



LANDESPOLIZEI
FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN

2020 Annual Report

National Police of the Principality of Liechtenstein



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Impressions of 2020



1 Focus areas of the National Police

1.1. Focus areas of the police

The work of the National Police was heavily influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. For example, a special police operations centre (“CORONA”) was set up back in February to ensure the National Police’s operational readiness during the pandemic. It continuously analysed the situation and took the measures necessary to ensure the National Police is resilient enough to safeguard public safety, including during the pandemic. For example, masks were made mandatory in the police building at an early stage, the duty roster was reorganised to reduce the risk of infection and a plan to deal with reduced availability of personnel was prepared for the event that a large number of employees are unavailable due to illness. Fortunately, this never happened, and the National Police came through the pandemic year without significant problems.

Pandemic also shaped the work of National Police in reporting year . Focus was on ensuring basic police mission.

During the lockdown in spring, the National Police was responsible for policing compliance with the rules of conduct decreed by the government for public spaces. The vast majority of the population adhered to the rules. Nevertheless, the National Police had to impose a total of 58 fines for public disorder offences. Most were due to violations of the ban on gatherings. Generally, it can be stated that the population behaved very responsibly and the National Police’s strategy of restoring lawful conditions through dialogue in the event of misconduct was successful. In Liechtenstein, there was very little radicalisation of opponents of governmental Covid measures on the scale seen in other countries. Nevertheless, it was not only the Covid-19 pandemic that occupied the National Police. Normal police work also posed some challenges.

Vast majority of the population adhered to the government’s rules during the lockdown in spring.

An explosion in Triesen, a robbery in Schaan, a bomb threat against the parliament (Landtag) and a bank in Vaduz and violent youths at Postplatz in Schaan – to mention just a few incidents – took up considerable police time. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, offences increased slightly in the reporting year, rising by 4% to 1,131. However, the clear-up rate was also encouragingly high, at 34% for property crimes and 78% for crime overall.

A decrease of 12% was recorded in property crimes. Whereas burglaries decreased by 45% and theft by 25% due to the pandemic, sadly, 28% more property damage was recorded. The latter is partly related to the intensive detective work into a violent group of youths who documented their actions in social media as “trophies”. The National Police calmed the situation in Schaan with a major deployment of resources and also brought charges against several people. Two people were temporarily remanded in custody. 23 additional acts of violence also took place in this context. Sadly, attacks against police officers have more than doubled.

Encouraging 12% reduction in property crime.

Reported drug offences also increased significantly (33%). 81% of all reported incidents were for personal use – primarily of cannabis and cocaine. Large-scale trials in Liechtenstein of, in some cases internationally networked, people contributed to this increase. It is worth noting that one third of all suspects identified were minors. In a particularly serious case of drug-related crime, one underage female user in fact carried out an armed robbery to obtain drugs. The figures, which are unwelcome in themselves, do, however, clearly show how active the National Police is in combating drug crime. This is because drug offences fall into the category of crimes that are rarely reported and therefore usually uncovered through police checks. When a drug

deal takes place, none of the people involved report it to the police. Drug offences can only be uncovered by the police proactively making checks and investigating. Nevertheless, a considerable number of undetected crimes must be assumed in the area of drugs.

Economic crimes were down slightly by 2%. However, financial investigators' workload has not decreased because of this. The investigations in trials for economic crimes – in some cases with incarcerated suspects – tie up considerable human resources. In economic crimes, the majority of which are highly complex, a large number of documents need to be assessed, cash flow analyses need to be prepared and numerous people have to be questioned. The workload remained so high in the reporting year that it was not possible to promptly complete all cases and matters assigned by the court for investigation. For this reason, the number of financial investigators at the National Police was increased, which should significantly relieve some of the pressure in the medium term. Sufficient human resources at the National Police are essential for efficient and effective prosecution of economic crimes. This is because the number and complexity of economic crimes, combined with a comprehensive investigation approach to combating money laundering, pushes the criminal prosecution system to its limits.

Number of financial investigators was increased due to the heavy workload.

There was also a sharp increase in crimes recorded in the field of digital crime. Although crime statistics only show a surge from 2019, a very steep rise can be seen even in 2020. The digitalisation of crime goes hand in hand with increasing digital penetration of our day-to-day lives. This is a development that will further massively intensify in years to come. Digital crime must therefore be another focus for the National Police in the years ahead. A first step has already been taken in 2021 by creating a new digital crime unit (DC) and increasing headcount in this area.

Sharp increase in digital crime and need for the National Police to act.

In view of the broad scope of the National Police's responsibilities, the continuous recruitment of personnel and personal development is also a constant challenge for police management. 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 therefore encouraging that two young police officers – one male and one female – were sworn in in autumn and admitted to the national police force. This in fact was a year earlier than originally planned as these cadets should actually have been the first to complete the new two-year basic training. However, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that, in the spring, the Swiss authorities decided to end the training course after a single year and postpone the start of the two-year training to autumn 2020. Two cadets – likewise one female and one male – started their police training at the Eastern Switzerland Police Academy for the National Police in autumn. They will now be the first two cadets of the National Police to complete two-year basic training (police academy 2020/22).

Facebook and Instagram are important digital channels for interactive communication with public.

The internet presence of the National Police was modified during the year under review and the new website launched in November. The popular police app will also undergo some changes as it has not kept up with the times and is now technologically outdated. The new version should be available in the app store in April 2021. The National Police's digital presence and the use of digital communication channels such as Facebook and Instagram proved very important in the reporting year in particular. Using these channels, the National Police can quickly and directly disseminate information to the public and also receive tip-offs and information. In the spring, the National Police successfully launched the "We'll go out for you. Stay at home for us"



and “Keep your distance – #actresponsibly #stayhealthy” social media campaigns to support the government’s code of conduct in the lockdown.

In the reporting year, an anonymous whistleblower system was introduced at the National Police. Since April, it has been possible to give anonymous tip-offs on economic crime and corruption offences, money laundering and the financing of terrorism to the National Police. Anonymous tips are nothing new for the police and judicial authorities. What is though, is that the National Police can establish communication with the anonymous whistleblower and thus verify the credibility of the suspicious activity reports made. The first few months have been very promising. Three suspicious activity reports have already been forwarded to the public prosecutor’s office for legal assessment.



1.2. International police cooperation

International police cooperation is extremely important. Crime, terrorism and migration are cross-border phenomena which can no longer be successfully combated without close and rapid international police cooperation. The existing European security information systems are therefore currently being developed as quickly as possible (SISrecast) and new enquiry systems are being introduced (EES and ETIAS). In October and November, Liechtenstein’s implementation of the Schengen acquis was re-evaluated by expert teams from the Schengen countries. This included an in-depth examination of the SIRENE Bureau and the processes of police cooperation on the ground. The draft reports on SIS-SIRENE and on police cooperation are very positive and give the National Police a good assessment.

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock’s visit to Liechtenstein in August was also very important for our country and the National Police. Liechtenstein has been a member of INTERPOL since 1960. Since then, the International Criminal Police Organisation has been an important partner for the National Police in all cases with a reach beyond Europe. Jürgen Stock was the second Secretary General to make an official visit to Liechtenstein, the first being Ronald K. Noble in 2010.

Close and rapid international police cooperation enormously important in fight against crime, terrorism and migration.

Secretary General of INTERPOL pays official visit to Liechtenstein and National Police.

2 Headcount

In the reporting year, the National Police had a target headcount of 131 staff plus two jobs to be eliminated in the future (excluding State Penitentiary). At the end of 2020, a total of 126.2 jobs (excluding State Penitentiary) were filled (2019: 123.7). 88.5 of these jobs were filled by police officers with official functions, 17.2 jobs were filled by civilian staff with police functions (forensic science, international police cooperation etc.) and 18.5 jobs were filled by administrative employees. In addition, two police cadets have been in training since October 2020, and they will be admitted to the police force in autumn 2022 on the successful completion of the two-year basic training. The National Police was supported by 32 auxiliary police. At the State Penitentiary, 6.0 jobs were filled by prison officers.

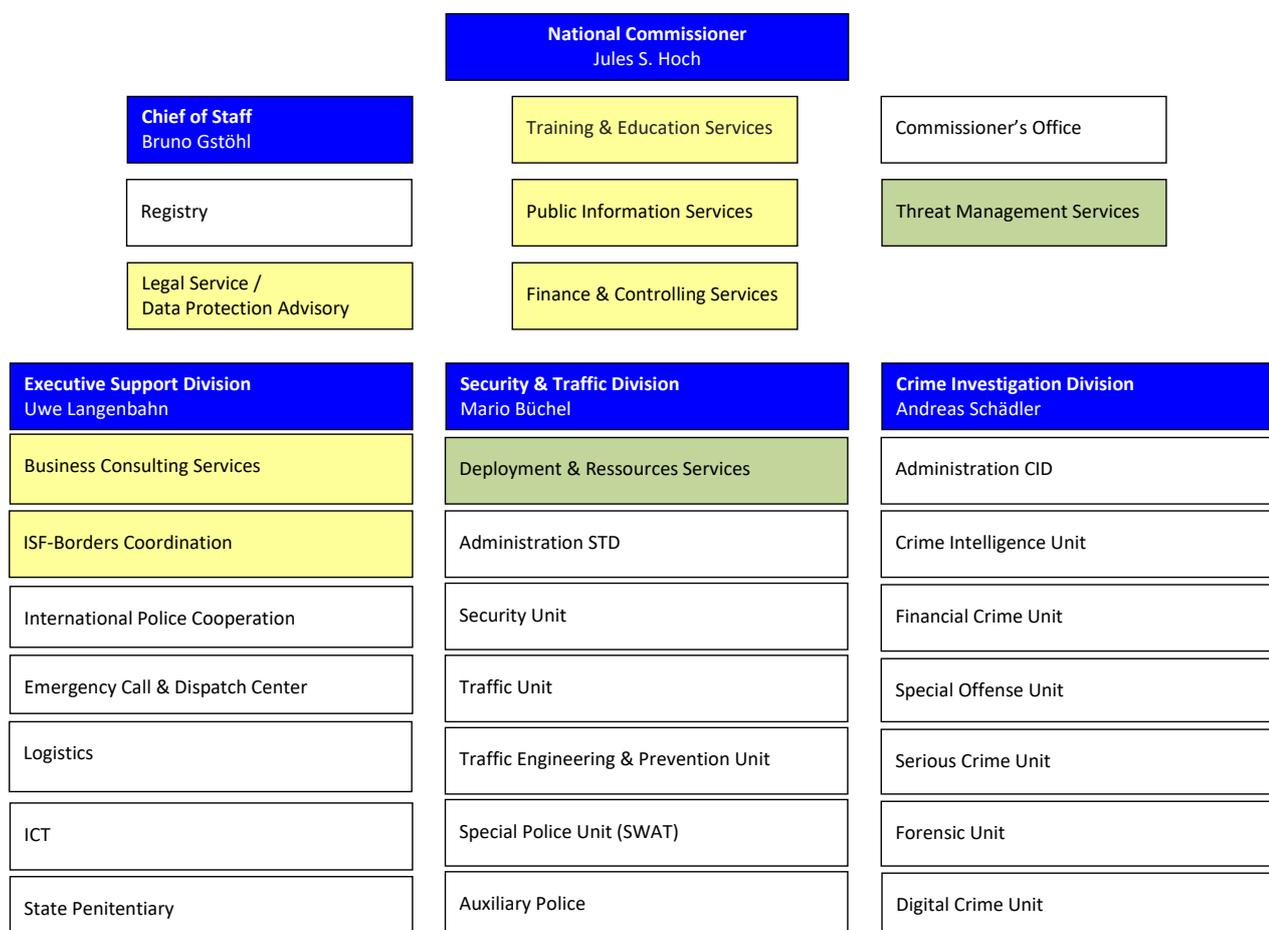


Fig.: National Police organisational chart

3 Education and Training

Internal and external education and training is highly valued in the National Police. Police officers 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 friendly cantonal police forces and, for some topics, also at police training institutions in Austria and Germany. Due to the pandemic, however, practically all further training was cancelled.

4 National Emergency Call and Dispatch Center

The National Police are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This also applies to the force's centrepiece, the National Emergency Call and Dispatch Center. Two dispatch officers are on duty around the clock, take all police and ambulance service calls and initiate the necessary immediate measures.

In the reporting year, the National Emergency Call and Dispatch Center took a total of 6,131 calls (2019: 6,768) from the emergency numbers 112 (international emergency call), 117 (police emergency call), 118 (fire service emergency call) and 144 (ambulance service emergency call). This represents a decrease of 9%. The majority of

Average of 17 dispatches were made per day.

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 6,208 dispatches were made (police 3,994, ambulance 2,108, fire 106), which represents a slight decrease (2019: 6,245). In total, an average of 17 dispatches were made per day.

The fact that the number of dispatchers remained almost the same despite a decrease in emergency calls points to the higher quality of the emergency calls. The emergency call numbers were only dialled when there was actually an emergency.



5 Anonymous whistleblower system

In April 2020, the National Police introduced a whistleblower platform secured with state-of-the-art technology for giving open and also anonymous suspicious activity reports. Since then, whistleblowers have been able to give reports on the following (focus) areas around the clock:

- Money laundering
- Financing of terrorism
- Economic crimes
- Corruption offences

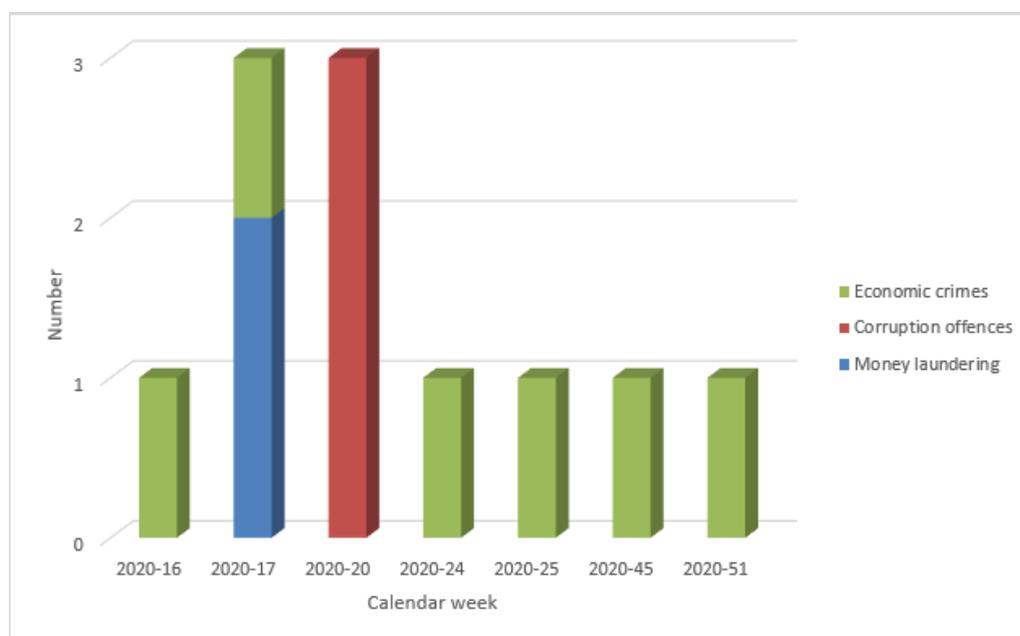
No IP address data, time stamp or other metadata is logged when people use the whistleblower system. If the whistleblower does not leave their name when making the report, communication takes place completely anonymously – which is ensured by technical means. By setting up their own protected mailbox, the whistleblower can also communicate with specialist investigators from the crime investigation division via the system.

In the period from April 2020 to December 2020, the whistleblower platform was accessed a total of 1,601 times. During this time, 11 suspicious activity reports were made, which were processed by the specialist investigators. In three cases, a report was made to the Liechtenstein public prosecutor's office, and one case was

From April to December, 11 suspicious activity reports were received.

forwarded to the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Liechtenstein Financial Market Authority.

Focus areas/calendar week:



6 Threat Management Services

The creation of the Threat Management Services, which were initiated in the previous year, was completed in the reporting year. Unfortunately, networking, which is important for threat management, was only possible to a limited extent in Liechtenstein and abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The services were therefore more concerned with reviewing and optimising the new processes, the documentation systems and the quality assurance features in light of practical case experience.

In the reporting year, 60 reports were made to the Threat Management Services. Five messages were about resumptions of cases that had already been closed. Ten enquiries were conducted as anonymous behavioural counselling. The 50 reports subjected to an initial assessment by the services with regard to increased readiness to use violence can be categorised as follows:

Categories of increased readiness to use violence	2020
Domestic violence	16
Threatening behaviour towards a public authority/institution	11
Psychological abnormality	10
Threatening behaviour in general	9
Threatening behaviour at the workplace	2
Extremism	1
Stalking	1

After analysing the situation and making an initial assessment, the Threat Management Services measures primarily comprise behavioural counselling. In many cases, it was possible to bring about a de-escalation and achieve relief for those affected. When appropriate, the services also enter into direct dialogue with threatening individuals to assess the individual's point of view and offer help getting out of the conflict spiral. Both people involved and perpetrators in many cases benefited from a triage to other specialist departments, which are able to support them in solving problems without violence and intervene early in the event of increasing stress. The services retain its coordination function here, especially in complex and medium to longer-term conflict situations.

6.1. Domestic violence

After the Threat Management Services were designated the Domestic Violence coordination unit at the National Police in 2019, certain changes were made on 1 January 2020 concerning the definition of the term and statistical recording. This improved the international comparability of the category of "domestic violence" in Liechtenstein. However, this means that the statistics in this report are no longer comparable with those of the previous year. The figures are also significantly higher because the definition of the category is now based on the broader understanding of the Istanbul Convention. For example, incidents between sexual partners living separately are now also deemed domestic violence.

In 2020, 75 interventions were recorded under category of domestic violence. Charges were filed in 24 cases.

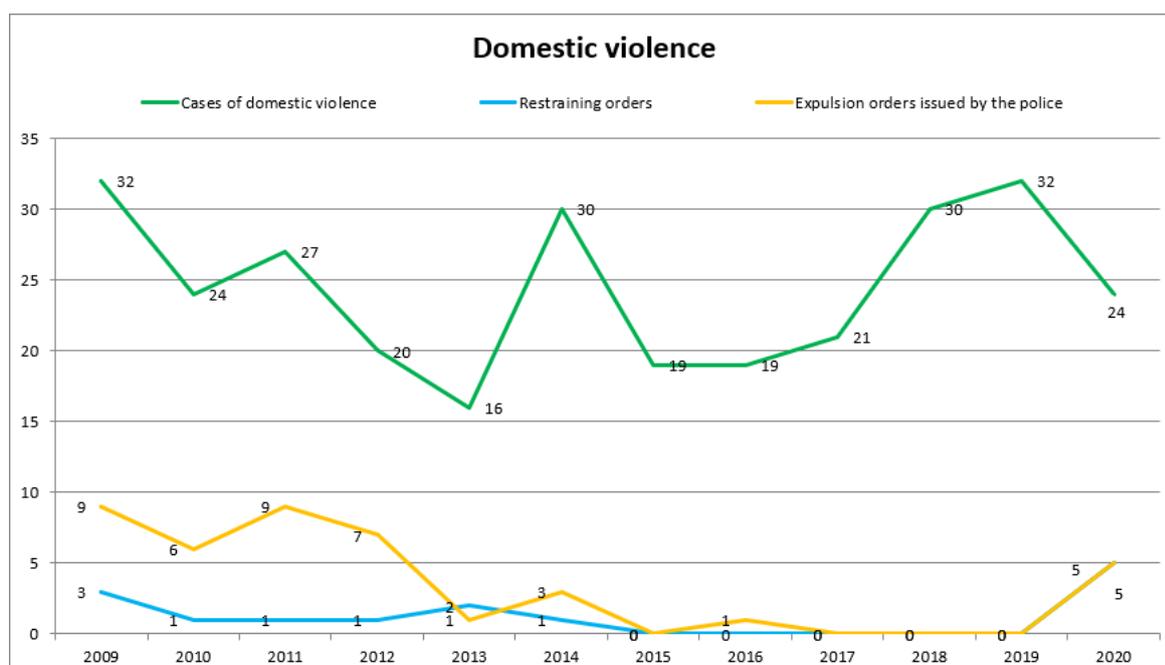
In the reporting year, the Domestic Violence coordination unit particularly devoted itself to contingency planning in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic as increased conflicts in domestic settings were feared as a result of various measures (working from home, homeschooling, absence of various leisure and support options). Looking back, however, no rise in cases requiring police intervention that were directly associated with the pandemic can be identified for the reporting year.

A total of 75 interventions were recorded under the category of domestic violence. Charges were filed in 24 cases. The National Police's measures at a glance:

Measures concerning domestic violence	2020	2019
De-escalation dialogue	39	
Triage/arrangement of further help (esp. Office of Social Services)	71	
Bringing in other help on the ground (esp. crisis intervention team, emergency doctor)	14	
Expulsion order issued by the police	5	
Restraining order	5	
Police custody	2	
Direct dialogue with threatening individuals by the Threat Management Services	3	

Persons involved in cases of domestic violence at a glance:

Persons involved in domestic violence	2020	2019
Male perpetrators	33	30
Female perpetrators	13	6
Male victims/persons involved	47	10
Female victims/persons involved	59	30
Juvenile perpetrators	5	
Juvenile victims/persons involved (of which two not directly affected by violence)	13	
Children (< 14 years old) (of which eight not directly affected by violence)	24	
Cases with no perpetrator roles (e.g. disputes) (both recorded as victims/persons involved)	29	



7 Security

7.1. Basic services

The security and traffic division are responsible for basic police services and are on duty around the clock in shifts. The security and traffic division 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.), crimes and breaches of secondary criminal law (weapons law, environmental law etc.).

7.1.1. Public order and security service operations

The National Police did not have any public order service operations at football matches in the reporting year due to the coronavirus (2019: 3). Therefore, only 58 police officers were deployed for security services at football matches. In the context of the Eastern Switzerland Police Concordat and the Conference of Cantonal Police Commanders (CCPCS), two public order service operations took place in Switzerland. The National Police also supported the Graubünden Cantonal Police at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos for about week. A total of 45 special security services were provided (New Year's reception, national holiday, assistance operations by the intervention unit etc.), which was 21 more than in the previous year (2019: 24) The increase was due to the special operations at Postplatz and the bus station in Schaan, where violent youths made an increased police presence necessary.

No public order service operations in Liechtenstein in 2020.

During lockdown in the spring, uniformed police policed the green border between Liechtenstein and Austria in collaboration with the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (FOCBS) for several weeks. To manage this additional responsibility, a plan was formulated to deal with the reduced availability of personnel and the duty roster was also reorganised to minimise coronavirus infections as far as possible.

Security police work and services (excerpt)	2020	2019
Public order service operations in Lichtenstein	0	3
Public order service operations abroad	2	1
Officers at football matches in Liechtenstein	58	289
Security service operations	45	24
Intervention unit operations	3	3
Personal protection operations	5	11

The number of operations of the special intervention unit in the reporting year remained the same as in the previous year. For example, three operations with high risk potential were recorded. In the area of personal protection, five operations were recorded.

7.2. Joint patrols

Police officers from the National Police have been regularly sent out on patrols with colleagues from Austria and Switzerland for more than 15 years. Based on the trilateral Police Cooperation Treaty between Liechtenstein, Austria and Switzerland, joint patrols are carried out in the three-country region Together with the St Gallen Cantonal Police, the Vorarlberg State Police and the Swiss Border Guard, a total of 64 working hours was clocked up in 11 operations. In particular, this involved checks of people, vehicles and cash and providing support for the taking of statements.



8 Traffic

8.1. Road traffic accidents

These statistics only concern accidents that were reported to the National Police and that were also reported by the National Police.

Road traffic accidents decreased in the reporting year (2020: 408/2019: 509). The reasons for this are likely primarily to be the decrease in private transport during the lockdown in spring. But the newly launched diversion campaign #streetfluencer also probably had an impact. This is because the main reason for road traffic accidents in our country is a lack of attention.

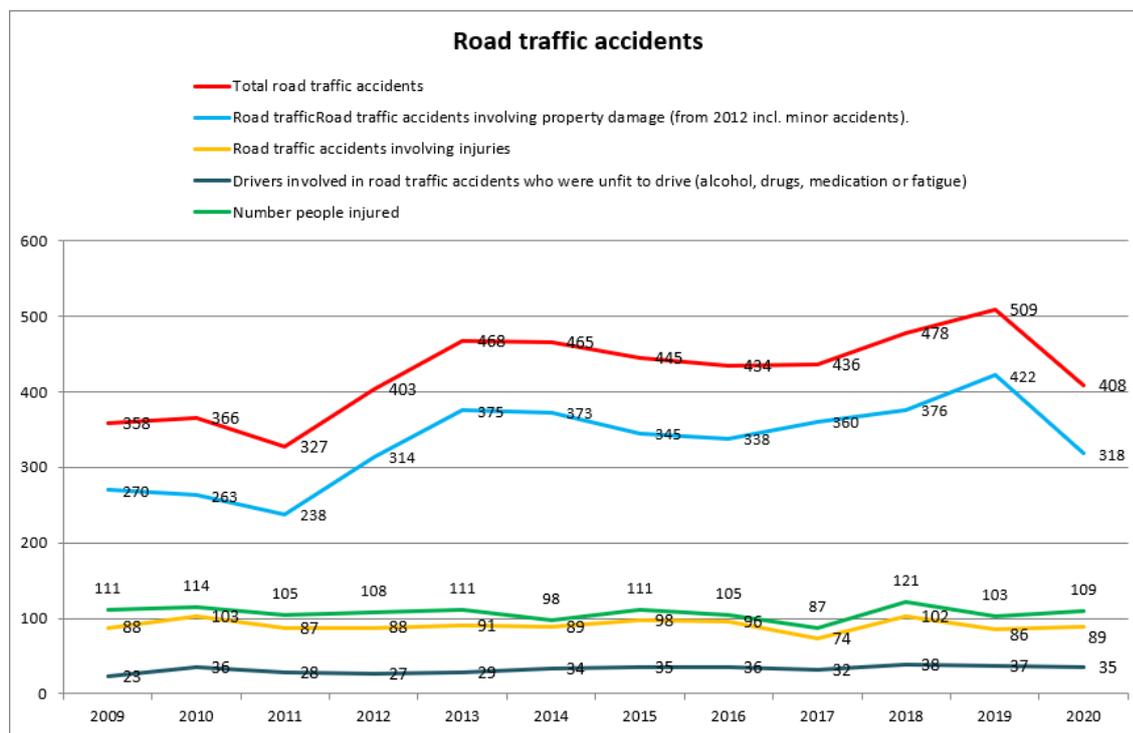
Nevertheless, the number of accidents with injuries increased by 3 from 86 (2019) to 89. Fortunately, the number of people injured in these accidents only increased slightly (2020: 109; 2019: 103). Of these, 27 people were seriously injured. There was one fatal road traffic accident in the reporting year.

In close to 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 49% of the perpetrators. 85% of all road traffic accident took place in a built-up area. Only 60 accidents were recorded on roads in rural areas.

The number of accidents caused by drivers unfit to drive remained almost the same at 35 (2019: 37). These include any drivers of vehicles who were under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication or were fatigued.

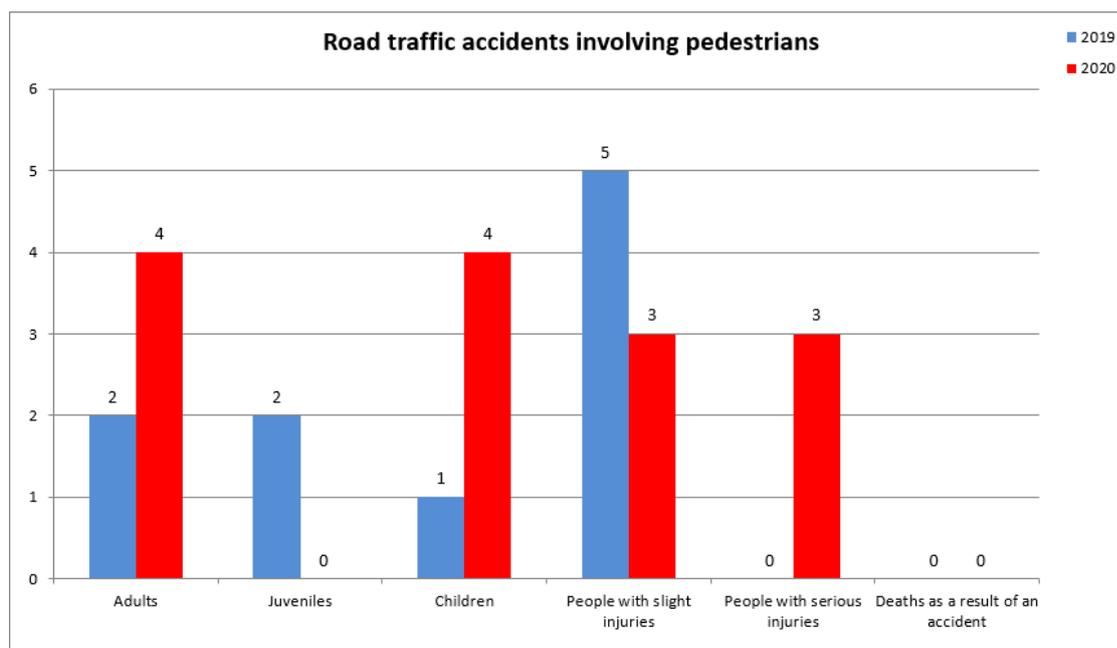
Road traffic accidents sharply decreased. However, accidents involving injuries increased slightly.

Road traffic accident statistics	2020	2019
Total road traffic accidents (including cases of failure to comply with the reporting obligation)	408	509
of which the accident took place in a built-up area	348	444
of which the road traffic accident was fatal	1	0
thereof road traffic fatalities	1	0
of which the road traffic accident resulted in injuries	89	86
thereof people injured	109	103
of which the road traffic accident resulted in property damage (including minor accidents and parking damage)	318	422
of which cases of failure to comply with reporting obligation	113	144
of which perpetrator identified	49%	40%



8.1.1. Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians

Road traffic accidents with pedestrians increased in the reporting year. Eight accidents were recorded in the reporting year, three more than in 2019. Four adults and four children were involved in accidents. Three people involved in the accidents were slightly injured and three were seriously injured.

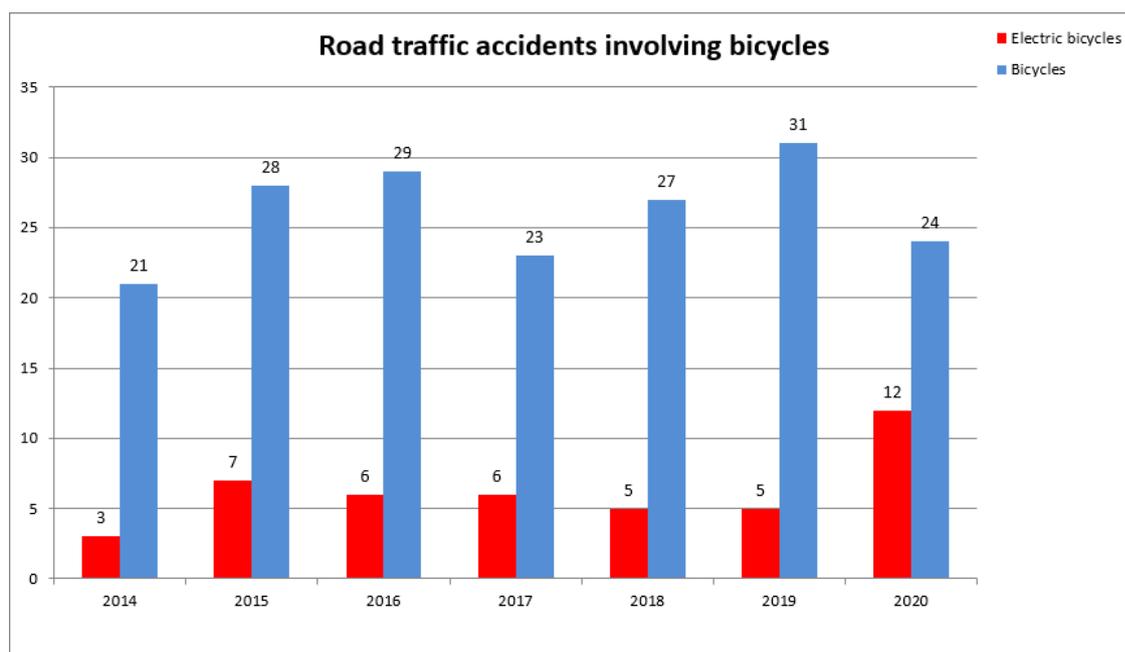


8.1.2. Road traffic accidents involving bicycles

The number of road traffic accidents with bicycles remained the same as in 2019. Sales of e-bikes are booming in Liechtenstein too. Unfortunately, accidents with electric bicycles have more than doubled as a result.

E-bikes were involved in 33% of bicycle accidents.

Riding an e-bike is a riskier activity as pedestrians and e-bikers often underestimate their speed and thus also the stopping distance.



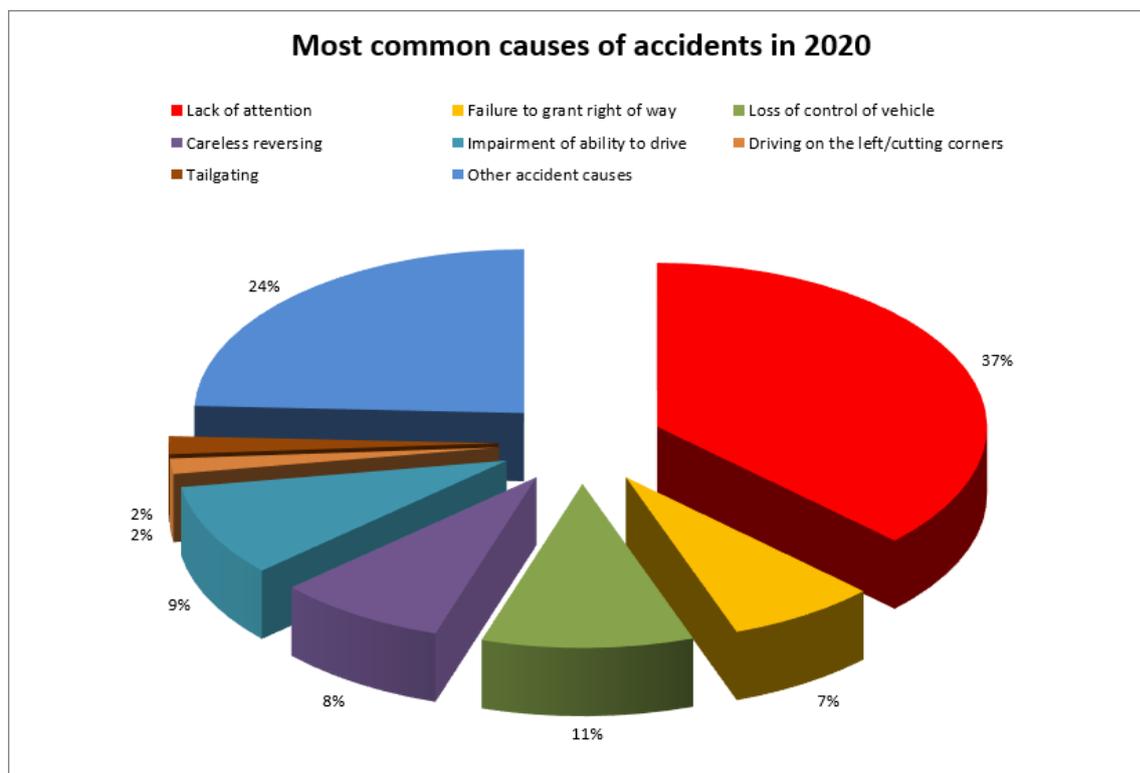
8.2. Accident causes

As in previous years, a lack of 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.

More than a third of accidents occurred due to lack of attention.

Other causes of accidents included loss of control of the vehicle (11%), impairment of the ability to drive as a result of alcohol, drugs, medications or fatigue (9%), careless reversing (8%) and failure to grant right of way (7%).

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

Road safety remains an effective aid for preventing road traffic accidents. This starts with the youngest road users, who were taught by two traffic safety instructors from the National Police in 187 practical and theory lessons. Practical road safety education also includes the road safety training facility in Schellenberg, where students can learn various traffic signals in a sheltered environment and practice the correct way to behave in road traffic on a bicycle. However, these lessons could not be run due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A key focus was also placed on routes to school in the reporting year. These were regularly policed by the National Police – mainly in collaboration with the local police.

The two road safety instructors spent 440 hours organising safety on the way to school, particularly at busy junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights, and were thus focused on the youngest road users. This is a decrease compared with the previous year (2019: 598) as schools were closed for several weeks in spring due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mobile speed checks focused on monitoring routes to school, traffic calming and reacting to reports by citizens. Mobile speed checks were carried out within normal limits (2020: 40/2019: 47).

A total of five traffic monitoring units were used: one mobile and two semi-stationary speed monitoring devices that monitor in both directions. 48% more fines (2020: 41,469) were issued to offending drivers than in the previous year (2019: 27,911). This was primarily due to the fact that two units were deployed in Austrasse in Vaduz and requests by communities to monitor traffic because of roadworks diversions in residential areas.

Road safety education and campaigns are important measures for preventing road traffic accidents.

41,469 traffic violations were detected with total of five traffic monitoring units.

8.4. Road safety campaigns and traffic controls

The National Police was involved in several road safety campaigns throughout the year and is trying to give the general public a better understanding of a wide variety of issues and draw their attention to dangers. To increase road safety and thus minimise the risk of accidents, seven campaigns were also launched together with the Commission for Accident Prevention in the reporting year.

To support the road safety campaigns and to increase road safety, 101 traffic controls, including coordinated checks with the Eastern Switzerland Police (Eastern Switzerland) and TISPOL (throughout Europe), were made throughout the country. This decrease (2019: 234) was mainly due to the lockdown in spring. Due to the prescribed protective measures, road traffic noticeably decreased and traffic controls were reduced to the absolutely necessary level as the officers of the National Police were deployed to police the border to Austria. With regard to heavy traffic, 15 combined traffic controls (technical, ARV, ADR) were carried out, in some cases also in collaboration with the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security.

Our own road safety campaigns



At the start of the cycling season, cyclists are reminded of the importance of wearing a cycling helmet.



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



The campaign when school starts in August makes drivers aware of children in traffic.



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

Our own campaigns and campaigns adopted from Switzerland contribute to road safety.



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.



In December, this campaign raised awareness of the risks of drinking and driving.

Other road safety campaigns from Switzerland



In the summer months, motorbike riders were asked to drive with due care.

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, which 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, the dark figure of crime (i.e. unreported and undetected crimes) must also be assumed to exist. Thus, these crime statistics are only an approximation of the actual crime situation in Liechtenstein. To enable a more meaningful assessment of the crime situation and crime trends, *interpreted crime statistics* are published (see 9.7 and 9.8).

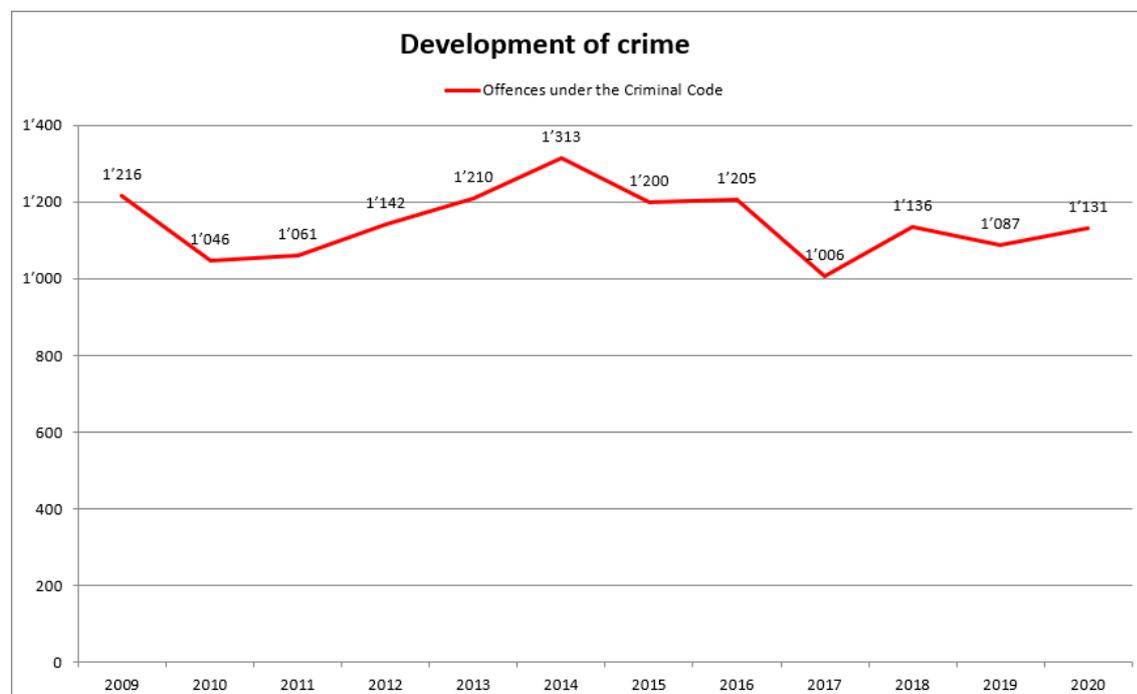
9.1. Total crime and clear-up rate

There was an increase in the number of offences under the Criminal Code in the reporting year 1,131 offences were recorded in the reporting year, compared with 1,087 in the previous year. In a ten-year comparison, the level of crime in 2020 is thus in the middle of the annual range of 1,000 to 1,200 offences.

Offences increased slightly; clear-up rate increased to 78%.

The clear-up rate rose by three percentage points year on year to 78%, which puts the National Police in an excellent position compared with other countries.

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, 526 people committed offences under the Criminal Code, which is an increase of 8%. The breakdown of nationalities is the same as in the previous year. In 2020, a total of 37% of the suspects identified had Liechtenstein citizenship, whereas the remaining 63% 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 17% of offences.

Overwhelming majority of suspects identified were foreign nationals.

9.2. Youth violence

In the reporting year, 57 (2019: 36) underage suspects were identified. They were responsible for 84 acts of violence. This number has more than doubled since the previous year (2019: 32). Only nine suspects were female, the remaining 48 were male. 10 of the suspects were below 14 years of age, with the remaining 47 aged 14 to 18. Property damage made up a large part of the offences, followed by bodily harm and threatening behaviour.

Total of 57 underage suspects were held responsible for 84 offences in area of youth violence.

Looking at the nationality of the underage suspects, it can be seen that 56% of acts were committed by Liechtenstein youths in the reporting year. This is a decrease compared with the previous year (2019: 81%).

9.3. Right-wing violence

As in previous years, 2020 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.

National Police takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of extremism.

9.4. Alpine police

In the 2020 reporting year, the Alpine police were called out on three occasions (2019: 6). One of the call-outs was to provide administrative assistance to the Department of the Environment to check wildlife refuge zones in Malbun. The other two call-outs were for a hiking accident and a medical emergency on a hike.

Alpine police supported Department of the Environment in checks on wildlife refuge zones.

9.5. Crime Investigation Division work

In the reporting year, the number of house searches carried out on behalf of the National Court plus voluntary house inspections totalled 104 and thus increased by 21 compared with the previous year (2019: 83). Telephone surveillance measures and internet surveillance were carried out on behalf of the National Court in one case. The number of cases with observation measures increased by four to nine.

The number of people who were deported or extradited decreased by almost half compared with the previous year to 24 people. Due to negative asylum decisions, 14 people were deported to their home country or to a Dublin country and 10 people were extradited to or from Liechtenstein on the basis of an international arrest warrant. These very low numbers compared with previous years are due to Covid-19 measures.

There was another decrease in the number of people who were subjected to procedures to establish their identity (fingerprints, photo, buccal swab) to 71 in the reporting year (2019: 84). The number of back-ups of mobile phones, computers or similar devices increased markedly to 257 (2019: 168).

Number of back-ups carried out increased markedly.

The number of unusual deaths (suicide, discovery of a corpse, etc.) increased by one. Thus, 16 cases were recorded in the reporting year (2019: 15) Seven of these unusual deaths were by suicide.

Crime Investigation Division work and services (excerpt)	2020	2019
House searches/voluntary house inspections	104	83
Telephone/internet surveillance	1	1
Observations	9	5
Deportation/extraditions (number of people)	24	47
People subjected to procedures to establish their identity	71	84
Data Back-ups	257	168
Unusual deaths	16	15

9.6. Crime prevention

The National Police not only has a mission to reduce crime through prosecution but is also responsible for crime prevention. The National Police therefore provides information to the entire population and also to special risk groups to prevent them from becoming victims of criminals (victimisation) or from committing crimes themselves. The latter is especially the case with drug prevention among young people.

The information can be obtained from the National Police or downloaded from the website www.landespolizei.li. Further information on different areas of crime prevention can also be found on the website.

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.

Prevention material (information sheets, leaflets, codes of conduct, etc.) on www.landespolizei.li

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

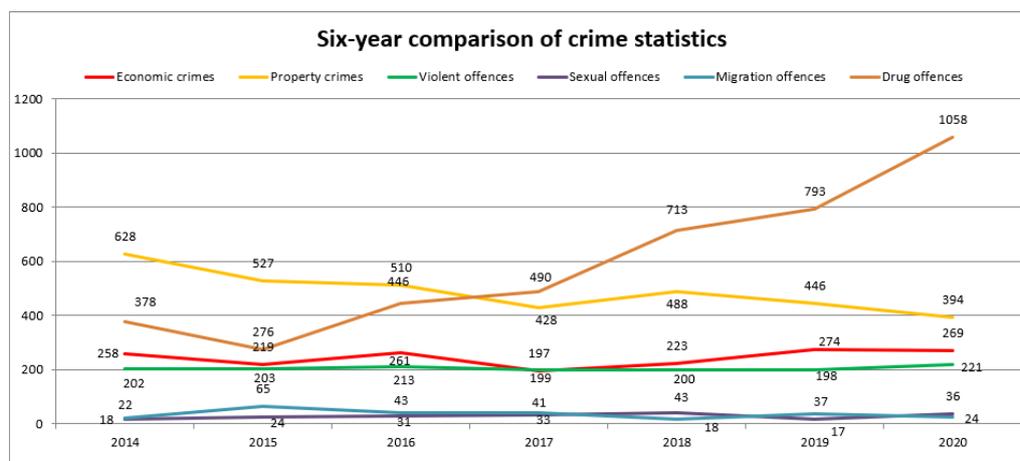
The number of economic crimes fell by 2% in the reporting year to 269 offences (2019: 274). Most cases were in the fraud/embezzlement category (176 offences).

Number of economic crimes fell by 2%.

9.7.2. Property crimes

Property crimes fell by 12% from 446 to 394. This is the lowest figure in six years. Property damage was the most committed offence, followed by theft and burglaries. Fortunately, the coronavirus situation meant burglaries fell by 45% to 59 offences (2019: 107).

Number of property crimes recorded has decreased.



9.7.3. Violent and sexual offences

The number of offences recorded in the field of violent offences increased year on year to 221 (2019: 198). One offence was recorded in the field of homicide offences, as a homicide was reported in a murder-suicide. The number of cases of black-mail/kidnappings and cases of bodily harm increased, whereas the number of threats decreased and the number of cases of coercion remained practically the same.

Violent and sexual offences increased slightly in reporting year.

Compared with the previous year, the number of sexual offences increased by 19 to 36 (2019: 17). This change was primarily due to an increase in pornography offences (2020: 17, 2019: 9). The offence of sexual abuse of minors increased slightly compared with the previous year to 6 (2019: 4).

9.7.4. Drug offences

Offences under the Narcotics Act increased sharply again in the reporting year. This increase was due to major trials on grounds of suspicion of cannabis and/or cocaine dealing or trafficking, in which it was possible to identify numerous users. Separate trials were subsequently opened against each of the users for offences against the Narcotics Act. 1,058 offences were recorded by the police as a result (2019: 793). The number of suspects increased by 32 (2019: 190). This is 33% more drug offences and 17% more suspects than in the previous year. Most police reports (862) were due to personal use, whereas 172 reports were due to production/growing/purchase/sale of drugs. In 24 cases, it was possible to prove drug smuggling. No drug deaths were recorded in the reporting year.

Number of drug offences increased sharply again; most reports were due to personal use.

9.7.5. Digital crime

The police recorded 62 offences in the field of digital crime in the reporting year, which represents an increase of 88% compared with the previous year (2019: 33). Reports on mass phenomena (advance fee scam, etc.), in which no loss has occurred, are not listed as an offence in the crime statistics. 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.

Digital forms of committing various offences are rising sharply. This is also true of cybercrime in stricter 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 offences (e.g. hacking, phishing, DDoS attacks etc.). Cybercrime offences in the strict sense tripled year on year to 12 (2019: 4).

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), which are committed in the digital space or have a digital component. A large part of the 50 offences (2019: 29) that are designated cybercrime in the broader sense concern cyber fraud (60%), followed by cyber sexual offences (26%) and other cyber offences (14%). This order remained unchanged compared with the previous year.

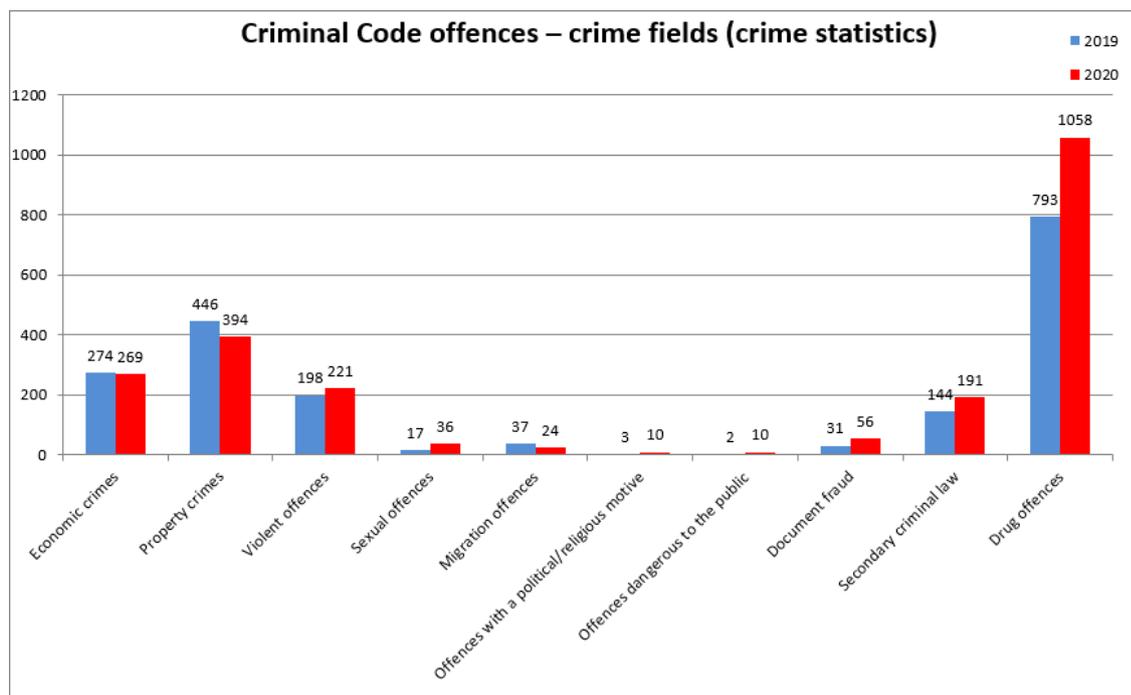
9.7.6. Migration offences

A decrease in migration offences from 37 to 24 was recorded in the reporting year. The main reports were made for breaches of the entry and residence regulations (16). Three offences were recorded due to aiding and abetting illegal immigration (people smuggling).

Migration offences decreased.

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 191 such offences were recorded in the reporting year, which represents an increase compared with the previous year (2019: 144). This was caused by the sharp increase in infringements of the Youth Act. These increased from 12 to 45. The number of breaches of the Weapons Act remained almost the same at 56 (2019: 53). The offence of the collection of moderate donations remained at the same level as the previous year at four cases.



9.8. Interpreted crime statistics at a glance

Criminal offences	2020	2019	2019/18 change		Offences cleared up		Suspects identified		
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Total	under 18 y.	foreign
1. Economic crimes	269	274	-5	-2	182	68	194	6	147
Fraud/embezzlement	176	179	-3	-2	116	66	111	0	89
Bankruptcy offences	13	9	4	44	11	85	14	0	6
Money laundering/organised crime	58	70	-12	-17	47	81	100	6	84
Asset recovery/asset forfeiture/deprivation order	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
Financing of terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Corruption/insider trading	10	11	-1	-9	6	60	8	0	2
Cybercrime	12	4	8	200	2	17	1	0	0
2. Property crimes	394	446	-52	-12	133	34	125	39	63
Thefts	133	178	-45	-25	48	36	21	10	30
of which motor vehicle thefts	6	4	2	50	2	33	3	2	1
of which bicycle thefts	37	40	-3	-8	3	8	4	1	3
Misappropriation/embezzlement/deprivation of property	23	23	0	0	16	70	19	5	12
Burglary	59	107	-48	-45	10	17	10	5	7
Receiving stolen goods	4	1	3	300	2	50	2	1	1
Criminal damage	175	137	38	28	57	33	76	29	28
3. Violent offences	221	198	23	12	199	90	159	37	89
Homicides	1	1	0	0	1	100	1	0	0
Bodily harm/brawls	86	76	10	13	80	93	97	28	49
Blackmail/kidnapping	17	10	7	70	10	59	11	1	7
Robbery	4	2	2	100	4	100	12	5	6
Threat	44	55	-11	-20	39	89	42	7	25
Coercion	44	42	2	5	42	95	36	5	23
Sexual assault	11	6	5	83	11	100	7	0	4
Violence against public servants	14	6	8	133	12	86	7	3	3
4. Sexual offences	36	17	19	112	33	92	24	7	13
Rape/sexual Coercion	5	1	4	400	5	100	3	0	2
Sexual abuse of minors	6	4	2	50	6	100	3	0	2
Sexual harassment/exhibitionism	8	3	5	167	6	75	7	1	4
Pimping	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Pornography	17	9	8	89	16	94	15	6	7
5. Migration offences	24	37	-13	-35	23	96	22	1	19
Entry and residence	16	19	-3	-16	15	94	19	1	17
Aiding and abetting	3	5	-2	-40	3	100	3	0	2
Use of identification	1	1	0	0	1	100	1	0	1
Work	4	12	-8	-67	4	100	5	0	4
6. Offences with a religious motive	10	3	7	233	8	80	9	1	4
Discrimination	9	2	7	350	7	78	8	1	3
Terrorism	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Espionage	0	1	-1	na	0	na	0	0	0
Regulatory offences	1	0	1	na	1	100	1	0	1
7. Offences dangerous to the public	10	2	8	400	8	80	17	0	6
Arson	9	2	7	350	7	78	7	0	4
Explosives offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Radiation offences	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Environmental offences	1	0	1	na	1	100	10	0	2
8. Document fraud	56	31	25	81	37	66	41	10	28
Forging documents	30	13	17	131	26	87	28	10	18
Forging money and securities	26	18	8	44	11	42	13	0	10
9. Administration	191	144	47	33	176	92	219	20	121
Weapons/explosives	56	53	3	6	54	96	62	12	37
Youth Act	45	12	33	275	45	100	56	2	25
Construction/industry/trade/tourism	8	17	-9	-53	7	88	7	0	3
Banks/fiduciaries/duty of care	8	8	0	0	8	100	26	0	16
Protection of personal security/work/intellectual property	4	4	0	0	3	75	4	1	0
Animal welfare/hunting/fishing/dog ownership	11	14	-3	-21	6	55	6	0	3
Health/environment/refuse	13	11	2	18	13	100	14	3	6
Legal closing time/peace/order	0	0	0	0	0	na	0	0	0
Other administrative law	46	25	21	84	46	100	59	3	37
10. Drug offences	1058	793	265	33	1004	95	222	76	108
Personal use	862	632	230	36	809	94	213	76	102
Production/growing/purchase/sale	172	142	30	21	171	99	94	42	37
Smuggling	24	19	5	26	24	100	25	7	15
11. Incidents handled by the CIP where no offence has been committed	55	45	10	22	0	0	0	0	0
Missing persons cases	29	17	12	71	0	0	0	0	0
Fires	10	13	-3	-23	0	0	0	0	0
Unusual deaths	16	15	1	7	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	7	4	3	75	0	0	0	0	0
Drug deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Death by illness/accidents without traffic	9	11	-2	-18	0	0	0	0	0

10 International Police Cooperation

The International Police Cooperation unit is the National Police's central hub and coordination unit for international information sharing. It covers INTERPOL, the SIRENE Bureau in the context of Schengen information sharing, EUROPOL, the function of a National FRONTEX Point of Contact (FRONTEX = the European Border and Coast Guard Agency) and the Swiss search and communication systems. Having a central point of receipt means the National Police has an efficient and streamlined solution in international police cooperation, enabling it to quickly process the numerous enquiries received from various channels. The drop in individual numbers is due to the global decrease in travel opportunities and Covid-protective measures (e.g. border closures, suspension of search operations, working from home in the partner offices 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 2020. At European level, the focus was on the development of European legal bases and technical measures for optimised police cooperation and improved protection of external borders.

10.2. Schengen/SIRENE

The key element in the Schengen police cooperation is the Europe-wide alert database, known as the Schengen Information System (SIS). The SIS contained more than 93 million alerts at the end of 2020 (2019: 91 million), in which the police authorities record data on searches for persons and objects, which is immediately available to every police officer throughout Europe.

In the reporting year, ten (2019: 107) persons for whom an alert had been issued by Liechtenstein were arrested and taken into custody due to searches in the Schengen Information System abroad.

The Liechtenstein judiciary also arranges for searches for the purpose of locating people. Thanks to the Schengen Information System, information on the location of witnesses and other parties to the proceedings is obtained more often and earlier, as a result of which pending proceedings can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. In the reporting year, the locations of 169 wanted persons were discovered for the National Court in the Schengen area (2019: 163). Regular checks are also conducted in Liechtenstein to see who is residing in the country illegally or is subject to a Schengen entry ban (2020: 7/2019: 7).

The Liechtenstein criminal prosecution authorities made 890 information requests to European police services under Schengen (2019: 967), whereas 34,160 requests for information (2019: 37,153) were received from Schengen countries.

As a result of optimised cross-border police cooperation, our country is seen as a reliable partner in the fight against crime. International cooperation is also very valuable in the case of newly emerging phenomena and is intensively cultivated and used. The focus of future Schengen development will include the retrieval and storage of fingerprints in the Schengen Information System.

Liechtenstein criminal prosecution authorities made 890 information requests to other Schengen

10.3. INTERPOL National Central Bureau

In addition to Schengen, INTERPOL with its 190 member states around the world continues 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.

Liechtenstein criminal prosecution authorities make 1,173 information requests to police authori-

In the reporting year, queries from INTERPOL Vaduz to foreign police services increased sharply to 1,173 (2019: 803). In the same period, foreign authorities circulated 21,715 queries globally through INTERPOL, which were also addressed to Liechtenstein (2019: 31,819).

10.4. Search hits

In the reporting year, there were numerous hits from searches for people and property (SIS, INTERPOL and other such search systems). At 270 search hits, 113 of which were in Liechtenstein (2019: 130) and 157 abroad (2019: 222), this was 22% lower than in the previous year (2019: 352). Arrests within Liechtenstein increased to 15 (2019: 5).

Due to the National Police's alerts, there were 157 hits abroad.

10.5. EUROPOL

The cooperation with EUROPOL continued in the tried and tested manner. In the reporting year, Liechtenstein made 643 enquiries to foreign police services (2019: 627) on the EUROPOL channel. Foreign authorities addressed 1,611 enquiries to Liechtenstein on this channel (2019: 1,680).

10.6. Cross-border networking

Thanks to participation in INTERPOL, Schengen 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. 3,459 criminal police fact reports were received via the VULPUS email system (2019: 3,987).

Regionally, the memberships of the Lake Constance National Commissioners' Association and the Police Concordat of Eastern Switzerland ensure optimum cross-border cooperation. It is encouraging that it was possible to realise a secure communications system at regional level in the Lake Constance area in cooperation with EUROPOL. At the end of the year, a project initiated by the Lake Constance National Commissioners' Association that enables the secure exchange of information (SIENA) between police authorities in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Vorarlberg, St Gallen, Thurgau, Schaffhausen and Liechtenstein was completed. EUROPOL sees this project as a showcase of good police cooperation in other European regions as well.

Nowadays, security can only be guaranteed in an international alliance. This applies to Liechtenstein more than any other country.

The National Commissioner also maintains both an annual exchange of information with his colleagues in Austria and Switzerland and with the National Commissioner of all the Schengen countries in the annual European Police Chief Conference (EPCC). Due to the pandemic, it was unfortunately only possible to maintain the majority of these networks through videoconferences.

Nevertheless, 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.

