



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

**Northumbria
Motoring offences prosecuted at court**

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Northumbria

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 27% to 9,678 and convictions fell by 26% to 8,468, 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 22% to 797, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 400% to 150, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 29% to 143, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 7% to 2,453, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 55% to 170, 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.

- 1,382 sentences (16%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 867 (95%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 44 (2.1%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 7 (5%) 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 57% 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: Northumbria

	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	5	3	3	5	7	3	-40%	1	5	3	5	5	2	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	0	2	0	0	0	-100%	0	0	0	1	0	0	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	7	7	3	3	5	1	-86%	5	7	2	3	4	1	-80%
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	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	14	5	13	18	11	8	-43%	5	12	9	9	12	11	120%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	2	0	0	0	0	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%							
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	8	6	5	3	2	2	-75%	4	5	5	2	0	1	-75%
10. Dangerous driving	111	126	128	123	108	143	29%	101	109	107	110	95	113	12%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,021	1,026	832	849	784	797	-22%	985	997	806	827	775	773	-22%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	30	103	127	120	105	150	400%	30	100	118	117	99	145	383%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	300	289	315	258	304	311	4%	218	213	237	195	230	204	-6%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death	0	0	0	1	0	0								
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	175	113	125	128	113	74	-58%	154	104	113	104	96	57	-63%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	382	293	310	220	180	170	-55%	329	252	263	195	154	136	-59%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	203	152	103	76	74	67	-67%	150	112	85	59	62	50	-67%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	225	202	154	146	150	90	-60%	164	154	123	106	108	60	-63%
18. Driving licence related offences	629	591	527	448	351	347	-45%	532	537	493	429	322	319	-40%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	3,387	2,965	3,258	2,160	1,665	1,987	-41%	2,948	2,740	3,082	2,020	1,594	1,890	-36%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	618	79	95	154	171	62	-90%	449	77	87	146	167	60	-87%
21. Work record and employment offences	5	0	4	3	2	0	-100%	5	0	4	3	2	0	-100%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	6	2	5	7	5	8	33%	17	1	2	6	4	5	-71%
23. Defective vehicle parts	96	103	63	41	30	37	-61%	91	95	57	37	29	34	-63%
24. Vehicle test offences	45	61	57	27	11	16	-64%	34	49	56	27	10	14	-59%
25. Speed limit offences	2,627	2,777	3,631	2,827	2,613	2,453	-7%	2,495	2,495	3,251	2,663	2,367	2,050	-18%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	228	186	212	159	60	55	-76%	208	161	184	141	55	50	-76%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2,704	2,835	2,968	2,675	3,061	2,687	-1%	2,152	2,310	2,555	2,270	2,658	2,313	7%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	395	328	290	269	291	210	-47%	354	298	272	237	265	180	-49%
Total	13,223	12,253	13,230	10,721	10,103	9,678	-27%	11,431	10,835	11,914	9,713	9,113	8,468	-26%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Northumbria

	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	4	3	5	5	2	1	100%	80%	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	4	4	1	3	4	0	-4	80%	57%	50%	100%	100%	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													
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking				1							100%		
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	3	11	9	8	11	10	7	60%	92%	100%	100%	85%	91%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified		1							100%				
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment													
10. Dangerous driving	94	99	104	115	91	118	24	89%	86%	99%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	905	935	748	771	724	730	-175	92%	94%	93%	93%	93%	94%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	30	51	0	56	94	137	107	100%	51%	0%	47%	95%	94%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	160	154	161	150	157	152	-8	73%	71%	68%	76%	68%	74%
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	0	0	0	0	0	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	18	25	16	26	20	7	-11	5%	10%	6%	13%	13%	5%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	16	24	21	18	15	19	3	11%	21%	24%	30%	24%	37%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	72	75	50	41	43	30	-42	45%	48%	41%	40%	39%	50%
18. Driving licence related offences	111	125	159	143	128	97	-14	21%	24%	32%	34%	39%	30%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	60	85	64	42	34	24	-36	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
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	2	0	0	0	0	-1	1.1%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	60	59	99	75	80	44	-16	2.4%	2.4%	3.0%	2.8%	3.4%	2.1%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	5	12	26	18	10	12	7	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%
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	1,540	1,667	1,463	1,474	1,416	1,382	-158	13%	15%	12%	15%	16%	16%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Northumbria

	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	0	0	0	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	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	0														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	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	118	0	1	0	19	9	13	2	3	1	1	0	0	69	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	46	730	0	0	0	100	385	134	72	24	10	3	0	0	0	2
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	9	137	0	0	0	89	22	10	13	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	53	152	4	6	3	36	44	23	16	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
death		0														
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	57	0														
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	129	7	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	32	19	6	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	30	30	0	3	0	15	2	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
18. Driving licence related offences	225	97	9	17	3	14	23	12	8	1	4	3	0	0	1	2
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,866	24	7	11	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	60	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	0	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	5	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	34	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	14	0														
25. Speed limit offences	2,006	44	42	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	50	0														
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2,301	12	3	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	180	0														
Total	7,100	1,382	72	53	12	287	486	200	112	41	26	8	0	0	80	5

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool