

Cheshire

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: Cheshire
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Cheshire
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Cheshire

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 2% to 12,591 and convictions fell by 2% to 11,100, 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 20% to 726, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 156% to 369, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions fell by 20% to 60, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 20% to 4,678, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions rose by 31% to 234, 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.

- 1,450 sentences (13%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,053 (98%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 57 (1.4%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 12 (6%) 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 67% 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: Cheshire

	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	2	4	3	0	3	3	50%	2	1	3	2	3	1	-50%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	2	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	4	9	4	5	2	1	-75%	3	9	1	6	2	2	-33%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug														
04. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	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	4	9	11	6	2	4	0%	5	10	10	5	3	4	-20%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	2	0	1	2	3	1	-50%	1	0	0	1	3	0	-100%
10. Dangerous driving	75	73	55	59	61	60	-20%	76	63	67	59	59	50	-34%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	904	1,052	880	783	819	726	-20%	886	1,031	867	771	810	719	-19%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	144	293	257	395	345	369	156%	141	290	235	378	321	357	153%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	206	194	206	208	226	180	-13%	178	169	180	185	206	162	-9%
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	249	338	254	334	144	92	-63%	244	328	243	304	137	77	-68%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	179	244	198	204	165	234	31%	172	235	179	188	160	217	26%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	61	72	54	40	29	23	-62%	52	65	45	36	27	22	-58%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	72	84	65	62	49	27	-63%	66	86	59	61	55	25	-62%
18. Driving licence related offences	236	301	251	317	276	237	0%	220	280	241	291	273	226	3%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,253	1,930	3,276	3,404	2,958	2,031	62%	1,080	1,687	2,892	3,000	2,525	1,835	70%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	135	344	1,893	2,265	2,170	712	427%	108	274	1,732	2,039	1,930	610	465%
21. Work record and employment offences	5	4	1	4	5	4	-20%	5	4	1	4	5	4	-20%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	2	5	5	4	4		0	2	5	5	3	1	
23. Defective vehicle parts	51	59	47	66	47	58	14%	47	57	46	64	46	55	17%
24. Vehicle test offences	7	110	151	137	104	101	1343%	5	106	148	134	98	98	1860%
25. Speed limit offences	5,844	5,152	5,992	6,663	4,171	4,678	-20%	4,918	4,322	4,926	5,425	3,536	3,984	-19%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	577	496	180	145	57	427	-26%	531	449	162	132	52	392	-26%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2,815	2,720	4,862	4,530	2,665	2,469	-12%	2,584	2,522	4,506	4,239	2,460	2,114	-18%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	54	129	145	147	136	150	178%	47	121	141	137	124	143	204%
Total	12,879	13,619	18,791	19,781	14,441	12,591	-2%	11,371	12,111	16,689	17,467	12,838	11,100	-2%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Cheshire

	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	3	2	3	1	-1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs				1		2					100%		100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	3	9	3	6	1	2	-1	100%	100%	100%	100%	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	5	8	10	5	3	4	-1	100%	100%	83%	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	67	63	64	61	55	44	-23	93%	91%	100%	100%	98%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	788	992	823	743	783	698	-90	89%	96%	95%	96%	97%	97%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	140	130	5	226	316	355	215	99%	44%	2%	59%	98%	99%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	131	129	133	138	152	130	-1	74%	75%	73%	74%	73%	80%
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	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	9	14	14	9	4	12	3	5%	6%	8%	5%	3%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	6	13	12	8	8	5	-1	12%	20%	27%	22%	30%	22%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	32	41	29	28	25	9	-23	48%	46%	46%	44%	43%	36%
18. Driving licence related offences	60	81	78	99	94	93	33	27%	29%	32%	34%	35%	41%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	15	17	25	69	30	32	17	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	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	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	54	58	56	85	48	57	3	1.1%	1.3%	1.1%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2	3	9	6	3	6	4	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
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	1,316	1,560	1,265	1,486	1,526	1,450	134	12%	13%	8%	9%	12%	13%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Cheshire

	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified		0														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	0	0														
10. Dangerous driving	0	44	0	0	0	4	5	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	27	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	20	698	0	0	0	110	334	121	53	55	20	5	0	0	0	0
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	3	355	0	0	0	224	50	13	59	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	33	130	3	6	1	26	41	26	11	1	9	6	0	0	0	0
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	77	0														
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	205	12	6	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	18	5	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	16	9	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
18. Driving licence related offences	133	93	11	12	6	11	18	16	2	7	2	6	2	0	0	0
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,803	32	7	14	2	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	610	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	4	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	2	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	55	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	98	0														
25. Speed limit offences	3,927	57	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	392	0														
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2,108	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	143	0														
Total	9,647	1,450	85	37	15	384	453	182	128	70	36	18	3	0	39	0

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool