



The sentences meted out to these young people vary somewhat from those given to offenders over 24 years of age. Usually a higher proportion of them are given suspended sentences, put on probation or sent to reformatories and a lower proportion fined or given gaol sentences.

**14.—Disposition of Sentences for Indictable Offences by Sex 1954 and 1955**

Disposition of Sentences	1954				1955			
	16-24 Years		25 Years or Over		16-24 Years		25 Years or Over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Suspended sentence.....	1,389	143	1,435	210	1,521	136	1,428	186
Probation.....	1,408	143	731	144	1,529	169	649	120
Fine.....	2,865	140	7,118	448	2,530	99	6,285	398
Gaol.....	4,065	176	6,297	276	3,406	157	5,563	308
Reformatory.....	890	66	495	33	1,032	58	568	31
Penitentiary.....	909	9	1,418	25	783	8	1,259	34
Death.....	4	—	11	—	8	—	7	1

Through the system of suspended sentence and probation supervising, many young offenders receive another chance to make good and reformatory training gives others an opportunity to better their employment possibilities. It is interesting to note that 29.8 p.c. of the young male offenders in 1955 were recorded as labourers, indicating that they had no particular skill by which to earn a living; the proportion of male offenders 25 years or