

MATTERS	IPSG AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING TOGETHER
COUNTRY	IRELAND
TITLE	ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CRIMINAL ASSETS BUREAU
ABSTRACT	
Confiscating the proceeds of crime.	

FULL TEXT DOCUMENT

The establishment of the Criminal Assets Bureau in 1996 as a multi-agency organisation to identify, trace and target the proceeds of criminal activity was an innovative new concept within the Irish Public Service. The Bureau has developed as a centre of excellence in this area and other countries have established similar units in their jurisdictions. The work of the Bureau is underpinned by a legislative package introduced in 1996 which includes the Criminal Assets Bureau Act, The Proceeds of Crime Act and Disclosure of Certain Information for Taxation and other purposes Act. Together with existing legislation this package has facilitated the work and the success of the Bureau. The Bureau has applied innovative methodologies in targeting the Proceeds of Criminal Activity and depriving criminals of their ill-gotten gains.

As a Public Service initiative, the Bureau has demonstrated to the people of Ireland that criminals will not benefit from their criminal activity and public confidence in the operation of law enforcement within the State has increased as a result. The effectiveness of the co-locating of officers from the Garda Siochana, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Welfare in a multi-agency unit cannot be underestimated. The Bureau has been recognised by the European Union and the Council of Europe for its work in the new approach to targeting organised crime. European studies have concluded that the Irish model of civil confiscation as operated by the Bureau is the most effective in Europe.

The Bureau has to date recovered some €100 million for the benefit of the State. The success of the Bureau has shown the importance of multi-agency action in utilising all the powers of the Irish Public Service in unison and co-operation. It has shown that a partnership approach to problem solving is an ideal model to apply in terms of providing excellent service to the public. The Bureau continues to develop its practices and procedures in accordance with its statutory objectives in the pursuit of excellence.

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