



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Thames Valley Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Thames Valley

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 22% to 15,775 and convictions fell by 18% to 14,307, 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 28% to 1,225, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 6,189% to 566, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 46% to 150, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 17% to 6,291, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 20% to 196, 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.

- 2,417 sentences (17%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,683 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 191 (3.3%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 10 (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 60% 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: Thames Valley

	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	12	9	11	0	9	6	-50%	12	11	5	6	5	5	-58%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	2	0	3	3	1	0	-100%	1	3	1	2	2	1	0%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	9	6	9	6	9	8	-11%	9	4	9	6	3	9	0%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	1	1	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%							
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	11	18	20	15	18	9	-18%	9	8	19	11	15	7	-22%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	1	1	0	0	0		0	1	1	0	0	1	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	3	0	2	3	0	1	-67%	3	0	2	2	0	1	-67%
10. Dangerous driving	103	118	134	115	144	150	46%	109	120	133	105	120	138	27%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,707	1,732	1,574	1,471	1,489	1,225	-28%	1,662	1,664	1,523	1,437	1,467	1,205	-27%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	9	160	177	395	453	566	6189%	9	155	172	379	445	552	6033%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	377	450	434	398	429	328	-13%	316	376	370	342	369	278	-12%
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	861	1,088	844	465	280	73	-92%	817	1,029	773	426	247	63	-92%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	244	278	349	247	261	196	-20%	220	260	326	226	245	181	-18%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	68	90	82	53	64	79	16%	60	79	64	50	49	69	15%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	165	140	126	117	82	94	-43%	122	122	100	84	66	69	-43%
18. Driving licence related offences	423	501	484	357	362	340	-20%	392	461	459	343	348	314	-20%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,719	3,235	3,782	2,707	2,777	2,537	-7%	2,098	2,542	3,130	2,228	2,356	2,238	7%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,757	2,082	411	316	494	199	-93%	2,043	1,595	131	124	260	115	-94%
21. Work record and employment offences	7	6	6	1	1	1	-86%	7	6	4	1	1	1	-86%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	10	18	7	6	11	7	-30%	7	13	6	6	5	6	-14%
23. Defective vehicle parts	124	116	119	62	41	45	-64%	120	110	113	61	40	43	-64%
24. Vehicle test offences	16	24	14	12	8	5	-69%	10	10	12	8	6	3	-70%
25. Speed limit offences	7,562	10,529	8,066	6,437	6,620	6,291	-17%	6,893	9,839	7,482	5,889	6,086	5,800	-16%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	223	408	385	188	786	486	118%	192	356	344	166	659	362	89%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2,106	3,202	3,066	3,084	3,653	2,897	38%	1,820	2,878	2,781	2,780	3,336	2,670	47%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	641	984	497	381	255	232	-64%	506	809	372	283	205	176	-65%
Total	20,160	25,195	20,604	16,840	18,247	15,775	-22%	17,437	22,451	18,332	14,966	16,335	14,307	-18%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Thames Valley

	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	12	11	5	6	5	5	-7	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	3	1	2	2	1	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	7	4	9	3	2	9	2	78%	100%	100%	50%	67%	100%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug				1							100%		
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	7	5	18	8	15	7	0	70%	71%	95%	80%	94%	88%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified		0	0			1			0%	0%			100%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	1		0	0	0		-1	33%		0%	0%		0%
10. Dangerous driving	101	115	136	111	117	129	28	92%	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,559	1,600	1,468	1,397	1,408	1,152	-407	94%	96%	96%	97%	96%	95%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	9	73	1	212	437	531	522	100%	47%	1%	56%	98%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	250	283	292	268	280	195	-55	79%	75%	79%	78%	76%	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	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	11	11	29	24	20	10	-1	5%	4%	9%	11%	8%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	9	11	11	16	12	8	-1	15%	14%	17%	32%	24%	11%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	42	45	37	42	28	24	-18	34%	38%	36%	51%	46%	34%
18. Driving licence related offences	108	120	127	133	127	109	1	28%	26%	28%	39%	36%	34%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	47	64	81	62	68	36	-11	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	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	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	209	300	312	264	235	191	-18	3.0%	3.0%	4.2%	4.5%	3.9%	3.3%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	2	0	0	2	0	1	-1	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.3%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	3	5	4	8	12	8	5	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	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	2,378	2,651	2,535	2,559	2,768	2,417	39	14%	12%	14%	17%	17%	17%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Thames Valley

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool