



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

London

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 33% to 62,794 and convictions fell by 29% to 56,688, 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 31% to 3,055, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 576% to 1,149, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 9% to 452, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions rose by 68% to 18,214, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 48% to 1,520, 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.

- 6,437 sentences (11%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 3,814 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 276 (1.6)% sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 55 (4%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 98% of speeding and 55% 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: London

	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	25	28	22	18	17	15	-40%	13	15	17	14	11	13	0%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	2	1	1	3		0	1	0	0	3	4	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	20	24	22	17	13	14	-30%	19	29	17	18	13	6	-68%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	0	0	2	0								
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	1	2	3	0	0		0	2	0	2	1	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	1	1	2	0	1		0	0	0	2	0	0	
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	32	39	38	28	29	31	-3%	37	36	38	26	33	38	3%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	1	1	0	0		1	0	1	1	0	0	-100%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	2	0	0	0	1		0	1	1	0	0	0	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	4	18	4	6	3	4	0%	1	2	0	0	1	2	100%
10. Dangerous driving	413	417	486	499	488	452	9%	396	416	478	452	477	402	2%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	4,431	4,384	3,690	3,539	3,531	3,055	-31%	4,219	4,162	3,514	3,351	3,366	2,891	-31%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	170	639	649	855	1,059	1,149	576%	167	600	593	801	983	1,070	541%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	1,458	1,625	1,484	1,349	1,380	1,261	-14%	1,164	1,269	1,185	1,057	1,067	939	-19%
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	6,491	3,337	5,667	5,085	3,357	951	-85%	5,759	3,052	5,130	4,453	2,749	743	-87%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	2,941	2,890	2,681	2,660	2,604	1,520	-48%	2,571	2,517	2,374	2,325	2,265	1,282	-50%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	589	640	573	465	534	308	-48%	469	471	428	333	402	221	-53%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	1,215	1,287	1,196	826	707	603	-50%	830	848	801	548	429	366	-56%
18. Driving licence related offences	3,703	3,170	3,393	3,199	3,088	2,418	-35%	3,277	2,897	3,064	2,918	2,826	2,206	-33%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	23,298	20,981	26,309	26,784	26,811	15,819	-32%	18,944	17,852	23,214	23,785	24,218	14,272	-25%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	11,510	15,842	11,652	11,548	11,157	3,572	-69%	8,993	13,388	10,148	10,021	9,886	3,153	-65%
21. Work record and employment offences	148	99	58	47	28	7	-95%	133	85	51	40	26	5	-96%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	49	68	65	51	58	52	6%	39	56	53	37	40	30	-23%
23. Defective vehicle parts	1,954	1,771	1,704	1,523	1,800	1,221	-38%	1,749	1,655	1,550	1,393	1,670	1,111	-36%
24. Vehicle test offences	551	1,741	830	118	522	1,041	89%	481	1,618	752	87	479	993	106%
25. Speed limit offences	10,826	15,220	19,475	20,916	21,295	18,214	68%	10,425	14,399	18,476	20,029	20,038	17,341	66%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	4,707	5,471	4,130	2,353	670	1,447	-69%	4,375	5,082	3,803	2,070	550	1,272	-71%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	17,040	11,093	9,699	10,052	12,692	8,093	-53%	14,043	8,893	8,081	8,575	10,799	6,895	-51%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	2,262	3,016	2,905	2,228	2,996	1,542	-32%	2,025	2,786	2,682	2,073	2,773	1,433	-29%
Total	93,837	93,804	96,738	94,173	94,842	62,794	-33%	80,130	82,132	86,451	84,411	85,105	56,688	-29%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: London

	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	13	15	17	14	10	13	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	91%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs		1			3	4			100%			100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	15	14	14	13	11	5	-10	79%	48%	82%	72%	92%	71%
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		1	1				0%		50%	100%	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking				1							100%		
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	25	27	28	21	27	27	2	69%	73%	76%	81%	82%	75%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	1		0	1				100%		0%	100%		
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving		0	0						0%	0%			
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment													
10. Dangerous driving	346	380	489	453	506	376	30	85%	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	4,025	4,036	3,347	3,238	3,237	2,781	-1244	95%	97%	95%	96%	96%	96%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	161	225	5	454	947	1,033	872	97%	37%	1%	56%	96%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	765	892	798	718	721	614	-151	66%	70%	67%	68%	67%	65%
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	4	4	5	1	0	1	-3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	164	168	188	173	121	55	-109	6%	7%	8%	7%	5%	4%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	58	72	65	50	47	38	-20	12%	15%	15%	15%	12%	17%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	235	227	203	159	145	119	-116	28%	27%	25%	29%	33%	33%
18. Driving licence related offences	676	749	696	792	889	761	85	21%	26%	23%	27%	31%	34%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	553	466	501	520	502	316	-237	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0.0%	1.8%	5.8%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	13	5	2	2	3	3	-10	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
24. Vehicle test offences	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
25. Speed limit offences	356	354	530	589	420	276	-80	3.4%	2.5%	2.9%	2.9%	2.1%	1.6%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	6	5	1	3	4	3	-3	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	25	23	15	11	16	10	-15	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	9	6	6	2	5	2	-7	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Total	7,450	7,670	6,913	7,217	7,616	6,437	-1013	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%	11%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: London

	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	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	9	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	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	0														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	9	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	20	3
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	2	0														
10. Dangerous driving	0	376	1	0	0	49	35	29	7	10	1	8	1	0	235	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	110	2,781	2	1	1	723	1,322	318	247	101	42	22	1	0	1	0
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	38	1,033	1	0	0	740	151	38	90	5	4	2	1	0	1	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	333	614	44	35	8	181	157	79	73	8	20	5	2	0	1	1
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	742	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	1,226	55	11	19	5	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	182	38	4	18	3	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	240	119	4	6	7	56	13	8	2	5	1	1	0	0	11	5
18. Driving licence related offences	1,461	761	83	130	84	149	148	64	34	28	15	16	1	0	6	3
19. Vehicle insurance offences	13,954	316	102	144	21	34	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	3,153	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	5	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	29	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	1,108	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Vehicle test offences	993	0														
25. Speed limit offences	17,065	276	257	13	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1,271	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	6,885	10	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	1,431	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	50,239	6,437	517	373	136	1,963	1,837	545	455	157	84	57	9	0	291	13

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool