, fewer new remands were recorded than in 2023. Of the 11 remands enforced in total, two were against people with Liechtenstein citizenship, none against persons with foreign citizenship but resident in Liechtenstein and thus nine against persons with foreign citizenship and residing abroad.

Remands	2024	2023
<b>Total remands</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>
of which Liechtenstein citizens	2	3
of which foreign citizens with place of residence in LI	0	0
of which foreign citizens with place of residence abroad	9	13

### 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 2017, shorter prison sentences are also no longer served in Vaduz due to the revamp of the penal system, as the legal requirements for the execution of sentences can no longer be met in full (e.g. employment, free time, etc.). There is an agreement 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. In 2024, a total of 21 prisoners, 18 men and three women (2023: 16 men), were transferred to Austrian prisons to serve their sentences or corrective measures during 4,451 days of detention. The total number of days of detention served in Austria rose compared with the previous year (2023: 3,298), as five more people were transferred to Austrian prisons in 2024. Five people were detained in Saxerriet in Switzerland for 1,332 days in 2024 (2023: 7 people for 582 days).



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