

Durham

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 40% to 3,780 and convictions fell by 35% to 3,192, 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 21% to 366, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 560% to 284, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 17% to 63, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions rose by 37% to 691, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 34% to 153, 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.

- 892 sentences (28%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 610 (96%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 22 (3.6)% sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 2 (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 100% 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: Durham

	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	3	4	1	3	1	4	33%	0	1	1	0	2	2	
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	4	5	1	1	3	50%	0	5	5	2	0	1	
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	1	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified								0	0	0	0	0	1	
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	1	0								
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	7	4	3	4	7	1	-86%	3	6	4	5	5	1	-67%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	0								
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	4	3	3	3	0	1	-75%	4	3	2	2	0	1	-75%
10. Dangerous driving	54	62	76	53	62	63	17%	51	65	69	50	55	68	33%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	461	440	397	485	506	366	-21%	445	435	386	478	497	362	-19%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	43	124	107	185	227	284	560%	43	117	99	181	225	279	549%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	116	142	107	148	131	116	0%	100	124	93	125	117	98	-2%
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	42	59	50	45	113	91	117%	34	55	46	42	102	80	135%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	232	176	148	125	132	153	-34%	119	82	97	73	77	71	-40%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	55	64	48	41	24	26	-53%	43	57	45	34	23	23	-47%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	113	106	93	69	61	55	-51%	101	87	65	60	51	36	-64%
18. Driving licence related offences	204	249	213	210	245	231	13%	179	229	197	202	235	221	23%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,243	1,742	1,323	1,238	1,375	1,227	-45%	1,665	1,151	777	864	922	1,023	-39%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	1,888	1,414	305	320	688	151	-92%	1,371	886	72	109	247	36	-97%
21. Work record and employment offences	11	0	7	3	10	1	-91%	11	0	7	3	8	1	-91%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	15	7	7	5	7	4	-73%	14	7	7	4	7	2	-86%
23. Defective vehicle parts	46	34	18	17	27	15	-67%	37	29	14	13	24	15	-59%
24. Vehicle test offences	10	26	7	4	7	4	-60%	9	20	7	4	5	4	-56%
25. Speed limit offences	506	373	388	564	1,640	691	37%	485	352	363	530	1,409	611	26%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	40	37	20	23	21	25	-38%	33	35	19	20	18	17	-48%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	63	64	44	106	845	215	241%	51	55	34	92	799	193	278%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	106	75	67	37	65	53	-50%	87	56	59	34	55	46	-47%
Total	6,264	5,209	3,438	3,689	6,196	3,780	-40%	4,886	3,857	2,469	2,927	4,883	3,192	-35%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Durham

	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		1	1		2	2			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		5	3	1		1			100%	75%	50%		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						1							100%
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking													
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	3	4	2	6	3	2	-1	100%	67%	67%	100%	60%	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	52	62	67	49	50	71	19	96%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	416	413	352	450	457	338	-78	93%	95%	91%	94%	92%	93%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	42	55	1	103	215	272	230	98%	47%	1%	57%	96%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	73	91	62	91	89	77	4	73%	73%	67%	73%	74%	79%
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	6	4	11	4	5	2	-4	5%	5%	11%	5%	6%	3%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	6	3	2	7	7	4	-2	14%	5%	4%	21%	30%	17%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	49	46	29	29	25	22	-27	49%	52%	45%	47%	50%	59%
18. Driving licence related offences	39	59	66	78	86	57	18	22%	26%	34%	39%	37%	25%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	27	31	14	19	11	20	-7	2%	3%	2%	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	9	8	7	12	24	22	13	1.9%	2.3%	1.9%	2.3%	1.7%	3.6%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	5.9%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1	1	0	1	1	0	-1	2.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%
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	725	783	617	851	975	892	167	15%	20%	25%	29%	20%	28%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Durham

	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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0														
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking		0														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
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	1	0														
10. Dangerous driving	0	71	0	0	0	6	1	4	1	6	3	0	0	0	50	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	25	338	0	0	0	88	152	41	34	18	4	0	0	0	0	1
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	10	272	0	0	0	187	35	5	41	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	21	77	5	2	0	24	24	4	15	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	80	0														
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	68	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	19	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	15	22	0	1	0	11	4	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Driving licence related offences	167	57	9	16	3	8	10	4	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,005	20	6	6	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	36	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	1	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	2	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	15	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	4	0														
25. Speed limit offences	589	22	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	16	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	193	0														
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	46	0														
Total	2,313	892	42	31	4	330	228	62	95	32	10	3	1	0	52	2

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool