



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

**Bedfordshire
Motoring offences prosecuted at court**

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

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Introduction

Action Vision Zero is committed to reducing road danger and traffic harm. This includes increasing the transparency and understanding of how the justice system holds drivers to account for putting others in danger. Here we summarise the court prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences in a police service area over the last five years (2015-2020), with a comparison to England and Wales (E&W). See below for:

- Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: Bedfordshire
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Bedfordshire
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Bedfordshire

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions rose by 15% to 6,634 and convictions rose by 17% to 6,272, compared to decreases of 20% and 17% in E&W

We are concerned that sober dangerous driving is rarely prosecuted and so have compared it with drink and drug driving below.

- Drink driving prosecutions fell by 39% to 234, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 2,750% to 57, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions fell by 46% to 25, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions rose by 18% to 2,833, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions rose by 52% to 140, compared to a 35% decrease in E&W

Driving bans

We have included an analysis of driving bans given in the local police service area. With only 1% of those convicted at court of motoring offences in E&W going to prison, disqualifications are key to removing unsafe drivers from our roads.

But driving bans are mainly used where they are mandatory, e.g. drink/drug driving. Disqualifications are very rarely given to those convicted at court of speeding or careless driving, where they are optional. This is despite these cases being the more serious as most speeding and careless drivers are sanctioned out of court.

- 454 sentences (7%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 276 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 25 (0.9%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 4 (3%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 100% of speeding and 75% of careless driving bans

Action Vision Zero calls

1. Dangerous driving and careless driving to be police priorities. This would result in more detections, as seen by drink and drug driving, which are already police priorities.
2. More unsafe unimpaired drivers to be banned. This should include those summoned to court for extreme speeding (too high for a Fixed Penalty Notice or National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme), and for durations similar to drink/drug driving. Likewise more of the serious cases of careless driving should result in more and longer bans.

Source: MoJ (2021) *Motoring data tool*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2020>

Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: Bedfordshire

	Prosecutions						5 year change	Convictions						5 year change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	1	6	0	1	5	2	100%	2	1	2	1	3	3	50%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	0	0	1	1	1	0		0	0	2	0	1	0	
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug														
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	3	8	4	2	4	4	33%	2	7	3	3	4	4	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	0	1	0								
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%							
10. Dangerous driving	46	49	39	34	34	25	-46%	50	46	37	32	35	20	-60%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	383	365	350	258	331	234	-39%	370	349	343	252	323	229	-38%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	2	24	31	76	64	57	2750%	2	24	31	69	58	55	2650%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	108	120	94	96	124	82	-24%	92	102	78	78	98	67	-27%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death														
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	103	99	82	120	158	61	-41%	99	93	78	104	135	57	-42%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	92	168	136	106	112	140	52%	85	156	131	97	109	131	54%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	32	64	59	29	54	45	41%	24	53	48	22	45	33	38%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	56	62	67	47	36	27	-52%	50	49	36	40	27	19	-62%
18. Driving licence related offences	133	134	133	108	164	147	11%	112	122	120	101	142	137	22%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	909	1,138	1,320	1,590	1,727	1,289	42%	815	1,050	1,091	1,393	1,522	1,203	48%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	25	16	126	118	186	32	28%	24	14	45	52	81	21	-13%
21. Work record and employment offences	1	3	4	1	0	1	0%	1	3	4	1	0	1	0%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	2	2	4	1	3	200%	1	2	1	1	1	1	0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	63	65	34	50	44	40	-37%	60	63	28	47	40	38	-37%
24. Vehicle test offences	8	11	1	31	94	41	413%	7	6	1	28	93	41	486%
25. Speed limit offences	2,398	3,947	4,041	3,725	4,383	2,833	18%	2,240	3,602	3,511	3,419	4,162	2,715	21%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	690	246	524	1,055	527	308	-55%	662	229	467	1,002	502	290	-56%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	604	1,270	1,594	1,074	1,239	1,199	99%	548	1,188	1,498	965	1,155	1,148	109%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	116	103	66	86	76	64	-45%	105	93	63	78	70	59	-44%
Total	5,775	7,900	8,708	8,612	9,365	6,634	15%	5,351	7,252	7,618	7,786	8,606	6,272	17%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Bedfordshire

	Bans						5 year change	Bans as % of Sentenced					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs				1							100%		
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving			2		1					100%		100%	
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug													
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers													
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking													
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	1	8	3	3	3	5	4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified													
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment													
10. Dangerous driving	47	51	40	39	38	20	-27	96%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	354	344	332	246	313	221	-133	96%	99%	97%	98%	97%	97%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	2	8	1	26	56	55	53	100%	33%	3%	38%	97%	100%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	73	70	55	59	65	43	-30	79%	69%	71%	76%	66%	64%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death													
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	11	16	9	7	12	4	-7	13%	10%	7%	7%	11%	3%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	2	8	5	1	3	3	1	8%	15%	10%	5%	7%	9%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	15	20	15	19	10	8	-7	29%	38%	39%	48%	36%	44%
18. Driving licence related offences	30	42	58	32	61	42	12	26%	34%	48%	31%	43%	30%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	28	18	41	72	42	22	-6	3%	2%	4%	5%	3%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records													
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	63	51	53	72	41	25	-38	2.8%	1.4%	1.5%	2.1%	1.0%	0.9%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	9	2	3	11	7	1	-8	1.4%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	1.4%	0.3%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1	4	0	5	8	1	0	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	639	643	619	594	663	454	-185	12%	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Bedfordshire

	Not Banned	Banned Total	Under 6 months	6 months	Over 6 months and less than 1 year	1 year	Over 1 year and less than 2 years	2 years and less than 3 years	3 years	Over 3 years and less than 4 years	4 years and less than 5 years	5 years and less than 10 years	10 years and less than life	Life	Until driving test	Unknown
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0														
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	0	0														
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug		0														
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0														
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified		0														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking		0														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified		0														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving		0														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment		0														
10. Dangerous driving	0	20	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	8	221	1	0	0	35	128	26	15	13	3	0	0	0	0	0
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	0	55	0	0	0	34	13	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	24	43	2	2	0	9	20	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	56	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	127	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	30	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	10	8	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
18. Driving licence related offences	96	42	7	4	6	3	8	6	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	2
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,181	22	9	9	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	21	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	1	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	38	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	41	0														
25. Speed limit offences	2,690	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	289	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,147	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	59	0														
Total	5,819	454	53	15	7	92	170	42	24	13	5	2	1	0	27	3

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool