



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Kent

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 22% to 12,208 and convictions fell by 17% to 11,340, 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 32% to 734, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 1,721% to 255, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 19% to 101, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 11% to 4,296, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 33% to 155, 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.

- 1,580 sentences (14%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 938 (99%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 167 (4%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 9 (7%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 99% of speeding and 44% 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: Kent

	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	4	13	13	14	3	10	150%	5	7	8	9	2	5	0%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	2	0	0	0	0		0	2	0	0	0	0	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	7	15	6	4	6	5	-29%	2	11	8	8	6	4	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	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified	0	1	0	0	0	0								
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	1	0	0								
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	16	18	26	31	15	20	25%	16	14	27	19	25	13	-19%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	1	0	0								
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	0	2	0	0	0	0	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	7	3	8	0	5	0	-100%	5	5	5	0	4	0	-100%
10. Dangerous driving	85	93	111	97	75	101	19%	80	103	101	107	75	88	10%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,076	1,075	1,004	1,004	1,016	734	-32%	1,036	1,043	977	977	977	717	-31%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	14	44	43	153	180	255	1721%	14	42	42	135	171	249	1679%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	252	278	280	316	311	265	5%	213	229	240	262	254	228	7%
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	123	72	128	185	255	47	-62%	115	68	125	159	212	42	-63%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	232	170	205	182	270	155	-33%	173	137	167	146	235	130	-25%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	124	99	101	94	74	40	-68%	102	85	88	83	65	33	-68%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	137	91	123	110	78	57	-58%	91	71	106	98	73	48	-47%
18. Driving licence related offences	311	267	265	316	342	343	10%	276	242	246	288	317	323	17%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,300	2,380	2,758	2,865	3,796	2,776	21%	1,765	1,894	2,272	2,452	3,358	2,485	41%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	3,167	2,701	405	353	425	187	-94%	2,391	2,083	61	115	198	40	-98%
21. Work record and employment offences	103	157	167	39	15	5	-95%	101	152	165	38	14	5	-95%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	15	13	6	23	4	11	-27%	13	11	5	21	4	10	-23%
23. Defective vehicle parts	134	72	92	145	134	92	-31%	127	64	88	138	130	88	-31%
24. Vehicle test offences	42	40	47	43	40	10	-76%	31	30	43	38	31	9	-71%
25. Speed limit offences	4,800	4,210	3,052	2,856	5,124	4,296	-11%	4,703	4,061	2,996	2,788	4,999	4,209	-11%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1,020	578	488	823	1,004	632	-38%	996	563	472	797	985	614	-38%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,382	1,581	1,490	1,639	2,537	2,003	45%	1,185	1,399	1,333	1,420	2,184	1,844	56%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	205	149	171	226	295	164	-20%	182	140	159	212	271	156	-14%
Total	15,557	14,122	10,989	11,520	16,004	12,208	-22%	13,622	12,458	9,734	10,310	14,590	11,340	-17%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Kent

	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	5	7	8	9	2	5	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs		2							100%				
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	10	6	8	6	3	1	100%	91%	75%	100%	100%	75%
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	13	11	24	15	22	12	-1	87%	92%	96%	79%	92%	92%
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	0	0	1		0			0%	0%	20%		0%	
10. Dangerous driving	73	91	100	110	75	80	7	94%	92%	99%	100%	100%	95%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	964	1,014	947	946	951	705	-259	93%	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	14	15	0	84	158	233	219	100%	36%	0%	61%	92%	93%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	147	179	185	188	187	158	11	68%	78%	77%	71%	74%	69%
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	0	-1	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	15	30	22	15	26	9	-6	9%	22%	13%	10%	11%	7%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	16	23	20	15	15	7	-9	16%	27%	23%	18%	23%	21%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	32	31	43	35	29	18	-14	35%	45%	39%	36%	39%	37%
18. Driving licence related offences	112	102	105	99	104	110	-2	40%	42%	42%	34%	33%	34%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	73	79	75	49	70	53	-20	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	1	0	2	1	1	0	-1	0.8%	0.0%	2.3%	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
25. Speed limit offences	313	347	194	155	266	167	-146	6.7%	8.5%	6.5%	5.6%	5.3%	4.0%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	56	28	15	12	26	7	-49	5.6%	5.0%	3.2%	1.5%	2.6%	1.1%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	19	12	11	13	20	13	-6	1.6%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%
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	1,856	1,981	1,758	1,754	1,958	1,580	-276	14%	16%	18%	17%	13%	14%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Kent

	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	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0														
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
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	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
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	4	80	1	0	0	1	5	7	3	1	2	1	0	0	59	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	17	705	1	0	0	180	342	78	68	26	6	2	0	0	1	1
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	18	233	0	0	0	163	36	7	25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	71	158	12	7	1	44	45	23	15	3	7	1	0	0	0	0
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	42	0														
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	121	9	3	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	27	7	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	31	18	0	0	0	9	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
18. Driving licence related offences	215	110	9	20	8	27	24	5	6	6	1	2	0	0	1	1
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,432	53	29	14	0	6	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	40	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	5	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	10	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	88	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	9	0														
25. Speed limit offences	4,042	167	164	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	607	7	7	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	1,831	13	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	156	0														
Total	9,768	1,580	239	47	11	436	461	123	120	38	17	8	0	1	74	5

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool