

# **Limerick City Police Force (1922)**

## **L/PC**

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## **Introduction**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1921 the Limerick Borough Council adopted the recommendations of a Retrenchment Committee to abolish the Night Watch and pension off its members. Meanwhile in accordance with the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921, the RIC withdrew from Limerick City.

Mayor Stephen O'Mara recruited the Limerick City Police Force, as a purely civic body, to replace both the Nightwatch and the RIC in policing the city. The impetus for establishing the police force came from a Meeting of the Merchants and Traders held at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1922. The police force were managed by a sub-committee of city officials and local businessmen. A sort of rate was collected from local businessmen to pay for this force. The body of Police consisted of 38 men, and their headquarters was situated at the City Court. The men were stationed in a number of the former RIC barracks. The Limerick City Police Force was soon replaced by the Garda Siochana, which was founded on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1922, and deployed all over the country over the next few months.

See also L/MIN City Council Minute Books and P1 Limerick Chamber of Commerce

**A      Administrative File (1922)**

- 1      6 May 1922-10 July 1922      File consisting mainly of  
Minutes of the City Police  
Force Sub-Committee,  
reports regarding activities of the City Police Force, and lists of subscribers to the  
Police Force. The Reports of the City Police Force activities generally relate to  
weekly periods and include entries such as ‘man arrested drunk and disorderly’ and  
‘investigated report of attempted burglary at Circular Road’ (Report of week from 2<sup>nd</sup>  
June to 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1922). The Sub-Committee meetings were generally held weekly in  
the Chamber of Commerce and matters discussed include subscriptions to the police  
force and the issuing of weekly pay to the police men. Includes circular letters sent to  
subscribers with comments such as ‘it is hardly necessary for me to point out the  
urgent need for such a Force to protect the Citizens and their property, and I am sure  
you, in common with other citizens and firms will only be too glad to forward your  
contribution’ (6 May 1922)

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