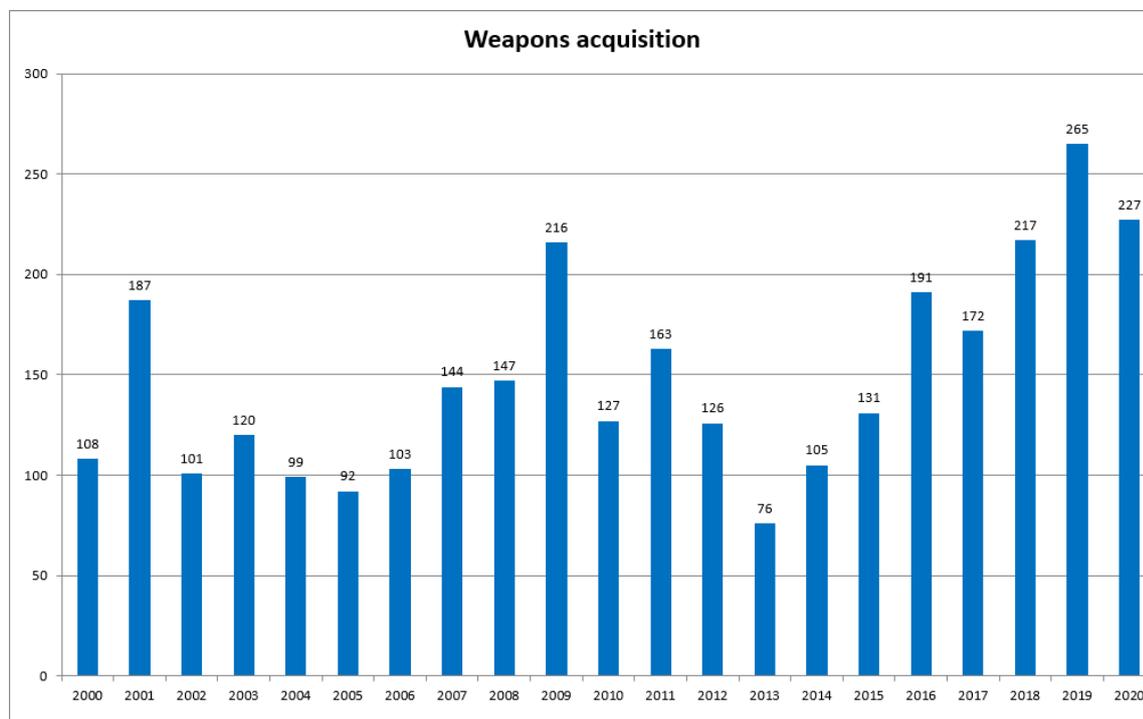
Work and services of the International Police Cooperation (excerpt)	2020	2019
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through INTERPOL	1'173	803
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through INTERPOL	21'715	31'819
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities under Schengen	890	967
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through Schengen	34'160	37'153
Correspondence from LI to foreign authorities through EUROPOL	643	627
Correspondence from foreign authorities to LI through EUROPOL	1'611	1'680
Search hits (SIS, RIPOL, INTERPOL, LI wanted list)	270	352

11 Weapons

Around 9,900 weapons and essential weapons components are recorded in the National Police's weapons register. It cannot be precisely determined how many weapons there are in Liechtenstein in total as not all weapons are registered in the weapons register. The reasons for that are, firstly, that certain categories of weapons have only been recorded in the register since the current Weapons Act entered into force on 1 July 2009 and, secondly, that the subsequent recording only concerned certain hunting and sports weapons. It must also be assumed that, as remains the case, not all weapons requiring registration are registered with the National Police.

11.1. Weapon purchase licences

The number of weapon purchase licences issued decreased in the reporting year. Thus, 227 weapon purchase licences were issued, compared with 265 in the previous year.



11.2. Weapons carrying licences

Anyone who wishes to carry a weapon in Liechtenstein and can prove a justified need to do so, must pass a theoretical and practical exam at the National Police. The number of weapons carrying licences issued fell by 15 in the reporting year to 30 (2019: 45).

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 slightly; 24 passes were issued (2019: 28). There are no significant reasons for a fluctuation in this area.

12 State Penitentiary

12.1. Special measures due to Covid-19

To protect against Covid-19, various measures were taken from spring 2020 to reduce the risk of virus infection as far as possible in the State Penitentiary. Austrian protective measures meant no inmates could be transferred to Austrian prisons for a number of months and this resulted in an increase in detentions under the Code of Criminal Procedure (42). There were also 19 new remands.

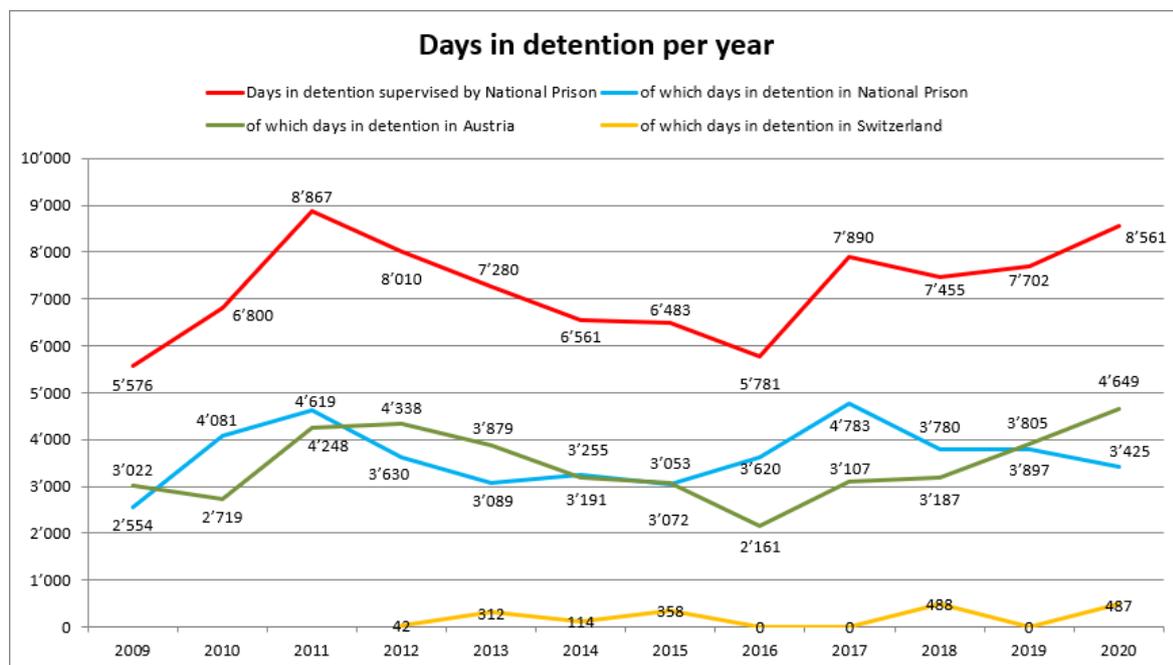
Thanks to the protection strategy, which includes obligatory quarantine for new entrants and visitor contact exclusively separated by a glass screen, no inmates were infected. The technical conditions were also created in the State Penitentiary for members of the judiciary and the police to be able to conduct any necessary interviews by videoconference.

12.2. State Penitentiary occupancy

In the reporting year, a total of 57 people were incarcerated in the State Penitentiary in Vaduz, which is 14 more than in the previous year. The majority of the prisoners were men (53). The number of days in detention increased compared with the previous year to 8,561. Of these, 3,425 days were served in Vaduz and 4,649 in Austrian prisons.

Detentions in the State Penitentiary	2020	2019
Total detentions	57	43
of which men	53	41
of which juveniles	3	
of which women	4	2
of which juveniles	1	
Total days in detention	3'425	3'805
of which men	3'255	3'715
of which women	170	90
Detentions by law/reason	57	43
of which criminal law (total)	42	27
of which Aliens Act	7	9
of which Police Act	3	5
of which requests for judicial assistance/extraditions	2	2
of which imprisonment for failure to pay a fine	3	-

It continues to be the case that the most common reasons for incarcerations were violations of the Criminal Code, followed by violations in the area of the Aliens Act or deportations, police custody and imprisonment for failure to pay fines.



12.3. Support

A total of 495 regular visits to the inmates in the State penitentiary were recorded in the reporting year. In addition, detained persons received 189 visits from their legal counsel and 79 visits from psychosocial professionals. The prison doctor visited the State Penitentiary a total of 46 times, carrying out 107 consultations.

More days in detention were served in State penitentiary in 2020.

12.4. 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 remands were recorded than in the previous year. Of the total of 19 remands in the reporting year, three people had Liechtenstein citizenship, eight had foreign citizenship with the place of residence in Liechtenstein, whereas the remaining eight people remanded were foreign citizens with the place of residence abroad.

Remands	2020	2019
Total remands	19	13
of which Liechtenstein citizens	3	1
of which foreign citizens with place of residence in LI	8	1
of which foreign citizens with place of residence abroad	8	11

12.5. Sentences served abroad

Due to the treaty with Austria from 1983, prison sentences of 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

Prisoners were also placed in Austrian prisons in 2020.

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 17 prisoners spent 4,649 days in detention in Austrian prisons for the execution of their sentences or measures. Of this figure, 212 days were completed by a juvenile. That is three more people and accordingly more days in detention than in the previous year (2019: 3,897). The temporary impossibility of transferring prisoners from Vaduz to Austrian prisons due to Covid-19 did not have a significant effect on this figure as most inmates in Austrian prisons are serving sentences of several years. Six people were detained in Saxerriet in Switzerland for 487 days in 2020.

Covid temporarily made transfer of prisoners to Austria impossible.